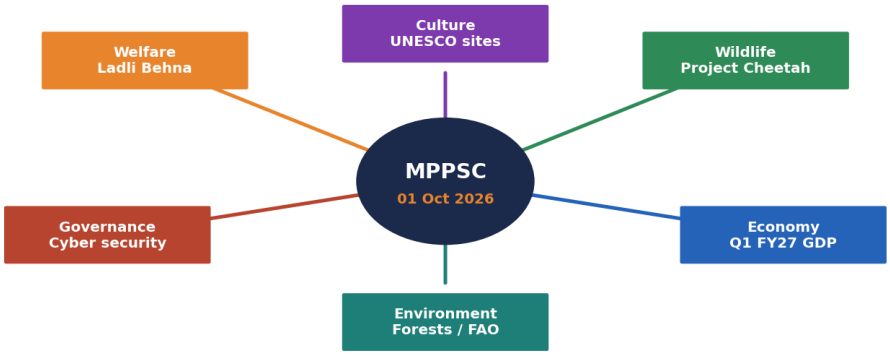
CURRENT AFFAIRS — 01-10-2026

Thursday, 01 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

Ladli Behna Yojana 40th instalment: **Rs 1,835** cr to ~**1.25** crore MP women	MP Cabinet cleared a **Rs 42,490**-crore infrastructure and welfare package
Rs 1,500/month per woman; total transfers cross **Rs 65,396 crore**	MP, the '**Soybean State**', backs oilseed farmers via **MSP**/**Bhavantar** support
Four MP sites added to **UNESCO**'s **World Heritage Tentative List**	Cybercrime cases up **17.9%**; **I4C**, **FRI** and **1930** helpline in focus
India's cheetah population reaches **52**; **Kuno** holds **49**, **Gandhi Sagar 3**	**FAO COFO-28**: India's forest & tree cover at **25.17%** of land area
India Q1 FY27 **GDP** growth at **7.8%**, beating estimates	2nd **ASEAN**-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-**2026**) held off the Philippines



Today's MPPSC themes at a glance

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

Ladli Behna Yojana releases 40th instalment to 1.25 crore women

[MADHYA PRADESH]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance & Social Justice)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP schemes) + Mains GS-II: welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; women empowerment & **DBT** in MP.
Context	The Madhya Pradesh government released the 40th monthly instalment of the Mukhyamantri **Ladli Behna Yojana**, directly crediting the accounts of eligible women across the state through **Direct Benefit Transfer**.
Key Facts	■ 40th instalment of about **Rs 1,835 crore** transferred to roughly **1.25** crore women ■ Each beneficiary receives **Rs 1,500** per month (raised from **Rs 1,000** to **Rs 1,250** to **Rs 1,500**) ■ Total transfers under the scheme have crossed **Rs 65,396 crore** since its June **2023** launch ■ FY **2026-27** budget outlay for the scheme is about **Rs 23,883 crore** ■ Delivered through **DBT** to curb leakages; a flagship women-centric welfare programme of MP
Way Fwd	Link cash support with skilling, self-help-group credit and health access so transfers translate into durable economic empowerment.
Concept	**DBT** routes subsidies straight to Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts, reducing leakage. **Ladli Behna** is an unconditional cash-transfer scheme targeting women aged **21-60**.

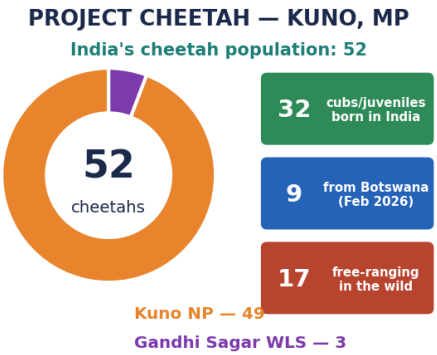
Four Madhya Pradesh sites enter UNESCO's tentative list

[MADHYA PRADESH]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Art, Culture & Heritage)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP heritage) + Mains GS-I: Indian art, architecture and heritage; conservation of monuments.
Context	Five new Indian entries were added to **UNESCO**'s **World Heritage Tentative List**, and four of them are located in Madhya Pradesh, strengthening the state's standing as a heritage hub.
Key Facts	■ MP entries: **Bagh Cave Paintings** (4th-6th c., **Gupta**-era Buddhist murals) ■ **Udaigiri Caves** (4th-5th c., early Vaishnava rock-cut iconography) ■ **Chambal Valley Temples** (8th-11th c., **Nagara** architecture, **Gurjara-Pratihara** era) ■ **Ginnorgarh Fort** (15th-18th c., a Gond tribal capital with hybrid architecture) ■ India now has **78** sites on the **Tentative List** and **43** inscribed **World Heritage** Sites
Way Fwd	A spot on the **Tentative List** is only the first step; MP must prepare robust dossiers and conservation-management plans to win final inscription.
Concept	The **Tentative List** is an inventory of properties a State Party intends to nominate; inscription on the **World Heritage** List follows under the **1972 UNESCO** Convention.





MP, the 'Soybean State', backs oilseed farmers on price support

[MADHYA PRADESH]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Agriculture & Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP agriculture) + Mains GS-III: **MSP**, oilseeds, agricultural marketing and farmer welfare in MP.
Context	As the country's largest soybean producer, Madhya Pradesh remains central to Kharif oilseed procurement, with price-support and deficit-payment mechanisms cushioning farmers against a soft market.
Key Facts	■ MP is India's leading soybean producer — the '**Soybean State**' ■ Soybean procured at **Minimum Support Price** (**MSP**) under central oilseed procurement ■ Price-deficit (**Bhavantar**-type) payments bridge the gap when mandi prices fall below **MSP** ■ MP is also a top producer of wheat (incl. **Sharbati**), gram/pulses in the **Narmada** belt ■ Oilseed procurement supports lakhs of registered farmers across central India
Way Fwd	Diversify oilseed basket, raise crushing capacity and strengthen **e-NAM** linkages to make **MSP** support fiscally sustainable.
Concept	**MSP** is the assured floor price announced on **CACP** advice; **Price Deficiency Payment** compensates the gap between **MSP** and market price without physical procurement.

India's cheetah population reaches 52, anchored at MP's Kuno

[ENVIRONMENT]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Ecology)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP wildlife) + Mains GS-III: biodiversity, species reintroduction, protected areas of MP.
Context	Four years after **Project Cheetah** began in September **2022**, India's cheetah population now stands at **52**, with Madhya Pradesh's **Kuno National Park** at the centre of the world's first intercontinental large-carnivore translocation.
Key Facts	■ Total population **52**: **Kuno National Park** (**Sheopur**) **49** and **Gandhi Sagar** WLS **3** ■ **32** of these are cubs or juveniles born in India ■ **9** cheetahs were brought from **Botswana** in February **2026** for genetic diversity ■ Earlier batches came from **Namibia** (Sep **2022**) and **South Africa** (Feb **2023**) ■ **Nauradehi** WLS (MP) and **Banni** grasslands (Gujarat) are planned future sites
Way Fwd	Sustain prey-base build-up, veterinary surveillance and community support, and accelerate a second viable population to spread ecological risk.
Concept	The cheetah (**Acinonyx jubatus**) is the only large carnivore hunted to extinction in India (**1952**). '**Project Cheetah**' aims to restore open-forest and grassland ecosystems.

MP Cabinet clears Rs 42,490-crore infrastructure & welfare package

[MADHYA PRADESH]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy & Infrastructure)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP governance) + Mains GS-II/III: state finances, infrastructure and welfare administration in MP.
Context	The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved proposals worth over **Rs 42,490 crore** aimed at strengthening infrastructure and expanding welfare measures across the state.
Key Facts	■ Combined proposals cross **Rs 42,490 crore** for infrastructure plus welfare ■ Focus on roads, health, irrigation and public-service delivery ■ Part of MP's push toward a larger, **Viksit** (developed) state economy ■ Capital spending intended to crowd-in private investment and jobs ■ Complements flagship welfare transfers such as **Ladli Behna**
Way Fwd	Timely execution, outcome budgeting and asset monetisation will decide whether the outlay converts into measurable development gains.
Concept	Capital expenditure builds durable assets with a high fiscal multiplier; the Cabinet is the collective decision-making body of the Council of Ministers.

MP sharpens investment pitch for 'Viksit' state economy

[ECONOMY]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy & Industry)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP economy) + Mains GS-III: industrial policy, investment promotion and employment generation in MP.
Context	Madhya Pradesh is building on its **Global Investors Summit** momentum, courting investors through Regional Industry Conclaves and roadshows as it targets a far larger state economy.
Key Facts	■ MP drew record investment interest after its **Global Investors Summit** (Bhopal, Feb **2025**) ■ Lakhs of crores in investment intentions span industry, energy and services ■ Industrial corridors, data centres and renewable energy are priority sectors ■ **Rewa** ultra-mega solar park anchors MP's clean-energy and pumped-hydro push ■ State aims to scale toward a trillion-dollar-plus '**Viksit** MP' economy
Way Fwd	Convert MoUs into ground-level projects with single-window clearances, skilled-labour supply and reliable power to retain investor confidence.
Concept	Investment 'intentions' (MoUs) are non-binding; realisation ratio measures how much actually converts into operational capacity and jobs.

LADLI BEHNA YOJANA — 40th INSTALMENT (MADHYA PRADESH)

40th	₹1,835 cr	1.25 cr	₹1,500	₹65,396 cr	₹23,883 cr
instalment	transferred	beneficiaries	per month	since Jun 2023	FY27 outlay

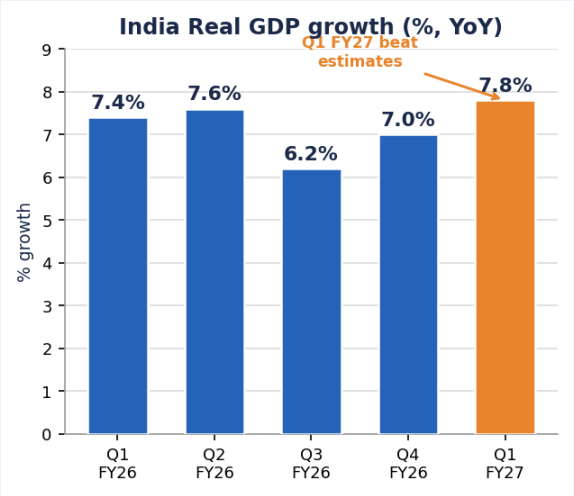
SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

7.8%

India's Q1 FY27 GDP growth

India's real **GDP** expanded **7.8%** year-on-year in Q1 (Apr-Jun) of FY27, beating estimates on the back of services and fixed investment — the headline macro number MPPSC aspirants should track alongside MP's state-economy push.



SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

Digital fraud surges; cyber-justice gaps come under scrutiny

[POLITY]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II/III (Governance & Internal Security)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (polity/security) + Mains GS-III: cyber security, internal security challenges and technology in governance.
Context	Rising cybercrime and online financial fraud have exposed gaps in India's cyber-justice system, prompting a fresh look at enforcement, forensics and digital literacy.
Key Facts	■ Cybercrime cases rose **17.9%** (**2023** to **2024**); over **1.01** lakh cases recorded ■ Conviction rate remains below **18%** despite rising case numbers ■ Over **80%** of victims suffered financial loss; threats include **deepfakes** and '**digital arrest**' scams ■ Key bodies: **I4C** (**Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre**), **CERT-In**, **NCIIPC** ■ **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator** (**FRI**) and the **1930** helpline aid rapid response
Way Fwd	Mandate time-bound FI**Rs,** real-time asset-freezing, grassroots forensic capacity and sustained digital-literacy drives.
Concept	**I4C** is the MHA's nodal framework to tackle cybercrime; a '**mule account**' is a third-party account used to launder fraud proceeds.

FAO COFO-28 spotlights forests; India's cover at 25.17%

[ENVIRONMENT]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Forestry)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (environment) + Mains GS-III: forest conservation, carbon sinks and India's climate commitments (MP has the largest forest cover).
Context	The 28th session of the **FAO** Committee on Forestry (**COFO-28**) in Rome, themed 'Forests for food, resilience and prosperity', put India's forestry record in focus — a theme close to Madhya Pradesh, the state with India's largest forest cover.
Key Facts	■ India's forest & tree cover is **82.74** million hectares — **25.17%** of its land area ■ India ranks 9th in total forest area and 3rd in net annual forest gain ■ Forests remove about **150** million tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year (**2021**-**25**) ■ **Bonn Challenge**: **21.76** of **26** million-hectare restoration target met ■ Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover among Indian states
Way Fwd	Shift from plantation-count metrics to canopy-density and biodiversity outcomes, and strengthen community forest rights.
Concept	A carbon sink absorbs more carbon than it releases. The **Bonn Challenge** is a global goal to restore degraded and deforested land.

MADHYA PRADESH — INDIA'S GREEN & WILDLIFE HEARTLAND



World Tourism Day 2026 puts AI on the travel agenda

[SOCIETY]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I/III (Economy, Society & Tourism)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (schemes) + Mains GS-III: tourism as an economic driver; GS-I: cultural tourism (relevant to MP's **Ujjain**, **Khajuraho**, **Sanchi**).
Context	World Tourism Day **2026** (**27** September) carried the theme 'Digital Agenda and AI to Redesign Tourism', underlining tourism's growing economic and employment role in India.
Key Facts	■ Tourism contributes about **5.22%** to India's **GDP** ■ Tourism employment rose from **6.94** crore (**2019**-**20**) to **8.46** crore (**2023**-**24**) ■ **Swadesh Darshan 2.0**, **PRASHAD** and **SASCI** drive destination development ■ **e-Visa** now extended to **172** countries; cruise passenger traffic up **328%** in a decade ■ MP's **Mahakal** (**Ujjain**), **Khajuraho** and **Sanchi** are marquee heritage-tourism draws
Way Fwd	Use AI-driven itineraries and digital stacks to spread footfall to lesser-known circuits while protecting fragile heritage sites.
Concept	**Swadesh Darshan 2.0** funds theme-based tourist circuits; **PRASHAD** targets pilgrimage and heritage destination infrastructure.

2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) concludes

[DEFENCE]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II/III (IR & Security)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (defence exercises) + Mains GS-II: India's neighbourhood & **Act East** policy; GS-III: maritime security.
Context	India and **ASEAN** navies held the second **ASEAN**-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-**2026**), co-hosted with the Philippine Navy, reinforcing India's **Act East** and **Indo-Pacific** engagement.
Key Facts	■ Indian Navy fielded **INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kulish** ■ Partner ships included **BRP Jose Rizal**, **BRP Tarlac** and **RSS Justice** ■ Drills covered **HADR**, maritime domain awareness and logistics cooperation ■ Included boarding operations, helicopter cross-deck landings and medical evacuation ■ Advances the 'Women, Peace & Security' agenda at sea
Way Fwd	Institutionalise joint patrols and information-sharing to keep **Indo-Pacific** sea lanes free, open and rules-based.
Concept	**Act East Policy** deepens India's strategic and economic ties with **ASEAN** and the wider **Indo-Pacific**; **HADR** = Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1	**Kuno National Park**, home of **Project Cheetah**, lies in **Sheopur** district of Madhya Pradesh.
2	**Ladli Behna** beneficiaries currently receive **Rs 1,500** per month via **DBT**.
3	Madhya Pradesh is India's largest soybean producer — the '**Soybean State**'.
4	India has **43** inscribed **UNESCO World Heritage** Sites and **78** on the **Tentative List**.
5	**I4C** (**Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre**) works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
6	India's forest & tree cover stands at **25.17%** of its geographical area.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to **Project Cheetah**, consider the following statements:
1. **Kuno National Park** is located in Madhya Pradesh.
2. The cheetahs introduced in India have been brought only from **Namibia**.
3. **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** is one of the sites holding cheetahs.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: B. **Kuno** NP is in Madhya Pradesh (**1** correct) and **Gandhi Sagar** WLS also holds cheetahs (**3** correct). Cheetahs have come from **Namibia**, **South Africa** and **Botswana**, not only **Namibia** (**2** incorrect).

Q2. The Mukhyamantri **Ladli Behna Yojana** is associated with which of the following?

(a) Free electricity to all farmers in Madhya Pradesh (b) Monthly cash transfer to eligible women in Madhya Pradesh (c) Crop insurance for soybean growers (d) Interest-free education loans for tribal students

Ans: B. **Ladli Behna Yojana** provides a monthly cash transfer (currently **Rs 1,500**) to eligible women in Madhya Pradesh through **Direct Benefit Transfer**.

Mains Practice: "Direct cash transfers to women have become the centrepiece of welfare politics in Madhya Pradesh." Examine the economic rationale and the fiscal sustainability concerns of such schemes with reference to the **Ladli Behna Yojana**. (**15** marks, **250** words)

Hint: *Cover: objectives (women empowerment, consumption support, financial inclusion via* **DBT***); benefits (demand stimulus, dignity, leakage reduction); concerns (recurring revenue expenditure, crowding-out of capex, targeting); suggest skilling + SHG linkage for durable gains.*

REVISE TODAY: Ladli Behna 40th instalment (Rs 1,835 cr, Rs 1,500/month) • 4 MP sites on UNESCO Tentative List • India's 52 cheetahs (Kuno) • Q1 FY27 GDP 7.8% • India forest cover 25.17%.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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