

INTERNATIONAL

US proposes 30-Day Russia-Ukraine Ceasefire



Ukraine recently expressed support for a 30-day ceasefire proposal put forth by the United States. This decision followed intensive discussions in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, marking shift in the ongoing conflict with Russia. The proposed ceasefire is intended to halt all missile, drone, and bomb attacks along the entire front line.

NATIONAL

PM Surya Ghar Scheme hits 10 Lakh Installations



In a remarkable stride toward achieving energy self-reliance and environmental sustainability, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) has crossed a historic milestone of 10 lakh rooftop solar installations as of 10th March 2025. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13th February 2024, this ambitious initiative aims to solarize 1 crore households by 2026-27, significantly reducing electricity costs and promoting clean energy adoption. With ₹4,770 crore in subsidies already disbursed to 6.13 lakh beneficiaries and 3 GW solar capacity installed, the scheme is accelerating India's transition to renewable energy while supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

Keel Laying of Second Fleet Support Ship (FSS) for Indian Navy



In a significant step towards strengthening India's maritime capabilities, the keel-laying ceremony for the second Fleet Support Ship (FSS) was held on March 12, 2025, at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli. The event witnessed the presence of Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan, Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition, along with senior officials from the Indian Navy, Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), and L&T Shipyard. This project is part of a contract signed between the Indian Navy and HSL in August 2023 for the construction of five Fleet Support Ships, with deliveries set to begin by mid-2027. The initiative highlights the success of the public-private partnership (PPP) model, with two of the five ships being constructed by L&T to optimize the country's shipbuilding capacity.

Indian Railways joins Mission Amrit Sarovar to tackle Water Scarcity



The Indian Railways has been integrated into the Union Government's Mission Amrit Sarovar, launched in April 2022, to combat water scarcity and enhance groundwater recharge across the country. The mission aims to construct or rejuvenate 75 ponds in each district, with a focus on community participation (Jan Bhagidari) and climate resilience. By October 2024, over 68,000 ponds have been rejuvenated. In Phase 2, the Indian Railways will assist in desilting, excavating, and constructing new water bodies near railway lines, while using the excavated material for railway embankments.

Lok Sabha passes Oilfield (Regulatory and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024



The Lok Sabha passed the Oilfield (Regulatory and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, on 12th March 2025, after its approval by the Rajya Sabha on 3rd December 2024. The Bill aims to reform the legal framework for the exploration and production of oil and gas in India to attract more investors, boost production, and ensure energy availability, affordability, and security. It aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

India's First Auction of Exploration Licences



The Ministry of Mines is launching India's first auction of Exploration Licences (ELs) in Goa. This reform aims to unlock critical mineral resources. The event will occur on March 13, 2025, and will feature a roadshow and the AI Hackathon 2025. This hackathon focuses on using artificial intelligence for mineral targeting. The initiative supports the government's commitment to enhance mineral security and self-reliance.

Parliament Committee's Recommendations for Farm Workers' Welfare



The Standing Committee of Parliament on Agriculture has proposed reforms to enhance the welfare of farm workers in India. Chaired by Charanjit Singh Channi, the committee's recommendations aim to better reflect the role of farm labourers in agricultural policy. The committee suggests changing the name of the 'Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare' to 'Department of Agriculture, Farmers and Farm Labourers Welfare'. This renaming acknowledges the crucial contributions of farm labourers, who often belong to marginalised communities. The committee believes this change will promote greater inclusion in policy discussions.



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