

CUTS INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL AFFAIRS



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Top-Priority Case

Lawyer Behaviour vs. Delivery of Justice

India's legal system is increasingly paralysed by lawyer strikes and delay tactics that undermine justice and cost the economy an estimated ₹7,500 crore annually. Advocates frequently resort to boycotts over trivial issues, such as denied adjournments or FIRs against colleagues, despite the Supreme Court's Harish Uppal ruling (2003) restricting strikes to the "rarest of rare" circumstances. Recent boycotts in UP, Jaipur, and Karnataka highlight this troubling pattern.

The misuse of adjournments compounds the problem. Lawyers often exploit "exceptional case" clauses to monetise delays, with over two-thirds of consumer cases exceeding statutory deadlines. A judge-lawyer nexus resists caps, as many judges are former advocates, further entrenching inefficiency.

Complicating accountability, a 2024 Supreme Court ruling excluded advocates from the definition of "service providers" under consumer law, shielding them from liability for deficient services. This weakens consumer protection and risks spillover exemptions to other professions.

Global models offer solutions. South Africa enforces strict adjournment caps, while Singapore's fixed scheduling ensures 90 percent adherence. India should adopt a three-adjournment limit, create grievance redressal panels with enforcement powers, and sanction frivolous strikes.

Ultimately, reforms must restore professional ethics and prioritise justice delivery over lawyer convenience—before public confidence in courts erodes further.

Pradeep S Mehta
Editor

Abridged from an article appeared in Mint, on August 18, 2025.

The same can be accessed at: <https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/indian-legal-profession-lawyer-strikes-advocates-amendment-bill-2025-adjournment-abuse-judge-lawyer-nexus-supreme-court-11755249678724.html>

Message for our Readers

The sixteenth edition of the National Affairs Monthly Brief contains selected published news or comments on trade, regulatory, and governance issues.

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India Eyes Gains as China Trade Ties Improve

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin presents India with an opportunity to strengthen trade ties with China. At the same time, New Delhi must carefully navigate pressure from the U.S. over tariffs and its close ties with Russia.



India Hosts IMEC Envoys Meet



India is currently hosting envoys from various nations to advance the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative. This project aims to establish a rail and ports network connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe. The IMEC seeks to reduce logistics costs and transportation time significantly. It also aims to foster trade and cultural connections.

- [Jagdish Bhagwati on World Trade Concerns](#)
Rahul Jacob, Mint, August 27, 2025
 - [India Sets Up Authority for Carbon Markets](#)
The Hindu, August 26, 2025
 - [PM Modi Flags Off Maruti EV for Export](#)
Times of India, August 26, 2025
 - [Hindi-Chini Air Links Idea](#)
The Economic Times, August 24, 2025
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AI may be Brought Under New Digital Competition Law

The Indian government is updating its Digital Competition Bill and may include artificial intelligence (AI) platforms under its scope. The aim is to stop powerful AI firms from misusing user data, engaging in algorithmic collusion, or blocking smaller competitors. By bringing AI under competition law, India wants to ensure innovation while avoiding monopolistic practices.



Jio Tops Global Telecom Charts with 480 million Users



India's Reliance Jio has become the world's largest telecom operator, boasting over 480 million users, including 191 million on its 5G network. The company is collaborating with the government on the INDIAai initiative and investing in satellite communications and 6G technologies. Jio aims to leverage its expertise to deliver the world's lowest AI inferencing cost in India.

- [India Faces First Legal Challenge to Online Gaming Ban](#)
Aditya Kalra and Arpan Chaturvedi, Reuters, August 28, 2025
 - [GST Reform to Offset Growth Drag from Tariffs](#)
The Economic Times, August 28, 2025
 - [CCI Clears Adani's Acquisition of Jaiprakash Associates](#)
The Economic Times, August 26, 2025
 - [Parliament Passes Bill to Consolidate Port Laws](#)
The Economic Times, August 18, 2025
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'No Helmet, No Fuel' Campaign to Promote Road Safety

Uttar Pradesh government will launch a month-long 'No Helmet, No Fuel' campaign from September 01, 2025, denying petrol to two-wheeler riders without helmets. Led by District Magistrates with police and transport departments, the drive enforces helmet compliance under the Motor Vehicles Act through coordinated district-level action.



Skilling, Capacity-Building & Philanthropy Driving Viksit Bharat



India's aspirations to emerge as Viksit Bharat by 2047 symbolise not just an economic milestone but a holistic vision of equitable, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Achieving this ambitious goal demands much more than robust policies or rapid economic reforms. It necessitates a dynamic and transformative approach that places skilling, capacity-building, and organisational development at the heart of the nation's development strategy.

- [Krishi Nivesh 2.0: Digital Portal to Boost Agri Investment](#)
Vijay C Roy, Livemint, August 31, 2025
- [Modi Leverages Tariff War with Trump to Woo Farmers, MSMEs](#)
India Today, August 28, 2025
- [Big Gains from Jan Dhan Yojana](#)
V Anantha Nageswaran, The Hindu Business Line August 27, 2025
- [AU Small Finance Gets First Bank Licence in a Decade](#)
Shayan Ghosh, Mint, August 07, 2025

Forthcoming Event

- [Webinar on "Unlocking Healthcare Access: The Regulatory Path Ahead for E-Pharmacy"](#)
September 04, 2025