CURRENT AFFAIRS — 1 October 2026

Thursday, 1 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

StudyForGS.com

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **PM-DHARA**: ₹1,86,405 cr for **135 GW** RE evacuation + **50 GWh** BESS by FY33
- **Wheat MSP** for RMS 2027-28: **₹2,610/qtl** (+₹25)
- Highest MSP hike: **Safflower +₹675** to ₹7,215/qtl
- **Gross GST Sept 2026**: ₹2.03 lakh cr, **+14.7%**
- **UPSC centenary**: PSC set up on **1 Oct 1926**
- **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026** replaces the **1891** law
- **Extradition Portal** launched under **PRAHAAR** CT strategy
- **50 million** Indian children lack school sanitation (JMP)
- India's **UNESCO Tentative List** rises to **78** sites
- Amit Shah meets Odisha & Chhattisgarh on **Mahanadi** dispute

SECTION A | GS-III: ENERGY, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & SECURITY

PM-DHARA (Green Energy Corridor Phase-III) at a glance

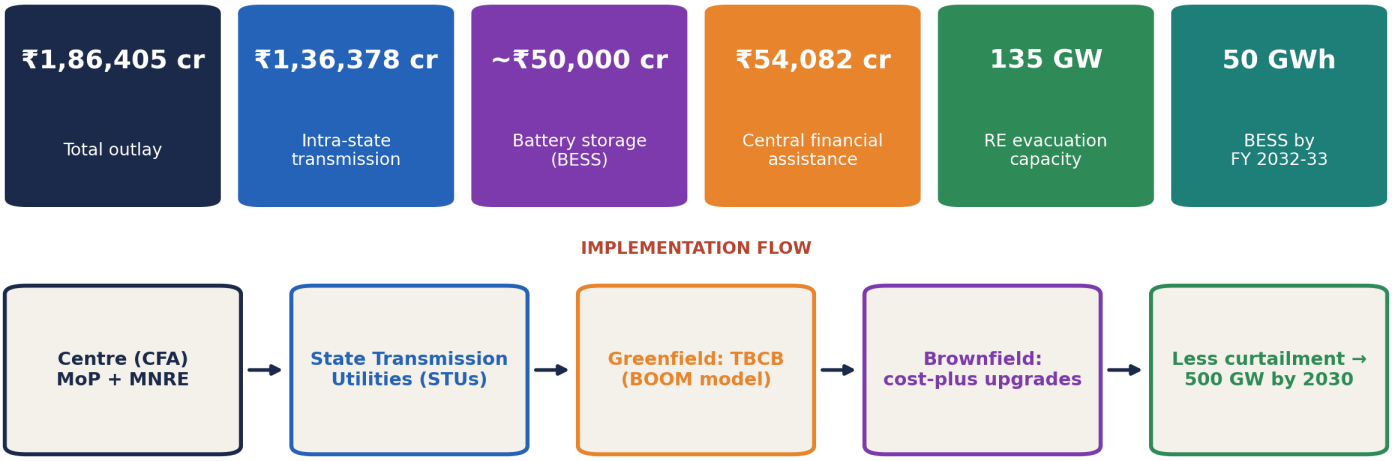


Fig. 1: PM-DHARA: ₹1.86 lakh crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-III to evacuate 135 GW

PM-DHARA: ₹1.86 lakh crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-III to evacuate 135 GW

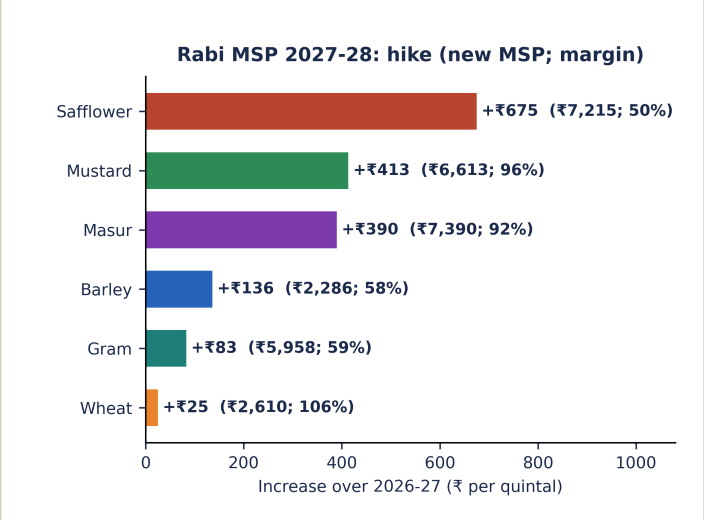
[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Infrastructure (Energy), Environment & Conservation; **Prelims** – schemes, BESS, TBCB, InSTS vs ISTS
Context	The Union Cabinet on **30 Sept 2026** approved **PM-DHARA** (Developing Harmonised & Accelerated Renewable Energy Access), i.e. **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III**, with an outlay of **₹1,86,405 crore** to fix intra-state grid bottlenecks.
Key Facts	■ **₹1,36,378 crore** for **Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)** + **~₹50,000 crore** for **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**. ■ **Central Financial Assistance: ₹54,082 crore**; targets **135 GW** RE evacuation and **50 GWh** BESS by **FY 2032-33**. ■ Greenfield lines via **Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB)** on **BOOM** model; brownfield upgrades on **cost-plus** basis. ■ Executed by **State Transmission Utilities (STUs)**; aims to cut RE **curtailment** caused by weak state grids.
Way Fwd	Fast-track **Right-of-Way** clearances, link storage to tariffs and repair DISCOM finances to keep the **500 GW non-fossil by 2030** goal on track.
Concept	**Green Energy Corridor**: GEC-I (**2015**, InSTS + ISTS) and GEC-II (**2022**, 7 states). **ISTS** = inter-state grid (CTU), **InSTS** = intra-state grid (STU). **BESS** stores surplus solar for the evening peak.

Rabi MSP 2027-28: oilseeds and pulses get the biggest boost, wheat up ₹25

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – MSP, agricultural pricing, food security; **Prelims** – CACP, A2+FL cost, mandated crops
Context	The Cabinet on **30 Sept 2026** raised the **MSP of all 6 rabi crops** for **Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2027-28**, deliberately tilting towards **oilseeds and pulses** to push crop diversification.
Key Facts	■ **Wheat ₹2,610/qtl** (+**₹25**), highest margin over cost at **106%**. ■ Biggest hike: **Safflower +₹675** (₹7,215); **Rapeseed-Mustard +₹413** (₹6,613); **Masur +₹390** (₹7,390). ■ **Gram ₹5,958** (+₹83); **Barley ₹2,286** (+₹136). ■ Margins over cost: mustard **96%**, masur **92%**, gram **59%**, barley **58%**, safflower **50%** – all above the **1.5x** norm.
Way Fwd	Pair higher MSPs with **assured procurement** of pulses and oilseeds (**PM-AASHA**) so that prices actually reach farmers and edible-oil imports fall.
Concept	MSP is fixed for **22 mandated crops** on the advice of **CACP** (attached office of the Agriculture Ministry) and approved by the **CCEA**; since Budget **2018-19**, MSP is at least **1.5 times the A2+FL** cost.



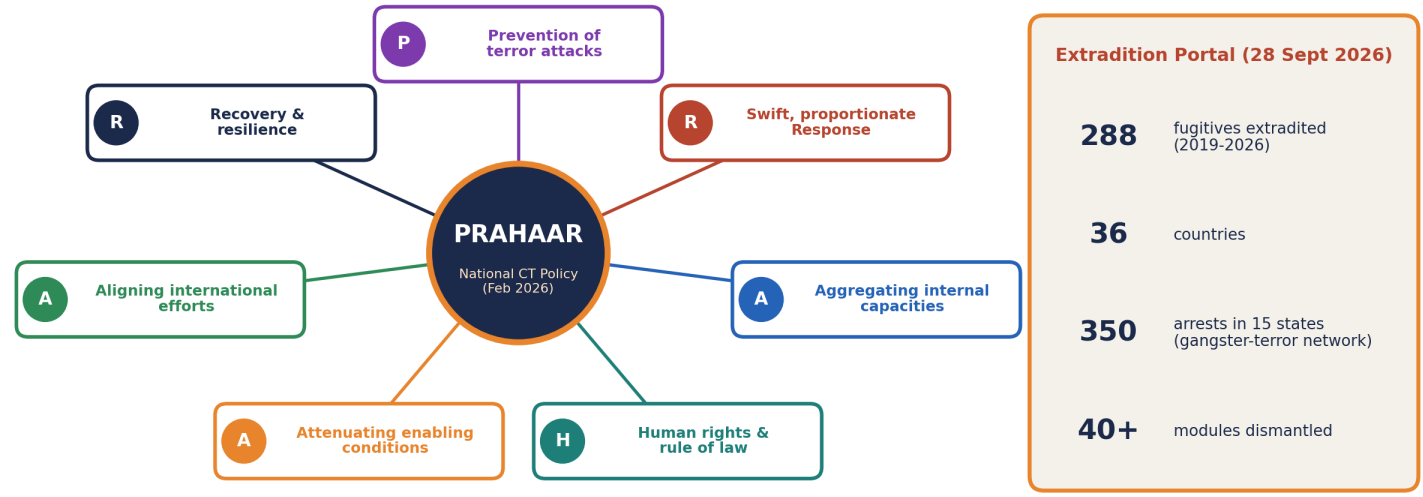


Fig. 2: PRAHAAR counter-terror strategy: new Extradition Portal, push for police-station-level response

PRAHAAR counter-terror strategy: new Extradition Portal, push for police-station-level response

[DEFENCE] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Internal security, terrorism, role of external state/non-state actors; **Prelims** – UAPA, NIA, extradition
Context	At a national conference on **PRAHAAR** – India's first **National Counter-Terrorism Policy & Strategy** (released **Feb 2026**) – Home Minister **Amit Shah** on **28 Sept 2026** launched an **Extradition Portal** and sought an automated CT response down to every **police station**.
Key Facts	■ **7 pillars**: Prevention, Response, Aggregating capacities, Human rights & rule of law, Attenuating enabling conditions, Aligning global efforts, Recovery & resilience. ■ **Extradition Portal** links **MHA, MEA, CBI** and state police to bring back fugitives faster. ■ **288 fugitives** extradited from **36 countries** during **2019-2026**. ■ Cross-border gangster-terror network: **40+ modules** busted, **100+ FIRs**, **350 arrests** in **15 states**.
Way Fwd	Convert PRAHAAR into a **10-year roadmap**, widen extradition/MLAT treaties and use real-time data fusion (**NATGRID**) for prevention.
Concept	**UAPA 1967** (individuals can be designated terrorists since **2019** amendment); **NIA Act 2008**; **Extradition Act 1962** (MEA is the central authority); 'terrorist act' defined in **Sec 113, BNS 2023**.

PRAMAAN: first national forest-certification certificates handed over

[ENVIRONMENT] **PRELIMS: GS3 Environment**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Conservation, sustainable forest management; **Prelims** – certification schemes, EUDR
Context	The first certificates under **PRAMAAN**, the brand of the **Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**, were handed over on **29 Sept 2026**, covering sustainable management of **33,000+ hectares** of forest.
Key Facts	■ IFWCS launched by **MoEFCC** in **2023**; operated through **IIFM, Bhopal**. ■ Certifies **Forest Management**, **Trees Outside Forests (ToF)** and **Chain of Custody** of wood products. ■ **Voluntary, market-based** tool; helps exporters meet legality norms such as the **EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)**.
Way Fwd	Extend certification to **JFM committees** and agroforestry farmers so that a **green premium** reaches local communities.
Concept	**Sustainable Forest Management** = meeting present needs without degrading forests; global analogues are **FSC** and **PEFC**; India's forest + tree cover is about **one-fourth** of its area (**ISFR**).

SECTION B | KEY ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

GST mop-up crosses ₹2 lakh crore in September 2026, up 14.7%

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

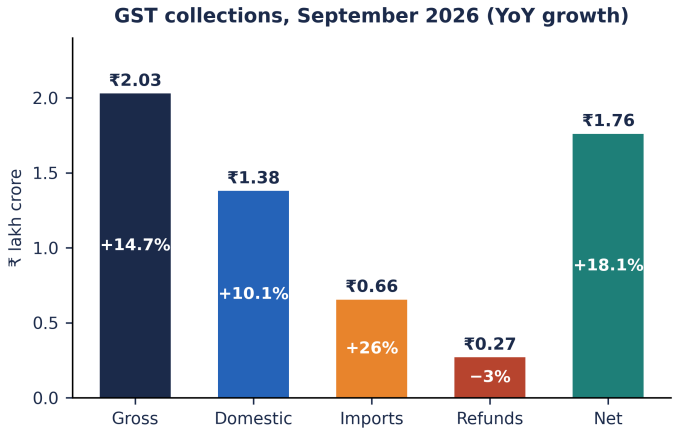
Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Indian economy, mobilisation of resources, indirect taxes; **Prelims** – GST Council, IGST
Context	Official data released on **1 Oct 2026** show **gross GST** for **September 2026** at **₹2.03 lakh crore**, up **14.7%** year-on-year, led by a sharp jump in import-linked collections.
Key Facts	■ **Domestic** GST **₹1.38 lakh crore** (**+10.1%**); **imports ₹65,525 crore** (**+26%**). ■ **Refunds ₹27,001 crore** (−3%); **net GST ₹1.76 lakh crore** (**+18.1%**). ■ **H1 FY27** (Apr-Sep): gross **₹12.46 lakh crore** (+11.6%), net **₹10.66 lakh crore** (+10.4%).
Way Fwd	Sustain buoyancy after rate rationalisation by speeding up **refunds**, fully operationalising the **GST Appellate Tribunal** and curbing fake invoicing.
Concept	GST via the **101st Constitutional Amendment (2016)**; **Art 279A** creates the **GST Council**. **GST 2.0** (from **22 Sept 2025**) has two main slabs, **5% and 18%**, plus **40%** for sin/luxury goods; imports attract **IGST**.

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Gross GST collection – September 2026

₹2.03 lakh crore

+14.7% YoY; net GST **₹1.76 lakh crore** (**+18.1%**); imports **+26%**



SECTION C | GS-II: GOVERNANCE, POLITY, IR & SOCIAL ISSUES

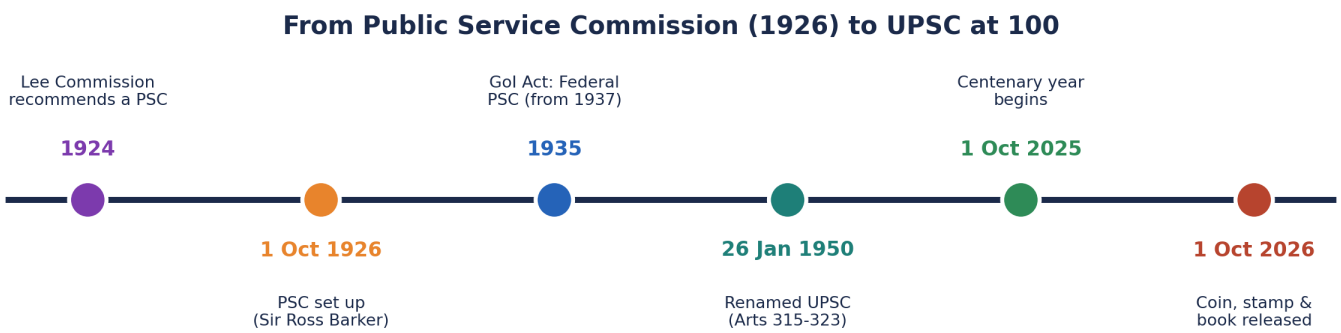


Fig. 3: UPSC turns 100: PM releases coin, stamp and landmark-judgements book

UPSC turns 100: PM releases coin, stamp and landmark-judgements book

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Constitutional bodies, civil services; **Prelims** – Arts 315-323, Lee Commission, GoI Acts
Context	PM **Narendra Modi** attended the UPSC **centenary** finale at **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi on **1 Oct 2026** – exactly **100 years** after the **Public Service Commission** was set up on **1 Oct 1926**.
Key Facts	■ Released a commemorative **coin**, **postage stamp** and the book **'100 Landmark Judgements'** on PSC policies. ■ **1926 PSC** set up on the **Lee Commission (1924)** advice; first chairman **Sir Ross Barker**. ■ **GoI Act 1935** created the **Federal PSC**; it became **UPSC** on **26 Jan 1950**. ■ Chairman **Dr Ajay Kumar** stressed **'Trust, Transparency and Technology'**.
Way Fwd	Shorten the exam cycle, harden **exam security** with technology and keep the merit system insulated to preserve public trust.
Concept	**Part XIV, Arts 315-323**: members appointed by the **President**, term **6 years or age 65**; removal under **Art 317** (SC inquiry for misbehaviour); functions in **Art 320**; annual report under **Art 323**.

Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 in force, replacing the 1891 colonial law

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Government policies, judiciary; **GS3** – banking; **Prelims** – new criminal laws, e-evidence
Context	The **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026** came into force on **1 Oct 2026**, replacing the **135-year-old 1891** Act with a **technology-neutral** framework for proving bank records in courts.
Key Facts	■ 'Bankers' books' now include records in **any data-storage form**, including **electronic/digital**. ■ **Certified copies** admissible without originals if correctly derived and with **no tampering**. ■ Bank officers need not testify where the bank is not a party – only on court order for **special cause**. ■ Centre may extend the Act to other **financial-sector entities** by **notification**; recognises **digital and electronic signatures**.
Way Fwd	Harmonise with **BSA 2023** e-evidence rules and the **DPDP Act 2023**, and train courts and bank staff on digital record integrity.

Concept	Part of **decolonising laws**: **BNS, BNSS and BSA 2023** replaced the IPC, CrPC and **Evidence Act 1872** from **1 July 2024**; electronic records need a certificate under **Sec 63, BSA**.

Centre steps in on Mahanadi water dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh

[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Federalism, inter-state relations, dispute redressal; **GS1** – river systems
Context	Home Minister **Amit Shah** on **1 Oct 2026** chaired a meeting with **Odisha** and **Chhattisgarh** on the long-running **Mahanadi** dispute; both states have agreed to accept **Central Water Commission (CWC)** decisions.
Key Facts	■ Mahanadi rises near **Sihawa (Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh)** and drains into the **Bay of Bengal** in Odisha. ■ Odisha objects to upstream **barrages** in Chhattisgarh reducing lean-season flows to **Hirakud dam**. ■ **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal** was constituted in **March 2018** under the **ISRWD Act 1956**. ■ Officials of both states met on **31 Aug 2026** to explore an amicable settlement.
Way Fwd	A negotiated deal backed by **basin-level data**, joint flow monitoring and guaranteed **lean-season releases** can end the tribunal delay.
Concept	**Art 262** lets Parliament bar courts from inter-state water disputes; **Entry 17, State List** (water) is subject to **Entry 56, Union List** (inter-state rivers); **River Boards Act 1956**.

Modi-Trump phone call reaffirms India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Bilateral relations, effect of policies of developed countries on India's interests
Context	PM **Modi** and US President **Donald Trump** spoke on **30 Sept 2026**, reviewing cooperation in **trade, defence, energy and critical technologies** and agreeing to maintain close engagement.
Key Facts	■ Leaders also discussed regional developments and **global peace and security**. ■ Comes as Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** negotiates a **bilateral trade agreement** with USTR **Jamieson Greer**. ■ India seeks **tariffs no higher than competitors**; friction persists over **Russian oil** imports. ■ Possible meetings at the **ASEAN summit (Nov)** and **G20 summit (Dec, USA)**.
Way Fwd	Close an **early-tranche trade deal**, protect energy security and shield the tech-defence pillar (**TRUST** initiative) from tariff swings.
Concept	Ties upgraded to **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership** in **2020**; foundational pacts **LEMOA (2016)**, **COMCASA (2018)**, **BECA (2020)**; both are **Quad** members.

Jaishankar warns of a 'major food crisis' as conflicts choke supply chains

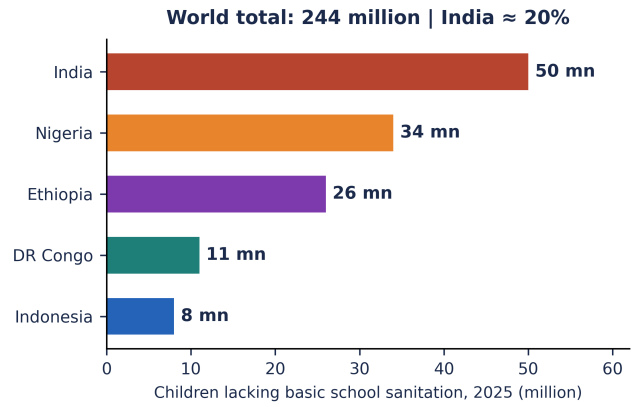
[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Global groupings, Global South; **GS3** – food security, supply chains
Context	EAM **S. Jaishankar**, speaking in **New York** on **28 Sept 2026**, warned that the world could face a **'major food crisis'**, calling the mix of security and oil-supply shocks an **'aggravated crisis'**.
Key Facts	■ **Ukraine war** and the **Iran-Gulf conflict** are disrupting **Black Sea** grain and shipping routes. ■ **Fertiliser** supply hit by disruptions in **West Asia** and **Russia**; energy markets 'very tight'. ■ Global South faces costlier food, freight and fertiliser plus weaker capital flows; a possible **Super El Niño** adds risk.
Way Fwd	Use the **G20/BRICS** voice for Global South food security, diversify fertiliser sourcing and build **strategic grain-fertiliser buffers**.
Concept	FAO's **4 pillars** of food security: availability, access, utilisation, stability. **NFSA 2013** covers up to **75% rural and 50% urban** population. **Strait of Hormuz** is a key energy-fertiliser chokepoint.

WHO-UNICEF report: 50 million Indian children lack sanitation at school

[REPORT] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Education, health, issues of vulnerable sections; **Prelims** – JMP, SDG 4.a and 6
Context	The **WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)** report on **WASH in Schools 2015-2025** shows **50 million** Indian children lacked basic sanitation at school in **2025** – the highest for any country.
Key Facts	■ Globally **244 million** children lacked school sanitation; India's share is about **20%**. ■ India: **12 million** lack drinking water and **20 million** lack hygiene services at school. ■ Others: **Nigeria 34 mn**, **Ethiopia 26 mn**, **DR Congo 11 mn**, **Indonesia 8 mn**. ■ India cut schools without sanitation by **14%**, but the world is **off-track** for universal school WASH by **2030**.
Way Fwd	Converge **Samagra Shiksha**, **Swachh Bharat Mission** and **Jal Jeevan Mission** for functional, gender-separate toilets with **O&M funds**.
Concept	**SDG 4.a** – child-, disability- and gender-sensitive school facilities; **SDG 6.2** – sanitation and hygiene for all; **Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan (2014)**; **RTE Act 2009** mandates separate toilets for girls.



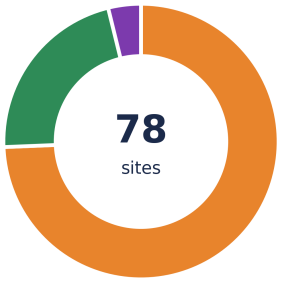
Five new sites on India's UNESCO Tentative List; total rises to 78

[SOCIETY] **PRELIMS: GS1 Art & Culture**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS1** – Indian heritage, art forms, architecture; **Prelims** – World Heritage process
Context	India added **5 new properties** to its **UNESCO Tentative List** on **29-30 Sept 2026**, taking the list to **78** – **58 cultural, 17 natural and 3 mixed**.
Key Facts	■ **Bagh Cave Paintings** (MP) – Buddhist rock-cut caves with murals akin to **Ajanta**. ■ **Udayagiri Caves** (MP) – **Gupta-era** rock-cut shrines, famed **Varaha** panel. ■ **Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley** (MP) and **Ginnorgarh** (MP) hill fort. ■ **Sites of Satyagraha** – a **transnational serial** proposal with **South Africa** on **Gandhi's** struggles.

Way Fwd	Build strong **site-management plans** and community buy-in before nomination; a site must be on the Tentative List at least **1 year** before nomination.
Concept	**World Heritage Convention, 1972**; **ASI** is India's nodal agency; inscription by the **World Heritage Committee** on **Outstanding Universal Value** using **10 criteria**.

India's UNESCO Tentative List (Sept 2026)



- **Cultural: 58**
- **Natural: 17**
- **Mixed: 3**

5 new additions:

- Bagh Cave Paintings (MP)
- Udayagiri Caves (MP)
- Chambal Valley temples (MP)
- Ginnorgarh (MP)
- Sites of Satyagraha (with SA)

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **PM-DHARA** full form: **Developing Harmonised & Accelerated Renewable Energy Access**	4. Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal set up: **March 2018**
2. **Safflower** MSP 2027-28: **₹7,215/qtl** – highest absolute hike (**+₹675**)	5. **International Day of Older Persons**: **1 October**
3. **First chairman** of PSC (1926): **Sir Ross Barker**	6. **Gandhi Jayanti** (2 Oct) – also **International Day of Non-Violence**

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS MCQs

Q1. With reference to the Minimum Support Prices announced for Rabi Marketing Season 2027-28, consider the following statements: 1. Safflower received the highest absolute increase. 2. The margin over cost of production for wheat exceeds 100%. 3. MSPs are recommended by NITI Aayog. Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only **(b)** 1 and 2 only **(c)** 2 and 3 only **(d)** 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) — Safflower got **+₹675/qtl** and wheat's margin is **106%**. MSPs are recommended by the **CACP**, not NITI Aayog, so statement 3 is wrong.

Q2. The first Public Service Commission in India, set up on 1 October 1926, was established on the recommendation of which of the following?

(a) Islington Commission **(b)** Lee Commission **(c)** Simon Commission **(d)** Aitchison Commission

Answer: (b) — The **Lee Commission (1924)** recommended a PSC, set up on **1 Oct 1926** with **Sir Ross Barker** as chairman; the **GoI Act 1935** later created the Federal PSC.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS3)

"Transmission, not generation, has become the binding constraint on India's energy transition." Discuss in the light of the PM-DHARA scheme. (15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro: **500 GW non-fossil by 2030** and RE curtailment. Body: grid gaps in InSTS, storage deficit, RoW and DISCOM issues; PM-DHARA's **135 GW / 50 GWh / ₹1,86,405 crore** design, TBCB-BOOM model. Conclude with storage-linked tariffs and state capacity.

ONE-LINE REVISION: PM-DHARA = **135 GW + 50 GWh** by FY33 | Wheat MSP **₹2,610** | GST Sept **₹2.03 lakh cr (+14.7%)** | PSC **1 Oct 1926** | UNESCO Tentative List **78**

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team | ▶ **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** | ➤ **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**