SHORTNEWS

1.Africa's Climate Adaptation

Namibia, one of sub-Saharan Africa's driest nations, is combating drought and desertification through local innovation, renewable energy, and climate-resilient practices.

Mitigation & Renewable Energy

Namibia aims to reduce emissions by 91% by 2030 (Nationally Determined Contributions). Investment is growing in solar and wind energy, supported by the National Policy on Renewable Energy. A National Carbon Market Framework was launched in 2023 to regulate carbon credits and finance green development.

Policies & Strategies

National Committee on Climate Change (2001) and National Policy on Climate Change (2011) guide adaptation and mitigation.

1. Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2013–2030) focuses on:
2. Food security and sustainable agriculture
3. Water conservation and rainwater harvesting
4. Biological resource management
5. Climate-smart farming practices

Local Initiatives

1. Farmers adopt drought-resistant crops, drip irrigation, and organic fertilisers.
2. Communities receive training in sustainable farming.
3. Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), accredited to the Green Climate Fund, has mobilised significant climate financing.
4. Namibia participates in the Great Green Wall Initiative and AFRI100 to restore degraded land.
5. Promotes rotational grazing and planting of indigenous trees to combat desertification.

Great Green Wall Initiative

The Great Green Wall is an African-led initiative launched in 2007 to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land across the Sahel region by 2030. Stretching 8,000 km across 22 countries, it aims to combat desertification.

African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of these deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa into restoration by 2030.

2. Global Ai City Index

According to the '2025 AI City Index' by Counterpoint Research, Bengaluru has been ranked 26th globally and identified as India's top AI R&D and data centre hub.

About the Index. The Index evaluates the top 100 global metropolitan areas on their adoption and deployment of artificial intelligence.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Over 5,000 AI initiatives (public + private sector)
2. Communications infrastructure strength
3. Data center and supercomputing developments

4. University R&D output
5. Startup ecosystem strength

Top 5 AI Cities

1. Singapore
2. Seoul
3. Beijing
4. Dubai
5. San Francisco

India's Performance in the AI City Index

Bengaluru Ranked 26th globally, making it India's top AI city.Identified as a major global hub for AI R&D and data centers.

Other Indian Cities

Mumbai and Delhi Known for innovative AI use in traffic management and public security. Chennai and Kolkata Also featured in the national top five.

Challenges

Need for a comprehensive roadmap and strong regulatory frameworks to maximize AI potential in Indian urban centers.

Fastest Growing AI Cities

Bengaluru (India), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Hangzhou (China), São Paulo (Brazil)

3.Philippines, India Hold First Joint Sail In South China Sea

For the first time, Indian and Philippine navies conducted joint sailing in the South China Sea within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ), aimed at countering China's maritime claims. About South China Sea. Located south of mainland China, part of the western Pacific Ocean. Bordered by: Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam

Geopolitical Importance:

China's Nine-Dash Line: Claims ~90% of the sea. China seeks to control all military/economic operations within the claimed region, citing EEZ rights.

Strategic Importance:

1. Fishing Grounds: Rich biodiversity; over 50% of global fishing vessels operate here.
2. Global Trade Route: Carries 21% of global trade (UNCTAD estimate)
3. Natural Resources: Oil Reserves: ~11 billion barrels

Philippines

An island country in Southeast Asia, located in the western Pacific Ocean. An archipelago of over 7,600 islands.

Maritime Bordering Countries

1. North: Taiwan
2. Northeast: Japan
3. East & Southeast: Palau
4. South: Indonesia
5. Southwest: Malaysia
6. West: Vietnam

7. Northwest: China

Surrounding Water Bodies

1. East – Philippine Sea
2. South – Celebes Sea
3. Southwest – Sulu Sea
4. West & North – South China Sea
5. North – The Luzon Strait
6. The Luzon Strait separates Philippines from Taiwan

Geographical Features

1. Highest Point: Mount Apo (2,954 m) located on Mindanao Island
2. Major Rivers: Cagayan River (Longest river), Agno River, Mindanao River, Agusan River
3. Climate: Tropical and monsoonal.

4.India Electric Mobility Index (Iemi)

Recently NITI Aayog launched the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) to benchmark States/UTs' progress in electric mobility transition. A first-of-its-kind tool to comprehensively evaluate and score States and Union Territories on their electric vehicles (EV) transition progress. Developed by NITI Aayog Aim is to promote transparency, foster healthy competition, and enable knowledge sharing among states.

Key Features of IEMI

Tracks 16 indicators across the three themes, providing a score out of 100 for each state/UT. Delhi, Maharashtra and Chandigarh have topped NITI Aayog's inaugural IEMI 2024, emerging as frontrunners in the country's transition to EV.

Core Themes

1. Transport Electrification Progress: Measures EV demand-side adoption through EV registrations and growth in vehicle segments.
2. Charging Infrastructure Readiness: Assesses availability and expansion of public and private charging stations.
3. EV Research and Innovation Status: Evaluates supply-side efforts in R&D, manufacturing capacity, and policy incentives to strengthen the EV ecosystem.

It offers a comparative framework to identify high performers and lagging regions accompanied by an interactive dashboard for real-time monitoring.

Significance of the Index

It will serve as a guiding tool to design tailored policies for state-specific needs. Instrumental in achieving India's target of 30% EV penetration by 2030 and net-zero by 2070. Promotes integrated planning, cross-sectoral collaboration, and equitable access to e-mobility benefits.