

## Top Current Affairs of the Week (30 August – 06 September)

### India, Russia declared joint winners of 2020 FIDE Chess Olympiad

- **India** and **Russia** have been jointly announced as the winner of **1st FIDE Online Chess Olympiad 2020**
- **FIDE** was holding Olympiad in an online format for first time.
- India was declared to have lost the final round against Russia initially.
- Two Indian players named **Nihal Sarin** and **Divya Deshmukh** were declared to have lost on time in the final round after an apparent loss of internet connection for them.
- FIDE President: **Arkady Dvorkovich**

### Kerala to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre

- **Kerala** is all set to establish first **International women's trade centre (IWTC) of India** at Angamaly.
- International women's trade centre will be set by Kerala in consonance with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- It will accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity offering safe place away from home to women to start new businesses, and its expansion.
- It will also facilitate international trade and market opportunities for women

### Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2020

- Mercedes racer **Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain)** has won **Formula One Belgian Grand Prix 2020** in Stavelot, Belgium.
- This was his 5th victory of the season and 89th victory of his racing career.
- F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2020 second position was bagged by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) followed by Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)
- The race was the seventh round in the 2020 Formula One World Championship.

### India withdraws from Russia's multilateral military exercise Kavkaz 2020

- India has withdrawn its participation from **Russia's Kavkaz Exercise 2020** that was to be held in Russia between 15 to 26 September 2020.
- Kavkaz 2020 will be held in **Astrakhan, Southern Russia** where member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.
- **Other participants:** China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Belarus, Turkey, Armenia, Abkhazia.

### Juliette Binoche to be honoured with Golden Icon Award

- French star **Juliette Binoche (56 years)** will be honoured with **Golden Icon Award at Zurich Film Festival** ahead of a screening French-language comedy movie **'How to Be a Good Wife'**
- It is the 16th edition of annual film gala that will be held from Sept 24 to Oct 4, 2020.
- In her 35 years of career, she has been featured in movies like **'Hail Mary', 'Family Life', 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being', 'Three Colors: Blue', 'The English Patient', 'Chocolat'** and **'Certified Copy'**.

### 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers' Meeting) held virtually

- **8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers' Meeting)** was held virtually to strengthen the regional supply chains boosting economic growth.
- Economic ministers from **10 ASEAN members** and other nations including **India, US, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Australia and New Zealand** attended the meeting
- The meet was chaired by Vietnam's Industry and Trade Minister **Tran Tuan Anh**.
- India was represented by **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal**.

## Karnataka CM flags off first RORO train from Bengaluru to Solapur

- Karnataka CM **BS Yediyurappa** has flagged off '**Roll-On/Roll-Off (RO-RO) train**' between **Bengaluru to Solapur (Maharashtra)** through video conferencing.
- **RO-RO train** will have open flat wagon on which trucks with goods are loaded with driver and cleaner of the lorries sitting in their vehicles.
- The train will take **17 hours** to reach its destination
- It can carry **42 trucks** with goods ensuring faster transport of essential goods, perishables, food items and smaller cargo

## Indian Railways develops 'MEDBOT' for COVID-19 patients

- **Indian Railways** has developed remote-controlled medical trolley titled as '**MEDBOT**' in order to deliver food and medicine to COVID-19 patients.
- MEDBOT is all set to provide service in the Central Hospital of the Diesel Rail Engine Factory of Indian Railways.
- It is designed by **Diesel Rail Engine Factory, Varanasi** on the line of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan
- Union Railways Minister: **Piyush Goyal**

## Former President Pranab Mukherjee passes away in Delhi

- Former President Pranab Mukherjee (84 years) passed away due to lung infection at Army's Research and Referral hospital.
- He served as the 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017.
- He served as the Defence Minister (2004–06), External Affairs Minister (2006–09) and Finance Minister (2009–12), apart from heading several Groups of Ministers (GoMs) and Lok Sabha.
- He was awarded with Padma Vibhushan in 2008 and Bharat Ratna in 2019.

## Air Force Sports Control Board bags Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2020

- **Air Force Sports Control Board (AFSCB)** has been conferred with '**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2020**' for its outstanding contribution towards sportsperson and for implementation of robust sports welfare measures.
- This award is given in an organised online ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan.
- **AFSCB** is the apex body for planning and conducting sports activities within IAF and at Inter-Services level.
- Air Chief Marshal: **Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria**

## Govt signs Rs 2580 Cr contract for Pinaka Missiles to Indian Army

- **Ministry of Defence** has signed Rs 2580 Cr contract with **Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), Tata Power Company Ltd. (TPCL)** and **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** for supplying Six Pinaka Regiments to Indian Army.
- It comprises of 114 launchers with Automated Gun Aiming Positioning System (AGAPS), 45 Command Posts, and 330 Vehicles
- It will be operationalised along **North and East Borders of India**

- **Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS)** has been indigenously developed by DRDO

## Health Minister inaugurated Trauma Centre in Vijayanagar Medical Institute

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** along with Karnataka CM **B.S. Yediyurappa** inaugurated **Super Speciality Trauma Centre (SSTC)** in **Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences**
- It has Express Feeder Line, ICU wards, 13KL Liquid Medical Oxygen Tank and CT Scan that is capable of taking 128 cross section slices.
- It is built with Rs 150 crores cost under **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**.
- It has departments of Emergency and Trauma, Neurosurgery and Orthopedics.

## Union Minister inaugurates Technology Centre in Rajasthan

- Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated **Technology Centre at Bhiwadi** in Alwar, Rajasthan via video conferencing.
- Govt is also establishing **15 new Technology Centres (TCs)** and upgrading 18 existing TCs to create skilled man-forces.
- These centres will provide assistance to industry predominantly MSMEs in General Engineering, Automotive, ESDM sectors and are being equipped with multiple cutting manufacturing technologies

## Indian Railway Solarises more than 960 Stations

- **Indian Railways** has solarised more than 960 stations in order to achieve 100% self-sustainable contributing to national solar power goals,
- 198 MW solar rooftop capacity for 550 stations is also under process
- Indian Railways has a mega plan for installing solar plants of 20 GW capacity by utilizing its vacant land by 2030.
- **Solarised Stations:** Varanasi, New Delhi, Old Delhi, Jaipur, Secunderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Howrah etc.

## CSIR-CMERI develops World's Largest Solar Tree

- **CSIR-CMERI** has developed **World's Largest Solar Tree** that has the capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power annually
- It is installed at the **Residential Colony of CSIR-CMERI in Durgapur, West Bengal**.
- It ensures maximum exposure of each Solar PV Panel to Sunlight.
- One solar tree comprises of 35 Solar PV Panels having a capacity of 330 wp each.
- It can be used for agricultural activities like High Capacity Pumps, e-Tractors and e-Power Tillers.

## India's First-ever Woman Ambulance Driver appointed in Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu** has appointed India's first woman ambulance driver under a new initiative by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Edappadi Karuppa Palaniswami**.
- She is appointed for 118 emergency health transport services as a part to strengthen emergency services in the state.
- **M Veeralakshmi** was appointed driver newly launched '108' ambulances in Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu's Governor: **Banwarilal Purohit**
- Tamil Nadu's Capital: **Chennai**

## Rajeev Kumar assumes charge as new Election Commissioner of India

- **Rajeev Kumar** (1984 batch IAS officer) has assumed charge as the **new Election Commissioner of India**
- He retired as Finance Secretary in Feb 2020
- He was serving as the **Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board** till August 31, 2020
- He will succeed **Ashok Lavasa**, who has been appointed as ADB's Vice President
- Election Commission is an autonomous constitutional body for conducting election at national and state level
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: **Sunil Arora**

## PM announces September as 'Nutrition Month'

- PM **Narendra Modi** has announced during 'Mann ki Baat' radio programme that the month of **September will be observed as 'Nutrition Month' in India.**
- During the nutrition month, food and nutrition quiz will be organized on **MyGov portal** and there will be a meme competition
- People are appealed to participate and motivate others too to take part in it.
- Under **Poshan Abhiyaan**, the month of September is already observed as Poshan Maah i.e. Nutrition month every year, since 2018.

## NSO estimates India's GDP to be reduced by 23.9% in Q1

- **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** estimate for the first quarter (April-June) Q1 of 2020-21 at both Constant and Current Prices.
- According to this, **GDP at Constant (2011-12 base year) Prices in Q1 of 2020-21** is estimated at Rs 26.90 lakh crore showing contracted by **23.9%** as compared to 5.2% growth in Q1 2019-20.
- **GDP at Current Prices** showed a contraction of **22.6%**.

## S R Sarma assumes charge as Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy

- Vice Admiral **SR Sarma**, AVSM, VSM took charge as the **Chief of Materiel of Indian Navy**
- The Admiral holds post-graduation degree in Computer Science and Engineering from IISc, Bengaluru and is a distinguished alumnus of Naval Higher Command Course.
- He succeeded **GS Pabby**.
- He has served onboard Indian Naval ships Vindhyagiri, Rana, Krishna, and Mysore in various capacities.
- He was recipient of **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal** and **Lt VK Jain Gold Medal** in 1994

## Govt gave nods for integrated cold chains infrastructure

- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal gave its nod to 27 projects for development of integrated cold chains and value addition infrastructure under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana
- It will generate direct and indirect employment for over 16,000 people benefiting 2,57,000 farmers.
- The 27 new projects will have total outlay of Rs 743 crore for the creation of modern, innovative infrastructure and effective cold chain facilities.

## Ministerial-level Indo-Pacific meet on Supply Chains held

- The **ministerial-level meet on Supply Chains** was held to **enhance the resiliency of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region.**
- It was attended by Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Australia's Minister for Trade and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry.
- Diversification of the supply chain is critical for managing the risks associated with the supply of inputs
- New initiative to achieve the objective of supply chain through cooperation was framed at the meet

## India bags 48th rank at Global Innovation Index 2020

- **India** has been ranked **48<sup>th</sup>** in the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020** overall rankings.
- India stands at 52<sup>nd</sup> position in 2019 and 81<sup>st</sup> in 2015
- GI is co-published by **UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University, and INSEAD**
- GI 2020 comprises of 131 countries/economies that represents 93.5% of the world's population and 97.4% of the world's GDP
- The index is topped by Switzerland, followed by Sweden and US
- Theme 2020: **Who Will Finance Innovation?**

## Sumit Nagal wins grand slam singles main draw match

- **Sumit Nagal** (23 years) has become the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last 7 years.
- He went into second round of the ongoing **US Open Tennis** by defeating **Bradley Klahn of USA** 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open
- Prior to him, **Somdev Devvarman** is the last player to reach the second round of the Australian Open, French Open and US Open in 2013
- He will now face **Austria's Dominic Thiem** in the 2nd round.

## Govt approves 'Mission Karmayogi' National Programme

- Union Cabinet has approved '**Mission Karmayogi**' which is a **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**
- **Aim:** To build future-ready civil servants with right attitude, skills & knowledge with focus on competency led capacity building
- The mission will focus on setting-up **Prime Minister's Public Human Resources (HR) Council, Capacity Building Commission, Special Purpose Vehicle** for digital assets and **Coordination Unit**

## Govt approves MoU between India & Japan for textiles

- Cabinet has approved **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **India and Japan** for **improving quality and testing of Indian textiles and clothing for the Japanese market.**
- It will facilitate **Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan** in assigning **Textile Committee** as their cooperative Testing and Inspection service providers in India
- Textiles & Apparel products including Technical Textiles for both domestic and overseas clients/buyers are being agreed in the MoU

## 2 Days' National Tribal Research Conclave'

- The **Centre of Excellence for Tribal Affairs & Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)** organised 2-days long “National Tribal Research Conclave”.
- The inaugural session of the conclave was addressed by the Union Minister **Arjun Munda**.
- The Conclave was organised to review the progress on the results of projects launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **10 research partners** shared their projects in the **2-days long conclave**

## Jal Shakti Ministry launches Water Heroes Contest 2.0

- **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has launched ‘**Water Heroes – Share Your Stories**’ Contest from September 1, 2020 for water conservation and management.
- Entries will be invited every month and maximum of 10 entries can be considered for the awards.
- All selected entries will be get cash prize of **Rs. 10,000 each** and a certificate
- Participants need to post their **success stories on water conservation through 1-5 min video with a write-up of 300 words and some pictures**

## VK Yadav appointed as Railway Board's first ever Chairman and CEO

- The Union Cabinet has approved the appointment of the current **chairman** of the Railway Board **VK Yadav** as the **CEO**.
- The chairman and **CEO** will be the cadre **controlling officer** responsible for human resources with assistance from a DG (HR).
- The Cabinet had earlier approved the restructuring of the **Railway Board**, whose strength has been cut from eight to five.
- The Railways is merging its **8 railway-related wings** into a single **Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS)**.

## Under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Programme, Goa is paired with Jharkhand

- Under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat, **Goa** is paired with **Jharkhand**.
- A lot of exchange activities are happening on this front.
- The intensity of programmes is less due to lockdown and so the focus is laid on virtual events.
- The programme was announced by the Prime Minister in **2015** on the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** is the Nodal Ministry for the co-ordination of the programme

## Sikkim Celebrated Pang Lhabsol Festival

- The festival of **cultural heritage** and **historical importance Pang Lhabsol** is celebrated in **Sikkim**.
- It is one of the most historically significant festivals celebrated in **Sikkim**.
- It is a unique festival of Sikkim and commemorates the consecration of **Mount Khangchendzonga** as the guardian deity of **Sikkim**.
- The day symbolises the historic blood brotherhood between the Lepchas and the Bhutias at Kabi Lungchok under the watchful eye of the mighty **Mount Khangchendzonga**.

## IISc tops among 63 Indian Institutes In THE World University Ranking 2021

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, maintained its lead as the country's top institution in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021.
- IISc ranked under the 301-350 group ranking, tops among the 63 Indian institutions which were qualified for the rankings.
- IIT, Ropar which is under the 351-400 group rankings and IISc Bengaluru are the only Indian institutes in the world top 400 Universities.

## 5th September: International Day of Charity

- **The International Day of Charity** is being celebrated all across the world today (5th Sep) by the **United Nations**.
- The day is being celebrated to sensitize and mobilize people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others.
- The day also recognizes the role played by the charity in reducing humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations.
- The date of 5 Sep was chosen in order to commemorate the death anniversary of **Mother Teresa**.

## Madhya Pradesh govt. launches campaign 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo'

- A massive '**Gandagi Bharat Chhodo**' campaign was launched by the **Madhya Pradesh State Govt.**
- This campaign has been given the shape of a **mass movement**.
- The campaign was divided into **five themes**- Cleanliness Oath, Continuous reduction in urban waste emissions, Cleanliness in COVID conditions, Separation of waste from sources of houses and Launching a special cleanliness campaign for public places.
- Bodies coming in good rankings will be awarded by the **Chief Minister**.

## UNEP launches "Green Nudges" programme for universities

- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a new publication, "**The Little Book of Green Nudges**".
- The books aimed to inspire up to **200 million students** around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- The book is **UNEP's** first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which focuses on human actions and how to change them, and was drafted with **The Behavioural Insights Team and GRID-Arendal**.

## Punjab government launched 'I Rakhwali' app for Environment Protection

- To preserve and maintain the environment in Punjab and make people stakeholders in the process, the State Government launched '**I Rakhwali**' app.
- This will help netizens to become '**Greenery Saviours**'.
- With this new initiative, the state govt aims to safeguard the state forest area by making people a **stakeholder** in this process.
- The state govt came up with the concept of the app to encourage people to come forward and contribute to the **protection of the environment**.

## India, Russia take part in two-day naval war games in Bay of Bengal

- The Indian Navy conducted a two-day war-game '**INDRA 2020**' with its Russian counterpart in the southern Bay of Bengal on **4th and 5th September**.

- The 11th edition of the `Indra-Navy` exercise, held to the east of Sri Lanka, will further consolidate the long-term strategic relationship between the two armed forces.
- India was represented by guided-missile destroyer **INS Ranvijay**, stealth frigate **INS Sahyadri** and fleet tanker **Shakti**, along with their integral helicopters.

## **EFLU's English App launched by Union Minister for Education**

- Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched **EnglishPro**, a free mobile app.
- The app is developed by the English and **Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad**.
- The app will help learners develop Indian **English Pronunciation** in the unique "Indian" way.
- This app will be "a useful digital tool" and will act as an educational resource for the **teachers, students** and for **people** from varied backgrounds.

## **12th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting held virtually**

- The **12th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)** Senior Officials Meeting took place through video conference.
- During the summit, the discussion was held on the key areas such as **tourism**, culture, education, transport and communications.
- The meeting was attended by Senior Officials from all 6 MGC Member States **India, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand** and **Vietnam**.
- The MGC was launched in the year **2000** at **Vientiane**, Lao PDR.

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