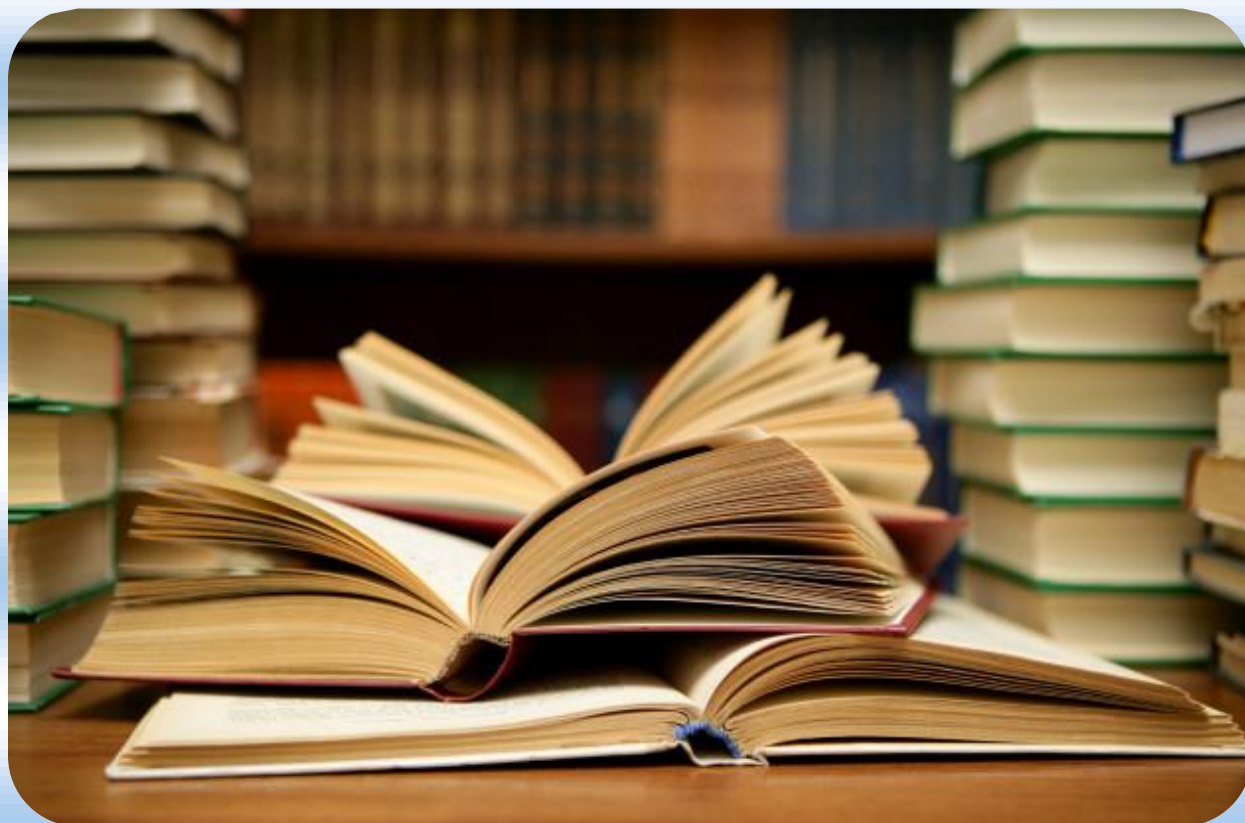


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



FEBRUARY-2023

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Visakhapatnam will be the new Andhra Pradesh capital

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday announced that Vishakapatnam will soon become the state capital and added that he will be shifting there in the months to come. Jagan made the announcement at the International Diplomatic Alliance Meet and Curtain Raiser for Andhra Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 organised in New Delhi on Tuesday. "Here I am to invite you all to Visakhapatnam, which is going to be our capital in days to come and I myself would be shifting to Visakhapatnam in months to come as well," he said inviting the diplomats and industrialists to participate in Global Investors Summit in the port city on March 3 and 4.

Reliance Announces partnership with Sri Lanka's Maliban

Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL), the FMCG arm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures has entered into a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka-based Maliban Biscuit Manufactories. Maliban is a biscuit manufacturer in Sri Lanka for the past 70 years with its range of products, including biscuits, crackers, cookies and wafers. The company has expanded its products reach to global markets and exports to over 35 countries across five continents.

Union budget 2023 is being presented by FM Nirmala Sitharaman

The countdown to the Union Budget 2023 being tabled in Parliament has finally begun. The Union Cabinet has approved the Budget 2023 to be presented by Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman shortly.



Union Budget 2023: GST collection at nearly Rs 1.56 lakh crore in January

Goods and services tax collection amounted to Rs 1.56 trillion in January 2023, which was the second highest mop-up since the introduction of the indirect tax levy in July 2017. Receipts from GST touched a record high of Rs 1.68 trillion in April 2022. According to the finance ministry data, of the gross GST revenue collected in the month of January 2023 till 5 pm, central GST was Rs 28,963 crore, state GST was Rs 36,730 crore.

Genus Power Bagged Orders Worth Over Rs 2,850 Crore

Genus Power Infrastructures jumped 5.30% to Rs 90.45 after the company has received letter of awards (LoA) worth Rs 2,855.96 crore from state electricity boards (SEBs) for appointment of advanced metering infrastructure service provider (AMISP). The order includes design of AMI system with supply, installation and commissioning of 29.49 Lakh Smart Prepaid Meters, DT Metering, HT & Feeder Metering Level energy accounting and FMS of these 29.49 Lakh smart meters.

G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group in Chandigarh

As the two-day parleys on economic issues saw participation of nearly 100 delegates from G20 member countries, India said the presence of the delegations, invitees and international organisations in Chandigarh “demonstrated the strong commitment” of the global community to support India’s G20 Presidency.



Puma India named Indian Captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its brand ambassador

Sports brand Puma India announced roping in women’s cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its latest brand ambassador. As part of the partnership terms, Harmanpreet will endorse the brand’s footwear, apparel and accessories throughout the year.



RBI's Digital Payments Index Jumps to 377.46 in Sept from 349.30 in March

Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index, a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, rose to 377.46 in September 2022 from 349.30 in March. "The RBI-DPI index has increased across all parameters driven by significant growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country over the period.



Adani Group Enters Israel with Haifa Port Acquisition For 1.2 Billion \$

Amid allegations of fraud by short seller Hindenburg Research, the Adani Group on Tuesday acquired the Haifa in Israel for USD 1.2 billion. The acquisition of the second largest port in the country is part of Adani's plan to invest more in the Jewish nation.



IIRF releases MBA Ranking 2023, IIM Ahmedabad, Bengaluru in top 3

Indian Institutional Ranking Framework released the Top Management and Business School 2023. This year, IIM Lucknow has jumped one place and has secured fourth rank. IIM Ahmedabad has taken over the first position followed by IIM Bengaluru and IIM Kolkata in second and third position respectively.



India to be Theme Country at 2025 Madrid International Book Fair

India will be invited as the focal country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025, the Ambassador of Spain to the country Jose Maria Ridao said on Tuesday. Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair here, which began on Monday.



India's 1st Hydrogen train will come by Dec 2023 on Heritage Routes: Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that the most-awaited hydrogen train will be manufactured by 2023. "First, it will run on heritage circuits like Kalka-Shimla and later it will be expanded to other places," Vaishnaw said. Further speaking over the introduction of hydrogen trains in the country, the minister said, "As the budget focuses on green growth, Railway will also contribute with the hydrogen train which will come by December 2023 and will be designed and manufactured in India. First, it will run on heritage circuits like Kalka-Shimla and later it will be expanded to other places," he marked.

Azad Engineering is India's first supplier of Parts for Nuclear Turbines

Azad Engineering Private Limited, a Hyderabad-based market leader in precision engineering, has been approved as the first Indian company to supply critical rotating parts for nuclear turbines. The company has delivered its first set of critical parts. These will now be assembled on nuclear turbines manufactured in Belfort, France. Azad Engineering has signed a long-term supply agreement with General Electric (GE) Steam Power for the supply of nuclear turbine parts. This, the company says, opens up a very big supply opportunity.

MP Government has changed the name of Bhopal's Islam Nagar village to 'Jagdishpur' with Immediate Effect

The Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday issued a notification announcing that the name of Bhopal's Islam Nagar village will be changed to Jagdishpur with immediate effect. The Centre gave its no objection last year, the notification said. Islam Nagar is located at a distance of around 12 km from Bhopal and is famous for forts. According to several accounts, the name of Islam Nagar used to be Jagdishpur 308 years ago. One account says in 1719, Islam Nagar became the capital of the Bhopal region after ruler Dost Mohammad Khan took control of the area. In 1715, Jagdishpur was renamed Islam Nagar.

Adani Enterprises shares removed from US Indices

In another jolt to the already beleaguered Adani group, the S&P Dow Jones announced on February 2, 2023, that Adani Enterprises shares will be removed from the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices following a 'media and stakeholder analysis' triggered by the allegations of stock manipulation and accounting fraud. "Adani Enterprises (XBOM: 512599) will be removed from the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices following a Media & Stakeholder Analysis triggered by allegations of stock manipulation and accounting fraud," S&P Dow Jones Indices said in a statement.

Kerala: First State to use Robotic Manhole cleaners

The Kerala government on Friday launched robotic scavenger, Bandicoot, to clean sewages in this temple town, becoming the first state in the country to use robotic technology to clean all its commissioned manholes. Water Resources Minister, Roshi Augustine, launched Bandicoot under the Guruvayur Sewerage Project in Thrissur district by the Kerala Water Authority (KWA), as part of the 100-day action plan of the state government.

IMF Nine Point Crypto Action Plan

The International Monetary Fund has laid out a nine-point action plan for how countries should treat crypto assets, with point number one a plea not to give cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin legal tender status. The global lender of last resort said its Executive Board had discussed a paper, "Elements of Effective Policies for Crypto Assets," that provided "guidance to IMF member countries on key elements of an appropriate policy response to crypto assets."

Eknath Shinde the new Chief of Shiv Sena

Speaking to ANI, Minister Uday Samant said, We agreed that CM Eknath Shinde will be our new Shivsena party chief. We will soon submit our letter to the Election Commission regarding this. Within days of being allotted the 'Shiv Sena' name and the 'bow and arrow' symbol by the Election Commission of India (ECI), Maharashtra State Minister of Industries Uday Samant on Tuesday, said that the party members want Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to be the chief of Shiv Sena.

India to setup Digital University

New Delhi: The Ministry of Education and various stakeholders are working to set up the 'digital university', announced in the 2022 Union Budget, by August this year. Still at a nascent stage, the idea has the support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a webinar Monday morning, he asked the stakeholders involved to speed up the process of setting up the university, adding that it will "solve the problem of seats".

Ladakh sets Guinness record Pangong Tso Marathon

The Union Territory of Ladakh has created history by successfully conducting its maiden 21-km trail running event in sub-zero temperature at 13,862 feet high Pangong Tso, which was registered in Guinness world record as the world's highest frozen lake half marathon.



First Semiconductor plant of India

The joint venture between Anil Agarwal led Vedanta and manufacturing giant Foxconn on Monday announced that it is setting up the semiconductor and display manufacturing facility in Dholera Special Investment Region near Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The Vedanta-Foxconn JV in September last year signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government to invest ₹1,54,000 crore to set up semiconductor and display manufacturing plant. It is the first semiconductor manufacturing facility in India.



India's first waste-to-hydrogen plant to be set up in Pune

The country's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant will be set up in Pune at a cost of over Rs 430 crore, an official said on Tuesday. The plant will be set up by sustainability solutions provider TheGreenBillions Ltd (TGBL), who has entered into a 30-year-long agreement with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). It will treat 350 tonnes of solid garbage every day by next year, TGBL chairman and founder Prateek Kanakia told PTI here. "Our plan is to produce 10 tonnes of hydrogen daily from 350 tonnes of solid waste. We are setting up the plant at Hadapsar Industrial Estate in Pune. This is the first attempt in India to extract hydrogen from waste," he added.

IIT Kanpur develops energy-efficient system to transport minerals

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has developed an energy-efficient compressed air-based pipeline system for transporting coal and minerals, offering round-the-clock monitoring with considerable savings in time and costs. The cargo-based hyperloop system, developed by Professor Bishakh Bhattacharya and research scientists Kanhaiya Lal Chaurasia and Yashasvi Sinha at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, will address challenges such as material loss, uncertainty in delivery time and air pollution.

Global Investor Summit: UP received Rs 33.5 lakh crores of investment

Commitment worth lakhs of crores to invest in Uttar Pradesh has been made possible due to honest government and safe environment in the state, Union minister for commerce and industry, consumer affairs, food and public distribution and textiles Piyush Goyal said on the last day of the UP Global Investors Summit on Sunday. The three-day mega event held by the UP government concluded on Sunday with CM Yogi Adityanath announcing the summit has been able to fetch proposals worth ₹33.50 lakh cr.

Former SC Judge Abdul Nazeer appointed Andhra Pradesh Governor

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday notified the appointment of the Supreme Court's retired Justice Abdul Nazeer as the third Governor of Andhra Pradesh. President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday notified the appointment of the Supreme Court's retired Justice Abdul Nazeer as the third Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Syed Abdul Nazeer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India and retired on January 4, 2023. Justice Nazeer is succeeding Biswa Bhusan Harichandan who has been transferred as the Governor of Chhattisgarh.

Hyderabad Formula E-Championship

The stage is all set for the inaugural 2023 Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix, the fourth round of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship, at the 2.835 km long street circuit adjoining historic Hussainsagar Lake in Hyderabad. Over 22,000 spectators are expected to be present during the race Saturday afternoon.



INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Former PM Manmohan Singh conferred Lifetime Achievement Honour by UK

London: Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh was conferred a Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to the fields of economics and politics. The award will be given to him in New Delhi. AP



US Offers Critical Technologies to India under iCET, elevates strategic partnership

Ahead of the expected State visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, the two countries join hands on critical technology including Space , Quantum, and Semiconductors. This was the outcome of the inaugural meeting of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval with his US counterpart Jake Sullivan in Washington DC on Tuesday.



Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM

MALABO (Reuters) – Equatorial Guinea’s President Teodoro Obiang Nguema on Tuesday appointed his vice-minister of education, Manuela Roka Botey, as prime minister, the first time a woman has held the role in the West African country. Botey’s new position was announced on state television late on Tuesday. Obiang, 80, was re-elected for a sixth term in office in November with 95% of the vote, cementing his place as the world’s longest-standing ruler. The United States said at the time it had “serious doubts about the credibility of the announced results” in the election and called on authorities to work with all stakeholders to address allegations of voter fraud.

Pakistan's Inflation Rises To 48 Year High as IMF Officials Visit For Talk

Inflation has risen to a 48-year high in crisis-hit Pakistan, where the International Monetary Fund is visiting for urgent talks, according to data released on Wednesday by the country's statistics bureau.



UNESCO listed Ukraine's Odesa a World Heritage Site in Danger

The United Nations' cultural agency, UNESCO, said on Wednesday that it had designated the historic centre of Odesa, a strategic port city on Ukraine's Black Sea coast, a World Heritage in Danger site. Russia, which invaded Ukraine 11 months ago, denounced the designation, saying the only threat to Odesa came from the "nationalist regime in Ukraine".



Australia Announced Decision to Remove British Monarchy from its Banknotes

Australia plans to drop the head of the British royal family from its five-dollar banknote in favor of a design that honors the culture of the country's Indigenous people. The new note will replace the portrait of the late Queen Elizabeth II with a tribute to the First Australians, rather than an image of King Charles III, the Reserve Bank said in a statement Thursday.



US Fed: Wall Street Bank Stress Test scenarios

Wall Street's largest banks will face a hypothetical scenario of a severe global recession with heightened stress in both commercial and residential real estate markets as part of a Federal Reserve exercise to test firms' ability to withstand crises. The central bank will examine the ability of the 23 biggest US lenders to weather crisis conditions without degrading their capital to dangerous levels. For the first time, the so-called stress test will feature an "exploratory market shock" to the trading books of the largest and most complex banks. The new component won't be counted in the capital requirements affected by tests, the Fed said.

Australia won 2023 Women T20 World Cup

AUS vs SA Highlights Women's T20 World Cup 2023 final: Australia defeated South Africa by 19 runs in the Women's T20 World Cup 2023 final, at the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town on Sunday. Chasing a target of 157 runs, South Africa reached 137/6 in 20 overs, with Laura Wolvaardt's half-century going in vain.



Meta launches New LLaMA

It's raining chatbots! After OpenAI's ChatGPT brought about a revolution, Google unveiled its BARD, and several others followed suit. Now it seems, Meta Platforms, Inc. is gearing up to have an edge over its peers. The California-based tech behemoth has introduced a new research tool that will soon aid in building AI-based chatbots. The company has publicly released its Large Language Model Meta AI (LLaMA). According to the official release, LLaMA is a state-of-the-art foundational language model developed to assist researchers in their work in the subfield of AI.

Ukraine War: India-China abstain from UN Voting

India has once again abstained from voting in a UN General Assembly resolution that condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which started a year ago. The motion was backed by 141 nations with 32 abstaining and seven, including Russia, voting against it. India reiterated its position on the invasion, saying that peaceful dialogue was the only way out. Delhi has

increasingly faced pressure to take a firm stand on Russia. Many countries, including the US and Ukraine, have publicly appealed to Delhi to take a clear stand and "do the right thing".

Google tests blocking news content

Alphabet Inc's Google is rolling out tests that block access to news content for some Canadian users, the company confirmed on Wednesday, in what it says is a test run of a potential response to the government's online news bill.



Vivek Ramaswamy launches US Presidential bid

Indian-American tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy has launched his 2024 presidential bid with a promise to “put merit back” and end dependence on China, becoming the second community member to enter the Republican Party's presidential primary after Nikki Haley. Ramaswamy, 37, whose parents migrated to the United States from Kerala and worked at a General Electric plant in Ohio, announced his presidential bid during a live interview on Fox News's prime time show of Tucker Carlson, a conservative political commentator. He is the second Indian-American to enter the Republican presidential primary.

China blocks ChatGPT

Chinese regulators have reportedly clamped down on access to ChatGPT, as Chinese tech firms and universities push forward with developing domestic artificial intelligence bots. ChatGPT, the popular discussion bot created by US-based OpenAI, is not officially available in China, where the government operates a comprehensive firewall and strict internet censorship. But many had been accessing it via VPNs, and some third-party developers had produced programs that gave some access to the service.

Starship Static Fire Test of SpaceX

WASHINGTON — SpaceX fired nearly all of the engines in the booster of its Starship launch vehicle in a ground test Feb. 9, one of the last technical milestones before the vehicle's first orbital launch attempt. The Super Heavy booster ignited its engines at about 4:14 p.m. Eastern at the company's Starbase test site in Boca Chica, Texas. The engines fired for nearly 15 seconds, with both the booster and launch infrastructure appearing intact after the test. SpaceX said that the test ran for the full intended duration.

Spain passes Europe's first menstrual paid leave law

In Spain, women now have the option to take their monthly menstrual leave for three to five days if they feel uncomfortable during their periods. On Thursday, Spain passed a number of sexual and reproductive rights laws, including ones over abortion and transgender rights, making it the first nation in Europe to grant workers the right to paid menstruation leave. Irene Montero, the nation's equality minister, stated in front of the legislature that without these rights, women are not full citizens. The menstrual leave provision will be funded by the government.

Saudi Arabia to send its first woman to space

The first-ever woman astronaut of Saudi Arabia will be going to space this year, the latest move by the kingdom to revamp its ultra-conservative image. Saudi woman astronaut Rayyana Barnawi will join fellow Saudi Ali Al-Qarni on a 10-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS) this year. Barnawi and Al-Qarni will fly to the ISS aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft as part of a mission by the private space company Axiom Space.

Aksai Chin Railway Line

A new concern for India is raised as China has planned to construct a new rail line that will operate near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and through the disputed Aksai Chin region, according to a report by railway technology. According to a new railway plan revealed by the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) government, the rail line will operate near the line of actual control (LAC) and through the disputed Aksai Chin region.

