

International

UN Security Council adopts US-drafted resolution appealing for swift end to Ukraine conflict.

The UN Security Council has adopted a US-drafted resolution, appealing for a swift end to the Ukraine conflict and urging a lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine. The resolution received 10 votes in favour, none against and five abstentions including France, Britain, Denmark, Greece and Slovenia. The document reiterates that the principal purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security and peacefully settle disputes.

Resolutions in the UN Security Council are binding under international law.

Ukraine, US agree on economic deal framework, including rare earth mineral extraction

Ukraine and the US have agreed on a framework for a broad economic deal, including the extraction of rare earth minerals. The agreement will help secure continued US military support, which Ukraine urgently needs. President Trump has been pushing for access to Ukraine's mineral resources in exchange for past military and other aid to the country.

Australia, New Zealand register highest breast cancer rates globally.

Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of breast cancer incidence in the world. In a new study, researchers from Australia and Canada analysed the breast cancer incidence and mortality rates in 185 countries. The study found that one in 20 women globally will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and that one in 70 will die from the disease. However, the study found that breast cancer risk is not evenly distributed throughout the world. It found that the age-standardised incidence rate (ASIR) of breast cancer in Australia and New Zealand in 2022 was 100.3 cases per 1 lakh people. France had the highest risk of lifetime

breast cancer diagnosis and Fiji had the highest lifetime risk of dying.

The research warned that breast cancer cases will increase by 38 per cent and deaths by 68 per cent by 2050.

National

India organizes 1st-ever Capacity Building Programme on UNSC Resolution 1540.

The Central government, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, is organizing the first-ever Capacity Building Programme on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and Strategic Trade Controls for Asia-Pacific in Andhra Pradesh, starting today. Nearly twenty-four government experts from eight countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, are participating in the 3-day programme.

Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' concludes along West Bengal coast.

The Indian Coast Guard has completed a comprehensive two-day coastal security exercise named 'Sagar Kavach' along the West Bengal's coastline. Multiple security agencies, including Navy, police, and paramilitary forces, collaborated to simulate potential maritime threats and validate existing security protocols. The exercise covered scenarios like terrorist infiltration, contraband smuggling, and potential attacks on critical coastal infrastructure. Findings from the drill will be used to enhance coordination and develop more robust coastal defence strategies.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana crosses milestone with more than 9.5 lakh installations.

Union Minister Mr Pralhad Joshi informed that 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' has crossed a milestone with more than 9.5 lakh installations. Joshi said that India aims to add

50 GW of renewable energy capacity every year in order to meet the target of 500 GW by 2030. Mr Joshi emphasised that the country has achieved a remarkable 220 GW in total renewable energy capacity, out of which 100 GW is from solar.

Defence Minister confers gallantry, service medals to Indian Coast Guard personnel.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has conferred gallantry, distinguished service and meritorious service medals to personnel of the Indian Coast Guard at an investiture ceremony in New Delhi. A total of 32 medals were presented including six President's Tatrakshak Medals for Distinguished Service, 11 Tatrakshak Medals for Gallantry and 15 Tatrakshak Medals for Meritorious Service.

First detailed map of moon's south pole area made from Chandrayaan data.

The first ever detailed geological map of the moon's south polar region, where India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar module, Vikram, touched down on August 23, 2023 was ready. The map is expected to throw new light on the moon's origin and evolution.

Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, Panjab University in Chandigarh, and the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems, Indian Space Research Organisation, Bengaluru, have created the map using data from the rover Pragyan, which was deployed by Vikram on a nine-day mission to analyse the chemical composition of the regolith — the loose rock fragments and dust that cover the lunar surface.

Business and Economy

RBI allows withdrawals up to ₹25,000 per depositor from New India Co-operative Bank.

Days after imposing several restrictions on New India Co-operative Bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed deposit withdrawals of up to 25,000 rupees per depositor, effective

from 27th February 2025. In its press release, the RBI stated that this relaxation will allow more than 50 per cent of total depositors to withdraw their entire balances, while the remaining depositors can withdraw up to 25,000 rupees from their accounts.

Govt plans National Green Financing Institution to achieve climate goals: NITI Aayog.

The Union Government is working to set up a National Green Financing Institution to support its net-zero target by 2070, as the current finance flows for climate initiatives remain much lower than the desired levels, NITI Aayog has said. The primary purpose of the institution will be to aggregate green capital from different sources and lower the cost of capital.

Tata group to invest in electronic manufacturing unit, green energy sector in Assam: Chandrasekaran.

Tata group chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran has said the company will invest around ₹25,000 crore in a large electronics manufacturing unit in Assam over the next few years. He added that the company will collaborate with the State government in the green energy sector, focusing on solar rooftops and renewable energy generation.

India imports €49 billion worth of Russian oil in 3rd year of Ukraine invasion.

India, the world's third largest oil consuming and importing nation, bought crude oil worth €49 billion from Russia in the third year of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, a global think tank said.

India, which has traditionally sourced its oil from the Middle East, began importing a large volume of oil from Russia soon after the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This is primarily because Russian oil was available at a significant discount to other international benchmarks due to western sanctions and some European countries shunning purchases.

South Indian Bank Launches “SIB QUICKPL”

In a move to make personal financing faster and more accessible, South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched “SIB QUICKPL”, an in-house Digital Personal Loan platform designed exclusively for new customers. The innovative platform enables both salaried and self-employed individuals with good credit profiles to avail unsecured personal loans through a fully digital, paperless process in just 10 minutes, and the money gets credited to a Savings account with any bank in India.

Reliance to invest ₹50,000 cr in Assam over next 5 years: Mukesh Ambani

Reliance Industries will invest ₹50,000 crore across five different verticals in Assam over the next five years, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said.

Speaking at the 'Advantage Assam' business summit, Mr. Ambani said the money will be invested to make Assam technology and AI ready.

Vedanta Group to invest ₹50,000 crore over 3-4 years in oil and gas in Assam, Tripura.

Mining major Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal has announced that the firm will pump in ₹50,000 crore in the oil and gas sector in Assam and Tripura over the next 3-4 years.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the Advantage Assam investment summit, he said group firm Cairn Oil & Gas has already invested around ₹2,500 crore in the two States of the northeast region.

Sports

Asia Cup Archery: India tops medal tally with 8 medals, including 5 gold

India topped the medal standings at the first leg of the Asia Cup World Ranking Archery tournament, securing eight medals, including 5 gold, at the conclusion of competitions at Bangkok, Thailand. Korea finished second in the medal tally with five medals, including two gold.

India set to face Maldives in SABA Women's Basketball Championship 2025

In basketball, the Indian women's team will lock horns with Maldives in the South Asia Basketball Association Women's Championship 2025 final at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The Indian women's team, unbeaten in the tournament, advanced to the final after dominating the Maldives 113-25 in their second match.

Earlier, they secured a commanding 113-32 victory over Nepal in their tournament opener.