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# Tripura First State to Complete All Deregulation Priority Areas -- National Compliance Reform

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# Tripura First State to Complete All Deregulation Priority Areas -- National Compliance Reform

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## WHY IN NEWS:

Tripura became the **first state in India** to complete all **51 priority areas** under both **Phase I and Phase II of the Cabinet Secretariat's National Deregulation Initiative** (launched January 2026), as recognised on May 14-15, 2026. Key reforms include expanding White Category industries from 41 to 130, streamlining 72 services and 14 inspections via the SWAAGAT platform, and reducing land-use categories from 100+ to 10.

## WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DEREGULATION INITIATIVE?

The **National Deregulation Initiative** is a **Cabinet Secretariat-led programme** (not DPIIT) launched in **January 2026** to reduce regulatory burden on businesses and improve ease of doing business across Indian states. It is distinct from – but complementary to – the DPIIT-led Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP).

### Two-Phase Structure

PHASE	FOCUS AREAS	TOTAL PRIORITY ITEMS
Phase I	Core business regulatory environment – single-window approvals, inspection rationalisation, construction permits	~25 areas
Phase II	Sector-specific deregulation – industry categorisation, land-use planning, services licensing, labour compliance simplification	~26 areas
<b>Total</b>		<b>51 priority areas</b>

## TRIPURA'S KEY REFORMS

### 1. Industry Categorisation (White/Orange/Red)

Industries in India are classified by pollution potential:

- **White:** Zero/negligible pollution; no consent required from State Pollution Control Board
- **Orange:** Moderate pollution; consent required
- **Red:** High pollution; stringent environmental clearance required

Tripura expanded its **White Category from 41 to 130 industries** – meaning 89 additional industry types can now be set up without PCB consent, significantly reducing regulatory entry barriers.

## 2. SWAAGAT Platform Integration

The **SWAAGAT platform** (Tripura’s single-window business services portal) now covers:

- **72 services** (approvals, licenses, NOCs from multiple departments) on a single platform
- **14 inspections** rationalised and integrated (combined or risk-based inspections instead of multiple departmental visits)

## 3. Land-Use Simplification

Tripura reduced its land-use categories from **100+ to 10** – a major simplification for:

- Industrial land acquisition
- Urban planning permissions
- Agricultural land conversion approvals

# INDIA’S EASE OF DOING BUSINESS – FRAMEWORK

## BRAP (Business Reforms Action Plan)

FEATURE	DETAIL
Nodal Ministry	DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)
Purpose	Annual ranking of states on ~300 reform areas
States assessed	All 36 states and UTs
Key output	States categorised as Achievers/Aspirers based on reform score
Latest round	BRAP 2024-25

## World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business (Discontinued)

The World Bank discontinued its **Doing Business Report** in September 2021 following a data integrity review. India’s last ranking: **63rd** (2020), up from **142nd** in 2014 – a jump of 79 positions in 6 years.

## DPIIT vs. Cabinet Secretariat – Distinction

FEATURE	DPIIT	CABINET SECRETARIAT
Ministry	Commerce and Industry	Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) linked
Scope	Promotion of FDI, industrial policy, BRAP	Cross-ministry coordination, deregulation
National Deregulation Initiative	Not nodal	<b>Nodal for this initiative</b>

## COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM ANGLE (GS PAPER 2)

Tripura’s achievement highlights several governance themes:

- ❶ **Centre-State Coordination:** The initiative requires states to voluntarily implement central recommendations – Tripura’s full compliance is a model of cooperative federalism
- ❷ **Small State Advantage:** Smaller states (Tripura: population ~4 million) can often implement reforms faster than large states due to fewer political economy constraints
- ❸ **Northeast Development:** Tripura’s reform is part of India’s **Act East Policy** and **Northeast Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS)** aimed at attracting investment to the region
- ❹ **Investment Climate:** Tripura borders Bangladesh and Myanmar – strategic importance for ASEAN connectivity and BIMSTEC trade

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### GS Paper 2 – Polity and Governance

- Deregulation as a governance tool; Cabinet Secretariat’s coordination role
- Ease of doing business: BRAP, single-window systems
- Cooperative federalism in economic governance
- Tripura as a case study of regulatory reform in a small northeastern state

### GS Paper 3 – Economy

- Investment climate; White/Orange/Red industry categorisation
- Role of Pollution Control Boards in industrial approvals
- Land-use reform and industrial corridor development

**Keywords:** National Deregulation Initiative, Cabinet Secretariat, SWAAGAT platform, White Category industries, BRAP, ease of doing business, Tripura, cooperative federalism, single-window clearance, inspection rationalisation.

*Cabinet Secretariat-led; launched January 2026; 51 priority areas across Phase I and II; Tripura = first state to complete all 51 (May 2026).*

*Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade; under Ministry of Commerce and Industry; nodal for FDI policy, BRAP, Make in India, Startup India, PM GatiShakti.*

*Annual DPIIT assessment of states across ~300 reform checkpoints; replaced the earlier EODB state ranking system; creates peer pressure among states through public scoring.*

*36 categories with zero liquid discharge and negligible pollution potential; no consent from State PCB required; examples: LED manufacturing, solar panel assembly, garment manufacturing.*

*Northeast India; borders Bangladesh (3 sides); capital Agartala; known for rubber, tea, bamboo; connected to Bangladesh via Akhaura-Agartala rail link (operational 2023); BIMSTEC secretariat is in Dhaka (Bangladesh).*

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