

## Ease of business: India in top 100

The DIPP also had the Prime Minister's support to coordinate across Ministries, the source said. "That was critical. For a federal democracy with messy coordination, as opposed to China or Russia, this coordination was quite a feat.

Comparison with these two will be interesting." Official sources told *The Hindu* that "We are optimistic (about a huge jump in rankings)."

The development will be a shot in the arm for the NDA government that has been facing a barrage of criticism due to its sudden demonetisation exercise and the 'hurried' implementation of the Goods and Services Tax regime that made it difficult for firms, particularly the small and medium ones, to do business. After taking charge as the Prime Minister in 2014, Narendra Modi was keen to ensure that India finds a place in the top 50 ranks, and had soon after made this a priority.

### Expected rise

Speculation has been rife about a significant improvement in India's rankings following top government officials including Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu recently hinting at some "good news" on the ease of doing business front, and the DIPP secretary Ramesh Abhishek expressing optimism about a noteworthy performance this time due to the "hard work" done by the government.

*The Hindu* had reported in June quoting a government official that "This time, the (government's) strategy was to carry out major reforms in areas such as 'starting a business' and 'dealing with construction permits' where we were down in the list."

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