

Parliamentary Select Committee Report on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025

IBC (Amendment) Bill 2025 was introduced as the implementation of IBC faces **critical challenges**.

- These include protracted delays at insolvency admission stage, delays impacting the finality of resolution plans, erosion of asset values and absence of clear frameworks to manage complex modern corporate structures like cross-border insolvency issues.

Key Features of Amendment Bill

- Introduction of a “**Creditor Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP)**” featuring an out-of-court initiation mechanism specifically targeted at resolving cases of genuine business failures.
- Introduces two crucial frameworks:
 - ⊕ **Group Insolvency Framework** to resolve insolvencies involving complex corporate group structures.
 - ⊕ **Cross-Border Insolvency Framework** to for addressing situations where debtors or assets are located in multiple jurisdictions.

Key Recommendations of the Committee

- **Clean Slate Principle:** Codify clean slate (extinguishment of all prior claims) providing protection to successful resolution applicant against past claims.
- **Avoid conflict of interest:** Resolution Professional (RP) who conducted insolvency resolution process for corporate debtor shall be ineligible to be appointed as the Liquidator if process fails.
- **Timeline:** A specific statutory timeline of 3 months to be prescribed for National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- **Corporate Debtor:** Clarify the term “corporate debtor” to include any person incorporated with limited liability outside India to ensure cross-border provisions legally apply to foreign company with assets, creditors, or operations connected to India.

India added 2,362 MW of biomass and 228 MW of waste-to-energy capacity in Last 10 years

Apart from this 2.88 lakh biogas plants were also installed at various locations in the country.

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy supports installation of Bioenergy Projects in the country under National Bioenergy Programme (NBP), Phase-I (Notified in 2022).

About National Bioenergy Programme

- **Period:** Phase 1 - (2021-22 to 2025-26)
- **Objective:** Utilize surplus biomass (primarily from rural areas) for power generation, while providing additional income for rural households.
- **Program comprise of the following sub-schemes:**
 - ⊕ **Waste to Energy Programme** (Programme on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues)
 - ⊕ **Biomass Programme** (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries).
 - ⊕ **Biogas Programme:** Biogas is primarily CH₄ and CO₂ with traces of N₂, H₂, H₂S, and O₂.

Bioenergy and its status in India

- Bioenergy is a **source of energy from the organic material** that makes up plants, known as **biomass** (e.g. wood, dung or charcoal).
- **Modern bioenergy** involves processed biomass and advanced technologies to produce **cleaner and more efficient energy**. e.g. liquid biofuels, biogas, etc.
- **Total Installed capacity:** 11.6GW (Nov. 2025)
 - ⊕ Modern bioenergy today accounts for 13% of India's total final energy consumption and is expected to grow by up to 45% between 2023 and 2030.

Other Initiatives taken for Bioenergy promotion

- **National Policy on Biofuels (2018, Revised 2022):** Sets various targets e.g. 5% biodiesel blending by 2030, 20% ethanol blending in petrol (E20) by 2025/26
- **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana:** financial support for advanced biofuels projects.
- **SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) Initiative.**
- **GOBAR-Dhan Scheme (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources).**

NITI Aayog releases a report on Public R&D Institutes in India

The report maps India's public R&D ecosystem highlighting issues and providing recommendations.

Status of R&D in India

- **Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD):** Reached approximately Rs. 2 lakh crores in 2020-21 (an eightfold increase over two decades) i.e. 0.6% to 0.7% of GDP.
- **Funding Sources:** Government Sector (**63.6%**) bears the majority of India's gross expenditure.
- **Sectorial Distribution:** Agriculture and allied sectors dominate India's public R&D landscape accounting for 51% followed by health and IT & telecom sectors.
- **Geographical Concentration:** The southern region hosts over **36%** of public R&D institutes while the Northeast remains underrepresented with only **1.8%**.
- **City-Level Clustering:** About 48% of the total Central R&D institutions are hosted within the 10 most populous cities of India.

India's R&D Challenges


Stagnant R&D Expenditure:
R&D stuck at 0.6–0.7% of GDP well below global leaders.


Low Per-Capita Investment:
Far behind other emerging economies.


Low Private Sector Contribution:
Private sector funds only ~36% of total R&D, far lower than China/USA/Germany.


Poor Industry Synergy:
Top research institutes are not aligned with related industrial hubs.

Recommendations

- **Proximity to Industry Clusters:** Future R&D institutes should be planned close to similar specialty industries to facilitate greater collaboration
- **Centralized Research Hubs:** To enable resource sharing, foster cross-industry collaboration and pool expertise across multiple industry locations.
- **Collaborative Spaces:** To foster interaction among researchers, industry professionals and entrepreneurs promoting innovation. **Example:** Industrial Liaison Program of MIT.
- **Create Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs)** to enable researchers and companies to transfer technologies to the market.
- **Other recommendations:** Streamline Administrative Procedures, Partner with private enterprises, Establish Clear IP Guidelines, Address Infrastructure Gaps etc.

India reported highest Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) for the third consecutive year

This was revealed in the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) 2024 Testing Figures Report.

Key Findings of Report

- In 2024, **260 Indian athletes** tested positive out of 7,113 samples analysed by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
- At 3.6%, **India's positivity ratio**, too, was among the **highest** in the world.
- Nearly **1 in every 5 Indian athletes** tested by the NADA during a competition was dope positive.

WHY DOPING IN SPORTS IS PROBLEMATIC?


Ethical implications:
Against integrity of sports and violates the values of hard work, dedication, and fair competition.


Health impacts: Lead to Long- and short-term impacts include organ damage, hormonal imbalances, etc.


Impacts on athletes: Can damage person's reputation and social relations, and sets poor example for other athletes.


Governance issues:
Difficulty in maintaining integrity of competitions and enforcing rules and regulations


Societal impact Erosion of Trust: in sports and athletes of public and normalization of cheating behavior.

Doping

- Doping is the use of **prohibited substances or methods** (under the **World Anti-Doping Code**) by athletes to enhance athletic performance.
- **Different Kinds of Doping Used by Athletes:**
 - ⊕ **Androgenic Agents:** **Anabolic steroids** used to increase muscle mass and strength.
 - ⊕ **Stimulants:** Substances that raise heart rate, alertness and endurance.
 - ⊕ **Diuretics & Masking Agents:** Drugs used to dilute urine or conceal banned substances.
 - ⊕ **Peptide Hormones:** Agents like erythropoietin (**EPO**) that boost red blood cells and endurance.
 - ⊕ **Glucocorticoids:** Anti-inflammatory drugs misused to suppress pain and mask injuries.
 - ⊕ **Beta Blockers:** Substances that lower heart rate and reduce hand tremors.

Anti-Doping Measures

- **National Anti-Doping Act, 2022:** Provides the **statutory framework** for NADA.
- **Digital Interventions:** The '**Know Your Medicine**' (**KYM**) **App** allows users to check the status of various medicines.
- **Institutionalized Capacity:** Awareness workshops aiding stakeholders and increase in sample collection and testing.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada.
- **Genesis:** **Established in 1999** following the **Lausanne Declaration** as an international independent agency to lead a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport.
- **Mandate:** To promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight against doping in sport globally.
- **Key Function:** Publishes the **World Anti-Doping Code** and the **annual Prohibited List**.

Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women released 'Safety and Protection of Women in Unorganised Sector' Report

Report highlights that women working in unorganised sector as building and construction workers, beedi workers, domestic workers, Gig workers, etc. are facing issues that concern their safety and protection.

Area	Issues	Recommendations
Inter-State Migrant Workmen	➤ Contribution of Women migrant workers remain invisible, exposing them to exploitation and lack of recognition.	➤ Strengthen Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979 by creating a national digital database linked to e-Shram, addressing women migrants' specific needs for safe, dignified working and living conditions.
Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme	➤ Regional gaps in enrolment of Women workers in PM-SYM with very low numbers in Lakshadweep and Sikkim.	➤ Intensify district-level PMSYM enrolment drives, especially through women-led networks like SHGs, Anganwadi and ASHA workers.
Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013	➤ Many Local Committees (LCs) are either non-functional or there is lack of proper awareness about them.	➤ Full functionality and funding of LCs, wider awareness through community outreach. ➤ Strengthen One Stop Centres, District Legal Services Authorities and support inclusion of domestic workers under labour protections.
Palna Scheme Under Mission Shakti	➤ Only 6.24% of allocated funds were utilized. ➤ Mere 2425 Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres operational out of 14,599 approved as of June 2025.	➤ Intensify efforts to improve budget execution. ➤ Faster operationalisation of Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres.

Also In News



MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter

Indian Navy has commissioned second MH-60R copter squadron at INS Hansa in Goa.

About MH-60R

- MH-60R Seahawk is a multi-mission maritime helicopter designed for naval operations from ships or shore bases.
- **Developed by:** Lockheed Martin (US).
- **Capabilities:** Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW), Search & Rescue (SAR), medical evacuation, logistical support, command & control and vertical replenishment.

INS Hansa

- It is the Indian Navy's premier Air Station located in Dabolim, Goa.
- The air station operates as a **joint military-civil facility**, sharing infrastructure with **Goa International Airport**.



PM's visit to Ethiopia

The Prime Minister visited Ethiopia to strengthen India's engagement with Africa and elevate bilateral relations.

Key takeaways from the Visit

- **Highest Honour:** PM conferred with highest honour of Ethiopia '**Great Honor Nishan of Ethiopia**'.
- **Partnership:** India and Ethiopia elevated their bilateral ties to a **Strategic Partnership**.
- **Agreements:** Signed eight MoUs, agreements, including that for establishing a Data Centre at Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for debt restructuring under the G20 Common Framework.
- **Economic:** India-Ethiopia total trade stood at US\$ 550.19 million in FY 2024-25. Indian exports are US\$ 476.81 million and imports US\$ 73.38 million, making the relationship strongly export-driven.



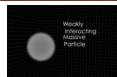


India's Coal Demand

The IEA's Coal 2025 report and recent market analysis highlight that India's coal demand is projected to grow significantly over the coming decade.

Key Findings

- **Demand Projection:** India's coal demand is expected to grow by 3% annually over the next four years.
- **Global Engine:** India remains the primary driver of global coal consumption, offsetting structural declines in other regions.
- **Power Sector Focus:** Rising electricity demand necessitates coal as a base-load source, despite record renewable energy expansion.
 - ⊕ Coal's share in India's electricity mix is projected to fall from over 70% in 2025 to about 60% by 2030.
- **Industrial Usage:** Significant consumption continues in heavy industries, particularly steel and cements production.



Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMP)

New research claims to solve the mystery of dark matter through Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMP)

About WIMP

- **Nature:** WIMPs are hypothetical, electrically neutral particles proposed as leading candidates for dark matter.
 - ⊕ They neither absorb nor emit light and interact only weakly with other particles, but when they collide, they can annihilate and produce gamma rays.
 - **Interaction:** They interact predominantly through gravity and possibly the weak nuclear force.
- Dark Matter**
- **Invisible form of matter:** That does not emit light but is known through its gravitational effects that hold galaxies together.
 - ⊕ It makes up about 27% of the universe.



Annatto

CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Mysuru had undertaken projects related to the study and development of annatto.

About Annatto

- Annatto is a natural carotenoid (pigmented compounds synthesized by plants) obtained from Bixa orellana shrub.
- **Uses:** Food colour, Chemical Ink, Coating medicines, Drugs, Dyeing, Food colouring, Hair oils, Polishes etc.
 - ⊕ It is used to impart a yellow to red colour to foods, especially dairy products.
- Annatto is native to tropical America, including Central and South America, and is moderately drought tolerant and requires less water.



Great Nicobar Island Development Area

The Andaman and Nicobar administration recently notified the "Great Nicobar Island Development Area".

Key Highlights

- **Planning:** It is part of the Great Nicobar Holistic Development project which has four major components: an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICCT); an international airport; a power plant; and a township.
- **Strategic Value:** Great Nicobar's location near major sea lanes enhances India's maritime and Indo-Pacific presence.
- **Social Concerns:** Issues related to tribal rights, land use and ecological sensitivity remain relevant.

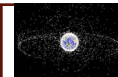


Exercise Desert Cyclone II

India-UAE Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone-II started at Abu Dhabi (UAE).

About Exercise Desert Cyclone II

- **Aim:** To enhance interoperability and foster defence cooperation between the Indian Army and UAE Land Forces.
- Focus on sub-conventional operations under a United Nations mandate, enabling both forces to operate together in peacekeeping, counter-terrorism and stability operations.



Kessler Syndrome

CRASH (Collision Realization and Significant Harm) Clock metric warns Earth's satellite fleet faces rising risk of rapid collision cascades characterized by Kessler Syndrome.

About Kessler Syndrome

- **Don Kessler** predicted in 1978 that a single collision in orbit triggers a chain reaction of debris strikes.
 - ⊕ In such a situation, fragments from one destroyed satellite can collide with other satellites, generating additional debris and rendering entire orbital regions hazardous or unusable.



Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system

Nationwide rollout of MLFF tolling system along with AI-based highway management is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

About MLFF tolling system

- MLFF system will allow vehicles to cross toll plazas at speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour without any obstruction.
- The system will operate using a combination of artificial intelligence-based number plate recognition, satellite tracking and FASTag integration to automatically identify vehicles and collect toll charges.
- **Benefits:** Curb toll revenue leakage, curbing pollution, fuel savings, smoothen traffic movement, reduce overall travel time and logistics cost etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI