

NEWS TODAY

NITI AAYOG'S 'METHANOL ECONOMY' PROGRAMME

- This programme is **aimed at reducing India's oil import bill, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and converting coal reserves and municipal solid waste into methanol.**

➤ Methanol is a **low carbon, hydrogen carrier fuel produced from high ash coal, agricultural residue, CO2 from thermal power plants and natural gas.**

- Benefits of methanol economy**

➤ Environment Friendly

- Methanol 15 (m15) in petrol will reduce pollution by 33% & diesel replacement by methanol will reduce by more than 80%.
- Burns efficiently in all internal combustion engines.

➤ **Cheaper** than Petrol and Diesel and India can **reduce fuel bill 30% by 2030. (Also cheaper than Ethanol)**

➤ **Wide range of application** including transportation sector, domestic cooking fuel and in fuel cells.

➤ **Very little modifications to existing engines** (vehicles) and fuel distribution infrastructure required.

- NITI Aayog's road map for Methanol Economy**

➤ Substitute **10% of Crude imports by 2030, by Methanol alone.**

➤ **20MT of methanol annually can be produced @ Rs. 19 a litre by 2025** by using Indian High Ash coal, Stranded gas, and Biomass.

○ **Methanol Economy Research Programme (MERP)** is being run by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) for **production of Methanol** from various sources including Indian coal and CO2 from thermal plants, steel plants etc.

➤ The DST also launched its **Methanol and Dimethyl ether (DME) programme in 2015.**



THE ATLAS OF MORTALITY AND ECONOMIC LOSSES FROM WEATHER, CLIMATE AND WATER EXTREMES (1970–2019)

- Released by **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, an **intergovernmental organization and specialised agency of the United Nations** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.

- Key findings:**

➤ There were **more than 11,000 disasters** attributed to weather, climate and water-related hazards, accounting for **two million deaths and \$3.64 trillion in losses.**

➤ Thus, over the last 50 years, **50% of all recorded disasters, 45% of related deaths and 74% of related economic losses** were due to **weather, climate and water hazards.**

➤ **More than 91% of all deaths** occurred in **developing countries.**

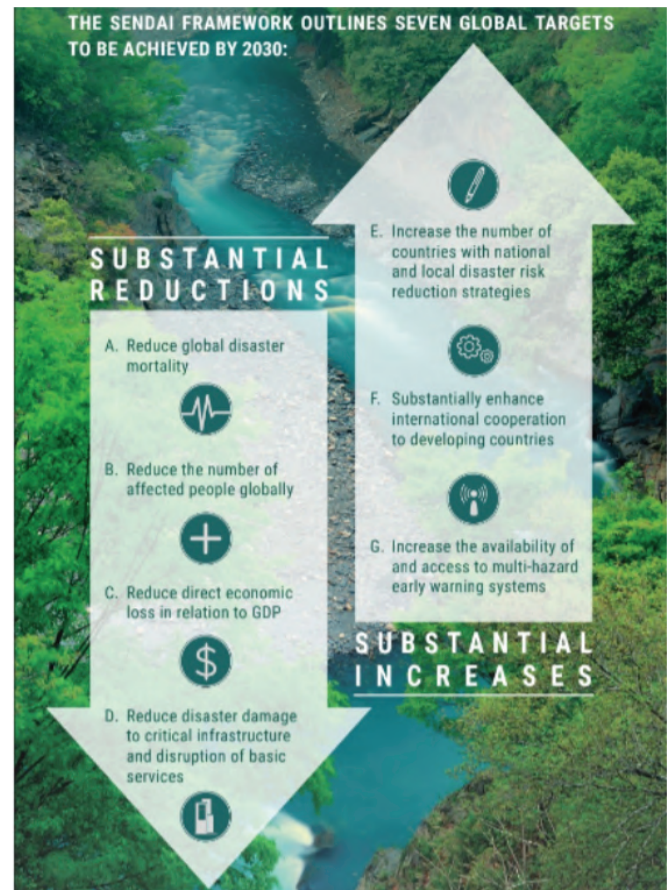
➤ **The number of disasters had risen** by a factor of five. But the number of **deaths decreased.**

➤ This happened **due to early warning systems.**

➤ **There were gaps in weather observations.** Only half of the 193 WMO members have multi-hazard early warning systems (**MHEWSs**).

➤ **The Sendai Framework** for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) **recognizes the significant benefits of MHEWSs** by incorporating them into one of its seven global targets (refer to the infographics).

- Sendai Framework provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.

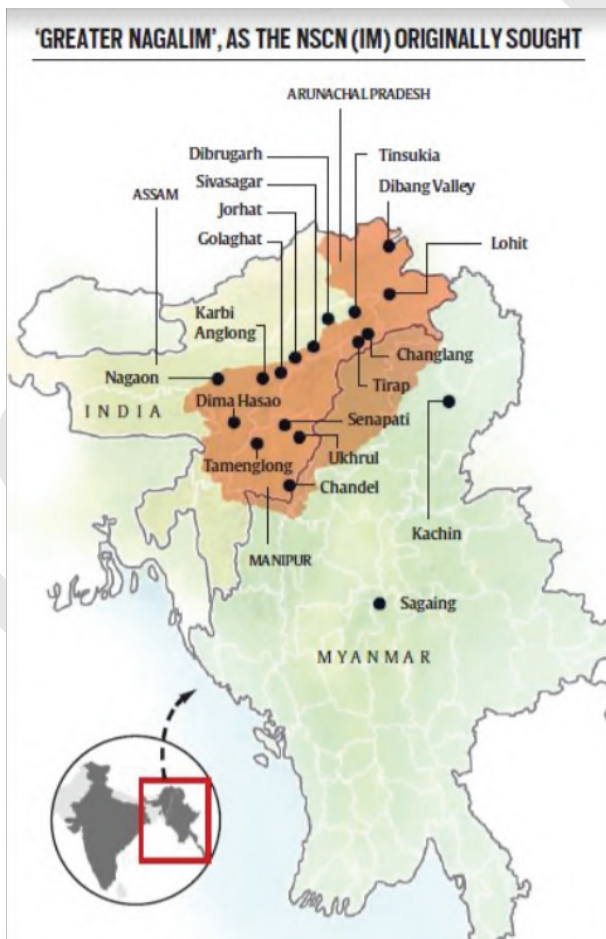


INDIA NEEDS TO JUDICIOUSLY USE LAND FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPANSION TARGETS

- Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis' (IEEFA) report **has examined how much land could be needed for the country to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.**
- **Key Findings**
 - Land use estimate for net zero in 2050 is between **50,000 and 75,000 km² for solar**, and for wind **15,000-20,000 km² (total project area) or 1,500- 2,000 km² (direct impact).**
 - That is, the amount of **land needed for solar is equivalent to 1.7-2.5% of India's total landmass, or 2.2-3.3% of non-forested land.**
 - Size, location of land and **impact on human habitation, agriculture and conservation of natural resources should be evaluated.**
- **Key suggestions**
 - **Minimising total land use requirements for renewable energy** via promotion of offshore wind, rooftop solar, and solar on (mostly artificial) water bodies where net environmental benefits can be assured.
 - **Optimising the identification and assessment of land for renewable generation** by developing clear environmental and social criteria for rating potential sites, limiting undue regional concentration and supporting widely distributed renewable generation.
 - **Give more thrust on Indian agrivoltaics sector** which could secure benefits to farmers and reduce pressure on other types of land.

GOVERNMENT ENTERS INTO CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL SOCIALIST COUNCIL OF NAGALAND (K) NIKI GROUP

- The agreement will be in **effect for one year** beginning September 8 and **more than 200 cadres of the group along with 83 weapons have surrendered** as part of the peace process.
- Government had already signed a **framework agreement with NSCN-IM under Framework Agreement for Naga Peace Accord in 2015.**
 - Ceasefire agreements with other Naga groups namely, **NSCN-NK, NSCN-R and NSCN-K-Kha-ngo (breakaway factions of dominant groups NSCN-IM and NSCN-K)** were also in place.
- The **Naga movement** is considered **India's longest-running insurgency.**
 - In **1946, Angami Phizo** created **Naga National Council (NNC)** which declared Nagaland an Independent State on **14 August 1947.**
 - In **1975 NNC** agreed to give up violence under **Shillong Accord**, some leaders opposed it and in 1980 **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)** emerged with demand for **Nagalim, i.e. Greater Nagaland.**
 - **Nagalim** comprising "all contiguous Naga-inhabited areas", which includes **Nagaland, several districts of Assam, Arunachal and Manipur, as also a large tract of Myanmar.**
 - The Nagas are **not a single tribe, but an ethnic community** that comprises several tribes who live in the state of Nagaland and its neighbourhood.



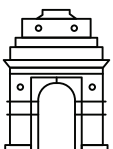
UNION CABINET HAS APPROVED RS. 10,683 CRORE PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME FOR TEXTILES SECTOR

- PLI Scheme will promote production of high value **man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics and ten segments or products of technical textiles** in country over next five years.
 - **MMF apparels** currently account for a **fifth of India's overall apparel exports.**
 - **Technical Textiles** segment is **new age textile**, whose **application in several sectors of economy** including infrastructure, health and hygiene etc.
 - Government has also launched a National Technical Textiles Mission in the past for promoting R&D efforts in that sector.
- **Other features**
 - **Factories based around aspirational districts or Tier-3 & Tier-4 cities will be given priority**, which will especially benefit states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana.
 - **Only manufacturing companies registered in India will be eligible** to participate in the scheme.
- **Significance of the scheme**
 - Help India regain its **dominant status in the global textile trade**
 - **Generate employment** for over 7.5 lakh people directly.
 - **Boost manufacturing activities**, and scale up textile exports.
 - The textiles industry predominantly employs women, therefore, the scheme **will empower women and increase their participation in formal economy.**

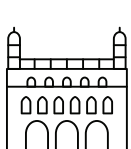
ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>India, Australia to hold 2+2 meet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Australia will hold their maiden 2+2 Ministerial on September 10-11, as both nations look to strengthen their partnership in the Indo-Pacific region and widen trade ties to counter China's aggression in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term 2+2 discussion is used for installation of a dialogue mechanism between two countries' defence and external affairs ministries With this meet, India will have this 2+2 format of bilateral discussions with every country in the Quad (grouping of India, Japan, Australia and US). It is also being seen as a cornerstone of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
 <p>Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the launch of the next round of IESH to capture inflation expectations and consumer confidence, which provide useful inputs for its monetary policy. The survey aims at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, of about 6,000 households, based on their individual consumption baskets, across 18 cities. The survey seeks quantitative as well as qualitative responses from households.
 <p>EIU (Economist Intelligence Unit) Democracy Index</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Government sought information from EIU over its Democracy Index (DI) ranking claiming 'democratic regression' in India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DI is based on five categories- electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation, and political culture. Based on their scores on 60 indicators within these categories, each country is classified as one of four types of regime- full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime or authoritarian regime. In 2020 ranking released in February this year, India falls to 53rd position (out of 167 countries) in EIU's Democracy Index.
 <p>ICRISAT bags Africa Food Prize 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been awarded for work that has improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It has developed 266 improved legume varieties and almost half a million tonnes of seed for a range of legume crops. These have helped millions of farmers and made such crops resilient to climate change. The ICRISAT is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in the drylands of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
 <p>UNHCR Education Report 2021: 'Staying the course' - The challenges facing refugee education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), the UN Refugee Agency, is calling for international effort to guarantee secondary education for refugee children and youth in its report. Key Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two out of three refugee children never go to secondary schools. Gross enrolment rate for refugees at secondary level in 2019-2020 was 34 percent. Nearly 68 percent of refugee children were enrolled at primary level in 2019-2020. Lack of access to education for girls.

 <p>Whistling Village</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Tourism has nominated Meghalaya's Kongthong village, also known as the 'Whistling village', for the World Tourism Organization's "Best Tourism Villages" award. ➤ Two other villages that have also been nominated- Pochampally in Telangana and Ladhpora Khas in Madhya Pradesh. • The Whistling Village has a very unique tradition 'Jingrwai lawbei' whereby a mother gives a tune or lullaby to her child at birth and the villagers have two names, a regular name and a song name.
 <p>Maritime Partnership Exercises</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent maritime exercises undertaken by the Indian Navy ➤ Two ships of the Indian Navy, INS Ranvijay and INS Kora, carried out a maritime partnership exercise with the Philippine Navy in the West Philippine Sea. ➤ India and Vietnam navies have carried out bilateral maritime exercises in the South China Sea. In this exercise also Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvijay and INS Kora participated.



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



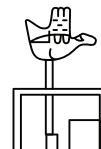
HYDERABAD



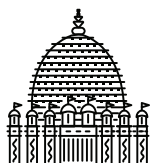
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI