1. International News

Proposal on Overseas Student Tuition Fees & Regulations

- **Key Update:** The United States proposed a federal financial adjustment scheme of up to $70,000 for institutions supporting international students. Concurrently, stricter regulatory measures were discussed regarding visa extensions and work authorizations for international IT professionals.
- **Exam Relevance (UPSC / SSC / State Services):**
  - **Geopolitics & Bilateral Relations:** Impact of foreign education and work-visa regulations on the Indian diaspora and cross-border remittance inflows.

2. National News & Government Initiatives

Establishment of Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet formally structured operational guidelines for the newly approved **Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA)**.
- **Key Objective:** To unify multi-modal transit networks (Railways, Roadways, Inland Waterways, and Airways) under a single regulatory framework to slash India's logistics cost from ~13% of GDP down to sub-8%.
- **Exam Relevance:**
  - **PM Gati Shakti Alignment:** Direct link to infrastructure development, National Logistics Policy (NLP), and multi-modal integration.

Capping Trade Margins on Essential Oncology Medicines

- **Key Update:** The Department of Pharmaceuticals proposed capping trade margins at **30% over distributor price** for expensive and patented cancer drugs.
- **Impact:** Expected to lower the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of life-saving oncology drugs by up to **70%**.
- **Nodal Agency:** National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), functioning under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

3. Economics & Banking

UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) Implementation Postponement

- **Key Update:** The Ministry of Finance and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) signaled a potential delay in implementing the proposed Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) structure on high-value UPI transactions to **January 1**.
- **Static GK Connection for Banking Exams:**
  - **NPCI:** Established in 2008 under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Initiative of RBI & IBA).
  - **MDR Definition:** The fee levied on a merchant by a bank for accepting payments via digital mediums.

Approval of ₹10,000 Crore SME Growth Fund

- **Key Update:** Operationalization details were announced following the Union Cabinet's **₹10,000 crore government commitment** towards the **SME Growth Fund**.
- **Objective:** Providing equity/quasi-equity support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) looking to scale up and expand manufacturing capabilities.

4. Defense & Security News

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Defense Infrastructure & Private Participation: SIDM Champion Awards

- **Key Update:** Defense Minister (Raksha Mantri) presented the **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) Champion Awards**.
- **Key Highlights:** Emphasized the expansion of private sector R&D investment and self-reliance (Atmanirbharata) in domestic defense production.
- **Exam Relevance:**
  - **SIDM:** Apex body representing the Indian defense industry, working in tandem with the Department of Defence Production (DDP).

5. Sports News

Kuwait to Host Inaugural Asian Esports & Mind Sports Games (2027)

- **Key Update:** The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) confirmed that Kuwait will host the **inaugural Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games in 2027**.
- **Exam Relevance:**
  - **Static GK:** Headquarters of the Olympic Council of Asia is located in **Kuwait City, Kuwait**.

6. Important Days & Events

World Post Day

- **Date:** 9 October (Observed annually worldwide).
- **Theme:** "One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities".
- **Background:** Marks the anniversary of the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** in 1874 through the Treaty of Bern.
- **Headquarters of UPU:** Bern, Switzerland.

National Postal Week

- **Duration: 9 October – 15 October.**
- **Organizing Agency:** Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.

7. Art, Culture, Festivals & MoUs

10th Edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC)

- **Venue:** Yashobhoomi (IICC), New Delhi.
- **Organizers:** Jointly hosted by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**.
- **Key Focus:** 5G/6G architecture, AI integration in telecom networks, and cybersecurity standards.

8. Birth & Death Anniversaries

Birth Anniversaries

1. **Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das (1877–1928):** Famous social reformer, freedom fighter, and poet from Odisha, widely referred to as the "Jewel of Utkal".
2. **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (Born 9 Oct 1945):** Renowned Indian classical Sarod maestro; awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.
3. **Keshub Mahindra (1923–2023):** Eminent industrialist and former chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra group.

Death Anniversaries / Historic Remembrance

1. **Che Guevara (Died 9 Oct 1967):** Argentine Marxist revolutionary and central figure in the Cuban Revolution.
2. **Ratan Naval Tata (Died 9 Oct 2024):** Legendary Indian industrialist, philanthropist, and former Chairman of Tata

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Sons; recipient of the Padma Vibhushan (2008).

Exam-Oriented Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)

Question 1 (Banking/Economics)

What is the total government contribution commitment approved for the establishing of the SME Growth Fund?

- A) ₹5,000 crore
- B) ₹10,000 crore
- C) ₹15,000 crore
- D) ₹20,000 crore

Answer: B) ₹10,000 crore

Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved a commitment of ₹10,000 crore to back growth-stage MSMEs with equity support.

Question 2 (Important Days)

World Post Day is observed every year on October 9 to commemorate the establishment of which international organization?

- A) International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- B) Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- C) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- D) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Answer: B) Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Explanation: World Post Day marks the anniversary of the creation of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.

Question 3 (Sports)

Which country will host the inaugural Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games in 2027?

- A) Qatar
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) Kuwait
- D) Japan

Answer: C) Kuwait

Explanation: The Olympic Council of Asia selected Kuwait to host the first edition of the Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games in 2027.

30 Practice MCQs with Answer Key & Explanations

Q1. Who won the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2026?

(a) Han Kang

(b) Anne Carson

(c) Jon Fosse

(d) Annie Ernaux

Q2. What is the theme of World Post Day 2026 observed on 9th October?

(a) Post for Planet

(b) Together for Trust

(c) World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities

(d) Connecting People Across Borders

Q3. As per the RBI Monetary Policy Review of October 2026, what is the revised Repo Rate?

(a) 5.25%

(b) 5.50%

(c) 6.25%

(d) 6.50%

Q4. What is the revised GDP growth projection for FY2026-27 set by the RBI?

(a) 6.7%

(b) 6.9%

(c) 7.1%

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(d) 7.3%

Q5. The 57th GST Council recommended raising the prosecution threshold from ₹1 crore to what amount?

(a) ₹2 crore

(b) ₹3 crore

(c) ₹5 crore

(d) ₹10 crore

Q6. The 12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) was conducted off the coast of which state?

(a) Gujarat

(b) Tamil Nadu

(c) Odisha

(d) Andhra Pradesh

Q7. Which Indian startup delivered the country's first military-grade Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) to the Indian Navy?

(a) IdeaForge

(b) EyeROV

(c) Garuda Aerospace

(d) Pixxel

Q8. Who among the following won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for work on asymmetric organic synthesis?

(a) Moungi Bawendi & Louis Brus

(b) Henri Boris Kagan & Kenso Soai

(c) David Baker & John Jumper

(d) Carolyn Bertozzi & K. Barry Sharpless

Q9. Who became the 5th Indian to win the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for Mathematics in 2026?

(a) Neena Gupta

(b) Akshay Venkatesh

(c) Mahesh Kakde

(d) Ruixiang Zhang

Q10. What target has the Indian Government set for global 6G patents at the 3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium?

(a) 5%

(b) 10%

(c) 15%

(d) 20%

Q11. World Development Report 2026 titled "The Promise of Artificial Intelligence" was published by which organization?

(a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

(b) World Economic Forum (WEF)

(c) World Bank Group

(d) UNDP

Q12. According to NSO's first-ever National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), what is the average monthly commuting expenditure of a worker in India?

(a) ₹550

(b) ₹680

(c) ₹785

(d) ₹950

Q13. Green-field Shree Jagannath International Airport, recently granted environmental clearance, is situated in which district of Odisha?

(a) Cuttack

(b) Puri

(c) Ganjam

(d) Khordha

Q14. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting reconstituted the Press Council of India (PCI) with how many journalist members?

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(a) 10

(b) 13

(c) 15

(d) 20

Q15. Which state government launched the 'WOMN' initiative for safer public transportation for women?

(a) Tamil Nadu

(b) Karnataka

(c) Kerala

(d) Maharashtra

Q16. Veteran actor Nana Patekar, who passed away in October 2026, was awarded the Padma Shri in which year?

(a) 2011

(b) 2013

(c) 2015

(d) 2018

Q17. Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established in 1874 with its headquarters located in:

(a) Geneva, Switzerland

(b) Bern, Switzerland

(c) Paris, France

(d) Vienna, Austria

Q18. Indian Air Force celebrated its 94th Air Force Day on 8th October 2026. The IAF was officially established in which year?

(a) 1928

(b) 1932

(c) 1945

(d) 1950

Q19. Carbon-mineralization technology 'Carbfix', which converts captured carbon dioxide into stone, belongs to which nation partnering with India?

(a) Norway

(b) Iceland

(c) Denmark

(d) Japan

Q20. ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (ICAR-IIAB) is situated in which city?

(a) Patna

(b) Ranchi

(c) Dehradun

(d) Bhopal

Q21. Which famous book is authored by the 2026 Nobel Literature laureate Anne Carson?

(a) The English Patient

(b) Autobiography of Red

(c) Wolf Hall

(d) Milkman

Q22. National Postal Week in India is observed during which dates in 2026?

(a) 1–7 October

(b) 9–15 October

(c) 10–16 October

(d) 15–21 October

Q23. Who is the current Governor of the Reserve Bank of India who chaired the October 2026 MPC meeting?

(a) Shaktikanta Das

(b) Sanjay Malhotra

(c) Urjit Patel

(d) Michael Patra

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Q24. MoSPI's newly released environmental accounting framework aligns with which international system?

(a) UN-SEEA

(b) Paris Climate Accord

(c) Kyoto Protocol

(d) IPCC Framework

Q25. What was the theme for the 10th India Mobile Congress (IMC 2026)?

(a) Connected World

(b) Scale Without Boundaries

(c) Digital First India

(d) Future of Connectivity

Q26. Late Roshan Kumari, who passed away recently, was a distinguished exponent of which classical dance form?

(a) Bharatanatyam

(b) Kathak

(c) Odissi

(d) Kathakali

Q27. Under Project Unmesha, Philip Morris India partnered with which civic technology firm to reduce urban littering?

(a) Recykal

(b) Litterati

(c) CleanApp

(d) EcoTask

Q28. Under the revised RBI monetary stance in October 2026, what is the current Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate?

(a) 5.00%

(b) 5.25%

(c) 5.50%

(d) 5.75%

Q29. Where was the main parade for the 94th Indian Air Force Day held on October 8, 2026?

(a) Chandigarh Air Force Base

(b) Air Force Station Hindan, Ghaziabad

(c) Prayagraj Air Force Station

(d) Air Force Station Yelahanka

Q30. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body established under which Act?

(a) Press Council Act, 1952

(b) Press Council Act, 1978

(c) Freedom of Speech Act, 1986

(d) Information Technology Act, 2000

Answer Key & Quick Explanations

Q. No	Ans	Key Detail / Explanation
1	(b)	Canadian poet Anne Carson won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature.
2	(c)	The official theme is *"World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities"*.
3	(b)	RBI raised repo rate by 25 bps from 5.25% to 5.50%.
4	(c)	RBI revised the real GDP growth projection for FY27 to 7.1%.
5	(c)	GST prosecution limit moved from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore.
6	(c)	SAREX-2026 was hosted by Indian Coast Guard off Paradip, Odisha.
7	(b)	Kochi-based EyeROV built India's 1st military-grade ROV.

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Q. No	Ans	Key Detail / Explanation
8	(b)	Kagan (France) and Soai (Japan) shared the Chemistry Nobel.
9	(c)	Mahesh Kakde won the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2026.
10	(b)	DoT targets securing 10% of global 6G patents.
11	(c)	WDR 2026 is published by the World Bank Group.
12	(c)	Average worker commute cost stands at ₹785 per month nationally.
13	(b)	Located at Sipasarubali near Puri, Odisha.
14	(b)	MIB nominated 13 journalist members under PCI Act 1978.
15	(c)	Launched by KSRTC in Kerala.
16	(b)	Nana Patekar was conferred the Padma Shri in 2013.
17	(b)	Universal Postal Union was founded at Bern, Switzerland in 1874.
18	(b)	Indian Air Force was established on 8 October 1932.
19	(b)	Carbfix technology is developed in Iceland.
20	(b)	ICAR-IIAB is located in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Q. No	Ans	Key Detail / Explanation
21	(b)	*Autobiography of Red* is Carson's celebrated verse novel.
22	(b)	Observed annually from 9th to 15th October.
23	(b)	Sanjay Malhotra is the Governor of RBI.
24	(a)	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).
25	(b)	IMC 2026 theme was "Scale Without Boundaries".
26	(b)	Late Roshan Kumari was a Padma Shri Kathak exponent.
27	(b)	Partnered with global civic tech firm Litterati.
28	(b)	SDF rate stands at 5.25% (25 bps below Repo Rate).
29	(b)	Air Force Station Hindan in Ghaziabad, UP.
30	(b)	Constituted under Section 5 & 6 of Press Council Act, 1978.

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