

1-2 October 2019 Current Affairs



1) Which non-banking finance company (NBFC) on 1 October 2019 overtook India's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) by assets? – [Bajaj Finance](#)

(Non-banking finance firm Bajaj Finance overtook India's biggest lender by assets, State Bank of India, in terms of market capitalization (m-cap) for the first time on 1 October 2019. Bajaj Finance's m-cap stood at Rs. 2.32 lakh crore compared to SBI's Rs. 2.28 lakh crore. It is worth mentioning that Bajaj Finance has a loan book of just Rs. 1.25 lakh crore, whereas SBI's loan book stood at Rs. 22.40 lakh crore)



2) Which former cricketer became the first non-British to take over as President of the historic Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) of England? – [Kumar Sangakkara](#)

(Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara took charge as the President of England's 232 years old Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) to become the first non-British to hold the post)

3) US carmaker Ford signed an agreement to give control of its India business to which Indian automobile company? – [Mahindra & Mahindra](#)

(US carmaker Ford and India's Mahindra & Mahindra have agreed to form a joint venture valued at Rs. 1,925 crore that will develop and sell Ford branded vehicles in India. Under the agreement Ford will transfer its entire business in India, barring an engine plant in Sanand, and its Chennai-based Global Business Services unit, to a new JV firm controlled by M&M)

4) Why the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Anil Ambani-led RCom held on 30 September 2019 came into news? – [It was the first AGM of a major corporate company which was chaired by a resolution professional](#)

(The AGM of the bankrupt Reliance Communications (RCom) that was held on 30 September 2019 was chaired by a resolution professional - Aneesh Nanavati of Deloitte. RCom is presently going through an insolvency process and the National Company Law Tribunal had in July 2019 appointed Nanavati as resolution professional. So this was just the first instance of any major Indian corporate company's AGM being addressed by a resolution professional)

5) Which state again topped NitiAayog's School Education Quality Index rankings for year 2016-17 that were released on 30 September 2019? – [Kerala](#)

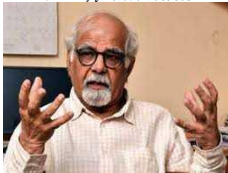
(Among 20 large States in NitiAayog's School Education Quality Index rankings for year 2016-17, Kerala was the best performer with a score of 76.6%, while Uttar Pradesh came in last with a score of 36.4%. However, Haryana, Assam and Uttar Pradesh showed the most improvement in their performance in 2016-17, in comparison to the base year of 2015-16. Among eight small states, Manipur, Tripura and Goa bagged the top-three positions, respectively)

3-9 October 2019 Current Affairs



1) Inaugural run of India's first corporate train Tejas Express was organized on 4 October 2019. This first of its kind train operated by IRCTC runs between which two stations? – [Lucknow and New Delhi](#)

(IRCTC's Tejas Express was commissioned on 4 October 2019 as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged-off the train from Lucknow Junction. This is India's first corporate train and runs between Lucknow Jn. and New Delhi with two stops at Kanpur Central and Ghaziabad. The biggest feature of this train is that it is the first train to be fully operated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the online reservation, tourism and catering arm of Indian Railways)



2) Who was appointed as Executive Director (India) at the IMF by the Union Government during October 2019? - [Surjit Bhalla](#)

(The Union Govt. on 1 October 2019 appointed economist Surjit Bhalla as Executive Director (India) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a period of three years. The post was lying vacant after the death of Subir Gokarn in July 2019. He was a part-time member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council until December 2018)

3) The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on 1 October 2019 launched which new identification number to ensure greater accountability and transparency in tax administration? - [Document Identification Number – DIN](#)

(From 1 October 2019 every CBDT communication will have to have a documentation identification number (DIN). According to CBDT, all communication with DIN would be verifiable on the e-filing portal and no communication would be issued manually without DIN, unless under exceptional circumstances)



4) The second Vande Bharat Express of Indian Railways was flagged-off on 3 October 2019. This indigenously made modern semi high-speed train runs between which stations? - [New Delhi and Katra](#)

(Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 3 October 2019 flagged-off the Vande Bharat Express between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (J&K). This is the second edition of Vande Bharat Express after the successful first edition between New Delhi and Varanasi. The train is likely to cut the travel time between Delhi and Katra to just eight hours from the present twelve hours)

5) Korean electronics conglomerate Samsung closed smartphone manufacturing in which major country from October 2019? - [China](#)

(Samsung Electronics Co Ltd. on 2 October 2019 announced that it has ended mobile telephone production in China as the company closed its last factory in the country. This decision was taken in view of intensifying competition from domestic rivals in China, which is world's biggest smartphone market. Samsung share of the Chinese market shrunk to 1% in the first quarter from around 15% in mid-2013)

6) What is the name of the month-long exploratory open-water rafting and kayaking expedition in Ganga River that was launched on 7 October 2019? - ['Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan'](#)

('Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan' is the name of the month-long exploratory open-water rafting and kayaking expedition that was launched by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 7 October 2019. This expedition aims to spread the message of river rejuvenation and water conservation on a massive scale and covers nearly 2,500 kilometers from Devprayag in Uttarakhand to Ganga Sagar in West Bengal)

10-12 October 2019 Current Affairs



1) Who won the 2019 Nobel Prize for Peace, as was announced by the Nobel Committee on 11 October 2019? - [Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali](#)

(Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali won the Nobel Peace Prize 2019 for his efforts to resolve the long-running conflict with neighbouring foe Eritrea. On 9 July 2018, following a historic meeting in Eritrea's capital Asmara, Abiy and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki formally ended a 20-year-old stalemate between the countries in the wake of the 1998-2000 border conflict)



2) Who won the 2018 and 2019 Nobel Prizes for Literature that was announced on 10 October 2019?
- **Olga Tokarczuk (2018) and Peter Handke (2019)**

- Polish author Olga Tokarczuk and Austria's Peter Handke have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for years 2018 and 2019 respectively. The 2018 and 2019 laureates were named at the same time because last year's prize was postponed over a scandal involving a husband of an academy member. However, Peter Handke's Nobel came into controversy as he is a right-leaning writer who is known to be a defender of former Serbian leader late Slobodan Milosevic, who was held responsible for war crimes in connection to the wars in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo)



3) The 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been given to three scientists for development of which useful product? - **Lithium-ion battery**

(Three scientists - John B Goodenough, M Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino were jointly awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of lithium-ion batteries. The lithium-ion battery is a lightweight, rechargeable and powerful battery that is used in everything from mobile phones to laptops to electric cars. The foundation of the lithium-ion battery was laid during the oil crisis of the 1970s. However, the first commercial lithium-ion batteries were released in 1991 by Sony)



4) The 2019 Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded to three physicists for discoveries in which two fields? - **Cosmology and Exoplanet**

(The 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded with one half to James Peebles (US) for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology and the other half jointly to Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz (both Swiss) for discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star. Peebles' theoretical discoveries contributed to human understanding of "how the Universe evolved after the Big Bang)



5) The 2019 Nobel Prize for Medicine was awarded to a trio of researchers for discovery in which field?
- **Cell sense to changing oxygen levels**

(Three researchers William Kaelin, Peter Ratcliffe and Gregg Semenza shared the 2019 Nobel Prize for Medicine for describing how cells sense and respond to changing oxygen levels by switching genes on and off. This discovery has been important in understanding human diseases such as cancer and anaemia)



6) What was the size of the initial public offering (IPO) of IRCTC that was oversubscribed 112 times recently? - **Rs. 645 crore**

(The Rs. 645 crore-IPO of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) was deluged by applications worth around Rs. 72,000 crore. The IPO started on 30 September and closed on 3 October 2019. It is one of the most successful IPOs of any PSU)

7) What is the new name of Reliance Mutual Fund following its acquisition by Japan's Nippon Life Insurance? - **Nippon India Mutual Fund**

(Reliance Mutual Fund has been rebranded as Nippon India Mutual Fund following its acquisition by Japan's Nippon Life Insurance. This was disclosed by Nippon Life Insurance on 9 October 2019. It is worth mentioning that Nippon Life has invested Rs. 7,800 crore to bring up its' stake in the company to 75% after initially acquiring a 26% stake in 2012)



1) India-American economist Abhijeet Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer were jointly awarded Nobel Economics Prize for 2019 for their experimental work in which field? – **Poverty Alleviation**

(Nobel Economics Prize for 2019 has been awarded to Abhijeet Banerjee, his French-American wife Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty. This was announced on 14 October 2019. Banerjee is an alumnus of Presidency College, Kolkata and the JNU and did his Ph.D. in Economics in Harvard University)



2) India's first visually impaired woman IAS officer Pranjal Patil on 14 October 2019 took charge as Sub-collector of which district? – **Thiruvanthapuram**, Kerala

(Pranjal Patil, India's first visually impaired woman IAS officer took charge as Sub-collector of Kerala's Thiruvanthapuram district on 14 October, 2019. She managed to secure 124th rank in 2017 after she did her Master's in International relations from JNU. She hails from Ulhas Nagar in Maharashtra and had lost her vision at the age of six)



3) Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, who passed away during October 2019, was known for which feat? – **He was the first-ever person to have conducted a spacewalk**

(Alexei Leonov was the man who conducted the first-ever spacewalk. On 18 March 1965, Leonov stepped out of his spacecraft for a spacewalk that

lasted over 12 minutes. He passed away on 11 October 2019 at the age of 85)

4) What is the name of Boeing Co. CEO who was removed from the Chairman post by the company on 12 October 2019? - **Dennis Muilenburg**

(Boeing Co. on 12 October 2019 stripped Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dennis Muilenburg of his role as Chairman. This move leaves little margin for the executive in his final push to resolve the 737 Max crisis that has engulfed the company for months now. Boeing's reputation and finances have been battered since two Max crashes (involving Lion Air of Indonesia and Ethiopian Airlines) killed 346 people and prompted a worldwide grounding)



5) During October 2019 who became the first athlete ever to run a 42.2-km marathon in under two hours? - **Eliud Kipchoge**

(Kenyan Olympic gold medallist Eliud Kipchoge on 12 October 2019 created history as he became first athlete in history ever to run a 42.2-km marathon in under two hours. The 34-year-old covered the 42.2-km distance in one hour, 59 minutes and 40 seconds in the Ineos 1:59 Challenge in Austria's Vienna)

6) BRICS Culture Ministers' meeting was held on 13 October 2019 at which place? - **Curitiba, Brazil**

(BRICS Culture Ministers' meeting was held on 13 October 2019 at Curitiba in Brazil. India was represented by Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel in the meeting)

16-17 October 2019 Current Affairs



1) Which two women writers shared the 2019 Booker Prize, as was announced on 15 October

2019? – [Margaret Atwood](#) and [Bernardine Evaristo](#)

(In a surprising announcement, Canadian writer Margaret Atwood and British author Bernardine Evaristo were declared the joint winners of 2019 Booker Prize. While Atwood won the award for “The Testaments”, Evaristo shared the prize for “Girl, Woman, Other”. It is worth mentioning that Booker Prize rules clearly state that the Booker prize, given to the best novel written in English each year, may not be divided or withheld. The judges stated that they were not in the position to declare one winner)

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2) What is India’s place in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) for 2019 that was released on 16 October 2019? - [102 out of 117 countries](#)

(India was placed at 102nd place out of 117 countries in the 2019 edition of Global Hunger Index, that is jointly published by Ireland's Concern Worldwide and Germany's Welthungerhilfe. India is behind its neighbours Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh in the list with Pakistan at 94, Bangladesh at 88 and Nepal at 73rd place. GHI scores countries on a 100-point severity scale, where zero is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. India was ranked 55 out of 76 nations in 2014)

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3) Indian Railway on 15 October 2019 launched 10 new trains with the primary objective of last-mile connectivity for people travelling between small towns and major cities. What is the name given to this series of trains? – [“Sewa Service”](#)

“Seva Service” is the new train series that were pressed into service from 15 October 2019. The primary objective of this train series is to provide better connectivity between smaller towns and important cities. The new daily “Sewa Service” trains have been started between Delhi and Shamli, Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh town, Murkongselex and Dibrugarh, Kota and Jhalawar City and Coimbatore and Palani while 5 6-days-a-week trains have been started between Vadnagar to Mahesana, Asarya to Himmatnagar, Karur to Salem, Yesvantpur to Tumkur, Coimbatore to Pollachi)

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4) Which airline made history by becoming world’s first to use TaxiBot robot to tow a commercial aircraft on 15 October 2019? – [Air India](#)

(Indian national carrier Air India made history on 15 October 2019 by becoming the first airline in the world to use a pilot-controlled semi-robotic aircraft tractor as alternate taxiing equipment on a commercial Airbus A320 aircraft. Called TaxiBot, the tractor was developed by Israel Aerospace Industries, in partnership with a French company, and successfully towed a commercial Air India flight carrying passengers from Delhi to Mumbai to the runway for take-off at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport)

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5) Bajaj Auto on 16 October 2019 announced to re-launch which of its iconic scooter brands in a new electric version? – [Chetak](#)

(Bajaj Auto MD Rajiv Bajaj announced that the company will re-launch the electric version (EV) of its iconic scooter Chetak. The production of Chetak EV started at company’s Chakan plant in Pune from 25 September 2019. It is worth mentioning that Bajaj Chetak was a very popular scooter Brand of Bajaj Auto that was launched in 1972 and was discontinued on 2006. The company exited the scooter market in 2010 with Kristal being its last scooter)

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18-27 October 2019 Current Affairs



1) The historic agreement to operationalise the historic Kartarpur Corridor to allow Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the holy Darbar Sahib in Pakistan was signed between India and Pakistan on 24

October 2019. Under the agreement Pakistan government has levied how much fees as a service charge per pilgrim per visit? - [\\$20](#)

(The main point of contention in the signing of the Kartarpur Corridor agreement was the insistence of Pakistan to levy \$20 as a service charge per pilgrim per visit. India has consistently urged Pakistan to not levy any fee on the pilgrims. India, however, agreed for the Kartarpur Corridor agreement in the interest of the pilgrims and timely opening of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor before the 550th PrakashPurab. The Darbar Sahib Gurudwara in Narowal district of Pakistan is associated with Sri Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, who had spent more than 18 years of his life at this place and also breathed his last breath in 1539)

2) What is India's position in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 global ranking that was released on 24 October 2019? - [63rd](#)

(India jumped 14 places to the 63rd position on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business global ranking. India was ranked 142nd among 190 nations when Prime Minister NarendraModi took office in 2014. Four years of reform pushed up India's rank to 100th in World Bank's 'Doing Business' 2018 report. Last year (in 2019 ranking), the country jumped 23 places to the 77th position on the back of reforms related to insolvency, taxation and other areas)



3) Which two public sector enterprises were accorded the 'Maharatna' status by the Union Government during October 2019? - [HPCL](#) and [Power Grid Corporation Limited](#)

(The Union Government on 23 October 2019 accorded 'Maharatna' status to state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Power Grid Corporation Limited (PGCL). Two separate orders to this effect were issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises. The grant of Maharatna status to the PSUs will impart enhanced powers to their Boards to take financial decisions. With this the total number of Maharatna PSUs reached 10, which also includes NTPC, ONGC, SAIL, BHEL, GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation

Limited (IOCL), Coal India Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL))

4) During October 2019 which company became first Indian company to cross Rs. 9 trillion market capitalization? - [Reliance Industries Limited](#)

(The MukeshAmbani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on 18 October 2019 became the first Indian company to cross ₹, 9 trillion market capitalization. This happened as RIL's shares rose nearly 2% to hit Rs. 1,423)

5) The Union Cabinet on 23 October 2019 announced of which government-owned entity in another public sector undertaking BSNL? - [MTNL](#)

(MTNL, formerly Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) will be merged with BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited), as was announced after the Cabinet meeting held on 23 October 2019. The two ailing public sector undertakings will be merged as part of a revival package that includes raising sovereign bonds, monetizing assets and voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) for employees. After the merger, MTNL will act as a subsidiary of BSNL. MTNL is listed but has its net worth already eroded. BSNL is unlisted)



6) Who took over as the 39th President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on 23 October 2019? - [SouravGanguly](#)

(Former India captain SouravGanguly on 23 October 2019 officially took charge as the president of the BCCI and became its 39th President. Ganguly is the second India cricketer after Maharaja of Vizianagaram (1954) to don the role of BCCI president. A day earlier he was elected President of BCCI at the apex body's AGM in Mumbai. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah was elected the new BCCI secretary as Supreme Court-appointed CoA's 33-month tenure came to an end)

7) Dharma Guardian 2019, the second edition of the joint bilateral military exercise between India and Japan was held during October 2019. This exercise was held at which place in India? - [Vairengte, Mizoram](#) and [Silchar, Assam](#)

(The second edition of bilateral annual military exercise Dharma Guardian - 2019 between Indian and Japanese Army started from 19 October 2019 at Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS) Vairengte, Mizoram. The Japanese contingent is represented by 34th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF), while the Indian side is represented by a battalion of the Dogra Regiment. The second phase of the exercise was held at Assam's Silchar from 26 October 2019)

28-31 October 2019 Current Affairs



1) Two new Union Territories Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh came into existence from 31 October 2019 as the provisions associated with the repealed Section 370 became non-existence officially. With this the Indian Union has now how many States and Union Territories (UTs)? – **28 States and 9 UTs**

(With the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) being split into two Union Territories - J&K and Ladakh, the total number of States in the Indian Union has come down from 29 to 28 while that of UTs has increased from 7 to 9. The Centre will be in direct control of police and law and order in the erstwhile J&K state. The NarendraModi-led NDA govt. had repealed the Section 370 of Indian Constitution on 5 August 2019 and the provisions associated with this repealing came into effect from 31 October 2019)



2) Who took over as the first-ever Lt. Governors of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh respectively from 31 October 2019? - **Girish Chandra Murmu and R K Mathur**

(IAS officers Girish Chandra Murmu and R K Mathur, respectively, took over as the first-ever Lieutenant Governors of newly formed Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. These appointments by President Ram NathKovind were

announced on 25 October 2019 as the erstwhile post of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir was abolished and the incumbent Governor Satya Pal Malik shifted as new Governor of Goa)



3) What was the official name given to the raid by the US special force commandos in Syria on 26-27 October, which resulted in death of ISIS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi? – **“Operation Kayla Mueller”**

(ISIS supremo Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed after he blew-up himself on 26-27 October 2019 as the US special force commandos carried out a raid at his place of hiding in Barisha, Syria. The operation was named after Kayla Mueller, a young aid worker who was one of several Americans killed while being held by the ISIS. She was kidnapped in 2013 in northern Syria during a visit to a hospital. US officials confirmed her death in 2015. President Donald Trump confirmed that Baghdadi killed himself and three children when he detonated a suicide belt during the raid)



4) Which entity was chosen for the job of redeveloping the Indian Parliament and surrounding areas in Lutyens’ Delhi, as announced during October 2019? - **HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd.**

(Ahmedabad-based HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd. was given the prestigious job of redeveloping the Parliament building, the Central Secretariat and the Central Vista by 2022. This was announced by the Union Govt. on 25 October 2019. HCP Design was the Sabarmati riverfront project contractor and is redeveloping the KashiVishwanath temple complex. Besides the company has also designed BJP’s new headquarters)

5) A pilot-project to ship e-commerce consignments on its EMU services was completed successfully by Indian Railways during October 2019. This project was undertaken between which EMU route? - **Sealdah to Dankuni in West Bengal**

(Indian Railways in a bid to increase its revenue from non-fare sources has decided to ship e-commerce consignments on its EMU services in non-peak hours. Under this initiative a pilot-project was undertaken during October 2019 when route from Sealdah to Dankuni was used to ship consignment of e-commerce major Amazon through an EMU train in non-peak hours)

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6) Who was named Belgium's first-ever woman Prime Minister on 27 October 2019? – [Sophie Wilmes](#)

(44-year old Budget Minister Sophie Wilmes was named Belgium's care taker Prime Minister to take responsibilities of Charles Michel. Michel is set to take over as President of the European Council from 1 December 2019. Wilmes will thus become the first-ever woman to hold the post of Prime Minister of Belgium)

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7) BJP leader Manohar Lal Khattar took oath as Haryana CM for a second consecutive term on 27 October 2019. Who took over as state's Deputy Chief Minister? – [Dushyant Chautala](#)

(Dushyant Chautala, the President and founder of the 11-month old political party Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), took over as the Deputy CM. BJP had staked claim to form government in the state after forging a post-poll alliance with JJP)

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8) During October 2019 which duo became first Indian duo to reach the final of World Tour badminton doubles final? – [Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty](#)

(Indian badminton duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty created history as they became the first Indian duo to reach the final of World Tour badminton doubles final by reaching the final of BWF World Tour 750 French Open doubles final. However, they lost the final to top seeds Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo of Indonesia by 18-21 and 16-21)

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