Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) released Suggestions for a National Framework on Global Capability Centers (GCCs)

The suggested framework provides a **structured national vision** to support the **continued expansion and elevation of India's GCC ecosystem.**

About GCCs

- GCCs are **offshore centers established by multinational companies** to deliver capabilities such as technology innovation, research and development and service delivery to its parent organization.
- **Significance:** India has established itself as **global hub for GCCs,** hosting nearly **50% of all GCCs worldwide,** which **contributes around 1.8% of national GDP.**
  - **Net employment impact** of India's GCC ecosystem is estimated at **~10.4 million in FY25.**

Suggested Framework for National Policy on GCCs

National Policy on GCCs shall be structured around a **three-pillar framework –**

- **Strategic Priorities:**
  - **Growth objectives by 2030:** 5,000 GCCs, overall GVA contribution of around $470-600 billion, and employment to 20-25 million people.
  - **Emerging Opportunity Areas:** Quantum Computing, Digital Healthcare, Industry 4.0 etc.
- **Critical Success Factors:**
  - **Talent Development:** Industry-Academia collaboration, Specialized curriculum etc.
  - **Infrastructure:** Development of world class plug and play infrastructure, Digital Economic Zones, Data centers, Cloud infrastructure etc.
  - **Locational Capability:** Establish innovation hubs, Data centers, R&D zones etc. in tier-2/3 cities.
- **Performance Levers:**
  - **Policy Instruments:** Single window platform for GCC investors, fast-track approvals, tax incentives like tax holidays, export incentives and investment allowances.
  - **Investment Facilitation:** Prioritize **traditional markets** (US, UK) and **underpenetrated regions** (Japan, Nordics, Australia etc.), and provide regulatory handholding.
  - **Governance Framework:** Form national GCC Council, dedicated GCC cells, inter-ministerial working groups, and industry advisory panel.

Key Growth Drivers of GCCs in India

- Risk & Regulatory Environment
- Innovation & Startup Ecosystem
- Cost Competitiveness and Efficiency
- Strong Infrastructure & Connectivity: Physical + Digital Backbone
- Talent Availability and Diversity: India's Competitive Advantage

Kerala Cabinet approved an Amendment Bill to suggest changes in Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972

The amendment bill aims at **easing the procedures for killing wild animals that pose threat to human life.**

- The bill comes amidst **increasing human-animal conflict in Kerala** and is the **first time** a state has planned such an **amendment in the Central Law.**

Key Highlights of Approved Bill

- Amendment would **empower the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW)** to order the killing of any wild animal that attacks a person in human habitats.
  - Presently, WPA **empowers CWW to grant permits for hunting of animals** listed in **Schedule I, II, III or IV** if they become dangerous to human life.
- Bill empowers the **state government** to **declare any wild animal included in Schedule II as vermin.**
  - Presently, **Section 62 of WPA empowers the central government** to declare any wild animal **except those in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II as vermin** and include them in **Schedule V.**
    - Inclusion of any animal under **vermin legalizes their killing** in specified areas for a limited period of time.

Reasons for Rising Human-Animal Conflict

- **Habitat Loss:** Rapid **urbanisation, deforestation,** and human encroachments blocking key animal corridors.
- **Resource Competition:** Scarcity of **food/water** increases clashes.
- **Climate Change: Increases extreme weather events** alters migration patterns pushing animals into villages.
- **Poaching & Illegal Trade:** Disturbs ecosystems, displaces species.

Prime Minister inaugurates India's first Bamboo-based Bioethanol Plant in Assam's Golaghat

The plant is a joint venture of **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** and **Finland's Fortum and Chempolis OY** and will **produce bioethanol from bamboo.**

- Bamboo is an **attractive feedstock for production of bioethanol,** as it is a **non-food crop** and contains a **high lignocellulose content,** making it promising source of second-generation biofuels.

About Bioethanol

- Bioethanol is **ethanol produced from renewable biological sources** like food crops and agricultural waste.
  - Ethanol is a clear colourless liquid, is biodegradable and burns to produce carbon dioxide and water.
- **Sources:** According to **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018,** Bioethanol is **ethanol produced from biomass** such as:
  - **Sugar containing materials,** like sugar cane, sugar beet, sweet sorghum etc.;
  - **Starch containing materials** such as corn, cassava, rotten potatoes, agrofood/ pulp industry waste, algae etc.; and,
  - **Cellulosic materials** such as bagasse, wood waste, agricultural and forestry residues or other renewable resources like industrial waste, vegetable wastes etc.

India's Initiatives promoting Bioethanol
🔋 National Policy on Biofuels 2018
⚖️ BioE3 Policy
🌱 Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India
🔥 Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana

- **Applications:** Bioethanol is mainly used as a fuel (pure ethanol fuel (E100) or blended with petrol (E10 or E20)), production of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, personal care products and bio-based materials like bioplastics.
- **Advantages:** Biodegradable, renewable energy source, reduces greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil fuels, and reduces air pollution.

North East India Is No Longer Peripheral But Central To India's Growth: Prime Minister

Highlighting the **Act East vision** for the **North Eastern Region (NER),** Prime Minister underscored the **transformation of the NER** from a **Frontier Region to the Front-Runner of Growth.**

Steps Taken for the Growth of NER

- **Act East Policy:** Northeast as **India's gateway to Southeast Asia** with **EAST (Empower, Act, Strengthen, Transform) Formula,** covering connectivity, healthcare, education, and livelihoods.
- **Infrastructure Development:**
  - **Railways:** E.g. **Bairabi–Sairang line** connects **Aizawl (Mizoram)** to national rail for the **first time** since independence.
  - **Highways: 16,207 km of National Highways** constructed as of July, 2025 including Thenzawl–Sialsuk Road, Chhimtuipui River Bridge, etc.
  - **Digital & Air Connectivity: E.g. BharatNet** has strengthened Gram Panchayat connectivity, and **UDAN scheme** has expanded air routes, linking underserved airports and heliports.

- **Financial Assistance & Development Schemes: E.g. A separate Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** provides financial assistance through schemes like **PM-DevINE** to support infrastructure, connectivity, and communication projects.
- **Governance and Transparency: E.g. Poorvottar Vikas Setu (PVS) Portal** has made project approval and monitoring faster, more efficient, and transparent.

Challenges to Overcome for further Development of NER
- **Connectivity** – Difficult terrain, floods, dependence on Siliguri Corridor, etc.
- **Security** – Insurgency (e.g. ULFA, NSCN), ethnic clashes (e.g. Assam–Mizoram 2021, Manipur 2023), porous borders leading to migration and trafficking.
- **Economy** – Subsistence farming, weak industry, low investment, high youth outmigration.
- **Society** – Tribal identity concerns, demographic pressures from migration (e.g. NRC issue in Assam), etc.

Defence Indigenisation Prioritized in New Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025

Released by **India's Defence Minister,** the new DPM 2025 is an update to the previous such **manual promulgated in 2009.**

What is Defence Procurement Manual?

- **About:** It establishes **rules for acquiring goods and services** needed for **daily operations, maintenance, and readiness** of **all Defence Services and Ministry of Defence** establishments.
  - It is **distinct from the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP),** which deals with capital procurements.
- **Key Highlights of DPM 2025:**
  - Achieving **self-reliance by promoting defence indigenisation** and **fostering jointness** of the Armed Forces under **Revenue Head (Operations & Sustenance Segment).**
  - **Streamlining and simplifying** the revenue procurement process valuing around **Rs 1 lakh crore** for the current Financial Year.

Challenges in Defence Indigenisation

- **Technological:** Reliance on **technology transfers** and licensed production arrangements due to **inadequate domestic R&D, skilled workforce,** etc.
- **Industry:** Low **private sector** participation. **E.g., Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) monopoly.**
- **Supply Chain Vulnerabilities:** Reliance on imported components, subsystems and critical technologies, export controls restrictions, etc. **E.g.,** Delay in delivery of jet engines by the US.
- **High Cost:** Indigenisation and import substitution increase procurement costs for end-users in short-term.

Other initiatives taken for Defence Indigenisation

- **Liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** Allowing **74%** FDI under automatic route.
- **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), 2018:** Scheme involving start-ups & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to foster **innovation and technology development.**
- **Sudarshan Chakra Mission:** To ensure the entire defence system is researched, developed, and manufactured in India.
- **SRIJAN Portal:** To facilitate indigenisation by Indian Industry including MSMEs.

Supreme Court Case Backlog Hits All-time High With 88,417 Pending Cases

According to the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG),** over **4.7 crore cases in subordinate courts** and more than **63 lakh cases in various High Courts** remain pending as well.

Reasons for Increasing Pendency

- **Vacancies in High Courts and Subordinate Courts:** As per **Ministry of Law** there are more than **5,600 vacancies** in the judiciary.
  - Between 2006 and 2024, the number of vacancies in the High Courts has increased from **16% to 30%.**
- **Low Judge-to-Population Ratio:** India has only about 21 **judges per million population,** compared to **150 in USA.**
- **Excessive Government Litigation:** Government agencies are responsible for **around 50% of litigation.**
- **Inadequate Infrastructure and Manpower:** As per **India Justice Report, 2022** shortage of courtrooms, administrative staff, etc. impedes speedy case disposal.
- **Other:** Lack of a **prescribed timeframe** for disposing of cases, **frequent adjournments, vacations,** etc.

Implications of Pendency

- **Justice delayed is Justice Denied:** Prolong the suffering of victims and also disrupts the deterrence effect.
- **Socio-Economic Costs:** Businesses and individuals bear costs and strains government and judicial resources. **E.g.,** Poor **Ease of doing business** ranking due to **weak enforcement of contracts.**
- **Prison Overcrowding:** As per the **Indian Justice Report, 2025,** more than **half of Indian jails are overcrowded** with **76% of prison inmates** being under trials.

Way Forward to Reduce Pendency of Cases

- **Law Commissions 120th Report:** Recommends **50 Judges per million.**
- **All India Judicial Service (AIJS):** A centralized recruitment process for district and subordinate courts, to function courts at full strength.
- **Digital & Procedural Reforms:** Expanding **e-Courts Mission Mode Project (Phase III)** for AI-based case management.

Also In News

India's Trilateral Engagements

The first **India-Iran-Uzbekistan trilateral meeting** at the foreign ministries' level was held in **Tehran.**

- Meeting decided to provide a push to adequate use of the Chabahar Port by Uzbekistan to trade with India and utilize the strategic position of ports besides the **International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).**
- **India-Iran-Armenia** also held its trilateral with focus on INSTC and use of Chabahar Port through Armenia.
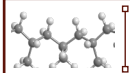
Scarborough Shoal

The **Philippines strongly condemned** China's move to set up a **nature reserve at Scarborough Shoal.**

About Scarborough Shoal

- Also called **Huangyan Island** in China and Panatag Shoal in Philippines, is a small **atoll in the South China Sea.**
- **Both China and the Philippines** consider it **part of their territory.**

Polypropylene

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a **Polypropylene Plant** at **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** in **Assam**.

About Polypropylene
- It is a synthetic resin built up by the **polymerization of propylene.**
- Polypropylene is molded or extruded into many plastic products in which **toughness, flexibility, light weight, and heat resistance are required.**
- **Properties:** Highly resistant to chemical corrosion, making it an excellent choice for packaging. Also have high insulation properties and are waterproof.
- **Main uses** include fibre, textiles, packaging, pipes, medical components, and electrical applications.

Grey Rhino Event

A study has revealed that **Wayanad landslides** were **Grey Rhino Event.**

What is a Great Rhino Event?
- Grey Rhinos are defined as **highly probable, high impact but yet neglected** systemic disruptions.
  - These are **not random surprises** (like Black Swan events) but **occur after clear warnings and accumulating evidence.**

Why Waynad landslides were Great Rhino Event?
- As per the study, **Wayanad landslide** happened in an area that has been categorised as a **landslide-prone area**, repeatedly hit by landslides in the recent past, yet **ignored by government.**

World Boxing Championships 2025

Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda have **won gold** in the recently held World Boxing Championships, 2025.

About World Boxing Championships 2025
- Held in **Liverpool, UK.**
- Featured **both men's and women's** events together for the **first time.**
- India won **four medals: Golds by Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Minakshi Hooda (48kg) and Nupur Sheoran** earning **silver,** and **Pooja Rani** adding a **bronze.**
- **Kazakhstan topped** the medal table.

Androth

Indian Navy has received an indigenously built anti-submarine warfare ship Androth.

About Androth
- Second of the eight **ASW SWCs (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft),** being built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.**
- The name derived from the **Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.**
- These ships are propelled by a diesel **engine-waterjet combination** and are equipped with state-of-the-art **lightweight torpedoes and indigenous anti-submarine** warfare rockets.

Ho Tribe

Recently, the Ho Tribe protested in Jharkhand against the interference in their **traditional self-governance Manki-Munda system.**
- **Traditional Munda-Manki System consists of**
  - **Munda:** Hereditary Village head, resolves socio-political disputes at village level.
  - **Manki:** Regional head, handles cases escalated from Munda.

About Ho Tribe
- Also called as **Ho, Hodoko and Horo, Kolha** etc.
- **Ethnicity:** Austroasiatic Munda ethnic group.
- **Region:** Kolhan region of **Jharkhand** and **Odisha.** Also in **West Bengal, Bihar, Bangladesh and Nepal.**
- **Not part** of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).

Zapad-2025

India participated in the **Russia and Belarus** launched joint **military exercise Zapad-2025,** held in **Russia.**

About Exercise Zapad
- **Launched in 1999,** it is a large-scale, **multilateral military event** conducted **every four years** since 2009.
- **Objective:** Aims to **test defense** against external threats.
- **Weapons:** Incorporates training with **nuclear-capable systems,** including **Russia's hypersonic Zircon missile.**

Personality in News — Bhupen Hazarika (1926-2011)

Prime Minister addressed the **100th birth anniversary celebrations** of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

About Bhupen Hazarika
- Born in Assam, he is popularly known as the **"Bard of Brahmaputra" and "Sudhakantha"** (the Nightingale).
- Conferred with **Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan,** and **Bharat Ratna.**
- **Key Contributions:**
  - He was a **humanist** whose songs promoted themes of communal harmony, optimism, justice, a message of protest, revolutionary zeal and empathy amongst people.
  - Created **evergreen songs like Manuhe Manuhar Babe,** Moi Eti Jajabor, Bistirno Parore, blending Assamese folk with universal messages of humanity, justice, and harmony.
  - He promoted **emotion of brotherhood and unity** amongst the tribes of region.

AHMEDABAD BENGALURU BHOPAL CHANDIGARH DELHI GUWAHATI HYDERABAD JAIPUR JODHPUR LUCKNOW PRAYAGRAJ PUNE RANCHI