

1. National News & Governance

Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) Emission Standards Framework Proposed

- **Key Update:** The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) issued a notification proposing the phased implementation of **Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII)** emission norms across India for light-duty vehicles (cars and SUVs).
- **Alignment:** These standards align with the European Union's **Euro 7** emission framework.
- **Phased Rollout Threshold:**
 1. Phase 1: Applies to large automotive manufacturers/societies exceeding ₹1,000 crore threshold.
 2. Phase 2: Expanded to cover entities exceeding the ₹50 crore threshold.
- **Exam Key Takeaway:** BS-VI was directly implemented skipping BS-V in April 2020. BS-VII shifts focus toward real-world driving emissions (RDE) and non-exhaust particle emissions (e.g., brake wear and tire particles).

Sankoo Carved Out as Ladakh's 8th District

- **Key Update:** Sankoo has officially been declared the **8th district of the Union Territory of Ladakh**.
- **Details:** It gets a separate Autonomous Hill Development Council to ensure localized administrative convenience and decentralization in the high-altitude region.

2. International News & Global Indices

Henley Passport Index Update (October 2026)

- **Top Spot:** Singapore retained its rank as the world's most powerful passport, granting

visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to **193 destinations**.

- **Second Rank:** Japan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and South Korea tied for 2nd place with access to **188 destinations**.
- **Weakest Passports:**
 - **Afghanistan** (Rank 106 – 22 destinations)
 - **Syria** (Rank 105 – 25 destinations)
 - **Iraq** (Rank 104 – 28 destinations)
 - **Pakistan** (Rank 103 – 29 destinations)

Pakistan Elected to Chair IMF & World Bank Boards of Governors in 2027

- **Key Update:** Pakistan has been selected to chair the Boards of Governors of both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank for the year 2027—a role it will assume after a gap of 74 years.

3. Banking, Finance & Economy

RBI Approves Amalgamation of Emirates NBD Bank Branches

- **Key Update:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted formal regulatory approval for the scheme of amalgamation to merge the Indian operations/branches of Dubai-based **Emirates NBD Bank P.J.S.C.** into **RBL Bank**.
- **Exam Relevance:** Mergers involving foreign bank branches operating in India fall under Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

NPPA Caps Trade Margin on Critical Cancer Drugs

- **Key Update:** The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) imposed a **30% cap on trade margins** for **137 critical anti-cancer drugs**.



- **Impact:** This move aims to significantly lower Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) for oncology care across India.

Corporate Identity Launch

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** unveiled its rebranded identity featuring the new tagline: **"Har Kal Aasaan"**.

4. Defense & Space Technology

Commissioning of INS Samarthak (Yard 11181)

- **Key Update:** Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan officially commissioned **INS Samarthak**, India's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), at Naval Base Karwar, Karnataka.
- **Specifications:** Built by L&T Shipbuilding under the 'Make in India' defense initiative, INS Samarthak is designed for surface target towing, trial support, and maritime surveillance.

ISRO Validates Gaganyaan Orbital Module Separation

- **Key Update:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a series of separation tests for the **Crew Module (CM)** and **Service Module (SM)** at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- **Mission Milestone:** Validates structural integrity and pyrotechnic separation mechanisms ahead of the uncrewed **Gaganyaan-1 (G1)** orbital flight carrying the half-humanoid robot **Vyommitra**.

5. Awards & Honors

FAO Honors Mizoram Farmer Mari ZT Lalrithangi

- **Award:** FAO '100 Women Heroes' Honor / Special Recognition.

- **Field:** Pioneer in introducing sustainable commercial **strawberry cultivation** in Mizoram, empowering rural female farmers.

Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026

- **Winner:** Oscar Whitfield.
- **Awarding Body:** Natural History Museum, London.

6. Appointments & Reshuffles

Name	Position / Role	Previous/Addition al Context
Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	Appointed Next Chief of the Air Staff	Takes charge on 31 Oct 2026, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.
Om Prakash Mathur	Governor of Keralam (Kerala)	Transferred from Governor of Sikkim.
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Governor of Tamil Nadu	Transferred from Governor of Keralam.
Dushyant Gautam	Governor of Sikkim	New appointment.
Babujee Attada	DIG, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)	Appointed on deputation.



7. Important Days & Themes

7. Important Days & Themes

- **World Food Day (October 16):** Celebrated globally to mark the 81st anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
 - **2026 Theme:** "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."
- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17):** Observed annually to highlight structural solutions for global poverty elimination.

8. Government Schemes & MoUs

IIT Kanpur "Greater Than Us" Defense R&D Campaign

- **Initiative:** Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launched the "Greater Than Us" USD 1 Billion fundraising campaign at IIT Kanpur.
- **MoU Focus:** IIT Kanpur signed an agreement with the Ministry of Defense to set up a dedicated **Defense Drone Hub** to research, innovate, and indigenize critical hardware and software for military UAVs.

Green Ammonia Production MoU

- **Partnership:** Asian Development Bank (ADB), Government of Japan, and India's Greenko Group.
- **Project Site:** Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- **Objective:** Construction of export-grade renewable green ammonia production facilities to accelerate clean energy transitions.

30 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) for Competitive Exams

International News

Q1. Which country retained the top spot as the world's most powerful passport in the latest Passport Index?

- A) Japan
- B) Singapore
- C) United Arab Emirates
- D) South Korea

Answer: B) Singapore

Explanation: Singapore maintained its position as the world's most powerful passport, offering visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to 193 destinations.

Q2. After a gap of 74 years, which nation has been selected to chair the IMF and World Bank Group Boards of Governors in 2027?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) India
- C) Pakistan
- D) Sri Lanka

Answer: C) Pakistan

Explanation: Pakistan was designated to chair the Boards of Governors of both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group for the year 2027.

Q3. NASA's Perseverance Rover recently set an off-world driving distance record of 45.22 km, surpassing which historic rover?

- A) Curiosity
- B) Spirit
- C) Sojourner
- D) Opportunity

Answer: D) Opportunity

Explanation: Perseverance surpassed Opportunity's long-standing distance record of 45.16 km on Mars.

Q4. Which country ranked at the bottom (106th) of the global passport index with access to only 22 visa-free destinations?

- A) Syria
- B) Iraq
- C) Afghanistan
- D) Yemen

Answer: C) Afghanistan

Explanation: Afghanistan ranked lowest at 106th place, allowing visa-free access to just 22 destinations globally.

National News & Policy

Q5. Sankoo was recently notified as the 8th district of which Indian Union Territory?

- A) Jammu & Kashmir
- B) Ladakh
- C) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- D) Puducherry

Answer: B) Ladakh

Explanation: Sankoo officially became the 8th district in Ladakh and was granted a separate Autonomous Hill Development Council.

Q6. The 1st ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum was convened in which Indian city?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai
- C) New Delhi
- D) Mumbai

Answer: C) New Delhi

Explanation: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 1st ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum hosted in New Delhi.

Q7. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) proposed the phase-wise

implementation of which emission standards for cars and SUVs?

- A) BS-V
- B) BS-VI Stage 2
- C) BS-VII
- D) Euro 6d

Answer: C) BS-VII

Explanation: MoRTH proposed transitioning to BS-VII emission standards, aligned with European Union Euro 7 regulations.

Q8. What is the newly designated status of the Namdapha Flying Squirrel in conservation news?

- A) Endemic species of Western Ghats
- B) Endemic critically endangered rodent of Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Invasive species of the Eastern Himalayas
- D) Extinct mammal of Sikkim

Answer: B) Endemic critically endangered rodent of Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation: Targeted nocturnal surveys were initiated in Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh, to study this elusive species.

Economics & Banking

Q9. Under Section 44A (4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the RBI approved the merger of the Indian operations of which bank with RBL Bank?

- A) First Abu Dhabi Bank
- B) Emirates NBD Bank P.J.S.C.
- C) Mashreq Bank
- D) Qatar National Bank

Answer: B) Emirates NBD Bank P.J.S.C.



Explanation: The RBI sanctioned the amalgamation of Emirates NBD's Indian branch operations into RBL Bank Limited.

Q10. What is the new brand tagline introduced by ICICI Prudential Life Insurance during its identity refresh?

- A) Zindagi Ke Saath Bhi
- B) Protection First
- C) Har Kal Aasaan
- D) Bharosa Apno Ka

Answer: C) Har Kal Aasaan

Explanation: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched its campaign with the new identity tagline "Har Kal Aasaan".

Q11. According to trade statistics, what was the record high India-China annual trade deficit figure reported?

- A) \$50.5 billion
- B) \$85.4 billion
- C) \$116.12 billion
- D) \$150.0 billion

Answer: C) \$116.12 billion

Explanation: India's annual bilateral trade deficit with China touched a high of \$116.12 billion.

Q12. What percentage of India's silicon wafer imports originate from China according to recent commerce data?

- A) 50%
- B) 72%
- C) 86%
- D) 96.8%

Answer: D) 96.8%

Explanation: Commerce Ministry data shows China accounts for 96.8% of India's silicon wafer imports.

Defence & Aerospace

Q13. Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan commissioned "INS Samarthak" at which naval location?

- A) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karwar, Karnataka
- C) Kochi, Kerala
- D) Mumbai, Maharashtra

Answer: B) Karwar, Karnataka

Explanation: INS Samarthak, India's first indigenously built Multi-Purpose Vessel, was commissioned at Karwar Naval Base.

Q14. Which space institution performed module separation tests for the uncrewed Gaganyaan-1 (G1) mission carrying Vyommitra?

- A) UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)
- B) Space Applications Centre (SAC)
- C) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
- D) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)

Answer: C) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

Explanation: Separation tests between the Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM) were conducted at VSSC Thiruvananthapuram.

Q15. Which IIT collaborated with the Ministry of Defence to establish a specialized "Defence Drone Hub"?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Kanpur

Answer: D) IIT Kanpur



Explanation: IIT Kanpur partnered with MoD to build a Defence Drone Hub to indigenize critical military drone components.

Q16. Which dedicated communication satellite was contracted by MoD specifically for the Indian Air Force (IAF)?

- A) GSAT-7A
- B) GSAT-7C
- C) GSAT-30
- D) RISAT-2BR1

Answer: B) GSAT-7C

Explanation: GSAT-7C is an indigenously designed military satellite intended to enhance secure IAF air-to-ground operations.

Q17. "Varunastra", recently contracted for acquisition by MoD, belongs to which category of defence equipment?

- A) Anti-tank Guided Missile
- B) Heavyweight Torpedo
- C) Surface-to-Air Radar
- D) Airborne Early Warning System

Answer: B) Heavyweight Torpedo

Explanation: Varunastra is an indigenously developed ship-launched anti-submarine heavyweight torpedo.

Government Schemes & Science/Tech

Q18. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) proposed banning added sugars for infant products targeted at which age group?

- A) 0 to 6 months
- B) 6 to 24 months
- C) 1 to 5 years
- D) 3 to 12 years

Answer: B) 6 to 24 months

Explanation: Draft FSSAI norms prohibit sucrose and fructose addition in commercial complementary infant foods for ages 6 to 24 months.

Q19. What trade margin ceiling cap did NPPA impose on 137 critical anti-cancer drugs?

- A) 10%
- B) 20%
- C) 30%
- D) 50%

Answer: C) 30%

Explanation: NPPA capped trade margins at 30% for 137 oncology medications to reduce patient treatment expenditure.

Q20. What is the target year set by the Ministry of Agriculture under the "Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses"?

- A) 2027-28
- B) 2028-29
- C) 2030-31
- D) 2034-35

Answer: C) 2030-31

Explanation: The mission aims to achieve complete national self-sufficiency in pulse production by FY 2030-31.

Q21. Which organization successfully developed and tested an indigenous Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) system for secure military comms?

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO
- C) CSIR
- D) BARC

Answer: B) DRDO



Explanation: DRDO designed and tested the quantum-secure communication system to safeguard military data against decryption.

Sports

Q22. Who won India's first Gold medal at the Asian Para Games in the 10m Air Rifle event?

- A) Avani Lekhara
- B) Mona Agarwal
- C) Bhavina Patel
- D) Deepa Malik

Answer: B) Mona Agarwal

Explanation: Mona Agarwal won Gold in 10m Air Rifle with a qualification record score, while Avani Lekhara clinched Silver.

Q23. Indian cricketer Chinmay Sutar achieved which milestone in Ranji Trophy history?

- A) Took 10 wickets in an innings
- B) Scored 400 runs in a single innings
- C) Hit 6 sixes in an over
- D) Scored fastest century off 20 balls

Answer: B) Scored 400 runs in a single innings

Explanation: Chinmay Sutar became only the 2nd batter in Ranji Trophy history (and 10th worldwide in First Class cricket) to score 400 runs.

Q24. Who won the Men's Singles title at the Shanghai Masters ATP 1000 Tennis Tournament?

- A) Alexander Zverev
- B) Carlos Alcaraz
- C) Alejandro Davidovich Fokina
- D) Jannik Sinner

Answer: C) Alejandro Davidovich Fokina

Explanation: Spain's Davidovich Fokina captured his debut ATP Masters 1000 trophy in Shanghai.

Q25. Eugenio Chacarra won which professional golf tournament held in India?

- A) Indian Open
- B) DP World India Championship
- C) Asia-Pacific Amateur
- D) Hero World Challenge

Answer: B) DP World India Championship

Explanation: Eugenio Chacarra claimed victory at the DP World India Championship, with Anirban Lahiri finishing as top Indian (tied 23rd).

Important Days & Themes

Q26. World Food Day is observed globally every year on which date?

- A) October 14
- B) October 15
- C) October 16
- D) October 18

Answer: C) October 16

Explanation: World Food Day is observed on October 16 to mark the founding anniversary of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Q27. What is the official theme for World Food Day 2026?

- A) Water is Life, Water is Food
- B) Leave NO One Behind
- C) Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.
- D) Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World

Answer: C) Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.



Explanation: The FAO designated "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow." as the official theme for 2026.

Q28. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is annually observed on which date?

- A) October 15
- B) October 17
- C) October 20
- D) October 24

Answer: B) October 17

Explanation: October 17 is designated by the United Nations as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Agriculture, Art & Culture

Q29. Which sector, with an annual turnover of ₹16,000 crore, employs a workforce composed of nearly 80% women in rural India?

- A) Jute Industry
- B) Coir Sector
- C) Silk Industry
- D) Tea Plantation Sector

Answer: B) Coir Sector

Explanation: The Indian coir industry generates ₹16,000 crore, contributing ~1% to GDP, with women making up 80% of its workforce.

Q30. Which state's traditional wrestling legacy was highlighted as Amruta won silver at the U23 World Wrestling Championships?

- A) Haryana
- B) Punjab
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: C) Maharashtra

Explanation: Amruta's silver medal at the U23 World Championships brought national spotlight to Maharashtra's traditional mud wrestling heritage

