

8/22 The competition amendment bill 2022 has opened the floodgates
of regulatory developments for India in various ways. Discuss.

The competition amendment bill was tabled in the monsoon session. The bill seeks to regulate predatory pricing and unfair competition in the market.

Features of the bill

① Deal value criterion - the criterion says whether a transaction requires mandatory approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The transaction will require CCI approval if deal exceeds 2000 crore or the company has significant business operation in India.

The bill seeks to capture transactions that could fall under de minimis level. The Facebook - WhatsApp deal of \$19 Billion escaped regulations.

② Easing Standstill obligation The acquirers does not exercise any rights or interests over shares that are not permitted to acquire prior CCI's approval. This can ease open market purchase and stock market acquisitions.

③ Settlement Settlements and commitment mechanisms which will allow parties under investigation in non cartel cases.

Bottlenecks Reduced approval time has been reduced to 20 days from 30 days for merger reviews. The overall review time line granted to CCI reduced to 150 days from 200 days thus burdens companies and CCI.

Nevertheless, the competition amendment act can increase the ease of doing business ecosystem in the country.