CURRENT AFFAIRS — 2 OCTOBER 2026

Friday, 2 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

- **RBI MPC 5-7 Oct**: repo at **5.25%**; poll sees **25 bps hike** to **5.50%**.
- **CPI (Aug 2026)**: **4.82%**; food **5.95%**; **WPI 9.92%**.
- **GST (Sep)**: gross **₹2.04 lakh cr**, **+14.7%**; imports **+25.9%**.
- **UPSC** set up **1 Oct 1926** — completes **100 years**; Art. **315**.
- **GOBARdhan**: **₹23,731 cr**, **FY27-FY36**; CBG blending **3%→5%**.
- **Offshore auction**: **Sewell Rise-01 & West Sewell Ridge-01**, Andaman Sea.
- **PRAMAAN**: first certificate to **APFDC (33,000 ha)**; run by **IIFM Bhopal**.
- **AFSPA** extended **6 months** in Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal (from **1 Oct**).
- **VARUNA 24th edn**: **INS Trishul** + French CSG off **Toulon**.
- **Gandhi 157th / Shastri 122nd** Jayanti; **Swachh Bharat Diwas**.

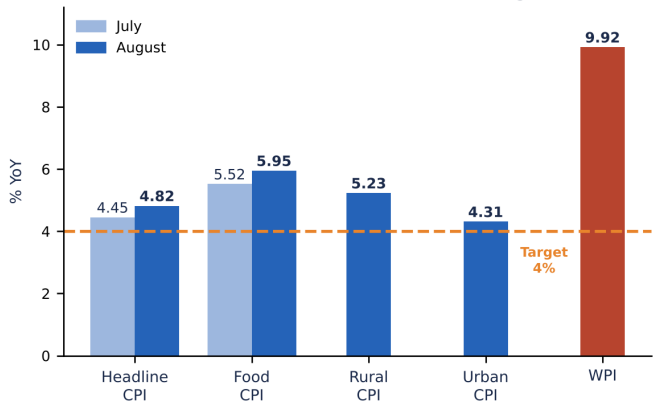
SECTION A — GS-III: ECONOMY • ENVIRONMENT • SECURITY

RBI MPC meets 5-7 Oct: first rate hike of the cycle on the cards

ECONOMY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Monetary policy, inflation, growth. Prelims: **repo rate**, **MPC**, **CPI vs WPI**, **flexible inflation targeting**.
Context	The **Monetary Policy Committee** meets on **5-7 October**; decision on **7 October**. With **CPI above 4%** for three straight months, **8 of 10 economists** polled expect a **25 bps hike**.
Key Facts	**Repo rate 5.25%** – unchanged for **four consecutive reviews**. **CPI Aug 2026: 4.82%** (July **4.45%**); **food 5.95%**; rural **5.23%** vs urban **4.31%**. **WPI Aug: 9.92%** – pipeline pressure from **energy prices** and **West Asia** tensions. **Rupee** has weakened about **6%** vs the US dollar in **2026**.
Way Fwd	Calibrated tightening with clear guidance; supply-side action on **food** and **fuel** so that rates are not the only tool.
Concept	**MPC** (Sec **45ZB**, RBI Act) has **6 members** (3 RBI + 3 Govt nominees); target **CPI 4% ± 2%**. **Repo** = rate at which RBI lends to banks against G-secs.

Inflation check before MPC (Jul vs Aug 2026)



GOBARdhan scheme: ₹23,731 crore to scale up compressed biogas

ENVIRONMENT COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Energy security, waste management, circular economy. Prelims: **CBG**, **SATAT**, **blending mandate**.
Context	Petroleum Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the **GOBARdhan Scheme** to raise domestic **CBG output nearly 10-fold** and cut dependence on **imported natural gas**.
Key Facts	Outlay **₹23,731 crore** over **10 years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36)**. **CBG blending** in CNG (transport) and PNG (domestic): **3% (FY27)**, **4% (FY28)**, **5% from FY29**. **Six pillars**: assured offtake, stable pricing, capital aid, pipelines, credit guarantee, technology. Feedstock: **cattle dung**, **crop residue**, **press mud**, **municipal organic waste**.
Way Fwd	Link with **stubble-burning** control and **organic manure** markets; standardise **feedstock aggregation** at village level.
Concept	**CBG** = purified biogas (**>90% methane**), drop-in substitute for CNG. **SATAT** (2018) targeted **5,000 CBG plants**; **GOBAR-Dhan** began under **SBM-G (2018)**.

First offshore polymetallic blocks in Andaman Sea put on auction

ECONOMY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Mineral resources, critical minerals, blue economy. GS1 – Ocean resources. Prelims: **polymetallic nodules**, **OAMDR Act**.
Context	The **Ministry of Mines** launched e-auction of **two offshore blocks** on **1 October** for **Composite Licences** (exploration + production).
Key Facts	Blocks: **Sewell Rise-01** and **West Sewell Ridge-01**; area **>1,632 sq km**. Contain **polymetallic nodules & crusts – cobalt, nickel, manganese, copper, REEs**. Law: **OAMDR Act, 2002** (amended **2023**) + **Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024**.
Way Fwd	Mandatory **environmental baseline studies** for deep-sea ecosystems; align with **National Critical Mineral Mission**.
Concept	**Polymetallic nodules**: potato-sized (**2-8 cm**) seabed lumps; hubs – **Clarion-Clipperton Zone**, **Central Indian Ocean Basin**. High-seas mining is regulated by **ISA (Kingston)**; India runs **Deep Ocean Mission**.

PRAMAAN: India's first home-grown forest certificates issued

ENVIRONMENT COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Conservation, sustainable forest management, trade-environment link. Prelims: **IFWCS**, **IIFM**, **NABCB**.
Context	Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** handed over the first certificates under the **Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**, branded **PRAMAAN**, for **deforestation-free** timber.

Key Facts	■ First recipients: **AP Forest Development Corporation (33,000 ha)** and an **Odisha bamboo farmer**. ■ **IFWCS** launched **December 2023**; operated by **IIFM Bhopal**. ■ Audits by bodies accredited by **NABCB** (under **Quality Council of India**). ■ Standard aligned with **National Working Plan Code 2023**.
Way Fwd	Seek mutual recognition with global schemes to help exporters meet **EU deforestation rules**; extend to **agroforestry SHGs**.
Concept	**Chain of custody** = tracking certified wood from forest to final product. India's forest + tree cover: **25.17%** of area; **National Wildlife Week: 2-8 October**.

VARUNA 2026 off Toulon; HQ Integrated Defence Staff turns 25

DEFENCE **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Security forces & mandate, defence reforms. GS2 – India-France. Prelims: **exercises & partners**.
Context	**INS Trishul** joined the **24th edition** of the India-France naval exercise **VARUNA** off **Toulon**, while **HQ IDS** marked **25 years** of tri-service integration on **1 October**.
Key Facts	■ French side: carrier **Charles de Gaulle**, SSN **Suffren**, frigates **Forbin** and **La Fayette**. ■ Drills: **anti-submarine**, **anti-surface**, **live firing**; tribute at **Mazargues War Memorial**. ■ **HQ IDS** raised **1 Oct 2001** on **Group of Ministers** advice after **Kargil Review Committee**. ■ **INS Tarkash** made a goodwill call at **Mombasa, Kenya**.
Way Fwd	Use jointness gains to operationalise **integrated theatre commands**; deepen **Indo-Pacific MDA** sharing with France.
Concept	**VARUNA** began **1993** (named Varuna in **2001**). Other India-France drills: **Shakti** (Army), **Garuda** (Air Force). **CDS** post created **2019**.

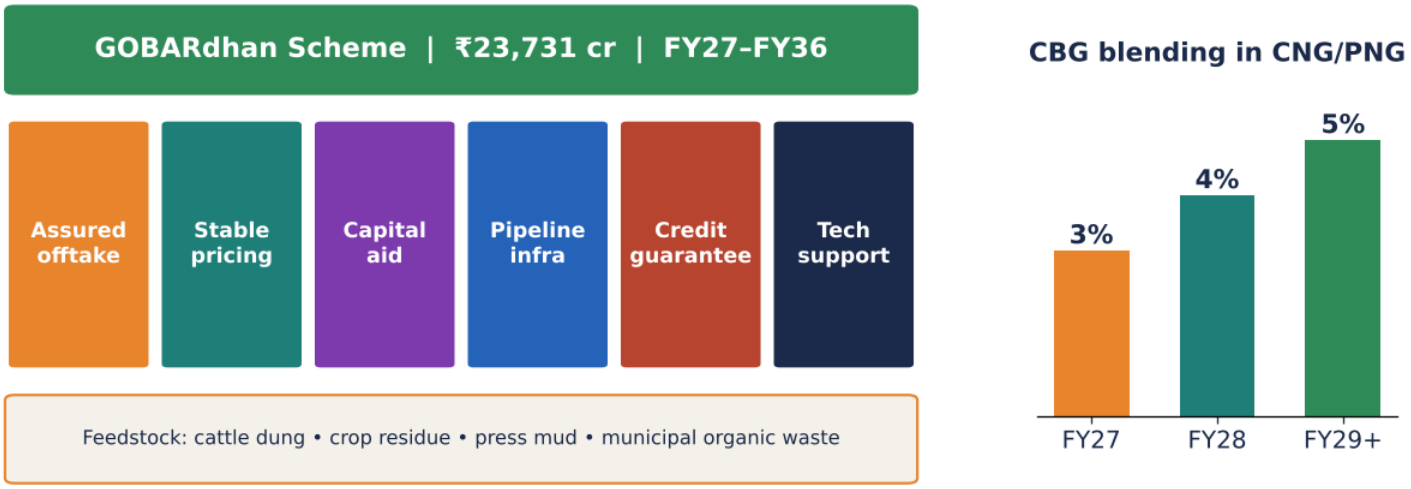


Fig: Pillar diagram of the six support pillars of the GOBARdhan scheme with a step chart showing CBG blending rising from 3% in FY27 to 5% from FY29

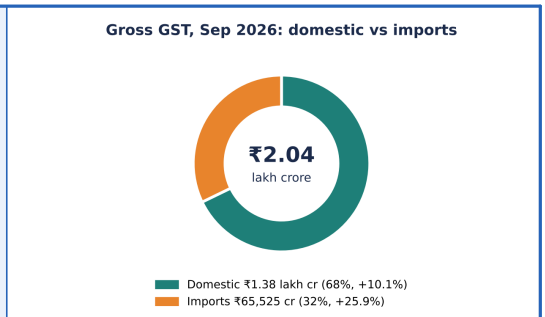
SECTION B — ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

GROSS GST COLLECTIONS, SEPTEMBER 2026

₹2.04 lakh crore (+14.7% YoY)

Imports grew **25.9%** vs domestic **10.1%**; domestic share fell to about **68%** – a record low.

Why it matters: import-led GST lifts headline revenue but signals softer **domestic consumption**; states depend on **IGST settlement** for their share of import GST.

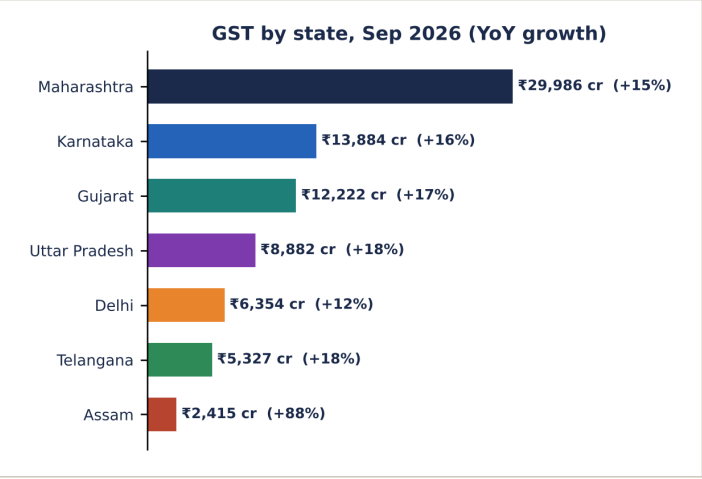


GST crosses ₹2 lakh crore again; imports outpace domestic

ECONOMY **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Mobilisation of resources, indirect taxation, fiscal federalism. Prelims: **Art. 246A, 279A**, **IGST**.
Context	Official data released on **1 October** show **gross GST of ₹2.04 lakh crore** for **September 2026**, up **14.7%**, but the **domestic share** fell to a record low.
Key Facts	■ **Domestic ₹1.38 lakh cr (+10.1%)**; **imports ₹65,525 cr (+25.9%)**. ■ **Net GST ₹1.77 lakh cr (+18.1%)**; refunds **₹27,001 cr (-3%)**. ■ **H1 FY27 gross: ₹12.46 lakh cr (+11.6%)**. ■ Top state: **Maharashtra ₹29,986 cr**; fastest: **Assam (+88%)**.
Way Fwd	Track **domestic consumption** separately from import-led revenue; use **GST Council** to settle pending rate and compensation issues.

Concept	**GST** began **1 July 2017** via **101st Amendment**; **Art. 246A** (concurrent taxing power), **Art. 279A** (GST Council). **IGST** applies on imports and inter-state supply.



SECTION C — GS-II: GOVERNANCE • POLITY • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UPSC at 100: PM calls for 'Nation First, Citizen First' recruitment

POLITY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – Constitutional bodies, civil services. GS1 – Modern history. Prelims: **Art. 315-323**, **Lee Commission**.
Context	PM **Narendra Modi** addressed the **UPSC Centenary** on **1 October**; the Commission was set up on **1 October 1926**.
Key Facts	■ Two tests for selection: **'Nation First'** and **'Citizen First'**; assess **motivation**, not just knowledge. ■ Exam cycle shortened by about **100 days** – called an **equity reform**. ■ Future officers must handle **AI**, **information warfare** and **climate justice**. ■ Recalled **Sardar Patel**'s role in the **'steel frame'**.
Way Fwd	Faster, predictable cycles; **lateral-entry** clarity; **Mission Karmayogi**-linked competency mapping after selection.
Concept	**GoI Act 1919** provided for a PSC; **Lee Commission (1924)** recommended it; first Chairman **Sir Ross Barker**. **Federal PSC (1935 Act)** became **UPSC** on **26 Jan 1950**. Removal under **Art. 317**.

Special Gram Sabhas launch People's Plan Campaign 2026-27

POLITY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – Local self-government, devolution, participatory planning. Prelims: **73rd Amendment**, **GPDP**, **Art. 243G**.
Context	On **2 October**, **Special Gram Sabhas** across India discussed governance reforms and launched **'Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas'** to prepare panchayat plans for **2026-27**.
Key Facts	■ Covers **~2.5 lakh+ Gram Panchayats** plus block and district panchayats. ■ Output: **GPDP**, **Block** and **District Panchayat Development Plans**, uploaded on **eGramSwaraj**. ■ Plans linked to **Localisation of SDGs (LSDGs)** and **Panchayat Advancement Index** scores.
Way Fwd	Real **fiscal devolution** (own-source revenue) and quorum, women's and SC/ST attendance norms to make Gram Sabhas meaningful.
Concept	**Art. 243A** – Gram Sabha powers by State law; **Art. 243G** – planning for economic development (**11th Schedule, 29 subjects**). Campaign first held in **2018**.



AFSPA extended for six months in parts of the North-East

POLITY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – Federalism, rights. GS3 – Internal security in the North-East. Prelims: **AFSPA 1958, Sec 3**.
Context	The **Ministry of Home Affairs** extended **'disturbed area'** status in **Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh** for **6 months from 1 October 2026**.
Key Facts	■ **Manipur**: whole state except **13 police stations** in **5 valley districts**. ■ **Nagaland**: **9 districts** + **21 police stations** in 5 more districts. ■ **Arunachal**: **Tirap, Changlang, Longding** + **3 police stations** of **Namsai**.
Way Fwd	Phased, review-based withdrawal as in **Tripura (2015)** and **Meghalaya (2018)**; strengthen accountability for excesses.
Concept	**Sec 3** lets the **Centre/Governor** declare 'disturbed areas'. **Naga People's Movement (1997)** upheld the Act; **Jeevan Reddy Committee (2005)** advised repeal.

Putin praises Modi's Ukraine ideas; Swiss President's visit marks TEPA year one

IR COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

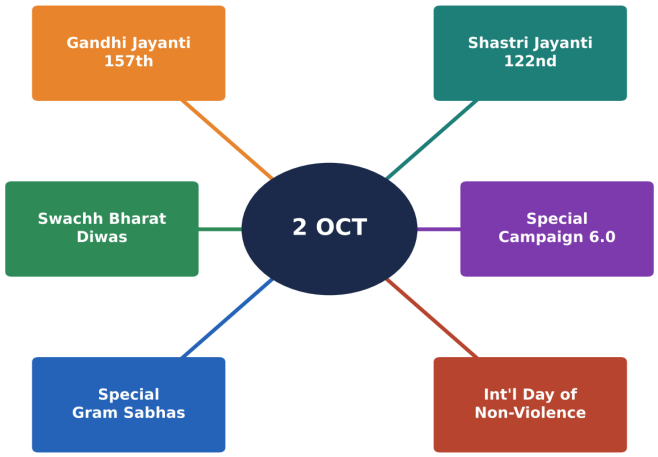
Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – Bilateral relations, groupings affecting India's interests. Prelims: **EFTA**, **TEPA**, **Valdai**.

Context	At the **Valdai Discussion Club** on **1 October**, **Vladimir Putin** said **Modi** has 'very good ideas' on a **Ukraine** settlement. Swiss President **Guy Parmelin** makes a **State Visit (5-7 Oct)**.
Key Facts	■ Putin invited Modi for the **24th India-Russia Annual Summit** in Russia. ■ **India-EFTA TEPA** in force since **1 October 2025**; **2nd India-EFTA Prosperity Summit** on **7 Oct**. ■ TEPA: **$100 bn** investment pledge over **15 years**, **1 million** direct jobs. ■ **Switzerland** is India's largest **EFTA** trade & investment partner.
Way Fwd	Leverage **strategic autonomy** for quiet facilitation; monitor TEPA's **investment-commitment** delivery.
Concept	**EFTA** = **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein**; not in the EU. TEPA was signed on **10 March 2024**.

Gandhi Jayanti: Swachh Bharat Diwas and Special Campaign 6.0 begin

SOCIETY **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1/GS2/GS4**

Syllabus Linkage	GS1 – Freedom struggle personalities. GS2 – Govt schemes. GS4 – Gandhian ethics. Prelims: **SBM**, **Swachhata Hi Seva**.
Context	The nation marked the **157th birth anniversary** of **Mahatma Gandhi** and **122nd** of **Lal Bahadur Shastri** on **2 October**, which is also **Swachh Bharat Diwas**.
Key Facts	■ **Swachhata Hi Seva 2026** closed with '**Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath**' shramdaan. ■ **Special Campaign 6.0** (DARPG): **2-31 October** – pendency, e-waste, records. ■ **SafaiMitra Suraksha** camps reached **3.69 lakh** beneficiaries in **3,870 ULBs**. ■ **Swachh Bharat Mission** launched **2 October 2014**.
Way Fwd	Shift from campaigns to **behaviour + systems**: source segregation, **legacy-waste** clearing and dignity of **sanitation workers**.
Concept	Gandhian ideas: **Sarvodaya**, **Antyodaya**, **trusteeship**, **Swaraj**. **2 October** = **International Day of Non-Violence** (UNGA, **2007**). Shastri gave '**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**'.



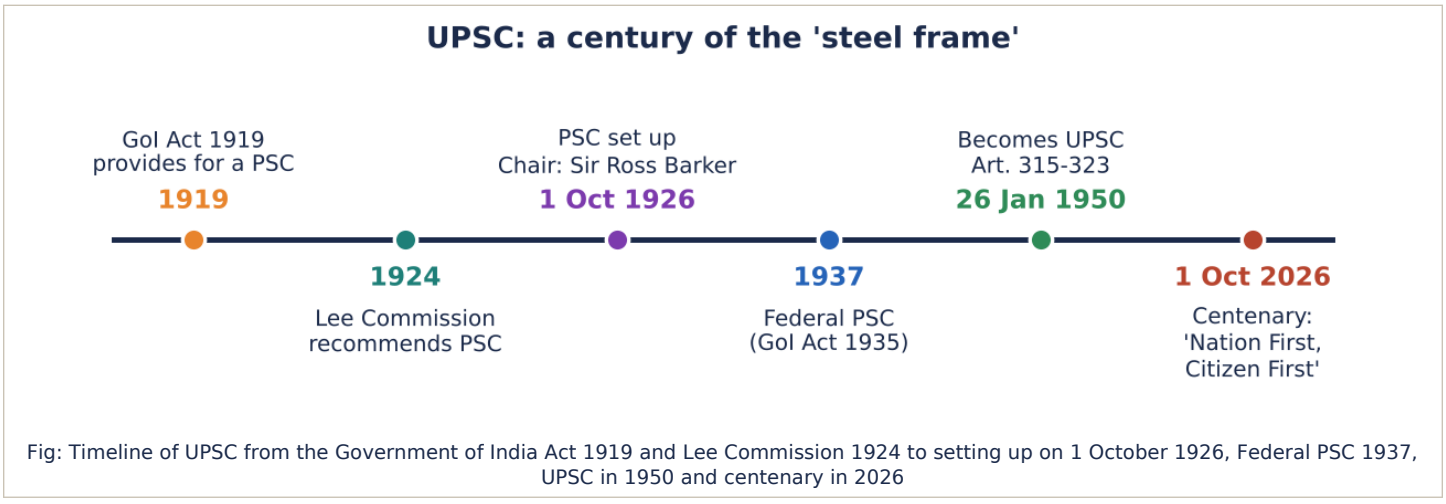


Fig: Timeline of UPSC from the Government of India Act 1919 and Lee Commission 1924 to setting up on 1 October 1926, Federal PSC 1937, UPSC in 1950 and centenary in 2026

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **5th Kautilya Economic Conclave**: **3-5 Oct**, New Delhi; theme '**Resilience in an Age of Flux**'.	4. **G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting** opened in **Milwaukee, USA** (US G20 presidency).
2. **National Wildlife Week**: **2-8 October** every year, to promote **wildlife conservation**.	5. **1 October**: **International Day of Older Persons** (UNGA res. **45/106**, 1990).
3. **NHAI**: **Tamil Nadu's first barrierless Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF)** tolling.	6. **Mazargues War Memorial** (Marseille) honours **205 Indian soldiers** of the World Wars.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of India, consider the following statements:
1. It is constituted under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934.
2. The Governor of RBI has a casting vote in case of a tie.
3. All six members are appointed by the Central Government.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) — MPC is under **Sec 45ZB**; the **Governor** has a **casting vote**. Only the **3 external members** are appointed by the Centre; 3 are from RBI.

Q2. 'Sewell Rise' and 'West Sewell Ridge', recently in news, are associated with:

(a) Hydrocarbon blocks in the Arabian Sea
(b) Offshore polymetallic mineral blocks in the Andaman Sea
(c) Undersea cables between India and Maldives
(d) Coral reef protected areas in Lakshadweep

Answer: (b) — Both are **offshore mineral blocks** in the **Andaman Sea** auctioned under the **OAMDR Act, 2002** for **polymetallic nodules and crusts**.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS3)
GST collections are rising, but the share of domestic sources is falling. Examine what this divergence reveals about consumption demand and fiscal federalism in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro with **Sep 2026 data** (₹2.04 lakh cr; imports +25.9% vs domestic +10.1%) → causes (prices, rupee, rate rationalisation) → impact on states (IGST settlement, compensation-cess wind-down) → role of **GST Council (Art. 279A)** → way forward.

ONE-LINE REVISION: **RBI 5.25%** awaits **7 Oct** call | **CPI 4.82%** | **GST ₹2.04 lakh cr** | **UPSC 1926→2026** | **GOBARdhan ₹23,731 cr** | **AFSPA +6 months**.

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