



Monthly Brief #4, August 2024

Reforming the Process of Judicial Appointments in India

India faces challenges in judicial appointments, with delays often linked to the standoff between the executive and the judiciary. The current collegium system, which lacks transparency and accountability, has been criticised for nepotism. The Supreme Court struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014, which sought to include politicians and civil society in the appointment process, citing concerns over judicial independence. However, some legal experts argue that NJAC would provide a more democratic and efficient system.

Many countries use commissions that include judiciary members, legal experts, politicians, and laypersons for judicial appointments. For example, the UK's Judicial Appointments Commission and South Africa's Judicial Service Commission involve various stakeholders, aiming for a balance of independence and accountability. India could draw lessons from these models.

Reworking the NJAC could improve the appointment process by fostering collaboration between the judiciary, executive branch, and civil society while safeguarding judicial independence. A revised system should address the flaws of the collegium system, such as the lack of clear selection criteria, to enhance efficiency and maintain public trust in the judiciary.

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Editor

Message for our Readers

This is the fourth edition of the National Affairs Monthly Brief, which carries select published news or comments on trade, regulatory and governance issues.

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Bangladesh Crisis: Potential Trade Disruptions with India

Bangladesh has been a critical ally of India since Sheikh Hasina became Prime Minister in 2009. Her leadership has significantly improved trade and economic relations between the two countries. However, the ongoing crisis in Bangladesh raises concerns about the future of this partnership and its potential impact on India.



India Needs Capacity for Non-trade Issues in FTA Talks



Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said India needs to develop capacity to deal with non-trade issues during free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations. He noted that non-trade issues have increasingly emerged in trade negotiations. Barthwal was speaking at a function of the Centre for Trade and Investment Law.

- [India-Oman Free Trade Pact Talks Near Completion](#) | Business Standard, August 28, 2024
- [North East Connectivity: Major Projects Drive Growth](#) | Financial Express, August 12, 2024
- [Viksit Bharat: Rethinking Policy for a New Paradigm](#) | Arun Maira, Business Standard, August 05, 2024
- [CBAM Challenge: India Faces EU Trade Pressure](#) | Policy Circle, August 01, 2024



India Signs Air Services Agreements to Boost Connectivity

India has executed Bilateral Air Services Agreements with 116 foreign countries to facilitate the operation of international flights between India and these nations. By streamlining international flight operations and supporting a more structured approach to global air connectivity, India aims to boost global connectivity and support economic and tourism growth.



Centre Eyes New Rules in Digital Competition Bill



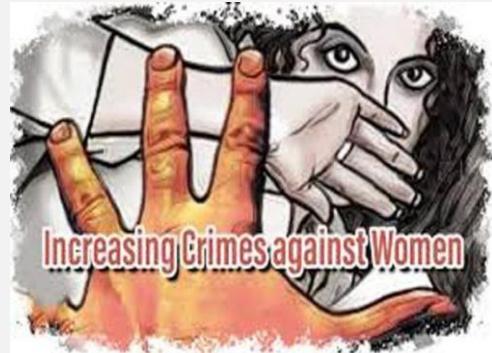
The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) will likely consider significant changes to refine the proposed Digital Competition Bill, including raising the thresholds for deciding which large digital enterprises would be regulated *ex-ante* (intervening before an event occurs). The draft Bill aims to enhance CCI's powers to pre-empt and prevent anti-competitive conduct by large digital players.

- [SEBI to Enhance Ease of Doing Business for Foreign Portfolio Investors](#) | Charu Singh, NDTV, September 03, 2024
- [DGTR Suggests Anti-Dumping Duty on Chinese Aluminium Foils](#) | The Indian Express, August 31, 2024
- [UPI Launches Cash Deposit at ATMs Without Debit Card](#) | Anulekha Ray, The Economic Times, August 31, 2024
- [TRAI Proposes Stricter Spam Call and Message Rules](#) | The Hindu, August 29, 2024



Rise in Sexual Violence Against Women in India: A Growing Concern

The heinous rape and murder of a 31-year-old post-graduate intern doctor in a reputed medical college in Kolkata once focused the attention of society towards women's safety in India. The woman, medico, was brutally assaulted sexually and murdered. The details of the gory incident highlighted by the media deeply affected many across the nation, sparking a call for justice and legal reform.



FSSAI Takes Action on Micro Plastic Contamination in Food



A study by Toxics Link revealed microplastics in all tested salt and sugar brands in India. The findings prompted India's Food Safety and Standards Authority to launch a project to address this contamination. The initiative aims to develop detection methods, assess prevalence, and establish safety standards. This research involves collaboration with major Indian research institutions.

- [80% Subsidy Under PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana 2024](#) | The Auto News, September 01, 2024
- [Family Philanthropy Boosts Viksit Bharat Goals](#) | Neera Nundy, Livemint, August 29, 2024
- [Finance Minister Urges Action on \\$4tn SDG Financing Gap](#) | Indian Express, Aanchal Magazine, August 17, 2024
- [Driving Change with Tech Solutions and Industry Collaboration](#) | Sanhati Banerjee, The Economic Times, August 14, 2024

Event

- Adapting to Tomorrow: Climate Change and India's Workforce | August 29, 2024
(<https://cuts-ccier.org/adapting-to-tomorrow-climate-change-and-indias-workforce/>)

Articles

- [International Youth Day: Need to Protect Youth from Junk Food Menace](#)
By Simi TB, Policy Circle, August 12, 2024
- [Delays in Justice Delivery Can and Should be Rooted Out](#)
By Vijay L Kelkar & Pradeep S Mehta, Livemint, August 04, 2024
- [Why India needs to rethink its policy on FDI from China](#)
By Pradeep S Mehta, Economics Times, August 01, 2024