

**Embassy of India
Brussels**

Ease of Doing Business

According to the World Bank's latest Doing Business Report (DBR, 2019) published on 31st October 2018, India has recorded a jump of 23 positions against its rank of 100 in 2017 to be placed now at 77th rank among 190 countries. India's leap of 23 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business ranking is significant considering that last year India had improved its rank by 30 places, a rare feat for any large country of the size of India. As a result of continued efforts by the Government, India has improved its rank by 53 positions in last two years and 65 positions in last four years [2014-18].

India has improved its rank in 6 out of 10 indicators and has moved closer to international best practices (Distance to Frontier score) on 7 out of the 10 indicators. But, the most dramatic improvements have been registered in the indicators related to 'Construction Permits' and 'Trading across Borders'. In grant of construction permits, India's rank improved from 181 in 2017 to 52 in 2018, an improvement of 129 ranks in a single year. In 'Trading across Borders', India's rank improved by 66 positions moving from 146 in 2017 to 80 in 2018.

2. The important features of India's performance this year are:

- The World Bank has recognized India as one of the top improvers for the year.
- This is the second consecutive year for which India has been recognized as one of the top improvers.
- India is the first BRICS and South Asian country to be recognized as top improvers in consecutive years.
- India has recorded the highest improvement in two years by any large country since 2011 in the Doing business assessment by improving its rank by 53 positions.
- As a result of continued performance, India is now placed at first position among South Asian countries as against 6th in 2014.
- Further, India has improved its rank among BRICS countries from 5th in 2014 to 3rd in 2018.

3. Indicatorwise highlights of India's performance are:

A. Dealing with Construction Permits –

- a. Procedures reduced from 37 to 20 in Mumbai and from 24 to 16 in Delhi
- b. Time reduced from 128.5 to 99 days in Mumbai and from 157.5 to 91 days in Delhi
- c. Building quality control index improved from 12 to 14 in Mumbai and 11 to 14 in Delhi
- d. Cost of obtaining construction permits reduced from 23.2 percent to 5.4 percent
- e. DTF score improved from 38.80 to 73.81

B. Trading Across Borders –

- a. Robust Risk Management System has reduced inspections significantly
- b. e-Sanchit allows traders to file all documents electronically
- c. Time and cost to export reduced through the introduction of electronic self-sealing of container at the factory

4. This significant improvement is credited to a strong commitment of the Government to carry out comprehensive and complex reforms, supported by a bureaucracy which has changed its mindset from a regulator to a facilitator. The Government has undertaken an extensive exercise of stakeholder consultations to understand challenges of the industry, government process re-engineering to provide simplified and streamlined processes to create a more conducive business environment in the country. As a result of continued efforts, India's rank has improved as follows:

Year	2014	2016	2017	2018
Overall rank	142	130	100	77
DTF	53.97	56.05	60.76	67.23