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Let's improve how we make laws and frame rules by granting regulatory impact assessments a statutory anchor

Several government committees, including the NITI Aayog, have recommended institutionalising regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) in India through a statutory framework to evaluate the costs and benefits of regulations. The urgency for such a law has increased with India's recent free trade agreements (FTAs), which include provisions on good regulatory practices (GRPs), including RIAs, to address behind-the-border trade barriers and improve regulatory coherence.

India's earlier trade agreements referred broadly to GRPs, but the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement marked the first standalone reference to RIAs. Under this pact, RIAs may be used for major central government regulations affecting bilateral trade. The India-European Union Free Trade Agreement goes further by extending RIA coverage to Union legislation and related rules across all FTA matters.

Although these provisions are non-binding, they reflect India's commitment to promoting evidence-based regulation. Currently, India relies mainly on the 2014 Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy and sector-specific practices. The recently introduced Legislative Impact Assessment Bill, 2024 highlights growing recognition of the need for a comprehensive RIA law. Such legislation could improve transparency, inclusiveness and regulatory quality while reinforcing India's commitment to good governance and international trade obligations.

Pradeep S Mehta
Editor

Abridged from an article that appeared in Mint on May 12, 2026. The same can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/ycx47zsc>

Message for our Readers

The 25th edition of the National Affairs Monthly Brief contains selected published news or comments on trade, regulatory, and governance issues.

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Canada Fast-Tracks "Game Changer" India Trade Deal

Canada and India have officially relaunched negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with both nations targeting a free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of the year. The talks were heavily accelerated following high-level bilateral meetings in Ottawa, aiming to more than double two-way trade to US\$50bn by 2030.



Track Imports, Make in India



Indian businesses are encouraged to monitor imports and identify opportunities for local manufacturing. This push for self-reliance aims to strengthen domestic industries. India's exports are growing, with ambitious targets set for the coming years. FTAs are being expanded to enhance market access. A Swadeshi trade fair will showcase Indian products and services, promoting 'Made in India' goods.

- [India Pushes to End Metallurgical Coke Tariffs](#)
Neha Arora, Reuters, May 22, 2026
 - [Measures Announced to Ease Gulf-Bound Container Bottlenecks](#)
Bikash Singh, The Economic Times, May 22, 2026
 - [PM Modi at India-Nordic Summit: Green Tech, 6G Key Outcomes](#)
Times of India, May 20, 2026
 - [Europe's Carbon Tax Challenges Indian Exporters Amid FTA Talks: FICCI](#)
The Tribune, May 19, 2026
 - [India Should Adopt Dual-Track WTO Trade Strategy](#)
The Economic Times, May 06, 2026
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CCI Shifts to Effects-Based Digital Competition Framework

The Competition Commission of India is shifting towards an “effects-based” competition framework that moves beyond traditional indicators such as market share. The regulator is increasingly examining how the conduct of large technology firms, including ecosystem control, data advantages and algorithmic bias, affects consumer choice, market access and innovation. The approach reflects growing scrutiny of digital market behaviour and its broader competitive impact.



Broadcasters Split on TRAI FAST Plan



Indian news broadcasters are sharply divided over the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) consultation paper on Application-based Linear Television Distribution (ALTD) and Free Ad-Supported Streaming Television (FAST) services. Broadcasters are split over whether internet-delivered TV requires telecom-style licensing or should be left to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- [Global AI Centres Reshape Indian IT Jobs](#)
Soumyarendra Barik, Indian Express, May 15, 2026
- [Think Boldly, Innovate Fearlessly](#)
Deepshikha Sikarwar, Economic Times, May 11, 2026
- [SANJAYOVACHA | Will Power Improve Performance?](#)
Sanjaya Baru, Deccan Chronicle, May 10, 2026
- [Census Effect: Cities May See Lower Crime](#)
Times of India, May 10, 2026

- [Fuel Price Hike Looms as Oil PSUs Lose ₹30,000 Cr Monthly](#)
Atul Mathur and Dipak K Dash, Times of India, May 09, 2026
- [Revamped NITI Aayog, PMEAC May Aid Economic Analysis](#)
A K Bhattacharya Business Standard, May 05, 2026



From ruins to renewal: PM Modi reflects on Somnath's 75-year journey

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on the Somnath Temple's 75-year journey from "ruins to renewal," calling it a timeless symbol of India's unbroken civilisational spirit. He noted that its restoration represents not just the rebuilding of a shrine, but the revival of national pride, cultural confidence, and an unconquerable heritage. Modi shared deep insights into the historical and cultural significance of the shrine.



India Sets New Global Model in Agriculture



India has set a global example by boosting agricultural production, strengthening food security and improving farmers' lives. Welcoming the Food and Agriculture Organisation Agricola Medal awarded to Narendra Modi in Rome, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the honour reflects India's rising global stature and recognises the contribution of the country's farmers and welfare initiatives.

- [Urban Challenge Fund Hinges on Implementation Capacity](#)
Ravikant Joshi, Mongabay, May 26, 2026
- [Supreme Court of India Pushes New Era of Waste Governance](#)
Daily Hunt, May 25, 2026
- [Vande Ganga Drive to Revive Rajasthan Water Bodies](#)
Times of India, May 24, 2026
- [Disability Sector Non-Profits Receive Low CSR, State Funding](#)
The Hindu, May 13, 2026
- [63% Indians Concerned About Road Safety: Survey](#)
The Economic Times, May 05, 2026

Articles

- [From Ambition to Execution: What States Reveal About India's 2047 Path](#)
By Pradeep S. Mehta and Tasmita Sengupta
The Asian age, May 19, 2026
- [India growth strategy: From resilience to indispensability](#)
By Pradeep S Mehta and Bhavika Khatter
Policy Circle, May 15, 2026
- [Tourism can be India's green forex engine](#)
By Pradeep S Mehta and Madhvendra Singh Panwar
Financial Express, May 13, 2026
- [Next tourism leap needs easing visa](#)
By Pradeep S Mehta and Madhvendra Singh Panwar
Financial Express, May 08, 2026

Publications

- [Competition Concerns in Cloud Services Market and Application of Indian Competition Law](#)
- [\[Over\]Regulating Cloud Services: A Case for Restraint](#)