

Morning News Script

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India and Mauritius elevated their ties to an 'enhanced strategic partnership' and inked eight pacts to boost cooperation in several sectors, including maritime security, and promote trade in local currencies. The decision was taken during delegation-level talks held yesterday between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam at Port Louis, Mauritius. Following the talks, Mr Modi announced India's new vision for the Global South, naming it "MAHASAGAR" or "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions."

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The Parliament has passed the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 with the Lok Sabha approving it yesterday . The Bill seeks to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948. It expands the definition of Mineral oils, which include naturally occurring hydrocarbon, coal bed methane, and shale gas. Replying to a debate on the Bill, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said India at present imports from 40 countries. Mr Puri said, India does not distinguish between the sources of supply provided the supplying countries are able to deliver at India's port of importation at a reasonable price.

Meanwhile, both the Houses of Parliament have been adjourned till Monday. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will not sit today and the day after on account of Holi.

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Nine Indian universities and institutions are among the world's top 50 in QS subject-wise rankings. According to the 15th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject, announced yesterday, India celebrates 12 top-50 positions across the subject rankings and the broad faculty areas, earned by nine institutions. Leading the way is the Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad, which ranks 20th globally for Engineering-Mineral and Mining, making it the country's highest-performing subject area. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked at 28th position and IIT Kharagpur at 45th spot for Engineering-Mineral and Mining. IIT Madras (Petroleum Engineering) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (Development Studies) continued to be among the world's top 50.

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Minister for Housing & Mechanical Engineering, P. Bashangmongba Chang, inaugurated the newly constructed PWD Office Complex at Tongdentsuyong Ward, Mokokchung, yesterday. During the event, the Minister described the project as a reflection of the Chief Minister's vision for a modern and well-planned Nagaland. He highlighted that the new complex represents progress for Mokokchung district and beyond, providing a better working environment for employees and improving the department's efficiency in delivering services to the public. Mr Chang also emphasized the crucial role of the Public

Works Department in the state, particularly in the construction and maintenance of roads, buildings, and other key infrastructures. Mr Chang expressed confidence that the complex would enhance the department's ability to provide timely and quality services.

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In a significant breakthrough, Dimapur police have arrested four individuals involved in the looting of a State Bank of India ATM booth on February 20 in Kuda village, B-Khel, Dimapur. The accused were apprehended in the neighboring state of Assam. The arrested individuals have been identified as Amir Hussian of Morigaon, Assam, currently residing at Diphupar Chümoukedima district , Raja Deb of Haflong, Assam, residing at Dillai Sunday Bazaar, Sana Ullah from Hojai, and Harun Rashid from Nagaon, Assam, now residing in Eralibill, Dimapur. According to SDPO Bokajan, two of the accused were captured by Nagaland police on February 11 from the Dillai Sunday Bazaar area. The remaining two were arrested from Hojai, Assam. The incident took place on February 20, when the suspects looted the ATM booth and made off with a cash sum of 25 lakh rupees. The accused have been brought to Dimapur for further investigation.

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