



CURRENT AFFAIRS 18th February 2023

National News

1. Chetan Sharma step down as Chief Selector of Indian cricket team



- Chetan Sharma stepped down as Chief Selector of the Indian cricket team today following a sting operation by a private news channel in which he made startling revelations.
- He tendered his resignation to BCCI secretary which has been accepted.
- He was in Kolkata along with other selection committee members for the Ranji Trophy final between Bengal and Saurashtra to select the Irani Cup team.
- Chetan Sharma was reinstated as the chief selector after India's bitter-sweet campaign at the T20 World Cup in Australia.

2. PM Modi condoles demise of noted Yakshagana playback singer, Balipa Narayana Bhagawatha



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, February 17, condoled the demise of legendary Yakshagana playback singer Balipa Narayana Bhagawatha, 84, at his residence at Maruru, near Moodbidri in Dakshina Kannada on Thursday, February 16.
- Mr. Modi tweeted on Friday: “Shri Balipa Narayana Bhagawatha made a mark in the world of culture.
- He devoted his life towards Yakshagana playback singing and was admired for his exemplary style.
- His works will be admired by the coming generations. Pained by his demise. Condolences to his family. Om Shanti.”
- In his tweet on Thursday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that Mr. Bhagawatha was known as the “Bheeshma” of Tenku Thittu school of Yakshagana.
- He was known for “Balipa style” of singing with his rich voice and his demise is an unbearable loss to the Yakshagana theater.

3. Lexi, a ChatGPT-powered AI chatbot, debuts in India



- Lexi, a ChatGPT-powered AI chatbot, has arrived in India. Velocity, a financial technology firm, launched the chatbot to assist e-commerce owners by presenting them with business information in a simplified manner.
- Velocity insights, Velocity's proprietary analytics platform, has been linked with the chatbot.
- "We are thrilled to launch India's first chatbot tool that is integrated with ChatGPT.
- We have integrated this latest advancement in artificial intelligence with our existing analytics tool – Velocity Insights," the blog post by Velocity reads.
- The CEO and co-founder of Velocity, Abhiroop Medhekar, said in the same blog post that the product teams had been thinking of ways to use the ChatGPT technology for the benefit of their customers.
- He said, "We strive to provide leverage to eCommerce founders.
- Ever since ChatGPT launched, our product teams have been brainstorming on how it can be leveraged to benefit our founders.
- Since Velocity customers already use Insights on a daily basis, we integrated ChatGPT with the same interface that

they leverage for driving business spending, revenues, and so on.

- It provides founders with necessary business insights, which can be accessed via WhatsApp in the form of a daily business report.

4. AICTE, BPRD launch national hackathon KAVACH-2023



- Advancing India's cyber-preparedness, KAVACH-2023, a national level hackathon was launched to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions for addressing the cyber security and cybercrime challenges of the 21st century.
- KAVACH-2023 is a one-of-a-kind national hackathon jointly developed by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.
- KAVACH-2023 is a unique kind of national hackathon jointly conducted by MoE's Innovation Cell, AICTE, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D, MHA) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C, MHA) to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions for addressing the cyber security and cybercrime challenges of the 21st century faced by our Law Enforcement Agencies and common citizens.
- KAVACH-2023 will be conducted in two phases. In the first phase, the problem statements, grouped into various buckets such as Fake News/social media, Dark web, Women safety, Phishing Detection, Video analytics/CCTV,

Obscene Content Detection, Spam Alert, and Malware Analysis/Digital Forensics shall be posed to the public.

- **Second phase which shall culminate with Grand Finale, selected participants will be expected to demonstrate their solutions for ascertaining technical feasibility and implementability of their solutions. Best ideas will be declared winners by the jury.**

5. Mirzapur actor Shahnawaz Pradhan dies of heart attack at awards event: 'Shortly after receiving the award...'



- **Shahnawaz Pradhan, best known for featuring in series Mirzapur and movie Raees, has died following a heart attack, actor Yashpal Sharma said.**
- **He was in his late 50s.**
- **Pradhan complained of severe chest pain, fell unconscious and suffered a heart attack during an award function here on Friday evening.**
- **He was immediately rushed to Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital but the doctors couldn't revive him.**
- **Sharma, who was also present at the event, shared a note on Instagram detailing the incident.**
- **"Today I attended this program in Mumbai... Everything was going great... Hundreds of artists were present but shortly after receiving the award our beloved artist Shahnawaz had an attack...**
- **"The whole program stopped with the help of the people and the doctor picked him up and took him to Kokilaben Hospital which was the closest but no one could save him and he passed away... May his soul rest in peace and courage to the family," Sharma wrote.**

6. Jaguar Land Rover President and MD Rohit Suri to hang boots after 14 yrs



- Tata Motors has appointed Rajan Amba as the Managing Director of Jaguar Land Rover India.
- He will take charge on March 1, 2023. Amba replaces Rohit Suri, who announced his retirement earlier this year.
- Amba's contributions have been instrumental in improving customer experience and expanding Tata Motors' retail network.
- He has been spearheading the commercial teams since October 2020.
- Rajan will be replacing Rohit Suri, who announced his retirement from the position of MD and President back in January 2023.

7. IIT Roorkee, Central Water Commission to develop international center of excellence for dams



- The Central Water Commission (CWC), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for Development of International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED) under externally funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Phase II and Phase III.
- This MoA will remain valid for ten years or till the duration of the DRIP Phase-II and Phase-II Scheme, whichever is earlier, from the date of signing.
- ICED, Roorkee will provide specialized technical support services to the Indian and overseas dam owners.
- It will also carry out applied research, education, and technology transfer in dam safety management at local, regional, national, and international levels.

8. Balipa Narayana Bhagawatha passes away



- Famous Yakshagana singer and screenwriter Balipa Narayan Bhagwat passed away at the age of 85.
- He had mastered a unique style of singing, due to which fans have given it the name of 'Balipa Style'. Rich in voice, Bhagwat has written more than 30 Yakshagana 'Prasanga' (scripts).
- He was well versed in over 100 Yakshagana episodes, which he composed by heart.
- He had served in the field of Yakshagana for about 60 years. He was the chief Bhagwat of Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali (Kateel Mela).