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Regulating for Growth

How India Can Balance Oversight with Innovation

India's jalebi regulatory framework requires urgent reform to reduce bureaucratic burdens and improve efficiency. The proposed High-Level Committee (HLC) aims to address ambiguities, curb bureaucratic overreach, and promote honest governance. Key recommendations include sunset clauses, risk-based inspections, and technological solutions to streamline compliance.

Challenges include bureaucratic inertia, rent-seeking by the political class, and a lack of institutional memory. The HLC must be broad-based, led by a reform-minded non-bureaucrat, and build on past recommendations to avoid redundancy. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's (DIPP) 2018 Better Regulatory Advisory Group (BRAG) set a precedent, but its reforms remain incomplete.

India's regulatory system imposes thousands of compliance requirements and criminal provisions, disproportionately burdening small businesses. Introducing mandatory sunset clauses and institutionalising Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) can help ensure periodic reviews and rationalized regulations. AI and data analytics can further enhance enforcement efficiency by enabling risk-based oversight.

Shifting from a punitive to a proportional compliance culture—where criminal prosecution is reserved for fraud or physical harm—will align India with global best practices. Institutionalising a dynamic regulatory framework will ensure laws evolve with economic and technological changes, reducing red tape and unlocking private investment and innovation.

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Editor

Abridged from an article appeared in The Economic Times, March 08, 2025. The same can be accessed at: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/lets-get-ria-about-regulation/articleshow/118792883.cms>

Message for our Readers

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

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'India First' in Trade Talks

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised India's ambition to secure a 'good' trade agreement with the US to drive economic growth and ensure stable supply chains. She highlighted the importance of a robust bilateral treaty, particularly as India pursues its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 under the 'Viksit Bharat' initiative.



New Regulations to Boost Private Investment in India's Waterways



The Inland Waterways Authority of India has introduced the National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025, aimed at facilitating infrastructure development and promoting private sector participation in India's inland waterways sector. These regulations are expected to enhance ease of doing business, attract investment, and improve logistical efficiency across the country's vast waterways network.

- [RBI Proposes Common Project Pool for Climate Finance](#)
Harsh Kumar, March 13, 2025
- [Sustainability Key for Indian Travellers in 2025](#)
Times of India, March 05, 2025
- [Quality Control Orders Hurt India's Trade Competitiveness](#)
Business Standard, March 04, 2025
- [India's Mega Infra Push: NPG Reviews 11 Projects](#)
Kuldeep Negi, Swarajya, March 01, 2025



India Reviews Digital Competition Bill to Curb Market Abuses

India is reviewing stakeholder feedback on the Draft Digital Competition Bill (DCB) to address anti-competitive practices in the digital space, with consultations held from March 12-May 15, 2024. The DCB aims for a fair digital marketplace, balancing regulatory enforcement with voluntary compliance to foster long-term economic growth.



Airtel to TRAI: Regulate OTTs to Curb Spam



Bharti Airtel MD Gopal Vittal urged Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to regulate over-the-top (OTT) communication platforms to curb spam. He recommended three steps: extending the digital consent framework, mandating KYC for OTTs, and expanding the centralised blacklist system for spam detection to include OTT platforms.

- [Rajasthan's Land Law to Raise Costs, Delay Renewable Projects](#)
Reuters, March 24, 2025
- [Jindal Advocates Agri Reforms to Boost Farmers' Income](#)
The New Indian, March 22, 2025
- [Airport Land's Wider Commercial Use May Get Approval](#)
Arindam Majumder, Economic Times, March 11, 2025
- [Niti Aayog to Hire Consultant for ₹10 Lakh Crore Asset Monetisation](#)
Financial Express, March 07, 2025



Lakhpati Didi: Transformation Towards Women Empowerment

The Government of Odisha has diligently advanced women's empowerment through the groundbreaking initiative of 'Lakhpati Didi.' This flagship programme is a manifestation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious vision to create a robust network of women entrepreneurs, making them financially independent and socially empowered.



Reducing Road Accidents: Every Life Matters!



India must move beyond symbolism and adopt a mission-driven approach to road safety. While Road Safety Month raises awareness, the nation's reactive stance fails to prevent tragedies. A proactive strategy, prioritising global best practices, is essential to making road safety a true national imperative.

- [Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0: Boosting Trust-Based Governance](#)
Business Standard, March 04, 2025
- [Women in Agriculture: 64.4% Workforce, Only 10% in Leadership](#)
Economic Times, March 23, 2025
- [Civil Society Urges Govt to Protect RTI Act](#)
The Hindu, March 21, 2025
- [1,500+ Spice Samples Found Sub-Standard in Tests](#)
The New Indian Express, March 21, 2025

Publications

- Competition Advocacy to Promote Competition Culture Among Polity
<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/bp-competition-advocacy-to-promote-competition-culture-among-polity.pdf>
- Enhancing the Competitiveness of the Japanese Industrial Zone, Neemrana
<https://cuts-ccier.org/pdf/policy-brief-enhancing-the-competitiveness-of-the-japanese-industrial-zone-neemrana.pdf>