

Abhyaas Newsboard...

For the quintessential test prep student

Persons in News

1. On October 11, 2019, Forbes India Rich List 2019 was released by Forbes India in which Mukesh Ambani, aged 62, Chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) held the top spot for the 12th consecutive year with a net worth of \$51.4 billion.
2. Chairman and Managing Director of JSW Steel, Sajjan Jindal has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of World Steel Association (Worldsteel). He is appointed for a period of one year. The association also elected YU Yong, Chairman, HBIS Group Co, as Chairman. Apart from this, the board also elected a 14-member Executive Committee.
3. As per the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Government of India (GoI), Pankaj Kumar (a 1987 batch Indian Administrative Service -IAS officer of Nagaland cadre) has been appointed as the new CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). He replaces Ajay Bhushan Pandey.
4. President Ram Nath Kovind has formally approved the appointment of Justice SA Bobde as the next Chief Justice of India. Justice Bobde will be sworn in as the 47th CJI a day after the retirement of current CJI Ranjan Gogoi. CJI Gogoi had himself recommended Justice Bobde's name for the post.
5. The Central Government has appointed Girish Chandra Murmu as the first Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT and Radha Krishna Mathur as the first LG of Ladakh. The current J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik has been appointed as the new Governor of Goa.
6. Mariam Thresia, a nun from Kerala, has been given the title of saint 93 years after her death. Sister Mary Thresia was given the title of Saint by St. Francis of Vatican, Pope Francis.
7. On October 03, 2019, The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of Government of India notified that Mr Amrit Lugun was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Greece. He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer of the 1989 batch. He succeeds Ms. Shamma Jain.
8. Joko Widodo was sworn in as the President of Indonesia for the second time on October 20, 2019. This would be Widodo's last five-year term, as he faces fresh challenges such as corruption and economic slowdown.
9. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be the new head of the European Central bank (ECB). She will be the 1st woman to lead a powerful institution of ECB. She will be taking charge from Mario Draghi on 1st November 2019.
10. Alexey Leonov of the Soviet Union passed away in Russia at the age of 85 years recently. Alexey Leonov was the first astronaut in the world, who did a spacewalk. On 18 March 1965, he took a spacewalk for 12 minutes in the space.
11. At the BCCI's General Body meeting in Mumbai, former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly, aged 47, took over as the 39th President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Prior to his appointment, C K Khanna served as the interim president.
12. 5-time world champion Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, a British racing driver, clinched his 10th win of the season for Mercedes at the Mexican Grand Prix 2019. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, a German racing driver, and Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas, a Finnish racing driver, finished second and third respectively.
13. Global governing body of cricket, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Bangladesh cricket team's star all-rounder and its Test and T20 (Twenty-20) captain Shakib Al Hasan (32) for 2 years. Shakib was accused of being approached by bookies during the tri-series (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe) 2018 and IPL (Indian Premier League) 2018 in January 2018 but he did not fully convey the ICC's anti-corruption unit (ACU).
14. The 6-time world champion Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom (36) has been inducted into the 10- member sports ambassador group by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Boxing workforce to represent boxers ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

15. • A Kenyan women athlete Brigid Kosgei won the Chicago Marathon and registered a world record timing of 2 hours, 14 minutes, 4 seconds.
 - Brigid Kosgei (25 years old) broke the previous mark of 2:15:25 set by Paula Radcliffe in London in 2003."
 - It was not her first win, Kosgei won in Chicago last year with a timing of 2 hours, 18 minutes and 35 seconds.
16. Lionel Messi wins sixth Golden Shoe Award
 - Lionel Messi has won European Golden Shoe for the sixth time and third consecutive year. He earned this award because of his 36 goals this year.
 - He has become the first International footballer who won this award for three consecutive years.
 - Ronaldo won this award two times in 2014 and 2015.
17. Raunak Sadhwani becomes 6th Grand Master of India
 - Raunak Sadhwani (13) has become India's 65th Grand Master. He crossed the required mark for achieving this feat and earned a rating of 2500.
 - Vladimir Kramnik, former world Champion, was his trainer and master.
 - World Chess Federation FIDE gives the title of Grand Master to the chess players according to their rankings.
18. • Jamaican sprint legend Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce won gold medal in 100m race of 2019 IAAF World Championships held in Doha.
 - This was her 4th women's 100 metres world title. She defeated Britain's European champion Dina Asher-Smith who took silver medal while Marie-Josée Ta Lou finished 3rd."

Places in News

1. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of Yuva Jana Samika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) launched the first of its kind Village Secretariat system at Karapa village near Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. It has set up village and ward secretariats which act as a bridge between the government and the people by rendering over 500 types of services at their doorstep.
2. The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Satya Pal Malik has given assent to the Jammu and Kashmir National Law University Bill 2019 for establishing a National Law University in the J&K, which will help disseminate knowledge about law and legal processes and promote legal awareness to achieve political, social and economic justice. Jammu and Kashmir National Law University Act enactment will bring the state at par with other states where such universities have been established.
3. Delhi Govt. to implement Odd-Even scheme from Nov 4 for 12 days
 - The Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal announced that odd-even road rationing scheme will be implemented in Delhi from November 4 to November 15, 2019.
 - The odd-even scheme will be applicable from 8 AM to 8 PM, except on Sundays. Its major objective is to combat the high level of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.
 - CM Kejriwal also said that violating the rule will incur a fine of four thousand rupees. This time no exemption for private CNG vehicles is allowed.
4. Ecuador will quit Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 1, 2020 due to fiscal problems. It will continue to support efforts to stabilise the world oil market. It is one of the smallest members of the OPEC.
5. FATF decided to retain Pakistan on its 'Grey List' till February 2020. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has directed Pakistan to take extra measures in combating money laundering and funding of terrorists.
6. Followed by the worst violence in Santiago (Capital of Chile), Sebastian Pinera, President of Chile, has declared a state emergency. There was a violent protest over an increase in the price of metro tickets held in the state, following which protesters blocked the railway system and clashed with the police. Protestors clashed with riot police in several parts of Santiago and attacked the subway system. The decision of declaring a state of emergency was taken.

Events of Significance

1. On October 1, 2019 Bajaj Finance Ltd based at Pune, Maharashtra, has surpassed India's largest bank, the State Bank of India (SBI) for the first time, in terms of market capitalization. The market capital of Bajaj Finance stood at Rs 2.32 lakh crore while it was Rs 2.28 lakh crore for SBI.
2. On October 1, 2019, the Standard & Poor (S&P) Global ratings has reduced India's growth to 6.3% from its previous estimation of 7.1% for 2019-2020. The reduced growth projection is mainly due to decline in private consumption growth. It is expected that the growth rate of India would be at 7% for the year 2020-2021.
3. The flag carrier airline of India, Air India has become the first airline in the world to use a Taxibot on an A-320 aircraft with passengers on board. Flight AI665 (Delhi – to Mumbai) was flagged off by Ashwani Lohani, Chairman and MD of Air India, and it was carried to the runway using Taxibot at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi.
4. Mukesh Ambani led-Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has become the world's sixth-largest energy entity with high market capitalization. RIL overtook British oil major BP Plc in terms of market capitalization to become the world's sixth-largest energy entity.
5. Twitter has decided to ban all political advertising from its platform. This was announced by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey who tweeted saying that political message reach should be earned, not bought.
6. As per the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India, Nitin Gadkari, India's longest 9.2 km long Chenani-Nashri tunnel located on National Highway-44 (NH 44) in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) will be named after Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who fought for Kashmir on One Nation One Flag issue & has contributed a lot to national integration.
7. Kerala govt, as a first in the nation has planned to extend maternity leave benefits to teachers and other staff of private educational institutions, including the people working in the unaided sector. This extension of maternity leave under the Maternity Benefit Act was approved by the Central govt and when once amended, Kerala would be the first state to provide maternity benefits in the private educational sector.
8. The govt. has announced that disabled people and people aged above 80 years can vote through postal ballot in-order to increase the voters' turnout. The announcement was made after the ministry of law and justice amended conduct of Election Rules, 1961, on October 22, 2019, based on the recommendations of election commission to allow the above-mentioned people to cast their vote through postal ballot. Currently,
9. The union finance ministry of the govt. has made an announcement that Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) are now eligible to apply for National Pension System (NPS) at par with Non Resident Indians (NRIs), as permitted by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). As per the released notification, the OCIs can apply for the pension system according to "the PFRDA Act 2013 and the amount will also be repatriable based on Foreign Exchange" Management Act (FEMA) 1999, guidelines.
10. The 144th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of India, which is celebrated as National Unity Day, the 2 new Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh formally came into existence. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the 2 UTs came into existence at the stroke of midnight on 31 October 2019, almost three months after the Centre revoked Article 370. With this, India now has 28 states and 9 UTs.
11. For the 1st time in India, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will compensate for passengers of the Tejas Express (India's first private train running on the Lucknow-New Delhi route) if the train is late. If Tejas Express runs one hour later than its " scheduled time, passengers will be paid Rs 100 and if this train was delayed more than two hours, Rs 250 will be given to the passengers."
12. National Health Authority(NHA) and the Amercian multinational company, Google partnered together for strengthening the implementation of the national health protection scheme, Ayushman Bharat– Pratan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). They have signed Statement of Intent (Sol) in this regard.
13. President of India Shri Ram NathKovind has appointed chief justices (CJ) for 7 High courts(HC). Out of the 7 CJs, 4 of them will fill the vacancies left by justices of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan, and Kerala High Courts who were appointed to the Supreme court(SC) recently. The appointment has been made by exercising the powers conferred under clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India.

14. Supreme Court amends own order about SC/ST Act

- The Supreme Court partially recalled the decision of a two-member bench to dilute the provisions of the SC/ST Act.
- Now an FIR can be registered under this act without investigation. Experts said that the decision was taken not due to cast system but because of constitutional requirements.
- A two-member bench in March 2018 diluted the provisions of the SC/ST law, but the central government requested the court to reconsider the order.

15. The Union Government banned the export of all varieties of the onions to increase the stock of the onion in the country. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce said in the notification that all types of onions have been banned with immediate effect. The government has announced in the latest notification that retail traders can store 100 quintals while wholesale traders can store up to 500 quintals of onions.

16. • Indian on October 7, 2019, got the first tranche of the Swiss Bank accounts details of the Indian Citizens.
- The information was shared under the automatic exchange of information framework signed between the two countries earlier in 2018.
 - Switzerland's Federal Tax Administration (FTA) has exchanged the information within the framework of global standards on AEOI.
 - India is among the 75 countries with which Switzerland is sharing the financial accounts detail.

17. The Supreme Court has given the Union Government 28 days to reply to all J&K petitions. The next hearing on the issue will be on November 14, 2019. The five-judge apex court bench gave the direction while hearing several pleas on the withdrawal of Article 370. The court decided to give the centre four week's time to reply to all the petitions that challenge its move and one week's time to the petitioners to give their responses after the government files its response. The petitions against the withdrawal of Article 370 will now be heard on November 14, 2019. The court has allowed both the centre and J&K administration to file their counter replies.

18. Union home minister and BJP president Amit Shah said that Gandhinagar district has become the first kerosene-free district in the state. Shah, who is the member of Parliament from Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat, said this while distributing LPG connections to 1,000 rural women of the district under the central government's 'Ujjwala' yojana.

19. Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express from the New Delhi Railway Station. The first commercial run of the train started from 5th October. "Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express is a big gift for Jammu and Kashmir's development and for promoting religious tourism. This is the second Vande Bharat Express. The first one runs in between Delhi and Varanasi.

20. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off country's first private train Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express started its maiden journey from Lucknow. It will be the first train of Indian Railways that will be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The new Tejas Express will cover the distance between Delhi and Lucknow in six hours fifteen minutes. All passengers travelling by Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will be provided free insurance of up to ₹25 lakh by IRCTC.

21. Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik rolled out 'Mo Sarkar' programme which finds its roots in the Gandhian philosophy of giving people their voice in daily governance. The objective of 'Mo Sarkar' is to improve governance by collecting feedback on behaviour and professionalism displayed by the Government officers. Mo Sarkar programme has been launched in 21 district headquarters hospitals and medical colleges at Cuttack, Sambalpur and Berhampur.

22. Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on October 10, 2019, launched the Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme –DHRUV to motivate talented children to enhance their skills. The Programme was launched from the headquarters of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at Bengaluru. Under the programme, the selected students will be named as "Dhruv Tara". The programme reflects the true spirit of the "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat.

23. • The government of Rajasthan has announced that the pension scheme of prisoners detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) will be discontinued.
 - According to the latest announcement, these people will get medical facility only but pension will be discontinued.
 - Earlier, the Rajasthan Government hiked the pension of these people from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month in July 2018.
24. The United States recently imposed new sanctions against Turkey over its invasion into northern Syria. The sanctions call for a ceasefire, increase in steel tariffs and cancellations of the negotiations over a trade deal with Turkey.
25. The 35th ASEAN Summit began in Bangkok on October 31, 2019 and will continue till November 4, 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the summit on November 3-4, 2019.
26. Joint Military exercise between India and Maldives was named as Ekuverin. On October 7, 2019 the 10th edition of the joint exercise between India and Maldives named Ekuverin for the year 2019 begun at Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra. This 14 day joint exercise between Indian Army(IA) and Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) will be conducted till October 20, 2019.
27. On October 7, 2019 the Indian Army's first and biggest mountain combat exercise "Him Vijay" for the year 2019 begun at Arunachal Pradesh. It is an important exercise for validating the operational concepts of the newly raised Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) to meet the requirements of modern warfare.
28. India and Japan are organizing Dharm Guardian-2019, a joint military exercise, at Mizoram to strengthen the military bond. It was first organized in the year 2018. Last joint military exercise was also held at Mizoram. Both countries share their war-related expertise.
29. Philippines revealed its plan to buy India's BrahMos missile which can be launched from all four platforms, ship, a plane, submarine, or on land. The announcement was made by the Vice Commander of the Philippine Army Major General Reynaldo Aquino during his visit to India.
30. Papua New Guinea (PNG), for the first time, qualified for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Twenty 20 (T20) World Cup tournament 2020 by defeating Kenya in a match held at Dubai International Stadium, Dubai. It was a World Cup Qualifier tournament. Ireland has also qualified for ICC T20 World Cup 2020 after finishing at the top of their group. The 2020 World T20, the seventh edition, will be held from October 18 to November 15, 2020, in Australia.
31. The organising committee of the Paris(France) 2024 summer olympic and paralympic games officially known as the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad has unveiled its new emblem. The logo is created with combination of 3 symbols connected to the Olympics and France. The symbols are the gold medal depicted as the yellow circle, the Olympic and Paralympic flames, and Marianne- the mascot for the Paris game which is the French symbol of the revolution and the Republic's ideals of liberty, equality (equality) and fraternity.
32. Harmanpreet Kaur recently became India's first to play 100 T20 International matches. Kaur is the Captain of Indian women's cricket team. She managed to achieve the feat by playing the sixth and final T20 International against South Africa at Surat. She is the first to play 100 T20Is among males and females.
33. Nepal and Zimbabwe about three months after being suspended for government interference in its board, Zimbabwe has been reinstated as a member of the ICC. Nepal has also been readmitted as ICC member on a conditional basis. Nepal was also suspended in 2016 due to government's interference.
34. The 7th edition of Military World Games (MWG-2019) is being held from October 18–27 in Wuhan, China. The theme of the games is 'Military Glory and Peace'. China is for the first time is hosting the MWG, which is also known as Military Olympics. In this, more than 10,000 military officials from over 140 countries, including India are expected to participate with a record-high 329 events across 27 sports. The first MWG was inaugurated in Rome in 1955, and since then, it is held every 4 years by the International Military Sports Council (or CISM).
35. The Nobel Prizes 2019 were announced in October 2019.
 - Physics James Peebles, Michel Mayor, Didier Queloz
 - Chemistry John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham, Akira Yoshino
 - Medicine William Kaelin Jr., Peter J. Ratcliffe, Gregg L. Semenza

- Literature Peter Handke
- Peace Abiy Ahmed
- Economics Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, Michael Kremer

Olga Tokarczuk was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize for Literature in 2019 for her "narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life". The 2018 award had been postponed due to controversy within the Nobel committee and so was awarded in 2019.

36. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar recently announced that India will be adopting the BS-VI emission norms by April 2022.
 - Bharat Stage Six (BS-VI) is expected to bring transformation in fuels.
 - The Government has spent Rs 60,000 crore on switching from BS-IV fuel to BS-VI fuel.
 - The motive is to tackle the alarming pollution levels.
37. To honour Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist who has done splendid contribution in raising global awareness of climate change, scientists at the British Natural History Museum in London, UK have officially named a tiny species of beetle "Nelloptodes gretae". This tiny species of beetle was first found in 1965 by British naturalist Dr William C Block in Nairobi, Kenya.
38. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Cyclone 'Kyarr' with an estimated wind speed of 220-230 kmph intensified to become the first Super Cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea in the last 12 years after Cyclone Gonu ravaged the Oman coast in 2007. Kyarr is the 9th super cyclone to form in the North Indian Ocean.
39. 150th Gandhi Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence was observed on October 2, 2019. The birthday of Late Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India was also observed on this day.
40. On October 5, 2019, World Teacher's Day or International Teachers Day was observed across the world with an aim to improve teachers' situation in the world. The theme of this day for 2019 is Young Teachers: The Future of the Profession.
41. On October 8, 2019 the Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 87th anniversary on Air Force Day at Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Air Force Chief, Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat and others were present during the event.
42. The United Nations (UN) Day 2019 will be observed across the world on October 24, 2019 to mark the 74th anniversary of the UN Charter and celebrate ever achievement and initiative of the UN.
43. India is ranked 102 in the Global Hunger Index of 117 countries. Its aim is to save the world from the food crisis and improve the quality of existing food production. It also helps to know about the policies issued by various governments around the world.
44. India was ranked at the 63rd position in the 2019 Ease of Doing Business rankings. The rankings were released by the World Bank on October 24, 2019. In 2014, India was ranked at the 77th position.

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