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Reimagining India's National Green Tribunal for Better Outcomes

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has faced allegations of overstepping its jurisdiction, prompting Supreme Court scrutiny. While its role in environmental adjudication is crucial, concerns over its *suo motu* powers and judicial overreach persist. Established in 2010, the NGT operates independently of the Code of Civil Procedure, guided by natural justice principles.

A CUTS International study for NITI Aayog highlighted the Sterlite Copper case, where the NGT ruled against the Tamil Nadu government's closure order, citing a lack of severe environmental harm. The Supreme Court later overturned this, reaffirming limits on the Tribunal's authority over state actions.

Cases like the stalled Shimla development plan and penalties imposed on Grasim Industries further illustrate criticisms of exceeding its mandate. However, in *Municipal Corporation of Bombay vs Ankita Sinha*, the Supreme Court upheld the NGT's *suo motu* powers for societal benefits.

Recent policy shifts, such as requiring central approval for real estate projects, have raised federalism concerns. While the NGT has expedited environmental justice, its scope needs refinement to ensure legal consistency and institutional trust. Strengthening legislative clarity and procedural fairness will help balance environmental protection with sustainable development.

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Editor

Abridged from an article appeared in the Mint on January 20, 2025. The same can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/4a9p74m4>

Message for our Readers

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

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India's Exports to US Rise in Apr-Dec FY25

India's exports increased by 5.57 percent to US\$59.93bn during April-December due to strong demand in the US market, while imports grew by 1.91 percent in the same period. Experts predict continued growth in bilateral trade and potential opportunities due to the US-China trade conflict. Concerns remain over possible US tariffs on Indian goods.



India Releases Draft Methodologies for Voluntary Carbon Offset Mechanism



India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency has released 12 draft methodologies for its voluntary offset mechanism under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme. These methodologies aim to standardise carbon trading and enhance market transparency. The government has invited public consultation to refine and finalise the framework for effective implementation.

- [Maharashtra Signs ₹8,000 Crore MoU for Renewable Energy at Davos 2025](#)
The Indian Express, January 22, 2025
- [India Launches National Turmeric Board to Boost Exports](#)
K V Kurmanath, The Hindu Business Line, January 14, 2025
- [India to Invest ₹50,000 Crore in Inland Waterways](#)
Manisha Pandey, India Today, January 11, 2025
- [Rajasthan to Develop Industrial Nodes & Logistics Hubs](#)
The Tribune, December 31, 2024



New TRAI Guidelines to Enhance Ground-Based Broadcasting

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has released its recommendations on the "Regulatory Framework for Ground-based Broadcasters" to enhance the efficiency of television channel distribution. The framework aims to ensure that technological advancements are fully leveraged, promoting innovation, improved accessibility, and a more structured approach for content delivery to distributors across the country.



Parliamentary Panel Reviewing the Role of CCI in Digital Landscape



The Standing Committee on Finance is looking into the role of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in an evolving economy, particularly the digital landscape. The Committee would delve into issues around crowding of the marketplace by big tech players and its impact it is having on startups.

- [E10 Bullet Train to Launch in India & Japan in 2030](#)
Business Standard, January 21, 2025
- [Govt Considers Including MSMEs in PM Internship Scheme](#)
Manas Pimpalkhare & Rituraj Baruah, Mint, January 21, 2025
- [Spectrum Allocation to Offer More Consumer Choices](#)
Business Standard, January 21, 2025
- [Private Investment, Job Creation to Rise in FY26](#)
Manas Pimpalkhare, Mint, January 19, 2025



E-Commerce Regulation: Govt's New Consumer Protection Playbook

The government recently unveiled draft guidelines for e-commerce platforms, mandating self-regulatory measures to safeguard consumers from fraudulent practices amid the rapid growth of digital shopping in India. While these norms are well-intentioned, industry experts argue that the regulations must accommodate the diverse business models of different e-commerce companies.



Women's Groups Urge Focus on Boosting Female Workforce in Budget



Women's organisations and civil society members feel that increasing female workforce participation through employment-linked incentives, flexible work hours, and providing supportive infrastructure, including work site creches, should be a priority of the government in the upcoming Union budget.

- [India Witnesses Over 3,291 Cyber Attacks Weekly](#)
Swagta Nath, The 420, January 28, 2025
- [Private Labels to Transform Instant Food Delivery](#)
S Shanthi, The Financial Express, January 27, 2025
- [Sadak Suraksha Abhiyaan 2025: Pedestrian Safety Tips](#)
Money Control News, January 21, 2025
- [India on Track to Meet SDG Health Targets by 2030](#)
The Indian Express, January 23, 2025

Event

- [Advancing Future of Work Agenda for Inclusive Economic Growth](#)
New Delhi, January 24, 2025

Publications

- Strengthening the Investment Ecosystem to Generate Employment in Rajasthan
<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/policy-brief-strengthening-the-investment-ecosystem-to-generate-employment-in-rajasthan.pdf>
- Cross-border Electricity Trade in the BBIN Subregion: Paving the Way to Synergies
<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/dp-cross-border-electricity-trade-in-the-bbin-subregion.pdf>