



Most Important Points for Daily News

➤ SECL Introduces Post-Retirement Benefit Cell

In a landmark initiative aimed at enhancing the welfare of its retired employees, South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), has launched a Post-Retirement Benefit (PRB) Cell. The cell, designed to provide a single-window solution for retired employees, reflects SECL's commitment to improving the post-retirement experience of its former workforce. The new PRB Cell consolidates various post-retirement services under one roof, ensuring that retirees no longer need to navigate between multiple departments.



➤ Venezuela's Maduro Sworn in Amid Electoral Controversy

Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela (46th President), was sworn in for a third six-year term following a contentious election. His opponent, Edmundo Gonzalez, claimed voter fraud and declared himself the rightful winner of the July elections. Despite international pressure and sanctions, particularly from the United States, Maduro's inauguration took place amid widespread controversy and public protests.



➤ 6.9 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Japan, Tsunami Advisory Issued

On January, 2025, at 9:19 PM local time, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck southwestern Japan, with its epicenter located in the Hyuga-Nada Sea off Miyazaki Prefecture. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) issued a tsunami advisory for Miyazaki and nearby Kochi Prefectures, warning of potential waves up to one meter in height. The advisory was later lifted, and no significant damage or injuries have been reported.





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➤ **India-US Sonobuoy Production Line Set for 2027**

India and the US are set to collaborate on the co-production of sonobuoys, a crucial technology for undersea domain awareness, aimed at enhancing the Indian Navy's ability to detect submarines. This initiative will involve the final assembly of US - specification sonobuoys in India, with the operational production line expected to be ready by 2027.



➤ **Uttar Pradesh's Strategic Move to Privatize Power Distribution Firms**

Uttar Pradesh is considering the privatization of two of its four power distribution companies—Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam. This initiative, as indicated by a state government tender January, 2025, aims to address challenges such as power losses and inadequate transmission infrastructure.



➤ **Odisha Integrates with Ayushman Bharat**

Odisha became the 34th state to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), marking a significant advancement in the state's healthcare landscape. This integration was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Health Authority (NHA) of the Union Ministry of Health and Odisha's Department of Health and Family Welfare.





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➤ Govt Approves 56 Watershed Projects Worth ₹700 Crore

The Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned 56 new Watershed Development Projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) at a total cost of ₹700 crore. These projects aim to enhance agricultural productivity, address land degradation, and bolster climate resilience across ten high-performing states: Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim.

