

Renewables hit record in 2025, but world must move faster

AFP | New York, United States

Global renewable power capacity grew by record levels last year, a report showed Monday, hailed as a sign by the UN climate chief that the "brute power of market forces" is making the transition to clean energy irreversible.

The report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was published as world leaders gather for the United Nations General Assembly following a record-hot northern hemisphere summer underscoring the worsening impacts of human-caused climate change. IRENA's report found that 693 gigawatts (GW) of new renewables power was added in 2025. That is over half the installed capacity of the entire United States.

But to meet a global goal of tripling renewable energy by the year 2030 -- a key target agreed by countries at the COP28 talks held in 2023 -- the world still needs to more than double today's levels, which stand at 5.15 terawatts (TW).

A terawatt is equal to 1,000



gigawatts.

If the growth rate recorded in 2025 holds, the world would reach 10.6 TW by 2030, about 0.6 TW short of the 11.2 TW goal. That gap has narrowed from 0.9 TW in last year's assessment.

But the report also found the world was still well behind on the goal of doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030, and made multiple recommendations including upgrading electric grids, and combining solar, wind and battery storage to get cost-competitive power around the clock.

CNN, MS NOW, Politico to sue Trump administration over White House access

AFP | Washington, United States

CNN, MS NOW and Politico will sue the Trump administration after being denied access to the White House, the news outlets said in a joint statement yesterday.

President Donald Trump said Friday he was banning the outlets from the presidential mansion as punishment for distributing what he calls "fake news."

"This morning, we notified the government that we are filing a lawsuit today to protect our First Amendment rights and defend the principle that the government does not decide what the press re-

ports or publishes," CNN, MS NOW and Politico said in a joint statement.

The outlets said the White House revoked their journalists' credentials "without notice or process" because it "objected to our reporting."

"Left unchallenged, this threatens press freedom and the public's right to independent journalism free from government interference," they said.

Trump did not detail what prompted the ban but said "media Outlets shouldn't be able to constantly write or report FICTION and LIES when they're covering the President of the United States."



US refuses visas for Iran UN delegation members: state media



AFP | Tehran, Iran

The United States has refused to issue visas for members of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's delegation, including his communications team, for this week's trip to the UN General Assembly, Iranian state media reported yesterday.

Pezeshkian will be the highest-ranking Iranian official to enter the United States since the Middle East war began

with US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February. The US has authorised the Iranian delegation to travel for the UN General Assembly but will, like last year, put restrictions in place.

Iran's delegation will not, for instance, be allowed to purchase luxury goods or other items, the State Department said on Thursday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, part of the delegation to the UN, left Iran on Sunday evening for a stop-over in Qatar.

US Treasury chief says Iran airlines to be 'shut down' Sept 23

On September 23, "all the Iranian airlines will be shut down around the world," Bessent told CNBC in an interview

AFP | New York, United States

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned yesterday that Iranian airlines will have trouble functioning globally in two days under the weight of American sanctions -- as the



Scott Bessent



Representative image

Trump administration seeks to keep pressure on Tehran.

On September 23, "all the Ira-

nian airlines will be shut down around the world," Bessent told CNBC in an interview.

"If any land, you cannot provide them with fuel, you cannot provide them with landing services, you cannot sell them tickets or you will be knocked out

of the dollar system," he added.

The United States and Iran have been at war since late February, when US-Israeli strikes killed the Islamic republic's supreme leader and senior military officials at the start of a broad offensive.

The Treasury Department also took aim at targets for supporting Iran's aviation sector, including firms based outside Iran.

Bessent previously vowed the United States would declare "economic D-Day" on Iran and pledged to choke off Tehran financially. Bessent's comments came a day after he met with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng for economic talks laying the groundwork for President Donald Trump's summit this Thursday with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Putin's party secures record score in Russia election

United Russia won 355 of the Duma's 450 seats

Beat its previous record of 343 seats

Putin had encouraged Russians to vote in support of troops in Ukraine

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Vladimir Putin's United Russia party won a record supermajority in the Duma, authorities announced yesterday after a tightly controlled three-day election without parties critical of the Kremlin or the war in Ukraine.

Electoral chief Ella Pamfilova said preliminary results showed United Russia -- which has dominated Russian politics for 25 years -- won 355 of the Duma's 450 seats.

The result handed Putin's party an increased supermajority and beat its previous record of 343 seats. The supermajority means it can change the constitution, if it needs to.

The Kremlin said the result of the first parliamentary election since Moscow sent troops to Ukraine in 2022 showed Russians were united around Putin, who has been in power since

Five nations slam 'sham' Russian election in occupied Ukraine

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Five countries including the UK, Australia and Canada yesterday condemned Russia's "sham" parliamentary elections in swathes of occupied Ukraine, branding the move "part of a wider system of occupation".

"Holding Russia's State Duma elections in the tem-

porarily occupied territories of Ukraine ... is a gross violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and independence, and the UN Charter," the countries, who also included New Zealand and Norway, said in a joint statement that cited votes held in occupied Crimea and Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.



Members of a local electoral commission count votes in Russia's parliamentary election in Donetsk, Russian-controlled Ukraine

New Year's Eve 1999.

The conflict has killed hundreds of thousands, displaced millions and hit ordinary lives in Russia more than ever this year. Moscow has banned criticism of its military campaign and the only party that called for an end to the war was removed from the election.

"These indicators, of course, point to the highest level of consolidation within Russian society around the head of state," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a briefing with journalists.

Putin had encouraged Russians to vote in support of troops in Ukraine and Moscow also organised voting in occupied Ukraine.

Pamfilova said turnout was over 59 percent, thanking Russians for voting despite what she called "psychological pressure on Russia."

Russia's Ukraine campaign broke its ties with the West. Kyiv hit Moscow with its biggest drone attack of the war Sunday, the last day of voting, killing two people and setting an oil refinery ablaze.

"Despite the extreme situation, we were successful in ensuring the maximum security of these elections," Pamfilova told a Moscow press conference.

Zelensky to meet Trump in New York

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will meet US President Donald Trump today in New York, where both leaders will take part in the United

Nations General Assembly, a source with knowledge of the matter told AFP.

The meeting is planned "sometime on Tuesday afternoon", the source told AFP on Monday, and comes as Wash-

ington pushes for fresh direct peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv to end the four-and-a-half-year war.

Trump yesterday said Russia had "lost control" over its oil industry.

"A large number of their Diesel refineries have been blown up and are, at least temporarily, out of commission," Trump said on his Truth Social platform, calling for an end to the war.