CURRENT AFFAIRS — 02 OCTOBER 2026

Friday, 02 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

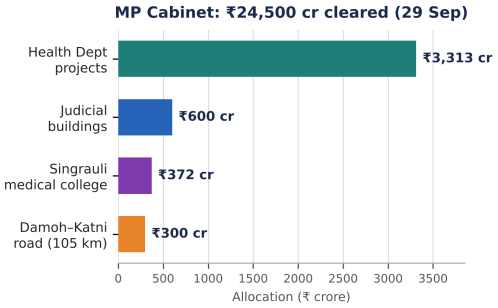
- MP Cabinet clears ₹24,500 cr; new Sugam Transport Scheme gets nod
- 20% reservation for Agniveers in MP Forest, Home & Jail services
- Ladli Behna 40th instalment: ₹1,835 cr to 1.25 cr women; ₹65,000 cr total
- Bhavantar revived for soybean — MSP ₹5,328/quintal, gap paid to farmers
- Project Cheetah turns 4: 52 cheetahs, 32 India-born cubs at Kuno
- Simhastha 2028 Ujjain: ₹25,000 cr infra; 40 crore devotees expected
- Gandhi Jayanti & Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti observed nationwide
- Swachh Bharat Mission marks 12 years on 2 October
- RBI repo rate steady at 5.25%; MPC decision due 5–7 October
- India–Japan summit launches first joint defence co-development & AI pact

SECTION A · MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

MP Cabinet approves ₹24,500 crore; Sugam Transport Scheme & 20% Agniveer quota cleared

MADHYA PRADESH

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



Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP polity & schemes); Mains GS-II — state governance, policy & welfare
Context	The Mohan Yadav cabinet on 29 September 2026 cleared proposals worth about ₹24,500 crore, headlined by a new public-transport scheme and reservation for Agniveers.
Key Facts	■ New Sugam Transport Scheme approved to build an organised state public-transport system (a 21-year-old demand). ■ 20% reservation for Agniveers in Forest, Home, Jail and other services. ■ ₹3,313 cr for Health Dept projects; ₹372 cr medical college in Singrauli; 105-km Damoh–Katni road. ■ Students of Classes 1–8 to get ₹600 via DBT in place of uniforms; grain at ₹1/kg for nomadic hostel students. ■ Kshipra river cleanup cleared ahead of Simhastha-2028.
Way Fwd	Timely, transparent rollout of Sugam Transport and Agniveer recruitment rules will decide whether the outlay translates into jobs and services.
Concept	Agniveer = recruit under the Agnipath scheme (2022); state reservations in police/forest are a post-service rehabilitation measure. DBT replaces in-kind benefits to cut leakage.

Ladli Behna Yojana: 40th instalment lifts total transfers past ₹65,000 crore

MADHYA PRADESH

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

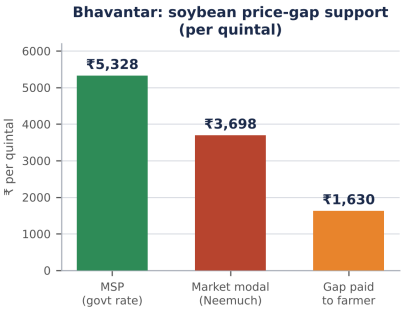
LADLI BEHNA — by the numbers

₹1,500 per month / woman	**1.25 cr** women beneficiaries
₹1,835 cr 40th instalment (Sep)	**₹65,000 cr** transferred so far

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (flagship MP schemes); Mains GS-II — welfare schemes for vulnerable sections & women
Context	Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released the 40th instalment of the Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana, with cumulative transfers now crossing ₹65,000 crore.
Key Facts	■ ₹1,835 crore transferred to over 1.25 crore women in a single instalment (13 Sep 2026). ■ Monthly benefit now ₹1,500 (raised from ₹1,000 → ₹1,250 → ₹1,500 since June 2023). ■ Scheme targets women aged 21–60; aims at financial self-reliance. ■ Cumulative outlay has crossed ₹65,000 crore since launch.
Way Fwd	Fiscal sustainability and leakage-free targeting will be key as the Direct Benefit Transfer base widens.
Concept	A Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) cash-support scheme; part of a wider trend of state women-centric income-transfer programmes across India.

Bhavantar revived for soybean: price-gap support for the 'Soybean State'

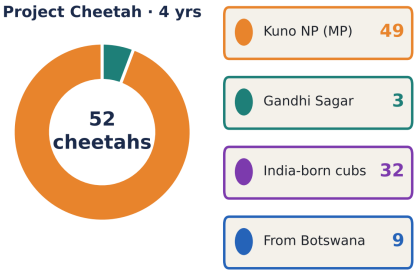
MADHYA PRADESH | MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Agriculture & State Economy)



Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP agriculture, MSP); Mains GS-III — farm economy, MSP & price-deficiency models
Context	With soybean trading well below MSP, MP reactivated the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana, crediting the price gap directly to farmers — vital for India's top soybean producer.
Key Facts	■ MSP ₹5,328/quintal; modal market rate at Neemuch about ₹3,698/quintal. ■ Price gap (~₹1,630/quintal) paid directly to farmers' accounts. ■ MP is India's largest soybean producer — the 'Soybean State'. ■ Registration and procurement routed through mandis with weighing & payment facilities.
Way Fwd	Pairing Bhavantar with crop diversification and storage can cushion farmers from recurring oilseed price crashes.
Concept	Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana = price-deficiency payment (difference between MSP/model price and actual sale price), an alternative to physical procurement.

Project Cheetah completes four years: 52 cheetahs, 32 India-born cubs at Kuno

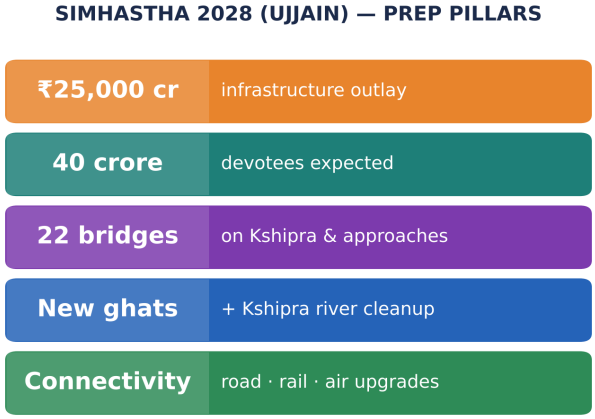
ENVIRONMENT | MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Ecology)



Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP wildlife, Kuno NP); Mains GS-III — conservation & species reintroduction
Context	Project Cheetah marked four years (launched 17 Sep 2022). India's cheetah count stands at 52, with a growing share born on Indian soil.
Key Facts	■ Total 52 cheetahs: 49 at Kuno National Park (MP), 3 at Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary. ■ 32 cubs born in India since the project began. ■ 9 cheetahs brought from Botswana on 28 Feb 2026 (after Namibia 2022 & South Africa 2023). ■ Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952; this is the world's first intercontinental large-carnivore translocation.
Way Fwd	Expanding second homes like Gandhi Sagar and building prey base are key to a self-sustaining metapopulation.
Concept	Kuno National Park lies in MP's Sheopur district; the cheetah is the only large carnivore to have gone extinct and been reintroduced in India.

Simhastha Kumbh 2028: Ujjain gears up with ₹25,000 cr infrastructure push

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



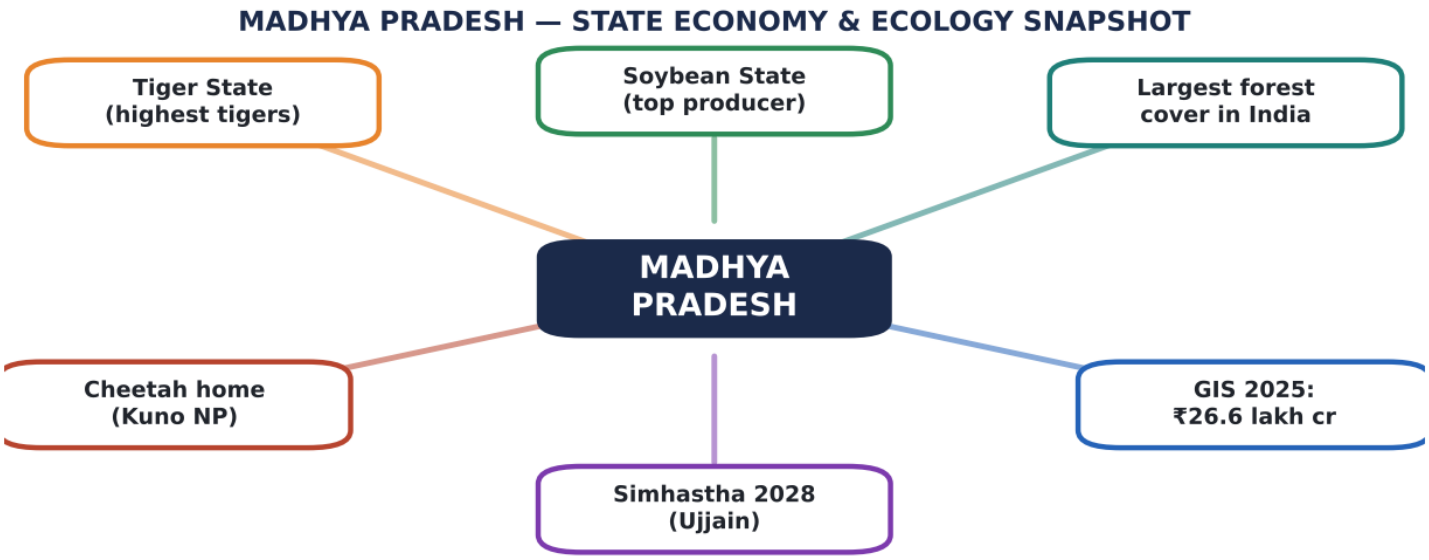
Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP culture, Ujjain/Mahakal); Mains GS-I — fairs, festivals & cultural heritage
Context	Preparations for the Simhastha Kumbh 2028 at Ujjain on the banks of the Kshipra are being scaled up, with the state projecting a vast infrastructure programme.
Key Facts	■ About ₹25,000 crore infrastructure outlay planned for the mega-event. ■ An estimated 40 crore devotees expected over the fair. ■ Works include 22 bridges, new ghats, Kshipra cleanup and road–rail–air connectivity. ■ Ujjain is home to Mahakaleshwar (one of 12 Jyotirlingas); Simhastha is held roughly every 12 years.
Way Fwd	Permanent urban upgrades and river rejuvenation should outlast the event to anchor Ujjain as a spiritual-tourism hub.
Concept	Simhastha is the Ujjain form of the Kumbh Mela, held when Jupiter enters Leo (Simha); the four Kumbh sites are Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain.

SECTION B · DATA POINT OF THE DAY

₹26.6 lakh crore

MADHYA PRADESH — INVESTMENT INTENT (GIS 2025)

Investment intentions mobilised around the Global Investors Summit, as MP targets a GSDP of about ₹248.6 lakh crore by 2047–48 and positions itself as a rising industrial destination.



SECTION C · NATIONAL & WORLD

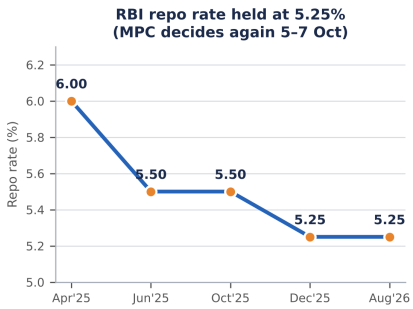
Gandhi Jayanti & Shastri Jayanti observed; Swachh Bharat Mission turns 12

POLITY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I/II (Modern History & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (national days, govt missions); Mains GS-I (freedom struggle) & GS-II (flagship schemes)
Context	On 2 October, the nation paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi (156th birth anniversary) and Lal Bahadur Shastri, and marked 12 years of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
Key Facts	■ 2 October 1869 — birth of M.K. Gandhi; also observed globally as the International Day of Non-Violence. ■ 2 October 1904 — birth of Lal Bahadur Shastri, coiner of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. ■ Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2 October 2014 — now 12 years. ■ Gandhi's principles of Satyagraha and Ahimsa anchor the day's commemorations.
Way Fwd	Sustaining behaviour change — from toilet use to solid-waste and faecal-sludge management under SBM 2.0 — is the next frontier.
Concept	International Day of Non-Violence (UN, since 2007) falls on Gandhi's birthday; SBM targets an Open-Defecation-Free (ODF) and clean India.

RBI holds repo rate at 5.25% ahead of 5–7 October policy review

ECONOMY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy & Monetary Policy)



Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (RBI, monetary tools); Mains GS-III — inflation, growth & monetary policy
Context	The Reserve Bank of India has kept the repo rate at 5.25% with a neutral stance; its Monetary Policy Committee meets again on 5–7 October 2026.
Key Facts	■ Repo rate 5.25% (cut by 25 bps in December 2025, held since). ■ SDF 5.00%, MSF & Bank Rate 5.50%; stance remains neutral. ■ CPI inflation about 4.82% (Aug 2026); FY27 projections near 5.0%. ■ Governor Sanjay Malhotra heads the six-member MPC.
Way Fwd	The MPC balances firming inflation and a weaker rupee against the need to support growth near 6.7%.
Concept	Repo rate = rate at which RBI lends to banks; the MPC (3 RBI + 3 govt-nominated members) targets CPI inflation at 4% (+/-2%).

India–Japan summit launches first joint defence co-development & AI partnership

IR MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (India's bilateral ties); Mains GS-II — India & the world, strategic partnerships
Context	At the India–Japan Annual Summit 2026, India and Japan agreed to their first joint defence co-development project and a new AI partnership, deepening their Special Strategic & Global Partnership.
Key Facts	■ Leaders launched the first India–Japan defence co-development initiative. ■ A dedicated AI partnership and expanded economic security cooperation announced. ■ Builds on the Special Strategic and Global Partnership (since 2014). ■ Both are members of the Quad (with the US and Australia).
Way Fwd	Converting MoUs into co-produced platforms and resilient supply chains will test the partnership's depth.
Concept	The Quad is an Indo-Pacific grouping; defence co-development marks a shift from buyer–seller ties to joint technology creation.

Supreme Court issues notice on PIL against MDR on large UPI payments

POLITY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity & Judiciary)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (SC, digital payments); Mains GS-II — judiciary, regulation & governance
Context	The Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre, RBI and others on a PIL challenging any move to levy Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI payments above ₹2,000.
Key Facts	■ Notice issued to Centre, RBI and payment bodies on the MDR-on-UPI PIL. ■ MDR is the fee a merchant pays on digital transactions; UPI is currently zero-MDR. ■ At issue: cost to small merchants vs. sustainability of the payments ecosystem. ■ UPI is run by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
Way Fwd	The outcome will shape incentives for digital-payment adoption and who bears its running cost.
Concept	UPI = Unified Payments Interface; a PIL (Public Interest Litigation) lets citizens seek court intervention on matters of public interest under Articles 32/226.

BRICS Summit 2026 to be hosted by India; leaders' bilaterals in focus

IR MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (groupings & summits); Mains GS-II — multilateral forums & India's role
Context	India is set to host the BRICS Summit 2026, with a series of high-profile leader-level bilateral meetings planned on the sidelines later this month.
Key Facts	■ India hosts the BRICS Summit 2026; key bilateral meetings lined up. ■ BRICS has expanded beyond Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa to new members. ■ Agenda spans trade, payments, de-dollarisation debates and reform of global institutions. ■ India emphasises reformed multilateralism and Global South priorities.
Way Fwd	Hosting lets India shape the expanded grouping's agenda on trade settlement and development finance.
Concept	BRICS is a plurilateral grouping of major emerging economies; the New Development Bank (NDB) is its financing arm, headquartered in Shanghai.

SECTION D · PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

● Kuno National Park — the cheetah reintroduction site — is in MP's Sheopur district.	● Repo rate currently 5.25%; CPI target band is 4% ± 2%.
● MP is India's largest soybean producer; Sharbati wheat is its famed GI variety.	● Swachh Bharat Mission launched 2 Oct 2014; 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' — Lal Bahadur Shastri.
● Narmada is the longest river flowing through MP; it rises at Amarkantak.	● Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar is one of 12 Jyotirlingas; Simhastha recurs about every 12 years.

SECTION E · PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Ladli Behna Yojana of Madhya Pradesh, consider the following:
1. It provides a monthly cash benefit through Direct Benefit Transfer.
2. The monthly amount has been raised to ₹1,500.
3. It is aimed primarily at women in the age group 21–60 years.
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

Ans: (D) — The scheme is a DBT-based monthly cash transfer (now ₹1,500) targeting women aged 21–60; all three statements are correct.

Q2. Project Cheetah, often in the news, is primarily associated with which of the following protected areas in Madhya Pradesh?

(A) Kanha National Park (B) Kuno National Park (C) Bandhavgarh National Park (D) Panna National Park

Ans: (B) — Cheetahs translocated from Africa were released at Kuno National Park in Sheopur district; Gandhi Sagar is being developed as a second home.

Mains practice: "Price-deficiency payment schemes such as Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana can protect farmers without the fiscal burden of physical procurement." Critically examine in the context of Madhya Pradesh's oilseed economy. (GS-III)

Hint: Define price-deficiency vs MSP procurement; cite soybean price crash & MSP ₹5,328; discuss benefits (fiscal efficiency, wider coverage) and risks (trader collusion, price suppression, verification); conclude with crop diversification & storage.

★ REMEMBER TODAY: MP Cabinet ₹24,500 cr + Sugam Transport & 20% Agniveer quota · Ladli Behna ₹65,000 cr crossed · Bhavantar soybean MSP ₹5,328 · Project Cheetah 4 yrs / 52 cheetahs at Kuno · Swachh Bharat 12 yrs · RBI repo 5.25%.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team · YouTube @Study_ForGS · Telegram t.me/studyforgeneralstudies