

Weekly Current Affairs PDF February 19 to February 25, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- February 25, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

World Bank announces \$2.5 billion in additional Ukraine aid on war anniversary

- The World Bank announced \$2.5 billion in additional grant financing from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support Ukraine's budget and maintain essential services.
- The latest financing under the World Bank's Public Expenditures for Administrative Capacity Endurance in Ukraine(PEACE) project lifts the total to \$20.6 billion and will support salaries in core government functions and sectors such as healthcare and education while allowing Kyiv to pay pensions and support internally displaced people.

Pakistan receives \$700 mln funds

- Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said his country has received \$700 million funds from the China Development Bank. The deposit comes as Pakistan has been struggling with its external debt and has barely enough dollars to cover less than three weeks' worth of imports.

India-Germany Agreement to build 6 submarines for \$5.2 billion

- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to India on February 25–26 will focus on advancing a \$5.2 billion agreement between Germany and India to jointly construct six conventional submarines in India. The naval project is a Western military manufacturing power's most recent effort to wean New Delhi off of its reliance on Russian military hardware.

Earthquake Of 5.5 Magnitude Hits Central Turkiye, 37th Tremor In 66 Hours

- This is the 37th felt earthquake in Central Turkey in the last 66 hours, European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre said. According to news agency Reuters, the quake occurred at a depth of 10km. Saturday's quake comes just weeks after the border areas of the country were devastated by a larger earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

NATIONAL

Uttarakhand govt inks deal for ropeway at Yamunotri Dham

- The Uttarakhand government has signed a contract to construct a 3.38 km ropeway from Janki Chatti in Kharsali to Yamunotri Dham. To be built at a cost of Rs 166.82 crore, the ropeway will cut down the travel time from the current 2-3 hours to just 20 minutes. At present pilgrims have to trek for 5.5 km to reach Yamunotri Dham from Kharsali.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava Festival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava cultural festival at Talkatora Stadium in Delhi on 25th February 2023. Prime Minister Modi addressed the gathering on the occasion. 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' cultural festival is being organized to celebrate Karnataka's culture, traditions, and history.

SPORTS

ISL 2022-23: Chennaiyin End Season With Thrilling 4-3 Win Over NorthEast United

- Goals from skipper Anirudh Thapa, Rahim Ali Kwame Karikari and Sajal Bag powered Chennaiyin FC to an action-packed 4-3 victory against NorthEast United FC in their final league game of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2022-23 season at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Friday.

MoU's

MoU signed between CSC Academy and NIELIT

- CSC Academy, a subsidiary of Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Limited, and NIELIT (National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance digital literacy and skill development in India. The MoU aims to establish a long-term partnership between the two organizations to jointly develop and implement initiatives that promote digital literacy and create employment opportunities for the youth of India.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

RRR wins Best International Film at HCA Awards

- RRR has made the country proud again. The SS Rajamouli-directed movie has won in multiple categories at the recently-held Hollywood Critics Association Awards. RRR hit screens in 2022.
RRR is directed by SS Rajamouli.
RRR stars Jr NTR and Ram Charan.

BUSINESS

Bill Gates Buys Stake in Heineken for \$902 Million

- Bill Gates has acquired a minority stake in Heineken Holding NV, the controlling shareholder of the world's second-largest brewer, for about \$902 million. The Microsoft founder and philanthropist picked up 3.8% of Heineken Holding, according to a filing by the Dutch regulator AFM. He bought 6.65 million shares in Heineken Holding, in his individual capacity, and another 4.18 million shares through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Sword Swallowers Day

- The International Sword Swallowers Day, which takes place on the last Saturday in February, is the day for you. This year, it will be held on February 25. Sword swallowers, a.k.a. those guys who pass long, pointy, sharp instruments through their mouths into their stomachs, often don't get the same level of fame and respect as

other entertainers. This holiday was specially created to recognize and appreciate sword swallowers while educating people about their contribution to the world.

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NATIONAL

Former Karnataka Chief Minister and BJP Leader BS Yediyurappa retire from active politics

- Former Karnataka Chief Minister and BJP Leader BS Yediyurappa has announced his retirement from active politics. He announced his retirement in his last speech in the state assembly. He said, "I have decided to retire from active politics but will work till my last breath to make BJP win. My only aim is to bring BJP back to power and I am sure it will happen."

Former Supreme Court Judge Abdul Nazeer Takes Oath As Andhra Pradesh Governor

- Former Supreme Court judge Justice S. Abdul Nazeer was sworn in as Governor of Andhra Pradesh on Friday. AP High Court Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra administered the oath of office to Justice Nazeer at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in Vijayawada. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, ministers, TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, judges, and top officials attended the ceremony. The leaders and representatives greeted the new Governor following the oath of office.

Mumbai's Churchgate railway station to be renamed after India's first RBI Governor

- The Churchgate railway station in Mumbai will soon be renamed after the first governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) CD Deshmukh (Chintaman Dwarakanath Deshmukh). The station will be called 'Chintamanrao Deshmukh station'.

UP's Flying Institute IGRUA Ties Up With Flight Simulation Technique Centre To Train Student Pilots

- Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), India's flying institute, has partnered with Flight Simulation Technique Centre (FSTC), based in Gurugram, to offer specialized training to student pilots, officials said. The training will focus on preparing aviators for flying Airbus A 320, Boeing 737, and ATR 72 aircraft, making them industry-ready.

SPORTS

Pat Cummins Won't Play The Third Test Against India, Steve Smith To Lead The Side

- Australia skipper Pat Cummins will not be taking part in the third Test against India. He returned to Australia as his mother is ill. Steve Smith will be leading the side for the Indore Test, starting from March 1. Steve Smith was in Dubai with his wife and has now joined the Australian team on Thursday. He already led the side in 34 Tests between 2014 and 2018 and during the 2017 series, he amassed three centuries.

Spain's Sergio Ramos announces international retirement

- Paris Saint-Germain's and former Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos has announced that he is retiring from international football after a record 180 appearances for Spain. The 36-year-old, who will be 37 in March, published a letter on Thursday night, in which he confirmed he would no longer be available for the Spanish national side -- nearly two years after he made his last appearance on March 31, 2021, as a substitute against Kosovo.

South Africa Reach Women's T20 World Cup Final With Upset Win Over England

- Openers Laura Wolvaardt (53) and Tazmin Britz (68) struck entertaining half-centuries to take South Africa to 164 for four in the second semifinal at Newlands. The game went down to the wire thanks to the efforts of Ismail (3/27) and Khaka (4/29), who both came up with momentum changing overs. The 2009 champions England ended with 158 for eight in 20 overs.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

JSW Group chairman Sajjan Jindal wins EY entrepreneur of the year award 2022

- Sajjan Jindal, the chairman and managing director of JSW Group, was awarded as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2022. The seven-member jury led by former ICICI Bank chairman K V Kamath selected Jindal as the EOY 2022 winner for his "exceptional entrepreneurial journey in scaling the global conglomerate with presence in steel, cement, infrastructure, energy, and paints to revenues of US\$22 billion.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Artifact, the AI-powered news app from Instagram's co-founders

- Instagram's co-founders are throwing open the doors to their new personalized news app, Artifact. Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger's new app launched last month with a waitlist, but now anyone on iOS or Android can download Artifact to try it for themselves.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Central Excise Day : India

- Central Excise Day is observed in India on 24 February every year to encourage the employees of the excise department to carry out the central excise duty in a better way to prevent corruption in the manufacturing business and to carry out the best possible exercise services in India.

Flag Day Mexico

- Flag Day, or 'Día de la Bandera' as it's known in Mexico, is celebrated on February 24 every year, since it was first established. For those who did not know, the modern-day Mexican flag depicts an eagle atop a cactus, eating a snake. This fascinating emblem stems from an Aztec legend where this sight was witnessed by the Aztecs and taken to be a sign from the gods. As a result, they built their empire on that spot, and today, that spot is Mexico City, the capital of Mexico.

Estonia Independence Day

- Independence Day in Estonia is a public holiday on February 24 each year. Independence Day is also Estonia's national day that marks the anniversary of the Declaration founding the Republic of Estonia on this day in 1918. Estonia is a country in Northern Europe that borders the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland. Home to more than 1,500 islands, Estonia's diverse topography spans rocky beaches, old-growth forests, and many lakes.

International Stand Up to Bullying Day

- International Stand Up to Bullying Day is observed twice a year in February and November. In February, it is on the last Friday of the month while in November, the day takes place on the third Friday of the month. It will next be observed on February 24. The observations in February are a part of the Anti-Bullying Week that aims to create empathy and end bullying and harassment. It's observed by schools, workplaces, and organizations in more than 25 countries.

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INTERNATIONAL

UAE Hosts First I2U2 Vice-Ministerial Meeting

The vice ministers of I2U2 countries – Israel, India, the United States and the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday focused on potential partnerships in the fields of food security, energy, water, space, transport, health, and technology. The I2U2 business forum, held in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), brought together senior private and public sector representatives from the four countries to discuss opportunities for cooperation between the business communities.

NATIONAL

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde named as the Shiv Sena chief

- Eknath Shinde, the chief minister of Maharashtra, was elected as the Shiv Sena's supreme leader during the party's national executive meeting. The Election Commission of India (ECI) recognised his faction as the true Shiv Sena and gave him the "bow and arrow" insignia during the first national executive meeting following that recognition. The MLAs, MPs, and other Sena leaders who had joined Shinde after he split from the group headed by former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray were present at the meeting.

Former Income Tax Chief Commissioner TCA Ramanujam passes away

- TCA Ramanujam, Retired Chief Commissioner of Income Tax; Advocate, an erudite Sanskrit scholar and a columnist with businessline, passed away on Tuesday. He was 88. He is survived by his son, Arvind Rangarajan, and daughter, TCA Sangeetha. Ramanujam had been to Tirupati on Saturday and returned to Chennai the next day to deliver the keynote address at the Ananthawar festival. He complained of

uneasiness and was admitted at a private hospital where he died on Tuesday at 11.30 pm, said Sangeetha.

SPORTS

Aiden Markram named as new Sunrisers Hyderabad captain

- Sunrisers Hyderabad have decided to go with South African batter Aiden Markram as their new captain for the upcoming IPL 2023 season. Markram has attained tremendous success with the SRH's sister franchise, Sunrisers Eastern Cape, and led them to the inaugural SA 20 title recently. The 29-year-old will now take over from Kane Williamson, who was let-go by the franchise and went on to join defending champions Gujarat Titans during the IPL 2023 auction.

14-Year old Tilottama Sen wins Bronze in the women's 10m Air Rifle at ISSF World Cup 2023

- Indian teen Tilottama Sen won the bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Rifle at ISSF World Cup 2023 in Cairo in Egypt. The 14-year-old Tilottama Sen won the second bronze for India, fifth overall after ending the top eight ranking round with a score of 262. She missed out on the gold medal match by a narrow possible margin of 0.1. Great Britain's Seonaid McIntosh won gold and Switzerland's Olympic Champion Nina Christen came second to win silver.

IND vs AUS, Women's T20 World Cup 2023 Semifinal: Australia win by five runs

- Australia have beaten India by 5 runs in the first semifinal of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 at the Newlands, Cape Town to knock the Women in Blue out of the tournament. The win has taken the Aussies into yet another final, having previously won all their summit clashes

MOU's

University of Auckland and Tata Memorial Hospital sign MoU for cancer care

- Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, New Zealand, and Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai, the largest and the most renowned cancer care hospital and research centre in India, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to engage in long-term cooperation in cancer care. The MoU aims to explore ways to enhance cancer care using digital health. The two countries have a long history of cooperation in healthcare and this partnership builds on an already strong relationship. The University of Auckland is strongly committed to finding solutions to some of the most pressing global health issues in partnership with leading institutions.

At UAE's defence expo, an Abu Dhabi defence firm signs an MOU with India's HAL

- At the International Defence Expo and Conference on Wednesday, Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL), an aerospace company in India, and EDGE, the top defence company in the UAE, inked a Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement is inked to investigate potential areas of collaboration, such as the collaborative development of missile systems and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones).

IMPORTANT DAYS

Diesel Engine Day

- Diesel Engine Day is celebrated annually on February 23. The invention of this engine is credited to Rudolf Diesel, an engineer, who was granted a patent for the diesel engine on February 23, 1893. He came up with the engine after setting out to improve the efficiency of the Otto engine, a large, single-cylinder, four-stroke engine developed back in the 1870s. Did you know that diesel engines today, power all sorts of things including heavy construction machinery, farm tractors, trucks, marine vessels, buses, and locomotives? They are even turned into power generators at offices, airports, and hospitals. It is simply impossible to imagine our current world without this unique power system.

International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day

- No one quite knows the origin of this wagtastic holiday, but we all know that dogs love these treats. Created in the mid-19th century by American James Spratt, the cake-like biscuit comprised of meat, grains and vegetables have evolved over time, but are still dogs favorite reward. So lets raise a baked treat to International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day on February 23 and our companions who love them.

World Understanding and Peace Day

- World Understanding and Peace Day takes place on February 23 every year. This day is actually a commemoration of the first meeting of Rotary that was held. This meeting of businessmen, which aimed to be a space where their backgrounds didn't matter, started the chain of events that led to the formation of Rotary International. An international organization dedicated to humanitarian service as well as peace and goodwill throughout the world, Rotary International began in Chicago, U.S. The date of the first meeting has since become World Understanding and Peace Day, which is part of the World Understanding Month celebrations in February.

Digital Learning Day

- Digital Learning Day is celebrated annually on the last Thursday of every February. This year, it takes place on February 23. This day is an ongoing initiative led by the Alliance for Excellent Education (All4Ed) to engage students and empower educators through the effective use of digital tools.

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INTERNATIONAL

7.2 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Tajikistan Near China Border

- An earthquake of magnitude 7.2 on the Richter scale struck Tajikistan at around 8:37 a.m. (0037 GMT), at a depth of 10 km (6 miles), reported Chinese state television CCTV on Thursday. The epicentre was located about 82 kilometres from the nearest

border with China and was strongly felt in Kashgar and Artux in the western part of the Xinjiang region.

NATIONAL

AAP's Shelly Oberoi Elected Delhi Mayor, Becomes First Woman To Hold Post After A Decade

- After a long tussle between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party, AAP's Shelly Oberoi has been elected as the new mayor of Delhi on Wednesday. The mayoral election was held following the intervention by the Supreme Court. The election took place after three failed attempts by the municipal body to hold the election to the top post.

Actress And TV Host Subi Suresh Dies At 41

- Popular Malayalam actress, television host and stage-show performer, Subi Suresh died at a private hospital in Kochi on Wednesday, family sources said. She was 41 and was reportedly under treatment for liver related ailments for some time. Known for her slapstick roles, and spontaneous on-stage dialogue delivery, Suresh had a huge fan-following among audiences in small and big screens.

18th World Security Congress Begins in Jaipur

- A 3-day long 18th UIC World Security Congress jointly organised by the International Union of Railways (UIC), Paris and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) began on 21 February. Theme of this year's Congress is "Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future". The World Security Congress is a globally recognized security platform that brings together representatives from member Railway Organizations, delegates of UIC, policy makers.

Kalinga Literary Festival 2023 To Kick Off From Feb 24

- Over 500 speakers across a vast array of nationalities from the fields of literature, cinema, media and politics will assemble to deliberate on the theme of "India and the World" at the annual Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF), which will take place from February 24-26 in Odisha's Bhubaneswar.

Earthquake Of 4.4 Magnitude Shakes Delhi-NCR And Parts Of UP

- An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 jolted parts of Delhi, NCR and Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. Mild tremors were felt in many areas of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Delhi-NCR. The intensity was measured at 4.4 on the Richter scale and the epicentre has been located in Haridwar.

Ministry Of Education Asks All States, UTs To Make 6 Years Minimum Age For Class 1 Admission

- The minimum age for admission in Class 1 will soon be set to six years. The Ministry of Education has directed all states and Union Territories to fix the minimum age for admission in Class 1 as six years, officials said on Wednesday.

SPORTS

Sania Mirza Indian star retires from tennis

- The 36-year-old Sania, who turned Pro in 2003, walks out of competitive tennis with six Grand Slam titles, including three women's doubles with Swiss legend Martina Hingis. She won two of her three mixed doubles with compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi (2009 Australian Open and 2012 French Open). She won the US Open trophy with Bruno Soares.

Indian boxing team appoints new foreign coach

- Dmitry Dmitruk was roped in by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) as India's foreign coach on a two-year contract. Renowned coach Dmitruk was known for his work with the Irish national team and its youth teams in the past. He served as the high-performance coach in Ireland for the last 12 years.

UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid Come Back From Behind To Beat Liverpool, Napoli Ease Past Frankfurt

- Real Madrid came back from behind to beat Liverpool in a sensational comeback. The La Liga giants were 0-2 down at one stage but Vinicius Junior and Karim Benzema scored two goal each to aid Madrid to a convincing win in the end. The fixture at Anfield started on a positive note for the hosts as Darwin Núñez put the Reds in the lead in just the 4th minute of the match. It all seemed to be going Liverpool's way as Mohammed Salah doubled the lead in the 14th minute to put the Liverpool fans into ecstasy. But not for the first time in Champions League history, did Madrid find a way to stage a comeback.

MOUs

Uber signs MoU with Tata Motors to bring 25,000 EVs in India

- Marking a key milestone in sustainable mobility in India, Uber has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Motors to bring 25,000 electric vehicles onto the platform. This agreement is both in alignment with India's vision to reach net zero by 2070 and Uber's commitment to 100% zero-emission vehicle rides by 2040. This deal between a ride-hailing app and India's top carmaker is the largest EV commitment ever of this kind. In a statement, Uber said that Tata Motors will begin deliveries of "XPRES-T EVs to Uber fleet partners in a phased manner starting this month."

Bharat Electronics signs MoU with ADA, DRDO to jointly support Indian Air Force

- Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), the government-owned aerospace and defense electronics company, in an exchange filing on February 21, announced it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under DRDO, to develop and provide a supportive infrastructure for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Poet V Madhusoodanan Nair to receive Jnanappana award

- V Madhusoodanan Nair, noted writer, and teacher, has been selected for this year's Jnanappana Puraskaram, instituted by Guruvayur Devaswom in memory of 'Poonthanam Namboothiri', the ardent devotee of Guruvayoorappan, who wrote Jnanappana.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Thinking Day

- Scouts and Girl Guides across 150 countries celebrate World Thinking Day. It's a day of international friendship and a time to stand up for causes that could improve the lives of girls around the globe.
- Observed by 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide, World Thinking Day has a different theme each year. In 2023, the theme is "Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The environment, peace, and security." To earn your World Thinking Day Award, you will explore environmental problems and learn how you can work with nature to create a more peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere. Check out the activity guides below to get involved and learn about how you can make a difference in the world.

National California Day

- We celebrate National California Day on February 22. It is a day to commemorate the Golden State of the United States of America. California is one of the western states in the U.S. It is also the most populous state and the third-largest state by area. California has a rich history that witnessed native American life, European exploration, Spanish colonization, the Mexican era, the Gold Rush, and U.S. statehood. California is one of the most popular destinations, famous for monuments like the Golden Gate Bridge, places like Disneyland and Hollywood, and last but not least, for events like Coachella.

Scouts Founder's Day

- Scouts Founder's Day on February 22 honors Lord Baden-Powell and his wife, Olave, the first Chief Girl Guide. Scouts Founder's Day is known as Founders Day throughout the world. It's a time for Scouts and Guides to reaffirm their oaths together and contemplate how Scouting's century-old values are still relevant in today's fast-paced world.

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INTERNATIONAL

Russian President Announces Suspension Of Participation In Last Remaining Nuclear Treaty With US

- President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia would withdraw from the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) pact with the United States, which limits

the two countries' strategic nuclear arsenals. The New START treaty was signed in Prague in 2010, went into effect the following year, and was renewed for five years in 2021, shortly after US President Joe Biden took office.

- It restricts the amount of strategic nuclear warheads that the US and Russia can deploy, as well as the use of land-based and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

NATIONAL

Former Meghalaya Home Minister HDR Lyngdoh Passes Away

- Meghalaya Elections 2023: Former Meghalaya Home Minister HDR Lyngdoh passed away on Monday following a heart attack. Lyngdoh was a United Democratic Party (UDP) candidate from the Sohiong assembly in East Khasi hills. As per ANI, the polls in the state will now be conducted in 59 out of 60 constituencies. According to ANI, Lyngdoh passed away after he suddenly collapsed during election campaigning. He was then rushed to a hospital. Lyngdoh had lost the 2018 polls which he had contested on a Congress ticket.

SPORTS

Tata Group Bags Title Rights For Inaugural Women's Premier League

- BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, Tuesday, announced Indian multinational conglomerate Tata Group as the official title sponsors for the inaugural Women's Premier League beginning in Mumbai on March 4.
- It will be played across two venues in Mumbai, Brabourne Stadium and DY Patil Stadium.

Women's T20 World Cup: England Script History, Thrash Pakistan By 114 runs

- England smashed the highest score in the history of the Women's T20 World Cup and won by the biggest margin ever seen at the tournament, hammering Pakistan by 114 runs, here on Tuesday. The England batters warmed up for the knockout stages with a thrilling display, smashing Pakistan's attack to all corners of Newlands as they reached 213/5 in their 20 overs, Pakistan ended their tournament in disappointing fashion, managing to avoid being bowled out, but finishing on 99/9.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Rafael Nadal Backs Fellow Nominee Lionel Messi To Win 2023 Laureus Sportsman Award.

- Tennis superstar Rafael Nadal has backed Lionel Messi to win the 2023 Laureus Sportsman Of The Year Award. He said that the 2022 FIFA World Cup winner deserves the honour. Notably, Laureus announced the nominees for various categories and the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year shortlist list includes both Nadal and Messi among other athletes like Kylian Mbappe, Iga Swiatek, Tiger Woods and Mikaela Shiffrin.

APPOINTMENTS

BVR Subrahmanyam, the new NITI Aayog CEO

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, IAS (Retd.) as Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog, vice Shri Parameswaran Iyer, upon his appointment as Executive Director, World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC, USA, for two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, a statement released by the government said.

Parameswaran Iyer New Executive Director, World Bank

- Parameswaran Iyer, who was working as Niti Aayog CEO since June 2022, has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank headquarters, Washington DC, USA for a tenure of three years.

Rajesh Rai appointed as CMD of ITI Limited

- Rajesh Rai has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of ITI Limited, a PSU under the Department of Telecommunications, According to an order issued from the Personnel & Training (DoPT) on Monday, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajesh Rai for a period of five years with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post, or till the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. Presently, he is serving as General Manager in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOOGY

India's lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 achieves another milestone

- In a boost to India's lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3 has successfully underwent EMI-EMC (Electro-Magnetic Interference/ Electro-Magnetic Compatibility). The EMI-EMC test is conducted for satellite missions to ensure functionality of the satellite subsystems in the space environment and their compatibility with the expected electromagnetic level.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mother Language Day

- International Mother Language Day is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. First announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999, it was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly with the adoption of UN resolution in 2002. Mother Language Day is part of a broader initiative "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world" as adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 May 2007 in UN resolution which also established 2008 as the International Year of Languages. The idea to celebrate

International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, 21 February is the anniversary of the day when the people of Bangladesh (then East Bengal of Pakistan) fought for recognition for the Bengali language. It is also celebrated in West Bengal, India.

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INTERNATIONAL

Biden Announces \$500 Million Aid Package And More Arms Supplies To Ukraine During Surprise Visit

- US President Joe Biden on Monday announced new military aid and a fresh round of sanctions on Russia during his surprise visit to Ukraine to meet with President Volodymyr Zelensky. This is Biden's first visit to a war zone as president. Biden announced an aid package worth \$500 million that would include artillery ammunition, more javelins and howitzers.

North Korea Fires Ballistic Missile Towards South Korea's Eastern Waters

- North Korea launched an unspecified ballistic missile on Monday, the South Korean military said. This is North Korea's second missile launch in less than 48 hours and a day after joint US-South Korean drills, as reported by the news agency AFP. "North Korea fired an unspecified ballistic missile toward the East Sea on Monday," Seoul's Joint Chief of Staff said, according to the official Yonhap news agency, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

NATIONAL

Nitin Gadkari Laid Foundation Stone of The First Divyang Park of Maharashtra

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari laid the Foundation Stone of the world's largest and unique Divyang Park – Anubhuti Inclusive Park in Nagpur, Maharashtra. On the occasion, he informed that the park is being developed keeping in mind the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build an inclusive society. Instead of sympathy, this park will show empathy, hence this park has been named Anubhuti Divyang Park.

SPORTS

India Beat Ireland To Reach T20 WC Semis In Rain-Affected Match

- India women's cricket team qualified for Women's T20 World Cup semi-final after winning the rain-affected match against Ireland women's cricket team at St. George Park in Gqebera on Monday, February 20. India secured a 5-run win vs Ireland on the D/L method. Smriti Mandhana, who was dropped thrice by Ireland fielders during the match, starred with the bat as she played a heroic 87-run knock off 56 balls -- her career best score, highest score by an Indian women's batter in T20Is.

No Jasprit Bumrah In the Team For 3rd And 4th Test Matches Vs Australia

- Ranji stalwart Jaydev Unadkat has made it into the Indian red-ball side after missing the 2nd Test against Australia. Jasprit Bumrah has still not been added to the squad as he is still recuperating from the back injury.

Josh Hazlewood Ruled Out Of The Border-Gavaskar Trophy

- Australia's speedster Josh Hazlewood has been ruled out of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy due to an Achilles injury. Australia coach Andrew McDonald confirmed the same. The pacer will be flying back to Australia for his rehabilitation. Hazlewood confirmed the same as he sustained a left Achilles niggle at last month's Test against South Africa.

Ben Stokes breaks the record for the most number of sixes ever hit in a Test match

- England Test captain Ben Stokes became the player to hit the most number of sixes in the history of Test cricket, surpassing England coach and former New Zealand cricketer Brendon McCullum in the match against New Zealand.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Special 'Protein Toolbox' Developed By IIT Guwahati Can Convert Skin Cells To Heart Cells

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a special 'Protein Toolbox' which can be used to convert skin cells into heart cells, and hence, fix a damaged heart. Known as a 'Recombinant Protein Toolbox', it comprises six special proteins, and can be used to regenerate damaged heart tissues.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Mizoram State Day

- Mizoram State Day is on February 20. The day marks the formation of Mizoram as a state. The region is a state in north-eastern India and shares a border with countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar. Are you wondering why this particular name was chosen for the state? Well, it's because the inhabitants of the region are called Mizo. Based on the history, the British were particularly interested in the region's resources such as tea and milk when they took over India. Hence, the state was officially formulated once India gained independence.

World Day of Social Justice

- World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20. Internationally, the world is plagued with unfortunate issues that prohibit millions of individuals from living a fair life. Many of the world's population, through no fault of their own, are deprived of basic facilities, such as homes, jobs, healthcare, education, nutrition, and more.

President's Day : United States

- On the third Monday in February, the United States celebrates the federal holiday known as Presidents Day. The day takes place during the birth month of the

country's two most prominent presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. While the day once only honored President George Washington on his birthday, February 22nd, the day now never lands on a single president's birthday.

National Love Your Pet Day

- On February 20th, pet lovers everywhere observe National Love Your Pet Day. This holiday focuses on giving extra attention to our pets. The day encourages pampering our pets and focusing on the special relationship pets hold in our lives.

Current Affairs PDF- February 19, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

Israeli Missile Strikes Residential Building In Syria's Damascus : 15 Dead

- At least 15 people, including civilians, were killed in an Israeli rocket strike that hit a residential building in Damascus's Kafr Sousa neighbourhood early on Sunday, reported AFP quoting the Syrian Observatory for human rights. The Israeli airstrikes targeted a heavily guarded security complex close to Iranian installations, witnesses and officials told Reuters.

North Korea Confirms Testing Ballistic Missile

- North Korea tested a Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on Saturday in a "sudden launching drill" that confirmed its readiness for "mobile and mighty counterattack" against hostile forces, as per the state news agency KCNA. North Korea on Saturday afternoon launched a long-range ballistic missile into the sea off Japan's west coast. The launch came after North Korea warned of a strong response to South Korea and US' upcoming drills.

NATIONAL

Ujjain Breaks UP's World Record As 18.82 Lakh Diyas Illuminate City On Shivratri

- The country celebrated Mahashivratri on February 18, with great enthusiasm. From visiting the Shiva temples to the magnificent aarti in Varanasi and also the Sand Art Crafting at Juhu Beach, the festival was celebrated with devotion and fervour. Twitter and Instagram were flooded with wishes and posts amidst long hours of fasting. But, the most interesting bit of the entire celebration lay in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. The city lit up with 18.82 lakh oil lamps, providing an outstanding view, and setting a New Guinness World Record. This took place primarily along the banks of the Kshipra river and drew over 20,000 volunteers.

SPORTS

Saurashtra beats Bengal By Nine Wickets To Bag Second Ranji Trophy Title

- Left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat claimed a match haul of nine wickets, including 6/85 in the second innings, as Saurashtra thrashed Bengal by nine wickets in the Ranji Trophy final here on Sunday.

- Brief Scores Bengal 174 and 241 in 70.4 overs (Manoj Tiwary 68, Anustup Majumdar 61; Jaydev Unadkat 6/85, Chetan Sakariya 3/76). Saurashtra: 404 and 14/1 in 2.4 overs. Saurashtra won by nine wickets.

India Beat Australia In 2nd Test of The Border–Gavaskar Trophy

- The Indian team outplayed the Australians by six wickets in the second Test and took a 2-0 lead in the four-match series in another three-day finish on Sunday. India got the target of 115 after they restricted the Kangaroo's batters for 113 in their second innings. India completed the chase in 26.4 overs on the third day of the match.

Virat Kohli Breaks Sachin Tendulkar's All-Time Record, Becomes Quickest To Score 25,000 Runs In International Cricket

- India batter Virat Kohli scaled another historic milestone in his career, becoming the fastest batter to score 25,000 runs in international cricket. He did so on Day 3 of the second Test against Australia in New Delhi. In the process, Kohli surpassed his idol and the Master Blaster, Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached the landmark in 577 matches. Virat, on the other hand, did so in 549 matches. Following Virat and Sachin are the likes of Ricky Ponting (588), Jacques Kallis (594), Kumar Sangakkara (608) and Mahela Jayawardene (701).

Women's T20 World Cup: Hayley Matthews' All-Round Show Steers West Indies To Thrilling Win Over Pakistan

- West Indies registered a thrilling three-run win over Pakistan in their Women's T20 World Cup face-off to keep their dim hopes of a semifinal qualification alive at the Boland Park, Paarl on Sunday. Opting to bat first, the Windies had posted 116/6 with the help of useful knocks from Rashada Williams (30 off 34) and Hayley Matthews (20 off 21) with S Campbelle (22), Chinelle Henry (11) and Shabika Gajabi (13) also chipping in with the bat.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier BD Mishra (Retd) Takes Oath As New Lieutenant Governor Of Ladakh

- Brigadier BD Mishra (Retd.) was sworn in as the next lieutenant governor (LG) of Ladakh on Sunday. N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, administered the oath of office at the Raj Niwas in Leh. Mishra, a former governor of Arunachal Pradesh, is the second LG of Ladakh after Radha Krishnan Mathur, who resigned after three years in office, from 31 October 2019 to 11 February 2023, following Ladakh's secession from Jammu and Kashmir.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

These Silicon Nanowires Can Produce Hydrogen From Water And Sunlight

- A team of researchers has engineered silicon nanowires that can produce hydrogen from water and sunlight. Hydrogen is a greener alternative to fossil fuels. The nanowires, developed by researchers from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, can split water into oxygen and hydrogen gas, and hence, convert sunlight into electricity.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

German Film 'All Quiet On The Western Front' Creates Buzz With Seven Wins at BAFTA Awards

- The German epic film "All Quiet on the Western Front" dominated the BAFTA Awards in London on Sunday night with a record-breaking seven wins, including for Best Director, Best Film and Best Film Not in the English Language. The previous record was held by 1988 film "Cinema Paradiso", which won five BAFTA Awards.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Shivaji Jayanti

- Shivaji Jayanti, also known as Shiv Jayanti and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti, is a grand celebration that honors the birth of the great Maratha warrior, Shivaji Maharaj. From cultural programs to parades, the festival is a feast for the senses and a great chance to immerse yourself in the rich tradition and legacy of Maharashtra.

World Whale Day

- World Whale Day is celebrated every year on the third Sunday in February and this year, it takes place on February 19. This day seeks to appreciate these aquatic creatures that are an important part of the ecosystem. World Whale Day, was founded in Maui, Hawaii in 1980 to honor humpback whales, which swim off of the coast of this tropical island. This day was started as an idea by Greg Kauffman, founder of the Pacific Whale Foundation, to raise awareness about the threat of extinction faced by humpback whales.

International Tug of War Day

- Tug of War Day is celebrated on February 19 every year. The day is dedicated to honouring one of the easiest sports, Tug of War. This game is a competitive sport that is beneficial for muscle development, and it is a lot of fun to play. The Tug of War is played all over the world.