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ANALYSIS

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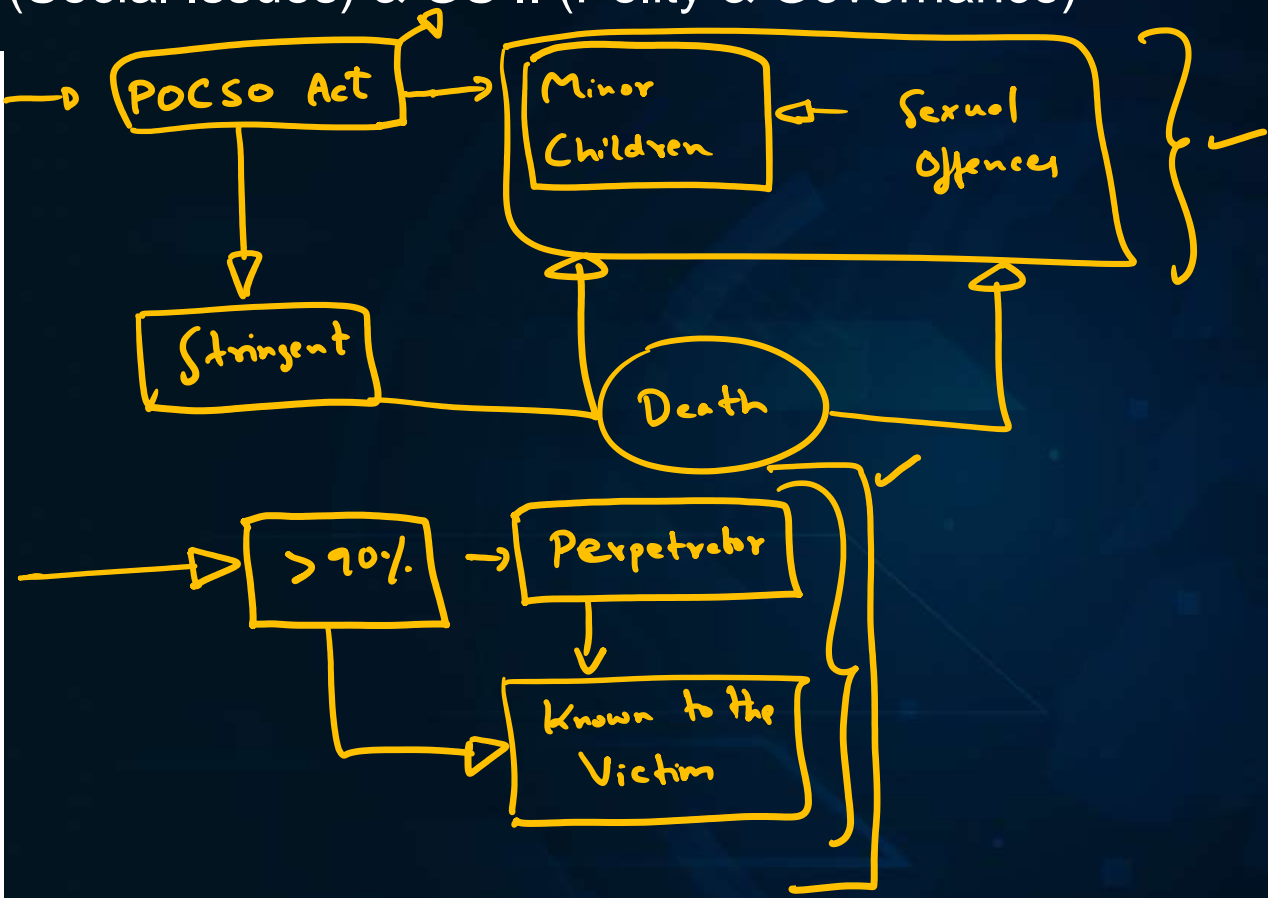
1. Pg 8 – GS I (Social Issues) & GS II (Polity & Governance)

Series of gaps

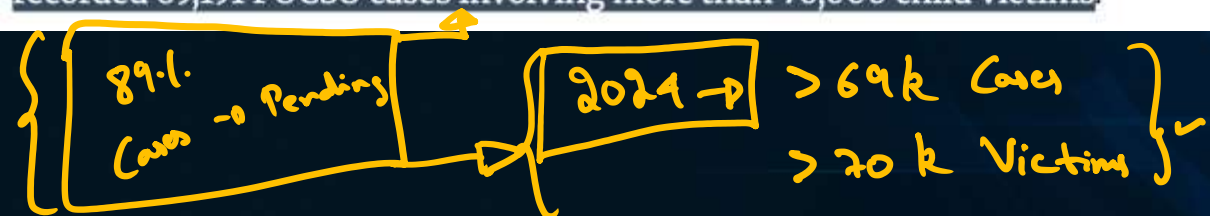
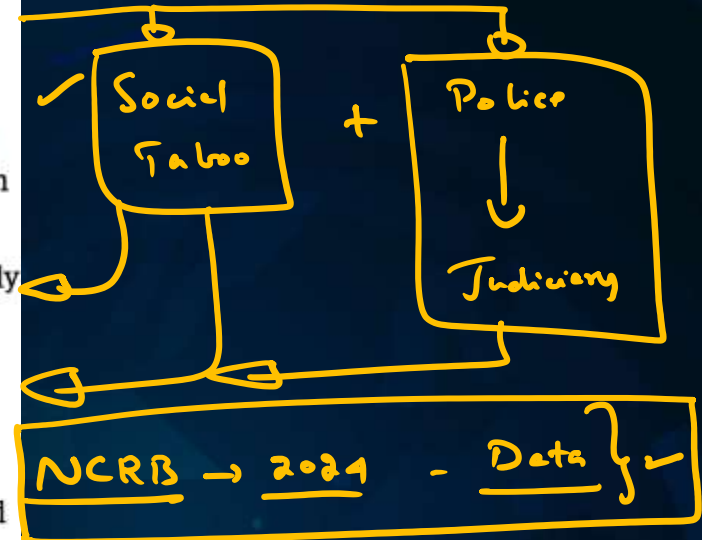
Distrust of police has led to underreporting of child sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse in India remains persistently under-reported and the state response to it has shown up trenchant systemic inefficiencies. In over 90% of cases, including the recent Sular case in Coimbatore in which a charge sheet was filed last week, the threat to a child is from within the family's trusted circles. Public imagination often fixates on predatory strangers, which is not conducive to helping families and communities identify a risk in time. Migrant and working-class communities are especially at risk as they are less integrated in local protective social networks. Second, abandoned industrial sites and poorly maintained common land tend to become crime scenes. But despite the "Safe City" project and the recognition of child-friendly urban development paradigms, urban redesign still focuses on core areas of major metros. The social safety dimensions of urban wetland restoration, like that of the Moyyal river, are often overlooked as well. Next, while POCSO trials are required to conclude within a year of the special court taking cognisance, POCSO courts face an 88% pendency rate and conviction rates have historically ranged between 3% and 30%, undermining confidence in the police and judiciary. The Sular case prompted promises of swift action, but this is only one case; systemic reforms to protect vulnerable children remain elusive. In 2024, the NCRB recorded 69,191 POCSO cases involving more than 70,000 child victims.

Public distrust discourages residents from reporting suspicions and encourages families fearing police apathy to search for missing children themselves, potentially allowing the perpetrators to hide evidence or flee. Ultimately, when the state fails to deliver due punishment, the people perceive the police to be a bureaucratic hurdle, leaving children more vulnerable. Repeatedly strengthening penalties merely suppresses reporting in most cases where the offender is familiar. Even the 2018 and 2019 amendments to the POCSO Act reacted to public outrage rather than considered evidence and focused on harsher punishments. Both comprehensive longitudinal data on recidivism and analyses of whether harsher legal penalties are effective deterrents remain scarce. While data collection has improved, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has noted that qualitative analyses of acquittals rarely inform policy changes. Finally, survivors and families face secondary victimisation from insensitive administrative responses and media reports. Together with the lack of policing informed by trauma response and stigma, true safety continues to evade thousands of children leaving them vulnerable to a cycle of unreported and unpunished violence.



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The 2018 and 2019 amendments to the POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) were enacted to strengthen child protection by introducing stricter punishments (including the death penalty), expanding the scope of offenses, and detailing new procedures to combat child pornography and sexual abuse. [Mission Vatsalya +4](#)

Key Changes in the 2018 Amendment

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 brought significant provisions for minor victims:

- **Stringent Penalties:** Increased the minimum punishment for raping a child under 12 years of age to 20 years, with a maximum of life imprisonment or the death penalty.
- **Faster Investigation & Trials:** Mandated that police investigations into the rape of a child be completed within two months, and any appeals be disposed of within six months.
- **Bail Restrictions:** Barred anticipatory bail for individuals accused of raping minors under 16 years of age.

Death Penalty

The POCSO (Amendment) Act, 2019 introduced further sweeping measures:

Death Penalty Introduced: Prescribed the death penalty for cases of "aggravated penetrative sexual assault". [Ministry of Home Affairs +1](#)

- **Stricter Penetrative Assault Sentences:** Increased the minimum sentence for penetrative sexual assault from 7 years to 10 years. For penetrative assault on a child under 16 years, the minimum was raised to 20 years, extending to the remainder of the perpetrator's natural life. [India Code +2](#)
- **Enhanced Aggravated Assault Sentences:** Increased the minimum punishment for aggravated penetrative assault from 10 years to 20 years, and the maximum to life imprisonment or death.
- **Severe Penalties for Child Pornography:** Added stringent definitions and penalties for child pornography. Storing or possessing child pornography for commercial purposes now carries 3 to 5 years of imprisonment for a first offense (and 5 to 7 years for subsequent offenses). It also criminalized the failure to destroy, delete, or report child pornographic material. [PFGIndia +3](#)
- **New Aggravated Clauses:** Expanded the definition of aggravated assault to include offenses committed during communal/sectarian violence, natural calamities, or when the assault results in the death of the child. [National Institutes of Health \(.gov\) +1](#)
- **Preventing Early Maturity:** Made it a specific punishable offense to administer chemicals, drugs, or hormones to a child to induce early sexual maturity. [National Institutes of Health \(.gov\)](#)

Mains Practice Question

Q. The 2018 and 2019 amendments to the POCSO Act have not achieved the desired results, as merely strengthening penalties won't deter perpetrators. Critically examine.

(250 words; 15 marks)

2. Pg 8 – GS I (History) & GS II (IR)

Hinduism & Buddhism

Ind-Thailand

INA

The hidden history of the Thai-Bharat connection

15th June

INA

Today, June 15, marks the 84th anniversary of a historic meeting we have allowed ourselves to forget, which led to the birth of the Indian National Army (INA). I learned about it on a visit to the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) in Bangkok, discovering a remarkable, overlooked chapter of history that reveals Thailand's vital role as a neutral, strategic beacon for Indian revolutionaries seeking refuge from British colonial rule. From its humble beginnings as a hub for cultural and intellectual exchange, the organisation evolved into a cornerstone of the Indian independence movement, providing the essential infrastructure for the formation of the INA.



Shashi Tharoor

Fourth term Member of Parliament, Congress party (Lok Sabha) for Thiruvananthapuram, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 20 books, including, most recently, 'The Sage Who Reimagined Hindutva: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sri Nityananda Guru'.

From culture to cause

The roots of this alliance were sown in 1927 during a historic visit to Siam, now Thailand, by Gurusaday Balaramkrishn Tagore, who met with King Prajadhipok (Phra Vajiravudh). Their dialogue centred on the deep, enduring connections between India and Thailand – ancient ties rooted in religion, philosophy, and shared cultural narratives such as the Ramayana and the Thai Ramakien, inspired by his visit, Prajadhipok sent a Bengali scholar who became known as Swami Satyananda Puri, arrested in Bangkok in 1932.

A brilliant intellectual who had taught at the University of Calcutta and Vivekananda University, the Swami immersed himself in the Thai language and culture, mastering it in six months and becoming an esteemed professor at Chulalongkorn University. In 1933, he established the Dharmas Ashram, a sanctuary for spiritual and cultural exchange, which served as a focal point for the growing Indian diaspora in Bangkok.

In December 1940, this ashram was transformed into the TBCL. A defining moment in the organisation's history occurred shortly after, when the Indian Tricolour was hoisted at the Lodge – a bold, defiant gesture that signalled the arrival of the Indian independence movement in Thailand and drew strong protests from the British Ambassador. As the Second World War descended upon Southeast Asia, the TBCL shifted from a cultural institution to an active political base. By late 1941, as Japanese forces advanced, the Lodge became a nexus for Indian nationalists and independence activists.

One of the most instrumental figures in this era was Sardar Giani Pyaram Singh, a Sikh missionary and Ghadar Party veteran who had been preaching revolutionary ideas among the Indian diaspora in Bangkok. Operating from garbhouses and working closely with the TBCL, Pyaram Singh established vital covert links with Major Iwachi Fujiwara, the chief of the Japanese intelligence

An enduring Thailand-India bond that played a pivotal role in India's independence movement

unit, F. Khan. In December 1941, the National Council (NC) was founded at the Silpakorn Theatre in Bangkok by a group of nationalists associated with the TBCL, with Swami Satyananda Puri as its president and Deobath Des as its secretary. This organisation played a crucial role in coordinating the efforts of the Indian independence movement, bridging the gap between civilian aspirations and the military mobilisation led by the Indian Independence League (IIL).

Toward organised resistance

The cooperation between these groups culminated in the historic Bangkok Conference, which took place between June 15 and June 23, 1942, at the Silpakorn Theatre. This gathering represented a turning point in the struggle, bringing together more than a hundred representatives of Indian communities and freedom fighters from across Southeast Asia, including Burma, Malaya, and Singapore.

The conference served three primary functions. It brought together diverse nationalist factions under a coherent political and military framework, effectively establishing the IIL as the central body for Indians residing outside of India. It adopted a comprehensive 14-point resolution, which provided the official blueprint for the INA, stipulating that it would be composed of volunteers and former prisoners of war and supervised by the IIL rather than the Japanese military. The delegates urged Japan to formally recognise India as an independent nation and acknowledge the IIL as its sole legitimate representative, reflecting a strategic effort to ensure that the independent movement maintained its own agency despite its reliance on Japanese support.

The struggle began with a tragedy that shook the movement to its core. In March 1942, a plane carrying the Swami and the Sardar, who were en route to a high-level meeting in Tokyo to secure further commitments for the movement, crashed, resulting in their deaths. Their loss was a devastating blow, yet their sacrifice served to deepen the resolve of those who remained and who conferred in June with the Japanese to set up the INA. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's arrival in 1942 provided the centralised, charismatic, and revolutionary military leadership needed. He took command of the IIL and the INA, shifting the focus from decentralised regional council discussions toward a unified, disciplined military and political front designed to launch an armed struggle for Indian independence.

While the TBCL's roots were in intellectual and cultural exchange, Netaji's arrival accelerated the transition to a mass-mobilisation effort, drawing in thousands of civilian volunteers and former

prisoners of war who were inspired by his call for "Total Mobilization". Under Bose, the collaboration with the Japanese military was elevated to a high-stakes diplomatic partnership aimed at securing full recognition for the Provisional Government of Free India.

Despite the shift toward a more militarized and centralised command under Netaji, the TBCL continued to serve as a vital institutional bridge. It provided the necessary civilian and cultural cover for many activities that supported the broader independence movement. As the war progressed, the TBCL remained a steadfast centre for the Indian diaspora, even as the focus of the struggle moved to the front lines of the INA's march toward the Indian border. The Lodge maintained its role as a sanctuary for those committed to the ideals of independence, preserving the vision that had been articulated during the early days of Swami Satyananda Puri's tenure – that India's freedom was inextricably linked to the broader cause of Asian liberation from colonial rule.

Keeping history alive

Following the conclusion of the war in 1945, the TBCL was banned by Allied forces and its leaders imprisoned. Even after the conclusion of the war and the dissolution of the INA, the legacy of this era persisted. Thanks to the tireless efforts of figures such as Pandit Raghunath Sharma, the Lodge was successfully re-established in 1946. The Lodge's survival serves as a testament to the fact that the political and military efforts of the free war were supported by the deep-rooted cultural and social networks fostered in the years prior. These networks allowed the movement to survive the vacuum of leadership following the war and continue to inform the historic relationship between India and Thailand.

Today, the TBCL remains the only surviving institution from this era, functioning as a living archive, housing a precious collection of rare texts, historical photographs, and documents that provide an intimate window into the lives of the Indian families who contributed to the fight for freedom.

During my visit I was treated to a passionate tour of the premises by Pandeji, a descendant of Indian expatriates who had migrated to Thailand three centuries ago. As he evoked the stories behind each grainy photograph and historic document, it became clear that the TBCL stands not just as a library or a museum, but as a monument to the enduring friendship between the people of Thailand and the Indian diaspora – a symbol of the shared courage and determination that defined one of the most critical, yet often forgotten, chapters of the global anti-colonial movement.



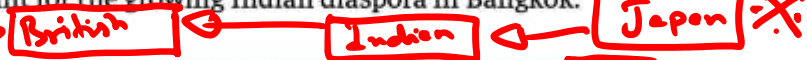
Today, June 15, marks the 84th anniversary of a historic meeting we have allowed ourselves to forget, which led to the birth of the Indian National Army (INA). I learned about it on a visit to the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) in Bangkok, discovering a remarkable, overlooked chapter of history that reveals Thailand's vital role as a neutral, strategic beacon for Indian revolutionaries seeking refuge from British colonial rule. From its humble beginnings as a hub for cultural and intellectual exchange, the organisation evolved into a cornerstone of the Indian independence movement, providing the essential infrastructure for the formation of the INA.

Siam → Thailand

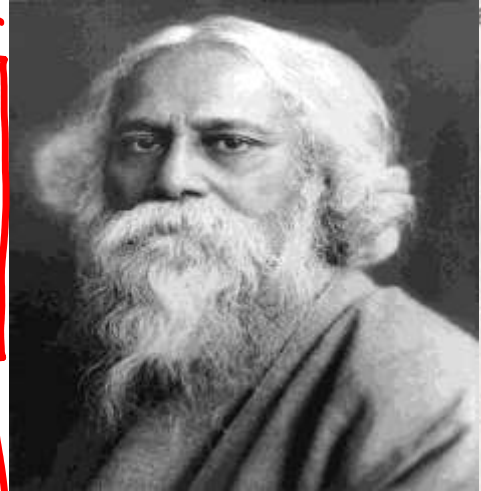
From culture to cause

The roots of this alliance were sown in **1927** during a historic visit to Siam, now Thailand, by **Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who met with King Prajadhipok (Rama VII)**. Their dialogue centred on the deep, enduring connections between India and Thailand — ancient ties rooted in religion, philosophy, and shared cultural narratives such as the **Ramayana and the Thai Ramakien**. Inspired by his vision, **Prafulla Kumar Sen** a Bengali scholar who became known as **Swami Satyananda Puri**, arrived in Bangkok in **1932**.

A brilliant intellectual who had taught at the University of Calcutta and Visva-Bharati University, the Swami immersed himself in the Thai language and culture, mastering it in six months and becoming an esteemed professor at Chulalongkorn University. In **1939** he established the **Dharam Ashram** a sanctuary for spiritual and cultural exchange, which served as a focal point for the growing Indian diaspora in Bangkok.



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artys
The Great Scholar
Swami Satya Nanda Puri

One of the most instrumental figures in this era was **Sardar Giani Pritam Singh**, a Sikh missionary and **Ghadar Party veteran** who had been preaching revolutionary ideals among the Indian diaspora in Bangkok. Operating from gurdwaras and working closely with the TBCL, Pritam Singh established vital **covert links with Major Iwaichi Fujiwara**, the chief of the **Japanese intelligence unit, F-Kikan**. In December 1941, the **Indian National Council (INC)** was founded at the **Silpakorn Theatre** in Bangkok by a group of nationalists associated with the TBCL, with **Swami Satyananda Puri** as its president and **Debnath Das** as its secretary. This organisation played a crucial role in coordinating the efforts of the Indian independence movement, bridging the gap between civilian aspirations and the **military mobilisation led by the Indian Independence League (IIL)**.



TBC

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INA

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~~×~~ TBCL



Mains Practice Question

Q. The Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) serves as an enduring Thailand-India bond that played a pivotal role in India's independence movement. Illustrate.

(250 words; 15 marks)

3. Pg 9 – GS III (Economy)

Towards a fair, efficient insolvency regime

The outline of India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has long been demarcated by an innate stiffness between the inevitability to preserve distraught companies and the necessity to safeguard the interests of creditors. This contradiction is often cited as the 'Chakravayala Challenge' – a structural paradox by which the economy eases a company's entry into the system but forns formidable formal fences when it wishes to exit.

From the Sick Industrial Companies Act, which demonstrated a debtor in possession model and had been plagued by promoter intransigence, to the creditor in control model of the IBC, the historical flight of such laws reflects an incessant effort to improve the balance. Though the IBC aimed at providing time-bound resolutions, it has fallen short due to protracted litigation and procedural lapses. In light of this, the 2026 Amendment to the IBC presents the Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP), a hybrid apparatus attempting to espouse debtor in possession topographies with the creditor-in-control model. Nevertheless, the amendment's restrictive framework bounds initiation rights to only a fine class of financial creditors belonging to "notified financial institutions", thereby instilling constitutional contests and economic ineptitude.

Swift yet stringent alternative
The CIIRP is a clever attempt to address financial crisis without the value-destroying disruption of typical liquidation proceedings by allowing the current management to maintain control over activities under the supervision of a resolution specialist. In order to reduce judicial intervention and procedural delays, the IBC established the CIIRP procedure by adding Sections 54C to 54D. Significantly, the change is a legislative response to the ruling in



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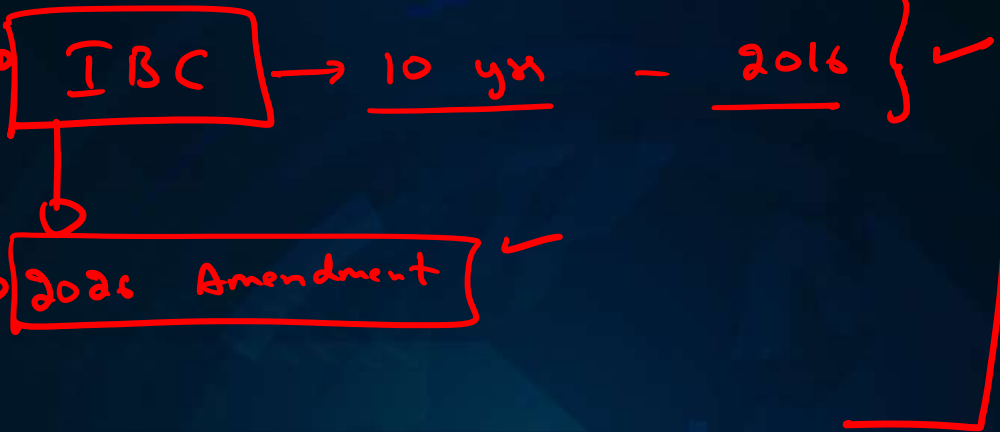
Vidarbha Academics. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) was formerly given discretionary authority via the interpretation of "may" in Section 75(6a), which permitted it to postpone or reject admission even in cases where debt and default were proven. This has now been replaced by the required "shall" via the 2026 amendment, thereby compelling the NCLT to accept cases based on information utility records. As a less disruptive restructuring instrument, the CIIRP is an appealing, if exclusive, resort for creditors because corporate debtors experiencing transitory liquidity crises suddenly lack the breathing room to fight initiation.

However, by limiting the ability to start the CIIRP only for "notified financial institutions," the Act creates an arbitrary hierarchy within the class of financial creditors. Although the distinction between financial and operational creditors was previously maintained in Sais Ribben via the "intelligible differential" standard of Article 14, this sub-classification is essentially different. The government's argument that "notified" institutions have special knowledge is out of date; sophisticated investors with the ability to perform in-depth restructuring analysis can be found at today's financial markets. The Act runs the danger of being overturned as arbitrary since it does not explain why these excluded parties are less able to promote resolutions that maximise value. Operational and smaller financial creditors are significantly disenfranchised under the current arrangement as they are already at the bottom of the repayment priority list. Smaller creditors may be forced to the sidelines of restructuring talks as a result of the CIIRP's propensity to concentrate bargaining power in the hands of notified institutions. It compels non-notified creditors to undertake the more aggressive and disruptive Corporate

Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) just to protect their financial interests. This compromises the equity of the entire insolvency ecosystem.

The way ahead
The Indian method is mysteriously restrictive. The U.S. Chapter 11 and the U.K's Part 26A restructuring plans base their access on objective financial conditions rather than the regulatory identity of the creditor. A wide range of stakeholders can participate in the restructuring process in both the U.S. and the U.K. as long as they meet certain requirements. India's choice to restrict initiation rights to a particular group of creditors is an anomaly that deters foreign investors from participating because they believe that the Indian market is intrinsically skewed against their asset classes. The law gives notified institutions procedural dominance, which makes later Creditor Agreements less clear and informal negotiations less fair. If a lender who hasn't been notified is put on hold, they have to file for Formal CIRP to protect their capital.

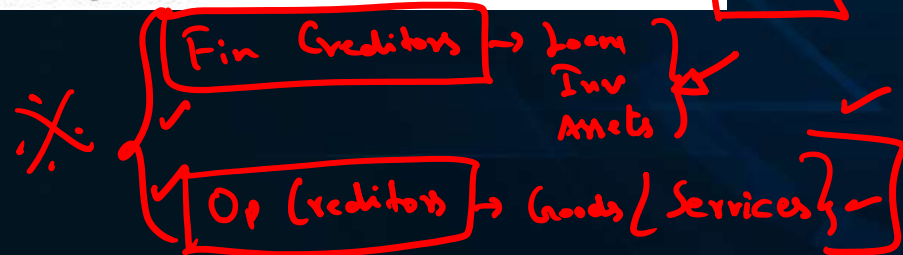
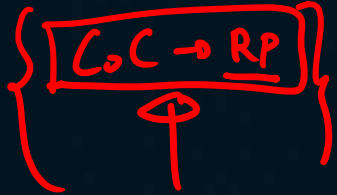
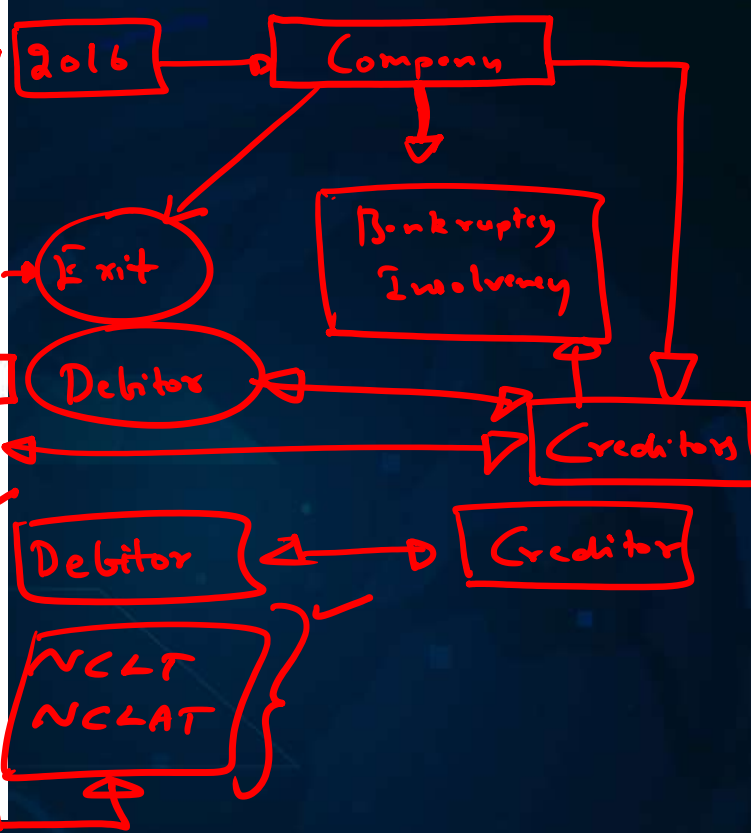
There must be a "universal CIIRP" with a "default neutral initiation rule". This proposal does away with regulatory status and replaces it with a threshold based on financial exposure. Any financial creditor could start the process as long as they get the support of creditors holding at least 5% of the total financial debt. This takes care of constitutional issues while keeping a strong provision against one-sided, malicious filings. By adding debtor in possession features, the 2026 amendment shows that the pure creditor-in control model doesn't keep business value. But the "notified institution" criteria could blunt these gains. India can make an efficient insolvency system that benefits everyone by using a universal CIIRP model based on financial interest instead of institutional identity.



The outline of **India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** has long been demarcated by an innate stiffness between the inevitability to preserve distraught companies and the necessity to safeguard the interests of creditors.

This contradiction is often cited as the **'Chakravyyuha Challenge'** - a structural paradox by which the economy eases a company's entry into the system but forms formidable formal fences when it wishes to exit.

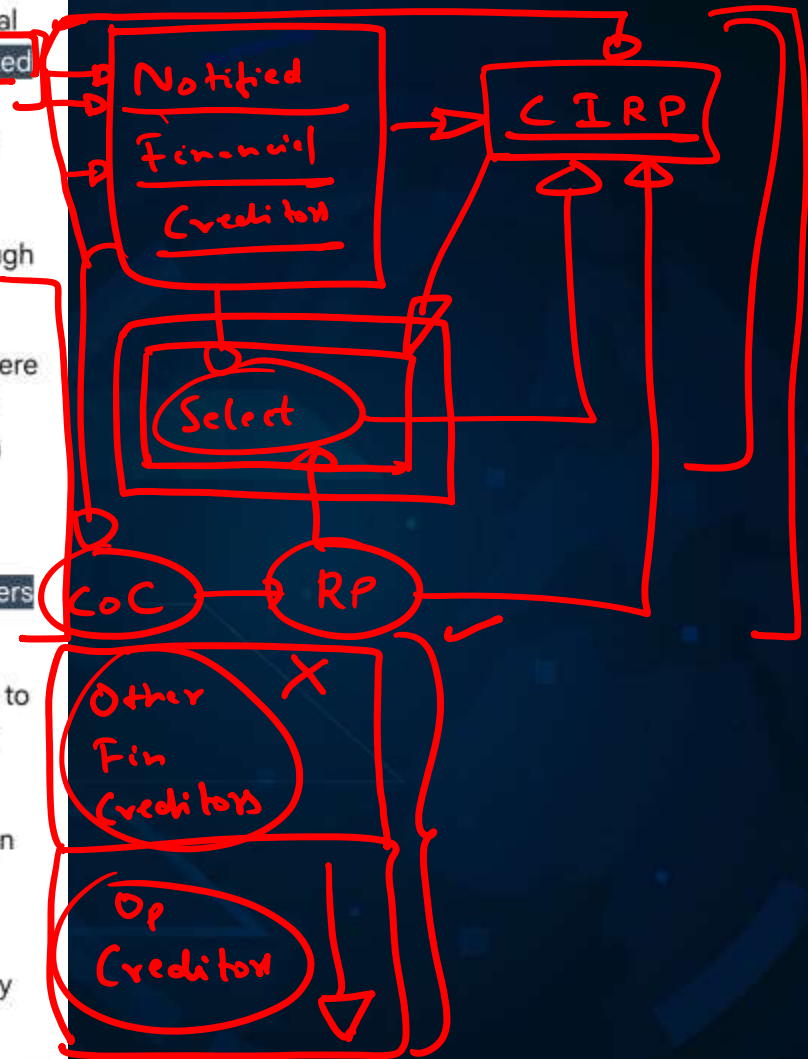
From the **Sick Industrial Companies Act** which demonstrated a **debtor-in-possession model** and had been plagued by promoter misuse, to the **creditor-in-control model of the IBC**, the historical flight of such laws reflects an incessant effort to improve the balance. Though the **IBC aimed at providing time-bound resolutions** it has fallen short due to protracted litigation and procedural lapses. In light of this, **the 2026 Amendment to the IBC** presents the **Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP)**, a hybrid apparatus attempting to **espouse debtor-in-possession topographies with the creditor-in-control model**. Nevertheless, the amendment's restrictive framework bounds initiation rights to only a fine class of financial creditors belonging to "notified financial institutions", thereby inviting constitutional contests and economic ineptitude.



The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2026 is a major structural overhaul of India's insolvency framework. Key features include a **new Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP)**, mandatory 14-day admission timelines, frameworks for group and cross-border insolvencies, and strict rules for payouts to dissenting creditors. IBC Laws +1

The amendment addresses long-standing delays and improves asset recovery through the following major changes: IBC Laws +1

- **Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Process (CIIRP):** Introduces a new framework where notified classes of financial creditors can initiate insolvency proceedings against smaller corporate debtors by appointing an insolvency professional and making a public announcement, completely bypassing initial NCLT filings. IBC Laws
- **Mandatory Timelines:** Adjudicating authorities (like the NCLT) are now strictly mandated to either admit or reject applications within 14 days, and pass final orders on resolution plans within 30 days. IBC Laws +1
- **Dissenting Creditors:** Clarifies that a dissenting financial creditor is only entitled to the lower of the value they would receive under the approved Resolution Plan or their liquidation payout. Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan | LKS +1
- **Cross-Border & Group Insolvency:** Integrates international frameworks based on UNCITRAL models and allows for the holistic consolidation of corporate group accounts to prevent asset fragmentation.
- **Frivolous Filing Penalties:** Imposes steep penalties (up to ₹2 crore) on insolvency professionals and applicants for frivolous filings or abuse of



Operational and smaller financial creditors are significantly disenfranchised under the current arrangement as they are already at the bottom of the repayment priority list. Smaller creditors may be forced to the sidelines of restructuring talks as a result of the CIRP's propensity to concentrate bargaining power in the hands of notified institutions. It compels non-notified creditors to undertake the more aggressive and disruptive Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) just to protect their financial interests. This compromises the equity of the entire insolvency ecosystem.

The way ahead

The Indian method is mysteriously constrictive. The **U.S.' Chapter 11 and the U.K.'s Part 26A** restructuring plans base their access on **objective financial conditions rather than the regulatory identity of the creditor**. A wide range of stakeholders can participate in the restructuring process in both the U.S. and the U.K. as long as they meet certain requirements. **India's choice to restrict initiation rights to a particular group of creditors is an anomaly that deters foreign investors from participating** because they believe that the Indian market is intrinsically skewed against their asset classes. The law gives notified institutions procedural dominance, which makes Inter-Creditor Agreements less clear and informal negotiations less fair. If a lender who hasn't been notified is put on hold, they have to file for formal CIRP to protect their capital.

There must be a **"universal CIIRP" with a "default-neutral initiation rule"**. This proposal does away with regulatory status and replaces it with a threshold based on financial exposure. **Any financial creditor could start the process as long as they get the support of creditors holding at least 51% of the total financial debt**. This takes care of constitutional issues while keeping a strong protection against one-sided, malicious filings.

4. Pg 12 – GS III (Security)

CISF trains 7,120 personnel in counter-drone operations post-Operation Sindoor

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A year after Operation Sindoor, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has trained over 7,000 personnel in drone and counter-drone operations, a CISF official said.



The training in conjunction was initiated amid the threat from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

The training in conjunction with the Indian Air Force (IAF) was initiated amid the growing threat from unauthorised Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

The official said the CISF had been tasked with auditing the security of critical installations such as nuclear power plants and thermal power plants among others.

“It is imperative that the CISF personnel posted at vital installations are aware about the emerging threat scenario from UAVs. They should know how to identify and disable such flying

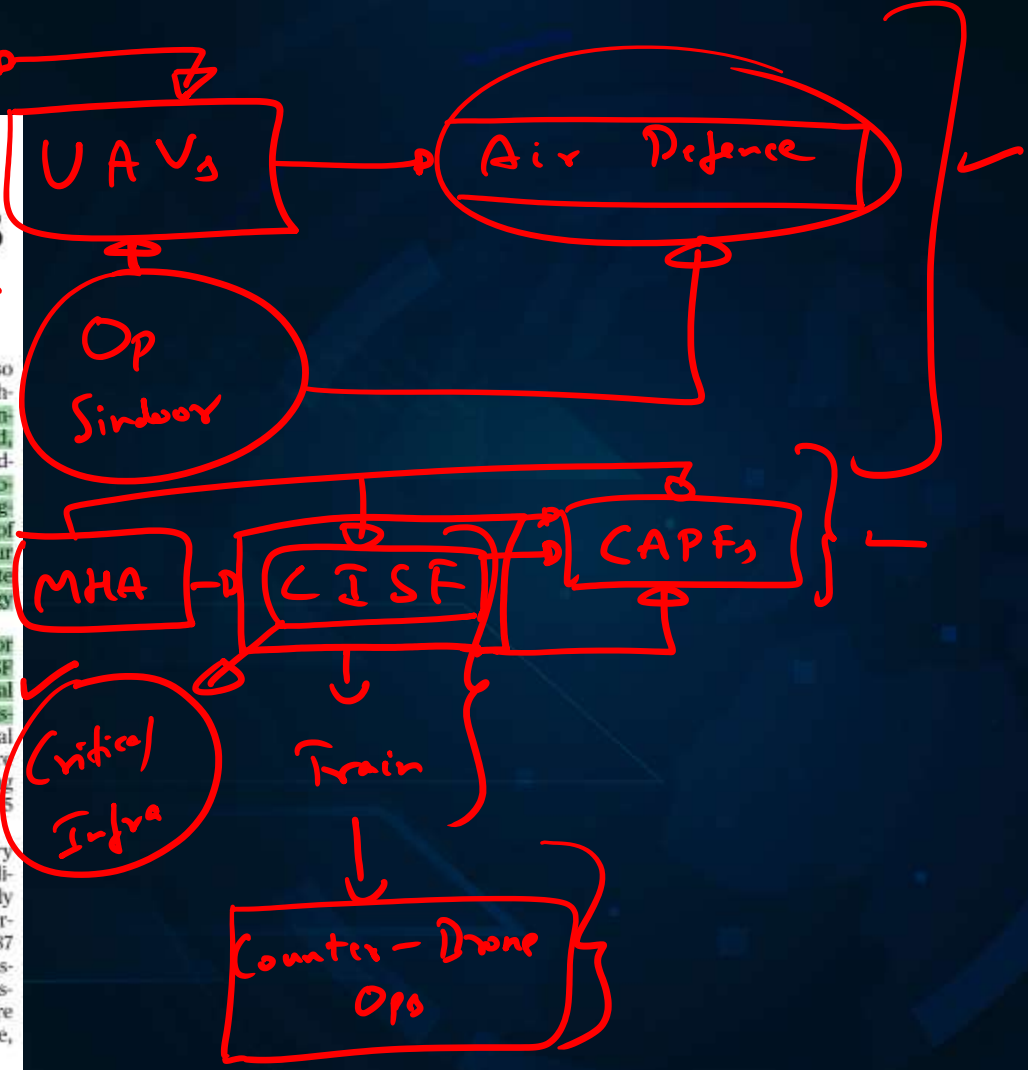
objects. The training is going on an intensive scale,” said the official.

A barrage of attacks by drones along the Pakistan border were thwarted by security forces in May 2025 after Operation Sindoor. So far, the CISF had trained 7,120 personnel in drone and counter-drone operations, which covered piloting the drones, aerial surveillance, mapping, and neutralisation of hostile

drones. The CISF was also in the process of establishing dedicated Drone Training Schools in Hyderabad, Bhilai and Behror, with advanced academic programmes planned alongside the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune.

While combating terror and cyberthreats, the CISF continued to be a crucial first responder for industrial disasters, the official said. Its dedicated Fire Wing successfully saving property worth ₹172.55 crore.

Acting on the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directives, the CISF recently trained 450 State Fire Services personnel from 187 cities in advanced industrial firefighting and disaster management at its Fire Services Training Institute, Hyderabad.



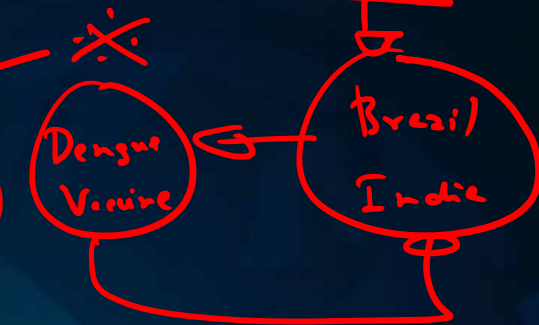
2 SAR ✖

NIH → US

Deaths in Brazil raise concerns about India's dengue vaccine, DengiAll

Brazilian authorities have stressed that the 42 cases of severe adverse events represent only 0.008% of half-a-million vaccinated; there is no doubt that it is a small risk at the population level; however, at the individual level even one life lost to a severe adverse event is one too many.

The recent death of two people in Brazil during its dengue vaccination campaign, leading to the shot's suspension on June 8, is a crucial wake-up call for India. This is because the dengue vaccine in Brazil, Butantan-DV, is pretty similar, if not identical, to India's soon-to-be-launched dengue vaccine, DengiAll.



Both the Brazilian and Indian vaccines have been several years in the making. Both are made up of **live but weakened attenuated** versions of dengue viruses (DENVs).

And both vaccines are said to be **tetravalent** because each vaccine is in fact a **physical mixture of four live, weakened DENVs**.

Tetravalent

4 Serotypes

Indeed, DENVs come in **four versions, or serotypes: called DENV-1, -2, -3 and -4**. All four serotypes are known to be **prevalent in Brazil and India**. Each DENV serotype has an **outer shell adorned with specialised envelope proteins, called E proteins** — akin to the spike protein of coronaviruses. Even though the four DENV serotypes are very similar, their E proteins are different enough to warrant immunisation against each of the four serotypes.

Antibody-dependent enhancement

When **weakened DENV** is used in a vaccine, it will prompt several kinds of antibodies that can be grouped into two classes: **type-specific antibodies** and **cross-reactive antibodies**. The type-specific antibodies, often made in small amounts, are specific to unique regions on the E protein of a given serotype. That is, the type-specific antibodies recognise only one particular serotype and excel in blocking infections by that serotype alone.

All Serotypes

On the other hand, the cross-reactive antibodies are made usually in large amounts and are specific to similar regions on the E proteins of all four serotypes. That is, they can recognise any of the four serotypes and block an infection — provided they are present in adequately high levels. **When their levels decrease, the cross-reactive antibodies don't just fail to block a new DENV infection, they enhance it, leading to a severe and potentially fatal form of dengue.**

This phenomenon is called **antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE)**. The risk of potential ADE during dengue vaccination is considered a serious adverse event. If untreated it can lead to death.

Prelims Bytes

Amazon

What is drop shipping, and what are the risks for online shoppers?

Drop shipping allows online individuals or agents who do not hold any products to take customer orders and pass them on to other makers or sellers, inserting themselves into the transaction as middlemen. While legal in most jurisdictions, the practice can expose customers to several risks.

Sahana Venkatesh

While scrolling through Instagram feeds, you naturally pause when an attractive product catches your eye: a sleek laptop bag for travel, a cheap set of popular novels, an ultra-fast wireless charger on sale, beautifully embroidered linen shirts, or leather-bound notebooks with custom gold foil inscriptions. Before you know it, you are entering your credit card number or UPI PIN.

Caught up in your shopping spree, you may not have checked the true origin of the product or other customers' reviews of the seller. What's more, you may not even realise that the "company" you paid is just a decreed webpage created with AI and owned by a person who does not hold a single product.

This is the economy of drop shipping, the business practice that allows almost anyone with an internet connection to sell products that come from others.

Here is what you should know as a customer.

What is drop shipping?

This is a business practice where an online individual or agent — who does not hold any product — takes orders from customers and passes them on to another maker/seller who actually holds the product. The product is then delivered to the customers, either by the original maker/seller or a third-party delivery service. To put it simply, the drop shipper inserts itself into the transaction as a middleman. One or even multiple drop shippers might stand between buyers and the original makers of the product they want.

The success of Amazon, the largest e-commerce retailer in the world, can be credited at least in part to drop shipping practices. In its earliest days, Amazon did not commandeer giant international warehouses packed with products; rather,

the company was a web-based middleman that fulfilled many customers' orders by sourcing the books they wanted.

Though Amazon's product delivery model has drastically evolved, the company allows drop shipping to take place via its platform. Other channels, such as Shopify, also enable drop shipping and help users manage the logistics. Alternatively, drop shipping might take place through channels such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and lesser-known websites.

In essence, if you have ever bought any product online, there's a chance that you placed your order through a drop shipper rather than the original seller.

How does drop shipping work?

Drop shippers can work with both domestic and international manufacturers and customers. Some try to fill an existing gap in their local market (such as affordable school textbooks), some capitalise on market trends (such as the popularity of iPhone cases), and others build hype around rare products (such as foreign luxury fashions). Most importantly, the drop shipper does not need to buy or store any of the products they are selling.

Drop shipping has become a popular source of income for both public-facing Instagram creators monetising their virality as well as private marketers looking for discreet revenue streams. What's more, with AI automating many customer services and harvesting business insights, drop shipping feels like something that almost anyone with an internet connection can try out.

In addition to promoting products and setting up online storefronts, drop shippers may also buy/sell courses that reveal current market trends, customer interests, trusted wholesalers, and useful AI tools, in order to generate further profits.

Drop shipping might look logical at

first, but it is in vogue for a number of reasons.

Buyers trying to independently source foreign products from a wholesaler might be forced to order more than they need, or contend with complicated customs regulations and fees. They also may not know if the original seller is legitimate, or might be unable to communicate with them due to a language barrier.

However, placing orders through a vetted drop shipper with a user-friendly web page eases some of these worries. What's more, legitimate drop shippers regularly carry out quality assurance tests of their own, and should ideally become a customer support layer of sorts in order to resolve any complaints.

Is drop shipping legal?

Drop shipping is legal in most jurisdictions, as long as the participants involved ensure transparency and comply with their region's tax laws.

Instagram's commerce eligibility requirements state that the users' Facebook Pages or Instagram professional accounts must contain product listings that are available for direct purchase from the user's website. In case buyers are being directed to another website, the user must provide the domain through which they sell, and their channels must represent the shop associated with the domain.

But now that it is possible to create entire storefronts and e-commerce websites in minutes with just some cheap domains and a few AI coding prompts, Instagram drop shippers can easily present themselves as original sellers and avoid customer orders to other sellers. Videos of workers sorting through wrapped packages, or feeds of founders happily holding up stacks of paper that they claim are customer orders, can mislead social media shoppers into thinking they are dealing directly with a trusted seller.

Ultimately, the line separating

influencers, marketers, and sellers can blur quickly on social media. Some drop shippers also ask customers to contact them via WhatsApp, to take their communication off the app. Buyers may not know where their products are actually coming from or how their data privacy rights are being eroded. And as supply chain transparency is lost, drop shipping operations can quickly slide into a legal grey area or end up in criminal violations.

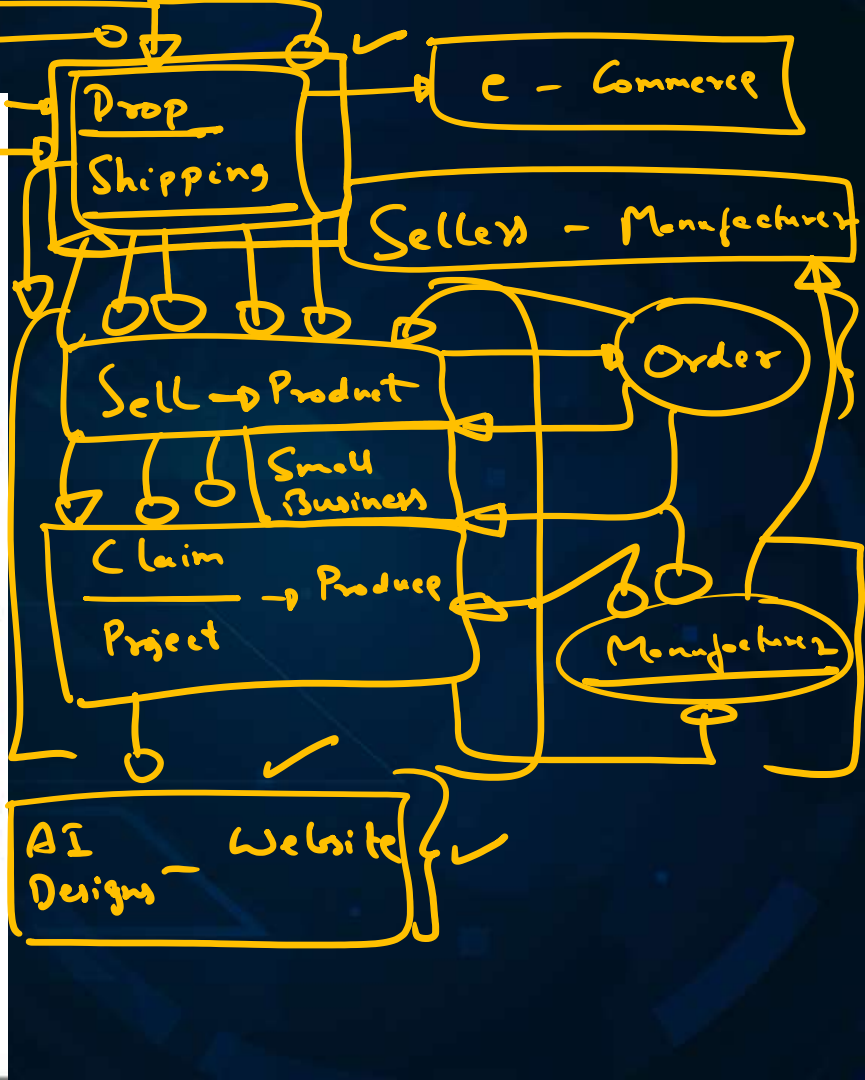
Some risks include scams targeting customers, as well as scams targeting drop shippers. Original sellers and drop shippers may both inflate product prices.

Drop shippers might also work with wholesalers sending out defective/rejected products. Furthermore, drop shippers may unknowingly promote pirated/counterfeit products. Hyper-realistic AI product images can mislead both customers and casual drop shippers.

Meanwhile, delivery timelines can be long — if the product even arrives at all. The drop shipper may not be required to take responsibility for any safety or hygiene standards that have to be maintained while shipping the products.

Adding to this, multiple drop shipping buyers in different countries can inadvertently lead to sanctions violations. In case of complaints, cancellations, or refund requests, customers may have no choice except to cut their losses and move on.

Other dangers include pyramid schemes to recruit more drop shippers, or even cyber-crimes via phishing and hacks, as the customers' payment information is shared with multiple parties without their informed consent. So, the next time you spot a book influencer on Instagram promoting a handily new reading light, or stumble across an excited founder surrounded by sacks of customer orders, take a few minutes to do your research and find out who is really selling you the product.



Odisha village to get crocodile alert system under 'Smart Village' plan

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

As the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** accelerates the deployment of technologies in **Kusunpur**, a remote village in Odisha's **Kendrapara district**, as part of the 'Smart Village' initiative, residents may soon receive alerts whenever crocodiles stray dangerously close to their homes.

The **CSIR laboratories** are planning to introduce an **artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled wild animal detection and alert system**. The system is likely to be installed at two key entry points to the village.

Kendrapara has logged one of the worst rates of human-crocodile conflicts in the State, with more than 20 fatalities reported over the past four years.

Kusunpur is set to witness a comprehensive infrastructure upgrade, in-



CBRI Director Pradeep Kumar Ramancharla interacting with villagers in Kusunpur on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cluding a renovated water gate facility, an underground drainage system, a reconstructed community building, community toilets, and a revamped cremation centre. Roads will be developed using innovative methods, including cold mix technology, waste plastic road technology, and cement grouted bituminous mix.

Under the initiative, the village is expected to

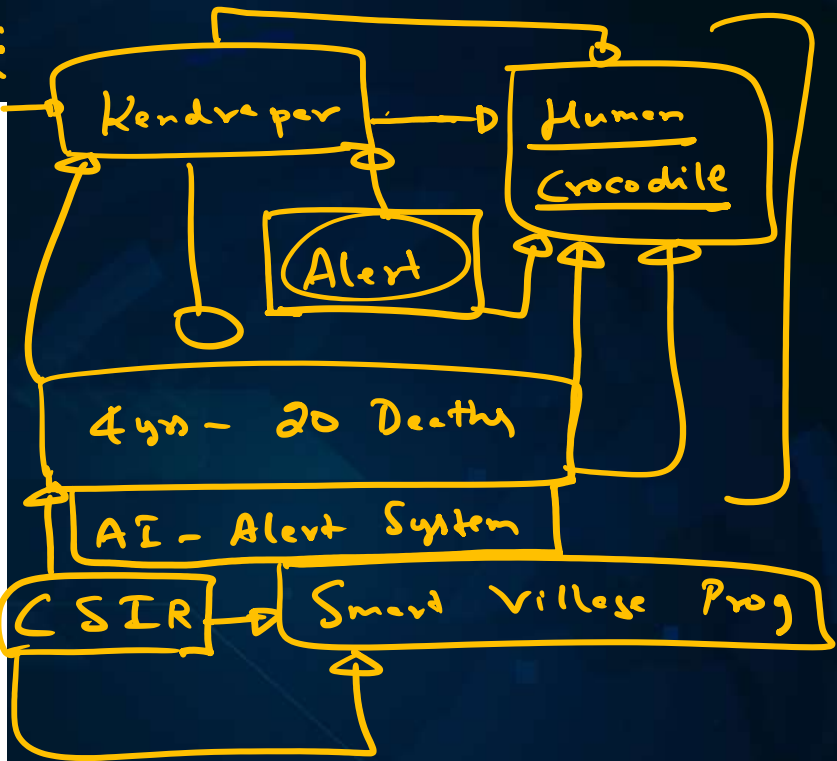
emerge as a hub for green livelihoods. The initiative could generate a range of green jobs, while encouraging local entrepreneurs to explore sustainable business opportunities.

Aligned with the CSIR's guiding 'lab to land' principle, a suite of technologies has been proposed for deployment in the village. These include dry flower processing, production of value-added crispy fruits

through freeze-drying, and the development of nutritious food products to combat malnutrition.

Other initiatives include biodegradable tableware, small-scale processing units, herbal floor-cleaning liquids, mosquito repellent lotions, and scented candles made from natural beeswax. Plans also include the installation of brick and block-making machines, village-scale rice and green gram milling units, and a scientifically designed parboiled rice processing unit.

"Over the next three years, scientists from 17 CSIR laboratories will visit Kusunpur to ensure smooth deployment of these technologies for the village's overall development," CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Director Pradeep Kumar Ramancharla, who visited the village on Sunday, said.



China's ability to launch direct missile strikes on Australia 'growing': report

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

China is capable of a direct missile strike on Australia and the threat is growing as Beijing amasses long-range and hypersonic weapons and builds islands in the South China Sea, an Australian think tank said on Sunday.

A Lowy Institute report found the main threat to Australia was from Chinese missiles fired from ships, submarines and a new intermediate-range ballistic missile that could reach the island continent from China.



On the watch: China test-fires an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean, at an undisclosed location, FILE PHOTO

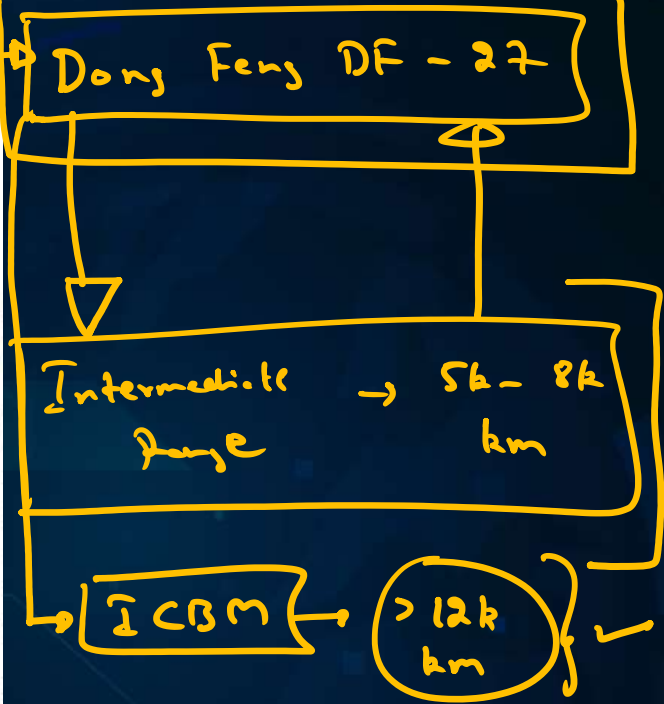
China's capacity to strike Australia would grow over the next decade as "the **Dong Feng (DF)-27 intermediate-range ballis-**

tic missile, and potentially a conventionally armed intercontinental ballistic missile, grow in service numbers", it said.

The DF-27 missile has a range of 5,000 to 8,000 kilometres, the U.S. military said in December.

"I think the growth of the People's Liberation Army is the most important thing to happen to Australian security since the collapse of the Soviet Union," said Sam Roggeveen, the director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Programme.

Australia reshaped its military strategy three years ago in response to China's rapid navy build-up, focusing on deterring an adversary from its northern approaches.



The **Dongfeng-27 (DF-27)** is an advanced Chinese intermediate-range to intercontinental ballistic missile equipped with a hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) warhead. Designed as a potent "carrier killer," it poses a severe threat to naval fleets, fortified underground command centers, and distant territories across the Indo-Pacific. Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance +2



Conv
Nuclear
Hypersonic Glide Vehicles

Core Capabilities & Technical Specs

- **Range:** Estimated between 5,000 and 8,000 kilometers. This range enables it to strike targets throughout continental Asia, as well as reach U.S. bases in Guam, Hawaii, and parts of Australia. Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance +5
- **Warheads:** Capable of mounting conventional, nuclear, and hypersonic glide vehicle payloads. Some variants are designed for maneuvering in flight to evade advanced ballistic missile defenses. The International Institute for Strategic S... +2
- **Targeting:** Features variants for both land-attack and anti-ship roles, utilizing multi-layered guidance (satellite, inertial, and terminal radar seekers) to engage moving warships. Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance +1

Swiss voters poised to reject plan to cap country's population

Associated Press
GENEVA

Voters in Switzerland have cast their final ballots on Sunday on an initiative championed by the top right-wing party to cap the rich Alpine country's population at 10 million. Early results showed voters were leaning against it.

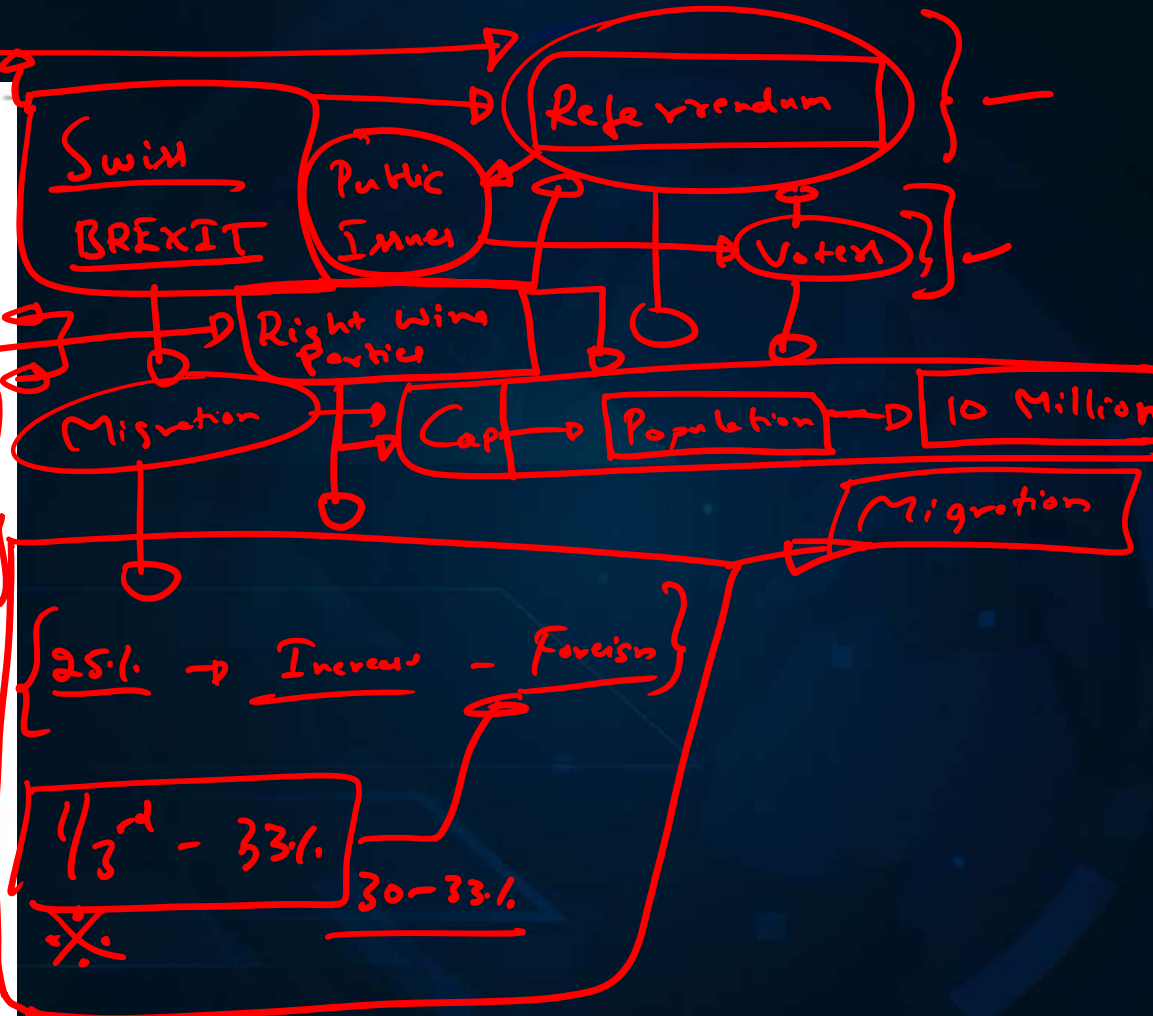
The Swiss People's Party, which has the most seats in Parliament, has stirred up and fostered anti-migration sentiment over the years, notably about an influx of workers from

the neighbouring European Union.

Some have dubbed the proposal a "Swiss Brexit" because it could jeopardise Switzerland's deep ties to the EU.

Preliminary results showed that nearly 53% of voters rejected the proposal, with nationwide turnout exceeding 57%.

The number of people living in Switzerland has soared by nearly one-quarter over the last generation, and foreigners today make up nearly one-third of the population.



Switzerland is not a member of the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA).



EFTA

India ✗

While not an EU member, Switzerland remains highly integrated with Europe through several unique arrangements:

- **Schengen Area**: Switzerland is part of the 29-nation Schengen zone, allowing border-free travel. CNN
- **Single Market**: Through over 100 bilateral treaties, Switzerland participates in the EU's single market, allowing citizens freedom of movement to live and work. GOV.UK
- **Reasons for Non-membership**: The Swiss population generally avoids full membership to preserve its tradition of political neutrality and its unique system of direct democracy. www.reddit.com

The giant world of fungi

AM Fungi

Vasudevan Mukunth

A new study published in Science has reported the first global map of the earth's vast underground network of arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi.

These fungi have sustained plant life for millions of years but their scale and distribution has been largely invisible until now.

Using machine learning and data from more than 16,000 soil cores, an international research team has revealed that topsoils around the world contain some 110 quadrillion km of fungal hyphae — a distance equal to nearly a billion trips from the earth to the sun.

The AM networks also weigh around 300 million tonnes of carbon, which is four- to six-times the weight of the entire human population.

By forming symbiotic relationships with 70% of plant species, trading nutrients for carbon, the AM networks sequester an estimated 4 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent a year, or roughly 11% of all human-related carbon emissions.

The study also identified biodiversity hotspots and threats to them. Grassland ecosystems like those in South Sudan, the Tibetan plateau, and India's Banni grasslands house 40% of the world's AM fungal networks. However, the study warned that cropland typically has a 50% lower fungal density relative to wild



A global map of the density of AM fungi. TRUTH & BEAUTY/MORITZ STEFANER JUSTIN STEWART, SPUN

ecosystems, and because grasslands are being converted to farms four-times faster than forests, these ecosystems are at extreme risk.

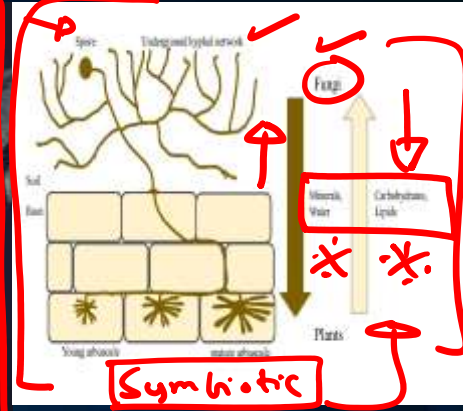
By quantifying the extent of this "living infrastructure", as the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks put it, the work hopes to move fungi from the periphery of environmental policy to the centre of climate action.

11.1. → CO₂ Carbon Sink

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'



68 QUADRILLION MILES OF FUNGI NETWORKS COVER EARTH — AND SCIENTISTS JUST MAPPED THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER



Symbiotic

Project GIB Adds Three Chicks Taking Captive Stock to 94 Birds

Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav

26 chicks hatched so far in fourth year of captive breeding

Posted On: 14 JUN 2026 7:39PM by PIB Delhi

Project Great Indian Bustard (GIB) has added three more chicks to the conservation breeding programme in the last couple of days, taking the total number of chicks hatched so far in the fourth year of captive breeding to 26, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav said on Sunday.

Sharing the development on social media platform X, Shri Yadav said the three new chicks emerged from one wild-collected egg and two captive-laid eggs. He said the captive stock has now grown to 94 birds, with more chicks expected this season.

Bhupender Yadav
@byadavbjp · Follow

Project GIB adds 3 chicks to the conservation breeding program from one wild-collected and two captive-laid eggs, in the last couple of days.

In the 4th year of GIB captive breeding, 26 chicks have hatched so far, including 18 through artificial insemination, 4 through natural [Show more](#)



6:30 PM · Jun 14, 2026

X

GIB

Arid
Semi-Arid

→ Raj
Guj
Mah
Ker
AP

IUCN → CR

150+ Birds → Wild → Raj
Guj

4 YB

Regional Workshop under **Tele-Law Initiative** of **Designing Innovative Solutions** for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) Scheme and 'Reforms Utsav' to be held on 15th June 2026 at Dharamshala, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

Posted On: 14 JUN 2026 10:29AM by PIB De

Central - 100%

The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, is organizing a Regional Workshop under the DISHA Scheme, Central Sector Scheme being implemented by Department of Justice and 'Reforms Utsav' on 15th June 2026 from 01:00 PM onwards at the Govt. Degree College (PG) Auditorium, Dharamshala, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

The event is being organized as part of the Department's continued commitment to strengthening access to justice, promoting legal awareness, fostering a culture of pro bono legal services, and showcasing the transformative reforms undertaken in the justice sector over the last twelve years.

The programme is expected to be graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh along with Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice

The programme will commence with the ceremonial proceedings, followed by a welcome address by the Secretary, Department of Justice, who will outline the vision behind the Regional Workshop and the Department's ongoing efforts towards ensuring inclusive, affordable and accessible justice for all.

A major highlight of the event will be the launch of **"Nyaya Prabodh - Awakening to Justice,"** a year-long legal awareness campaign aimed at deepening citizens' understanding of their constitutional and legal rights and responsibilities. The campaign seeks to strengthen legal literacy and encourage greater public participation in the justice delivery ecosystem.

Under the Nyaya Prabodh initiative, several citizen-centric activities will be launched, including:

- **Know Your Rights in 90 seconds**, a legal awareness initiative designed to promote greater understanding of legal rights and remedies among citizens;
- **Nyaya Quiz**, an interactive platform aimed at enhancing awareness of constitutional values, legal institutions and citizens' rights, particularly among youth and students; and
- **Pro Bono Pledge**, encouraging advocates, law students and legal professionals to voluntarily contribute their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the underprivileged and vulnerable sections of society.



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ANALYSIS