

## Top Current Affairs of the Week (8 – 15 September 2019)

### 1. Rafael Nadal wins 2019 US Open men's title

- Spain's **Rafael Nadal** (34-years) defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev 7–5, 6–3, 5–7, 4–6, 6–4 to claim US Open Men's tennis tournament - 2019 (139th edition) in New York (USA).
- It was **Rafael Nadal** fourth US Open title and 19th Grand Slam title.
- Canadian tennis player Bianca Andreescu (19-years) has lifted the Women's singles title of US Open 2019.
- She won the Grand Slam defeating Serena Williams of US in straight sets 6–3, 7–5.
- It was the first time a Canadian tennis player claimed the Grand Slam singles title.

Event	Champion	Runner-up
Men's Singles final	<b>Rafael Nadal</b> (Spain)	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
Women's Singles final	Bianca Andreescu (Canada)	Serena Williams (USA)
Men's Doubles final	Juan Sebastián Cabal (Colombia) & Robert Farah (Colombia)	Marcel Granollers (Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)
Women's Doubles final	Elise Mertens (Belgian) & Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Ashleigh Barty (Australia) and Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
Mixed Doubles final	Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) & Jamie Murray (UK)	Chan Hao-ching (Taiwan) and Michael Venus (New Zealand)

### Note:

- The 2019 US Open was the 139th edition of tennis' US Open and the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year.
- This was the last Grand Slam to have 32 seeds with the format reverting to 16 seeds from the start of the 2019 season.

### 2. India Red beat India Green to win Duleep Trophy 2019–20

- India Red** thrashed **India Green** by an innings and 38 runs in the final to win the Duleep Trophy **2019–20** at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore.
- Right-arm off-spinner Akshay Wakhare picked up a brilliant five-wicket haul to hand India Red the Duleep Trophy title.
- Abhimanyu Easwaran** was the leading run-scorer for India Red adjudged the **Player of the Match**.

### Final Score

- India Green: 231 and 119
- India Red: 388

**Note:**

- The **Duleep Trophy** is a domestic first-class cricket competition played in India between teams representing geographical zones of India.
- The tournament was contested by three teams, namely **India Red, India Blue, and India Green.**

**3. 8th September: International Literacy Day**

- The **International Literacy Day (ILD)** is being observed on 8th September every year throughout the world to raise public awareness to eradicate illiteracy and create an environment in favour of adult education programs.
- It is an opportunity for **Governments**, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates and reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges.
- The Theme of International Literacy Day 2019 is **Literacy and Multilingualism.**

**Note:**

- The UNESCO in its 14th Session in November 1966, declared 8th September as the International Literacy Day.
  - After the 2011 census, literacy rate India 2011 was found to be 74.04%.
- 4. PM Modi inaugurates first 'Make in India' metro coach in Mumbai**
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **first Metro Coach** in Mumbai under the '**Make in India**' initiative at **Jio World Centre**, Maharashtra, Mumbai.
  - The coach has been built by **Bharat Earth Movers (BEML)** at its **Bengaluru facility** in flat 75 days.
  - Mr Modi also inaugurated **three Metro lines** that are expected to add more than **42 km** to the metro network of the city.
  - Maharashtra is pumping in over **Rs 1.2 lakh crore** to build 14 metro corridors stretching 337-km over the next decade.
  - The prime minister inaugurated AURIC (Aurangabad Industrial City) business and administrative building and dedicated DMIC AURIC City to the nation.
- 5. 68th Plenary session of NEC begins in Guwahati**
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** chaired the 68th Plenary session of the **North Eastern Council (NEC)** in Guwahati, Assam.
  - Governors and **Chief Ministers** of North Eastern states (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim) have attended the 2-day event.
  - There will be presentations from various ministries and state governments on various developmental issues which are critical to the North East.

**Note:**

- **North Eastern Council (NEC)** is a statutory advisory body constituted under the NEC Act 1971 and came into being on the 7th November 1972.
- The eight states of Northeast India are members of the council, with their respective Chief Ministers and Governors representing them.
- The headquarters of the council is situated in Shillong and functions under the ministry of home affairs of the Government of India.

#### 6. **Rohit Sharma launches a campaign to conserve rhinos**

- India vice-captain **Rohit Sharma** is going to help **build awareness** for the need to conserve the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros or the Indian Rhino.
- Rohit Sharma is launching **Rohit4Rhinos campaign**, in partnership with WWF India and Animal Planet, on World Rhino Day (on 22<sup>nd</sup> September), where Rohit pledges to do his bit to save the "vulnerable" species from extinction.
- Rohit Sharma joined WWF India as its Brand Ambassador for Rhino Conservation in 2018.
- Animal Planet will run a series of path-breaking programmes during 'Rhino Week' to sensitize people about these gentle giants.

#### 7. **UAE hosts the 24th edition of the World Energy Congress**

- Today, the **24th World Energy Congress** will commence in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the **United Arab Emirates** (9-12 September 2019).
- The four-day World Energy Congress aims to bring together international energy stakeholders, including governments, private and state corporations, academia and media.
- The theme of this World Energy Congress is Energy for Prosperity which also represents the ambitious and dynamic energy transition of the country.
- With over 15,000 participants expected, Congress is set to welcome over 250 high-level speakers, 72 Ministers, 500 CEOs, 1000 media persons with 40,000 square-metre exhibition space that will cover the entire energy spectrum.

#### **Note:**

- The World Energy Council is a global and inclusive forum for thought-leadership and tangible engagement with headquarters in London.
- Its mission is 'To promote the sustainable supply and use of energy for the greatest benefit of all people'.
- As of March 2019, the World Energy Council has 86 member committees and 2 countries which have direct membership.

#### 8. **10th September: World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)**

- The **World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)** is being observed on **10th September** to raise awareness around the globe, that suicide can be prevented.
- The theme of 2019 is **“Working Together to Prevent Suicide”**.
- The **WSPD** is organized by the **International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)**.

#### **Note:**

- In past years, over **300 activities** in around 70 countries were reported to IASP, including educational and commemorative events, press briefings and conferences, as well as Facebook and Twitter coverage.

#### 9. **New Delhi to host 1st conference on Military Medicine for SCO member states**

- The **first conference of Military Medicine** for Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Member States will be held in **New Delhi** (12 to 13th September 2019).
- The conference will be the **first Military co-operation** event hosted by India, under the **SCO Defence Co-operation Plan 2019-2020**, after it became an SCO Member State in 2017.
- The conference will be conducted with the aim to share **best practices** in the field of military medicine, build capacities and overcome common challenges.

#### 10. **India's first-ever helicopter summit held in Dehradun**

- Union Ministry of **Civil Aviation** has organised the country's first-ever **helicopter summit** at Sahastradhara helidrome in **Dehradun**, Uttarakhand.
- The summit was based on the theme of **expanding connectivity** through helicopters.
- '**Helicopter Summit- 2019**' was organised jointly by **Civil Aviation Ministry, Uttarakhand government** and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)**.
- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** was also invited at the summit to talk on 'Role of IAF helicopters in MEDEVAC i.e. medical evacuation at National level'.
- Uttarakhand CM **Trivendra Singh Rawat** announced that **aviation firms offering helicopter services** in areas identified under UDAN Yojana (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), a Regional Connectivity Scheme will get an additional subsidy from **Uttarakhand government** in addition to the subsidy given by the Centre.

#### 11. **PM Modi, Nepal PM jointly inaugurated Motihari-Amlekhganj cross border petroleum pipeline**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Nepal's Prime Minister **K.P.Sharma Oli** have jointly inaugurated **Motihari-Amlekhgunj** cross border petroleum products **pipeline** through video conference
- This is the **first transnational petroleum pipeline** from India and **first South Asian oil** pipeline corridor.
- The pipeline will ensure smooth, cost-effective and environment-friendly supply of petroleum products to Nepal.
- The **69 km long pipeline** from **Motihari in Bihar** to **Amlekhgunj in Nepal** has been constructed by India in just 15 months, half of its **30 months** deadline.
- It has been constructed at the cost of around **three hundred fifty crore rupees** which are entirely borne by Indian Oil Corporation.
- Besides ensuring smooth and environment-friendly supply of petroleum products the pipeline is also expected to help Nepal in saving billions of rupees every year on transportation and leakage.

#### 12. **WHO and South-East Asia Region plans to banish measles, rubella by 2023**

- Member-countries of the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** South-East Asia Region has resolved to eliminate highly **infectious childhood** killer diseases measles and rubella by 2023.

- A **resolution to eliminate the diseases** was adopted at the **72nd session** of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in Delhi.
- Measles elimination and rubella control have been a regional flagship priority since 2014.
- India continues to grapple with 39,299 cases, ranking fourth among 194 countries in the number of measles cases registered between July 2018 and June 2019.

### 13. Priyavrata becomes youngest to clear ‘Tenali Pariksha’

- **Priyavrata** (16-years) has become the **youngest person** to clear ‘**Tenali Pariksha**’.
- The Tenali examination having 14 levels is taken twice a year by the students studying the "Shastras".
- Tenali Pariksha is conducted under Shri Kanchi Veda Vedanta Shastra Sabha.
- The Sabha conducts Shastras exams every six months in **Byaya**, Mimamsa, Vyakarana, Advaita and Veda Bhashya.
- Priyavrata studies all **Vyakarana Maha Granthas** from Sri Mohana Sharma.
- It is difficult for scholars who are **40-50 years** to clear this 14-step exam of Shastras.

### 14. Charles Leclerc wins the Italian Grand Prix 2019

- Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc (21-years) has won the Italian Grand Prix 2019 (89<sup>th</sup>- edition) at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza track, Italy.
- Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes finished the race at 2nd and 3rd position respectively.
- Ferrari's last win at Monza came in 2010 through Fernando Alonso.
- The Italian Grand Prix is the fifth oldest national Grand Prix (after the French Grand Prix, the American Grand Prize, the Spanish Grand Prix and the Russian Grand Prix), having been held since 1921.

#### Italian Grand Prix 2019 Result:

Position	Driver Name	Time
1.	C. Leclerc	1:15:26.665
2.	V. Bottas	+0.835s
3.	L. Hamilton	+35.199s

Source: The Hindu

### 15. World’s highest marathon “Ladakh Marathon” held in Leh

- The 8th edition of Ladakh Marathon was held in Leh to encourage sport in Ladakh.
- It claims to be the highest marathon in the world, held at a height of 11,500 to 17,618 feet (3,505 to 5,370 m).
- Over 6000 runners from 25 countries participated in the four categories of Ladakh Marathon.
- The marathon was organised "to foster the national spirit and to encourage sport in Ladakh".
- The 9th Edition to be held in 2020 will be a qualifying race for the Abbot World Marathon Majors.

**Note:**

- The **Ladakh Marathon** is organised by India's Rimo Expeditions with the support of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC).
- The **Ladakh Marathon** is divided into four categories:
  - **7 km Race:** Schools students, as well as tourists, usually participate in this race. It still requires good physical health to run it at height of 11,500 ft.
  - **Half Marathon** (21 km race): It starts at NDS stadium on the Leh Manali highway and passes through Choglamsar village.
  - **Full Marathon** (42 km race): The marathon course crosses the Indus river several times en route.
  - **Ultra-Marathon** (72 km race): It is known as the toughest and most challenging event of the Ladakh Marathon.

#### 16. Jack Ma officially retires as Alibaba's chairman

- **Jack Ma** stepped down as executive chairman of e-commerce company **Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.**
- The **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Daniel Zhang** succeeded him at **Asia's most valuable company.**
- Jack will remain on the board **until Alibaba's annual meeting** of shareholders in 2020.

#### Note:

- **Jack Ma** (former English teacher) started Alibaba.com in 1999 as a business-to-business marketplace with 17 co-founders.

#### 17. Vietnam opens Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm

- **Vietnam** has inaugurated **Southeast Asia's largest solar power** farm which has the capacity to produce **688 million kWh** of electricity per year.
- The **Dau Tieng Solar Power Complex** is a joint venture with the Thai industrial group B.Grimm Power Public Company and has an investment of more than **USD 391 million.**
- It is expected to generate **10% of the country's solar energy** to guarantee supply to **320,000 homes.**
- It will also prevent the emission of **595,000 tons** of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year.

#### 18. DRDO successfully tests indigenous anti-tank missile (MPATGM)

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight tested an indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man-Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in the ranges of Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- The missile hit the target in **top attack mode** and destroyed it with precision.
- This is the third series of successful testing of MPATGM.
- The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics.
- The test paves the way for the Army to have developed third-generation man-portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile indigenously.

#### 19. Kerala to set up India's first global trade centre for women

- Kerala will set up **India's first international women's trade centre (iWTC)**, in consonance with the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs), in Kozhikode.
- This will not only help women to develop and expand their ventures and build relationships but also be a platform for their creative expression.
- It is envisaged as a safe space away from home for women to harness their entrepreneurial capabilities, set up or expand their businesses and get their products marketed globally.
- The first phase of iWTC, being executed under the gender park's "Vision 2020", is scheduled to be completed by 2021.

#### 20. Prime Minister launches Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the '**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana**' at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- The **Scheme shall secure** the lives of **5 Crore Small** and Marginal Farmers by providing a minimum pension of **Rs 3000 per month**, to those who attain **60 years** of age.
- **Prime Minister** also launched the **National Pension Scheme** for the **Traders and The Self-Employed**.
- The scheme aims at providing a **minimum assured pension of Rs 3000**, to small traders and self - employed after attaining the age of 60 Years.
- Around **3 Crore Small traders** would be benefited from the scheme.
- Prime Minister also launched **462 Ekalavya Model Schools** across the country in Tribal Dominated Areas.
- The schools would focus to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to ST Students in these areas.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the New **Vidhan Sabha** Building of Jharkhand.

#### 21. Odd-even rule to be implemented in Delhi from November 4 to 15

- According to Delhi Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal**, Odd-even rule to combat pollution will be applicable in Delhi between **4 to 15th November 2019**.
- Under the **odd-even scheme**, cars with licence plates ending in an **odd number** (1,3,5,7,9) & even number (0,2,4,6,8) allowed to ply on alternate days, except **weekends**.
- Earlier, **exemptions** were granted to women, VIPs and two-wheelers.
- This is the **third time** odd-even rule will be rolled out in **Delhi**.
- **Delhi government** will also distribute **N-95** masks to people in November.

#### 22. Samsung launches Mobile apps 'Good Vibes' and 'Relumino'

- Tech giant '**Samsung**' has introduced two mobile applications named '**Good Vibes**' and '**Relumino**' as strong communication tools for the **deaf-blind** and people with **low vision** in the country.
- **Good Vibes** has been launched for deafblind to enable them to have two-way communication with their caregivers, family and friends.
- Good Vibes app uses Morse code, which converts vibrations (a combination of dots and dashes that the deafblind can interpret) into text or voice (on the caregiver's app) and vice-versa.
- 'Relumino' is a **visual aid application** for people with **low vision** to help them see **images clearer** by magnifying and minimizing images, highlighting the image outline, adjusting colour contrast and brightness, and reversing colour.

- **National Association for the Blind (NAB)** will use Relumino in classrooms where students with low vision will use these devices to see better, thus, helping them improve their learning abilities.

### 23. Indo-Thailand Joint Military Exercise Maitree - 2019

- Joint Military Exercise '**MAITREE-2019**' (between India and Thailand) will be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) from 16<sup>th</sup> to 29th September 2019.
- Indian and **Royal Thailand Army (RTA)** comprising 50 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various counter-terrorism operations in their respective countries.
- The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army (IA) and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) which in turn will further foster defence cooperation and bilateral relations between the two nations.

#### Note:

- **Exercise MAITREE** is an annual training event which is being conducted alternatively in Thailand and India (since 2006).
- The scope of this exercise covers company level joint training on counter-terrorism operations in the jungle and urban scenario.

### 24. The State of Rajasthan Launches “Jan Soochana Portal-2019”

- In furtherance to Right to Information (RTI), the Rajasthan government has launched the “Jan Soochana Portal-2019”.
- It is a public information portal that will provide information about government authorities and departments to the public.
- It is the first-ever public information portal promising to provide information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information Act.
- The State government has collaborated with the civil society groups to develop the portal, initially giving information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform.

### 25. ‘Hindi Divas’ being celebrated across the country today

- The **National Hindi Divas** is being observed on 14th September every year across the country.
- In 1949, on this day the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the country.
- On Hindi Divas 2019 Union Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Amit Shah will present Rajbhasha Awards to chiefs of various departments, Ministries, and offices for their outstanding performances in promoting the language.
- On eve of Hindi Divas, **International Hindi Conference** was also organized by World Hindi Council in **New Delhi**.
- Goa Governor Mridula Sinha was the chief guest for the ceremony. Hindi lovers from 6 countries including Mauritius, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka attended this two-day-long International Hindi Conference.



- Rajbhasha Hindi, spoken by around 40 percent people across the country, is the single largest spoken language among the 22 languages in the sixth schedule of the constitution.

## 26. White Water Rafting Expedition – 'Rudrashila' Flagged off at Jaisalmer

- The white water Rafting Expedition christened 'RUDRASHILA' being undertaken by Kalidhar Battalion under the aegis of Battle Axe Division was Flagged Off at Jaisalmer Military station.
- The expedition 'Rudrashila' has been organized to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Raising day of the Kalidhar Battalion. 'Rudrashila' takes its name from the famed Rudraprayag tributary of the Ganges River in the Mountains of Uttarakhand.
- The expedition will be conducted from 01 October to 04 October 2019.

## 27. 'Netra' early warning system inducted into IAF

- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) on 11th September handed over the second indigenously developed AWACS (Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft) 'NETRA' to the Indian Air Force.
- It is designed and developed by scientists of the DRDO, with assistance from the Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems, the Netra is fitted with indigenously developed electronics and hardware.

*NETRA played a crucial role during the Balakot airstrikes*

- The Netra, an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEWC) aircraft, had played a crucial role during the Balakot airstrikes that had been carried out by the IAF on February 26 this year.
- It provided surveillance and radar coverage to the five Mirage jets that bombed terror launch pads in Balakot in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan.

## 28. India joins the Global Antimicrobial Resistance R&D Hub

- According to the Department of Biotechnology, Union Ministry of Science & Technology, India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) hub as a new member. This has expanded global partnerships to address challenges in AMRR&D and improve cooperation and coordination in 16 countries, the European Commission, 2 philanthropic establishments and 4 international organizations (as observers).

*Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development (Global AMR R&D Hub)*

- The center was launched in May 2018, on the sidelines of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly due to a call made in 2017 by G-20 leaders. The Global AMRR&D Hub operates from the Secretariat in Berlin.
- It is currently being funded through grants received from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).

*India and Global AMRRD Hub*

- India will be its member from this year.

- With the participation of Global AMRRD Hub, India will be able to leverage the existing capabilities and resources of all the partner countries and collectively by focusing on research and development interventions and will be able to tackle drug-resistant infections.
- AMR is the ability of a microbe to resist the effects of the drug. This allows microbes to be successfully treated.

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