

### ❖ India's Pragganandhaa finishes of in 2nd place

- Magnus Carlsen finally managed to win the FIDE World Cup for the first time in his career after three days and four games of intensely nervy chess across two formats.
- He defeated India's Pragganandhaa in the final.
- Carlsen's win was confirmed after the second game of the tiebreaker. The two players had played out one draw each in the first two games.
- The FIDE World Cup has been an event to savour for Pragganandhaa since he also secured a spot at the prestigious Candidates Tournament, which is held to find a challenger for world champion Ding Liren at the next world chess championship battle.
- Pragganandhaa, who is 18 years old, was the youngest World Cup finalist ever, and is the youngest World Cup winner.
- He became the third youngest player after the legendary Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

### ❖ Chandrayaan-3 safely landed on the moon

- The Chandrayaan-3 lander named Vikram, has made a successful landing on the surface of the moon, making India the first country to reach close to the lunar South Pole.
- India has become the 4<sup>th</sup> nation in history to land on the lunar surface.
- Objective of Chandrayaan-3 is to demonstrate landing capabilities for Lunar Polar Exploration Mission.

## Why ISRO wants to explore the Moon's South Pole?

1. Water Resources: The South Pole region is believed to have water molecules in substantial amounts, possibly trapped as ice in the permanently shadowed craters.

➤ Exploring and confirming the presence of water is essential for future human missions and the potential utilization of lunar resources.

2. Scientific Discoveries: The extreme environment and the presence of permanently shadowed regions provide a preserved record of the Moon's history and the early Solar System.

3. Clues of Earth's History: The Moon is thought to have formed from debris generated by a giant impact between a Mars-sized object and the early Earth.

➤ By studying the lunar South Pole, scientists can gain insights into the materials and conditions that existed during the formation of the Earth-Moon system.

4. Global Collaborations: ISRO-NASA successfully confirmed the presence of water from the data taken by Chandrayaan-1. Indo-Japan collaboration, LUPEX aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon's South Pole in around 2024.

5. Technological Advancements: By undertaking missions to this region, ISRO can develop and demonstrate innovative technologies for soft landing, navigation, resource utilization, and long-duration operations that can be applied in future space missions.

### ❖ LCA Tejas successfully test-fired ASTRA missile

- Tejas, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) LSP-7 successfully fired the ASTRA indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa.
- The missile release was successfully carried out from the aircraft at an altitude of about 20,000 ft. All the objectives of the test were met and it was a perfect textbook launch.
- The aircraft was also monitored by a Chase Tejas twin seater aircraft.
- ASTRA, a state-of-the-art BVR air-to-air missile to engage and destroy highly maneuvering supersonic aerial targets, is designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and other laboratories of DRDO.
- The indigenous Astra BVR firing from home grown Tejas fighter is a major step towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

### ❖ German government plans to ease citizenship rules for immigrants

- Germany's government defended a plan to make it easier for people to apply for citizenship.
- The government has said it wants to boost immigration and training to tackle a skills shortage weighing on Europe's largest economy at a time of weakening growth, and when an aging population is piling pressure on the public pension system.
- The government wants to do that in part by significantly reducing the income threshold for migration and introducing a points system.

➤ Anyone who lives and works in Germany, on a permanent basis will also be able to vote and be elected and they will be part of the country with all the rights and duties.

### ❖ **C.R.Rao passed away**

➤ Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, FRS, commonly known as C. R. Rao, was an Indian-American mathematician and statistician.

➤ He had recently received the prestigious “International Prize in Statistics-2023”, often referred to as the “statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize”.

➤ He was the former director of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and was a former professor at Pennsylvania State University and Research at the University at Buffalo.

➤ C R Rao was born into a Telugu family in Ballari, which was part of the Madras Presidency and is now in Karnataka.

➤ He studied mathematics at Andhra University and obtained a degree with top honours.

### ❖ **India's proposal for BRICS expansion**

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India supports expansion of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) grouping and they should move forward with consensus on this.

➤ He also expressed hope that India's proposal to accord permanent membership of the G20 to the African Union will be supported by all the BRICS nations.

➤ In 2016, during India's chairmanship, we defined BRICS as Building Responsive, Inclusive, and Collective Solutions.

➤ After seven years, we can say that BRICS will be – Breaking barriers, Revitalising economies, Inspiring innovation, creating opportunities, and shaping the future.

➤ India has taken the lead in forging consensus to select new members for the BRICS and there was significant development in the proposed expansion of the five-nation grouping.

### ❖ India bagged gold and silver at World Para Powerlifting Championships 2023 held in Dubai

➤ Indian powerlifters, Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjya, clinched gold and silver medals respectively in the World Para Powerlifting Championships in Dubai.

➤ Dabbas clinched the nation's first ever gold with lifts of 132kg and then 135kg displaying amazing grit, determination and strength.

➤ Jorajya secured silver with a final lift of 132kg in the fiercely contested men's 72kg junior weight category.

➤ These Medals are historic for India as these are the first ever Gold and Silver for India in any World Championships.

### ❖ ICG signs MoU with Philippine Coast Guard to enhance maritime cooperation

➤ Indian Coast Guard has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippine Coast Guard to enhance maritime cooperation.

➤ This MoU will enhance bilateral maritime cooperation between the two nations for ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas in the region.

➤ It was signed by the Director General of Indian Coast Guard Rakesh Pal and the Commandant of Philippine Coast Guard Admiral Artemio M Abu in New Delhi.

➤ Both sides held their first bilateral meeting on a range of maritime issues.

❖ **The US 's Food and Drug Administration approved first respiratory syncytial virus vaccine**

➤ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Abrysvo (Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine), the first vaccine approved for use in pregnant individuals to prevent Lower Respiratory Tract Disease (LRTD) and severe LRTD caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants from birth through 6 months of age.

➤ Abrysvo is approved for use at 32 through 36 weeks gestational age of pregnancy. It is administered as a single dose injection into the muscle.

➤ RSV is a highly contagious virus that causes respiratory infections in individuals of all age groups.

➤ In most parts of the U.S., RSV circulation is seasonal, typically starting during the fall and peaking in the winter.

➤ The virus is especially common in children, and most individuals can be expected to be infected with RSV by the time they reach two years of age.

➤ RSV most often causes cold-like symptoms in infants and young children, it can also lead to serious LRTD such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis (swelling of the small airway passages in the lungs).

❖ **LIC acquires 6.7% stake in Jio Financial Services via RIL demerger action**

➤ Life Insurance Corporation has acquired 6.660% shareholding in Jio Financial Services, the demerged financial entity of Reliance Industries.

➤ The cost of the acquisition was done through the demerger of the non-banking financial entity is 4.68 % of the pre-demerged cost of Reliance Industries as per the notice of the company.

➤ The country's largest insurer held a 6.49 per cent stake in RIL at the end of June 2023.

➤ JFS shares hit its lower circuit limits for the second straight session on August 21.

### ❖ **China launched Gaofen Earth-observation satellite**

➤ China sent a new Earth observation satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

➤ The satellite, Gaofen-12 04, was launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket and has entered the planned orbit successfully.

➤ It will be used in a variety of fields, including land surveys, urban planning, road network design, crop yield estimation and disaster relief.

➤ This launch marks the 484th flight mission of the Long March series carrier rockets.

### ❖ **Haryanvi singer Raju Punjabi passed away at the age of 40**

➤ Popular Haryanvi singer Raju Punjabi died in Hisar at the age of 40 years.

➤ He was born at a village in Rawtsar in Rajasthan's Hunamangarh district.

➤ He had charted out several hit songs as "Desi desi na bolya kar", "Solid Body", "Sandal", "Aacha lage Se", "Tu Cheez Lajawab", "Bhang Mere Yaara Ne", and "Last Peg".

. He started his career by singing religious songs and rose to fame in 2013 with his song "Yaar Dohara Nahi Milen".

. Punjabi's last song "Aapse Milke Yaara Humko Achha Laga Tha" was released on August 12.

## ❖ Sachin to be National Icon for Election Commission of India

- Bharat Ratna Awardee, Legendary Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has been declared as the National Icon of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to create awareness among voters and encourage their participation in the electoral process.
- This is a new inning for Tendulkar after retiring from cricket. He said, every vote is important in the development of the nation and encouraged the voters especially the young citizen to cast their votes.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Sachin Tendulkar for three years in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.
- Through this partnership, ECI aims to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy toward voting.
- Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections, Cricketer MS Dhoni, Actor Aamir Khan, and Boxing Champion Mary Kom were the ECI national icons.

## ❖ Khelo India Women's League officially be known as Asmita Women's League

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as Asmita Women's League.

- ASMITA refers to Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women through Action.
- Mr Thakur appreciated the entire team of Khelo India for conceptualizing the idea and developing Asmita Portal and new logo saying that it a significant stride towards the digitalization of Indian Sports.

➤ The Asmita Portal serves as a comprehensive resource, offering valuable insights into upcoming leagues among other features. It will enable any school, college, government, or private organization to host the 'Asmita Women's League' and be part of Khelo India's march towards sporting excellence.

#### ❖ **Meesho to digitize 10 million sellers**

- The e-commerce marketplace Meesho has announced its goal to onboard 10 million small businesses by 2027.
- Meesho came together with various industry stakeholders like ONDC and CAIT to honour and celebrate MSME sellers across various categories.
- This aspirational goal marks a remarkable 10-fold expansion of Meesho's current seller base of 1.3 million, simultaneously unlocking new opportunities for small, medium, and local enterprises with an annual turnover below 40 lakhs, to embrace the realm of digital commerce.
- This initiative also aligns with the decision taken by the Government of India to relax the mandatory GST requirement for online sales for businesses with an annual turnover of less than Rs 40 lakh.

#### ❖ **Nasscom's sector skill council unveils talent connect portal**

- Sector Skills Council NASSCOM has launched the Talent Connect portal, a platform that aims to bridge the gap between companies scouting for digitally skilled professionals and certified candidates who wish to build their careers in the technology sector.
- The portal currently features a talent pool of over 1.5 lakh skilled and certified individuals available for immediate recruitment.

- NASSCOM expects this number to reach 5 lakh within the next six months. The portal's launch phase features 30,000-plus live job opportunities from over 15 prominent tech companies, including giants like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tech Mahindra, Salesforce, as well as startups and established tech firms.
- The portal is designed to streamline industry hiring processes and enhance cost-effective deployment.
- It focusses on core IT skills encompassing roles such as customer care executives and data entry specialists, and emerging tech skills covering latest full-stack capabilities, programming languages like Java and Python, data scientists, and cybersecurity experts.