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Wednesday, 31 January 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR





**Wednesday, 31 January 2024**

## **NTPC inks pact for green hydrogen project in Maharashtra**

- NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) has signed an MoU with the Maharashtra government to develop green hydrogen projects and its derivatives in Maharashtra.
- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed as a part of Green Investment Plan of the state government in the next five years and envisages a potential investment of Rs 80,000 crore.
- NGEL has signed an MoU with the Government of Maharashtra for the development of green hydrogen and derivatives (green ammonia, green methanol) of up to 1 million tonne capacity per annum, including pump hydro projects of 2 GW and development of RE projects with or without storage up to 5 GW in the state.
- NGEL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC with an operational capacity of over 3.4 GW and 26 GW in pipeline, including 7 GW under implementation.

### **NTPC:**

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 7 November 1975
- CEO: Gurdeep Singh (28 Jan 2016–)
- Founder: Government of India

**Q.** In which state has NTPC signed an agreement for green hydrogen project? **Maharashtra**





**Wednesday, 31 January 2024**

## Amazon terminates \$1.7 bn deal to acquire iRobot amid regulatory hurdles

- Amazon called off its purchase of robot vacuum maker iRobot, blaming "undue and disproportionate regulatory hurdles" after the European Union signaled its objection to the deal.
- Amazon announced in 2022 that it would buy iRobot, maker of the circular-shaped Roomba vacuum, for \$1.7 billion in cash.
- But the value of the deal fell 15% after iRobot incurred new debt.
- Amazon will pay the Bedford, Massachusetts-based company a previously agreed termination fee of \$94 million, iRobot said in a separate announcement, which also disclosed that it would lay off about 31% of its staff and see its CEO depart.
- Now that the deal has been called off, iRobot said it would undergo a restructuring plan designed to stabilize the company. As part of those changes, the company will lay off roughly 350 employees.
- iRobot Chairman and CEO Colin Angle also will step down.
- Glen Weinstein, the company's executive vice president and chief legal officer, will serve as interim CEO.
- Amazon has purchased other smart home companies in the past, including home security camera maker Blink, doorbell camera maker Ring and the mesh-networking Wi-Fi company Eero.
- Last year, Adobe abandoned its plan to buy online design company Figma for \$20 billion because of EU and British antitrust concerns. Biotech giant Illumina was forced to undo its \$7.1 billion purchase of cancer-screening company Grail after losing legal battles with antitrust enforcers in both Europe and the U.S.

**Q.** Amazon cancels billion-dollar deal to acquire iRobot amid regulatory hurdles? **\$1.7 Billion**





Wednesday, 31 January 2024

## **Sony scrapped \$10 bn merger as Zee failed to meet financial terms: Report**

- Sony scrapped the \$10 billion merger of its Indian arm with Zee Entertainment in part because Zee failed to meet some financial terms of the deal and come up with a plan to address them.
- A Zee-Sony merger in India would have created a media powerhouse in the world's most populous nation with 90-plus channels across sports, entertainment and news.
- In the 62-page notice, Sony said several breaches of the merger agreement were "not remediable and any further attempts to mutually discuss would be an empty formality.
- A Zee spokesperson declined to comment, while Sony did not respond to Reuters queries.
- Zee's shares have fallen about 30% since the deal collapsed.
- Zee's advertising revenues fell to \$488 million for the 2022-23 financial year from around \$600 million five years earlier.
- Cash reserves dropped to \$86 million from \$116 million in that period.
- Sony, in its termination notice, said that Zee's cash position was 4.76 billion rupees (\$57.26 million) as of Sept. 30, adding that was "much below the requirements" of the merger agreement.

**Q.** Which multinational company has partially canceled the \$10 billion merger of its Indian arm with Zee Entertainment?

**Sony**





**Wednesday, 31 January 2024**

## **Qatar Secures 15-Year Gas Supply Deal with Bangladesh to Bolster Energy Ties**

- Qatar has signed a deal with US-based Excelsior Energy to supply Bangladesh with natural gas for 15 years, state-owned QatarEnergy.
- Doha will supply Excelsior with one million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) a year to be delivered to floating storage units in Bangladesh over the 15-year period starting in January 2026.
- The agreement encompasses Excelsior's purchase of 0.85 MTPA of LNG in 2026 and 2027, escalating to one MTPA from 2028 to 2040, reinforcing Qatar's commitment to Bangladesh's energy needs.
- Asian countries led by China, Japan and South Korea are the main market for Qatar's gas, which has been increasingly sought by European countries since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- Qatar is one of the world's top LNG producers, alongside the United States, Australia and Russia. It is the largest natural gas supplier to Bangladesh.

**Q.** Which country has signed a 15-year gas supply agreement with Bangladesh to strengthen energy ties?

**Qatar**





**Wednesday, 31 January 2024**

## **All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) inks deal to organise inaugural Pickleball League in India**

- The All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) has inked a long term deal with Natekar Sports and Gaming (NSG) to organise a pickleball league in the country.
- The collaboration marks a significant step towards amplifying the sport's reach across the nation, setting it on an upward trajectory.
- Pickleball is a sport thriving in over 92 countries with a growing number of active players.
- In India, the game has found a solid footing, being played across 21 states with participation of over 15,000 enthusiasts.

### **AIPA:**

- The All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) is the governing body of Pickleball in India.
- It functions as a nonprofit organization, providing support to other national and local pickleball organizations, and it organized the Amateur Pickleball Federation, India as its executive body to conduct pickleball tournaments in India. Established by Mr. Sunil Valavalkar in 2008, in 2015 the AIPA became a founding member of the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) where Valavalkar serves as Vice President

**Q.** All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) has entered into a long-term agreement with \_\_\_\_\_ to organize pickleball leagues in the country.

**Natekar Sports and Gaming (NSG)**





Wednesday, 31 January 2024

## Jatinder Aulakh takes oath Punjab Public Service Commission chairman

- Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office to newly-appointed Punjab Public Service Commission Chairman Jatinder Singh Aulakh and Chief Information Commissioner Inderpal Singh.
- Aulakh, a 1997-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, retired as additional director general of police (intelligence) on January 31, 2023.
- During his stint in the Punjab Police, he rose from the rank of deputy superintendent to finally retiring as the intelligence chief.
- While serving as senior superintendent, he headed the police in SAS Nagar, Sangrur, Ropar, Jagraon, SBS Nagar and Khanna districts.
- He also served as the commissioner of police in Amritsar and Ludhiana, the inspector general for Patiala and Ferozepur ranges, and the inspector general for headquarters and intelligence.
- New Chief Information Commissioner Singh had earlier served as Punjab's senior additional advocate general.

**Q.** Recently who took oath as the Chairman of Punjab Public Service Commission? **Jatinder Aulakh**





Wednesday, 31 January 2024

## AZALI Assoumani re-elected as President of the Comoros

- Azali Assoumani was re-elected as Comoros President for fourth term, earlier this month.
- The opposition had raised objections to the results leading to severe clashes, but the Comoros Supreme Court validated his re-election.
- Assoumani, 65, a former military officer who came to power in a 1999 coup, has now served two non-consecutive terms as president, from 2002 to 2006 and from 2016 to the present. A 2018 constitutional referendum paved the way for his re-election.
- The court affirmed Azali's victory and said he secured 57.2% of the vote, a figure adjusted from the initially declared 62.97%.
- Notably, Assoumani is also the Chairperson of the African Union.
- Note: PM Modi affirmed hope that the two countries will continue to work to strengthen the India-Comoros partnership, the India-Africa partnership and the 'Vision Sagar'.
- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) is India's policy or doctrine of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. The policy was first announced by PM Modi on March 12, 2015.

**Q.** Who was re-elected as President of Comoros? **Azali Assoumani**





**Wednesday, 31 January 2024**

## **Tata Power installs 1,000 kW bifacial solar project in West Bengal.**

- Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) has commissioned a 1,000-kilowatt bifacial solar system project in West Bengal.
- Bifacial solar system comprises solar panel which captures sunlight from both surfaces and produces power from two sides.
- TPREL has successfully commissioned a pioneering 1040 kW Bifacial Solar System project with Chengmari Tea Estate.
- This marks the first-ever installation of on-ground bifacial modules in eastern India.
- The project is expected to generate around 1.5 million units (MUs) of energy annually and reduce carbon footprint of 29,420 lakh tonnes, which is equivalent to planting 47,000 teak trees.
- The project is located in West Bengal.
- The innovative bifacial technology, capturing sunlight from both sides of the solar panels, represents a significant leap forward in enhanced clean energy generation.

**Q.** How many kilowatt bifacial solar project has Tata Power set up in West Bengal? **1,000 kilowatts**





Wednesday, 31 January 2024

## Sharat Chauhan Appointed As Puducherry's New Chief Secretary

- Sharat Chauhan, a 1994 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Puducherry.
- Chauhan, who previously served in Arunachal Pradesh, brings a wealth of administrative experience to his new role in the union territory.
- His appointment comes as part of a series of transfers within the AGMUT cadre.
- The outgoing Chief Secretary, Rajeev Verma, a 1992 batch IAS officer, will assume the position of advisor to the Chandigarh administrator following his tenure in Puducherry.
- Verma took charge as Chief Secretary on April 29, 2022, and now transitions to a new role in Chandigarh.
- Joining Chauhan in Puducherry is A R Talwade, an IAS officer of the 2009 AGMUT batch, who has also been transferred from Arunachal Pradesh.
- Furthermore, E Vallavan, an IAS officer of the 2011 AGMUT batch, has been reassigned to Goa from Puducherry, signalling a redistribution of administrative responsibilities.

**Q.** Recently who has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Puducherry? **Sharat Chauhan**





**Wednesday, 31 January 2024**

## **NSA Ajit Doval, CDS Gen Chauhan release BrahMos deputy CEO's book**

- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan unveiled the book 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar,' authored by Sanjeev Joshi, the Deputy CEO of BrahMos Aerospace.
- Comprising 75 poems, the book was officially introduced at a ceremony held at the India International Centre.
- The launch of 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar' highlights the lesser-known creative side of individuals deeply involved in the defense sector.
- Sanjeev Joshi, known for his role in BrahMos Aerospace, showcases his poetic prowess in this collection, offering a unique perspective on life and experiences.
- The book launch event was further dignified by the presence of notable personalities such as actor Ashutosh Rana, author Rambahadur Rai, DRDO chief Dr. Samir V Kamat, Deputy Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, and many senior dignitaries from the fields of literature and defense.

**Q.** National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chief of Defense Staff General Anil Chauhan unveiled a book 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar'. By whom is this written? **Sanjeev Joshi, Deputy CEO of BrahMos Aerospace**





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