CURRENT AFFAIRS — 07 OCT 2026

Wednesday, 7 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 opens its 3rd cheetah home: Tholo & CCB-3 released at Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.	Soybean MSP for 2026-27 set at Rs 5,708/quintal; MP is the 'Soybean State'.
CM Youth Conclave: MPPSC State Service Exam to be held twice a year from 2027.	India-EFTA TEPA completes one year; fresh India-Switzerland mobility pacts.
RBI hikes repo rate to 5.50%; stance shifted to 'calibrated tightening'.	INS Surya: India's first indigenous Fleet Support Ship launched at Visakhapatnam.
Ladli Behna payout now Rs 1,500/month via Direct Benefit Transfer.	National Supercomputing Mission hits 40 systems / 68 petaflops with PARAM Rudra.
Madhya Pradesh Travel Mart 2026 opens in Bhopal (7-10 October).	Simhastha 2028 prep fast-tracked in Ujjain with AI-led crowd management.

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

MP Opens Third Cheetah Home: Tholo & CCB-3 Released at Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve

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

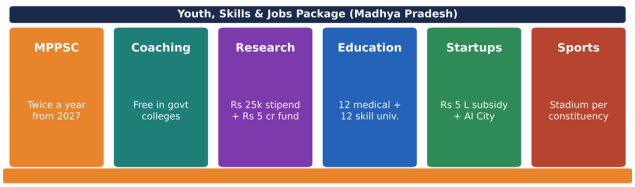
Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: protected areas of MP, Project Cheetah, wildlife conservation. Mains GS-III: conservation & eco-tourism.
Context	On 7 October 2026, CM Mohan Yadav released two cheetahs, male Tholo and female CCB-3, translocated from Kuno National Park into the Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) Tiger Reserve, making it the state's third cheetah habitat.
Key Facts	● Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) is **MP's largest tiger reserve** at **2,339 sq km** across **Sagar, Damoh & Narsinghpur**; notified a tiger reserve in **September 2023**. ● Cheetahs were settled in **~439-hectare soft-release bomas (enclosures)** before wild release. ● India's cheetah population reached **60 by 5 October 2026**, of which **41 were born on Indian soil**; **54 remain at Kuno** and **4 at Gandhi Sagar**. ● MP now hosts **3 cheetah sites**, **Kuno, Gandhi Sagar WLS and Veerangana Durgavati**, cementing its tags **'Tiger State'** and **'Cheetah State'**. ● The release is aimed at boosting **Bundelkhand wildlife tourism** and local livelihoods.
Way Fwd	Strengthen the prey base, curb man-animal conflict and channel eco-tourism revenue to local and tribal communities for durable conservation.
Concept	Project Cheetah (2022) is the world's first inter-continental large-carnivore translocation; the cheetah, declared extinct in India in 1952, is the country's only large mammal being reintroduced. IUCN status: Vulnerable.

CM Youth Conclave 2026: MPPSC to Be Held Twice a Year from 2027, Big Youth-Jobs Push

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: state youth & employment schemes. Mains GS-II: governance, education and welfare policy.
Context	At the CM Youth Conclave in Bhopal (6 October 2026), CM Mohan Yadav unveiled a youth package headlined by holding the MPPSC State Service Examination twice every year from 2027.
Key Facts	● **MPPSC exam to be conducted twice a year from 2027** to widen aspirant opportunities. ● **Free competitive-exam coaching** through government colleges statewide. ● Research stipend raised **Rs 16,000 to Rs 25,000/month**; a **Rs 5 crore innovation fund** announced. ● **12 new medical colleges** and **12 skill-focused universities**; **Rs 5 lakh subsidy** for young entrepreneurs; an **'AI City' planned in Bhopal**. ● A **stadium in every assembly constituency**; sports made a 2027 priority after recent Asian Games medals.
Way Fwd	A time-bound rollout, a transparent exam calendar and industry-linked skilling will decide whether these announcements convert into real jobs.
Concept	State Public Service Commissions derive their authority from Article 315 of the Constitution; reaping India's 'demographic dividend' needs skilling and employability, not just degrees.

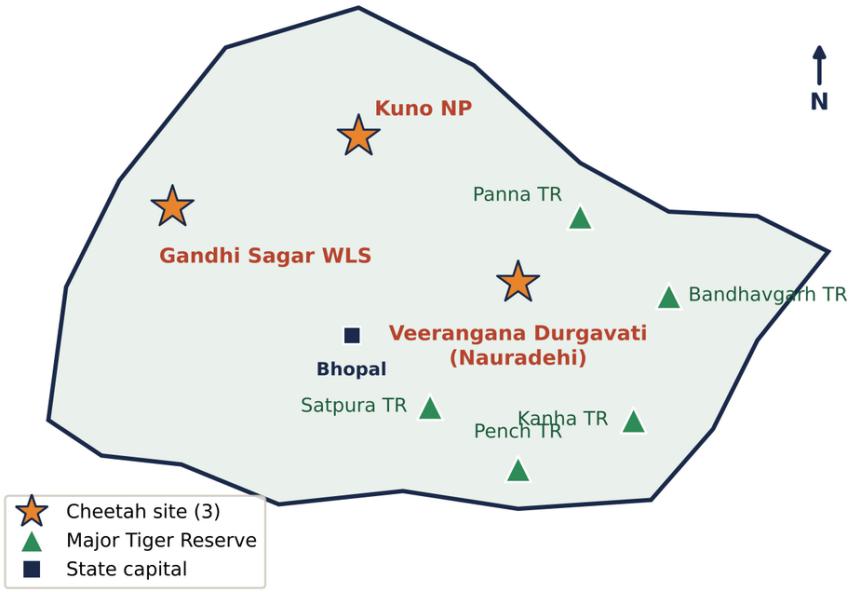
CM YOUTH CONCLAVE 2026 — SIX PILLARS



MADHYA PRADESH — CHEETAH SITES & MAJOR TIGER RESERVES

Locator map (indicative, not to scale)

Project Cheetah: 60 in India • 41 India-born • 3 MP sites • Nauradehi = largest TR (2,339 sq km)

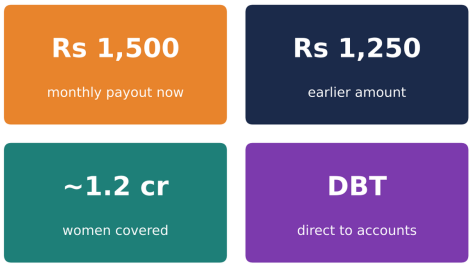


Ladli Behna Payout Continues at Rs 1,500/Month via Direct Benefit Transfer

MADHYA PRADESH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Social Justice & Welfare)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MP flagship DBT schemes. Mains GS-II: women's empowerment and welfare delivery.
Context	Madhya Pradesh continued its flagship Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana, transferring the latest monthly installment directly to eligible women, with the payout now stepped up to Rs 1,500.
Key Facts	● Monthly cash support stepped up from **Rs 1,250 to Rs 1,500** per beneficiary. ● Paid through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** straight into women's bank accounts, cutting leakage. ● Targets roughly **1.2 crore+ women**, among India's largest state cash-transfer programmes. ● Sits in a cluster with **Ladli Laxmi Yojana** and subsidised cooking-gas cylinders for women.
Way Fwd	Fiscal sustainability and periodic beneficiary audits are key to keeping the DBT programme credible and well-targeted.
Concept	Unconditional cash transfers via DBT aim to boost women's financial autonomy, in contrast to conditional or in-kind welfare delivery.

LADLI BEHNA YOJANA

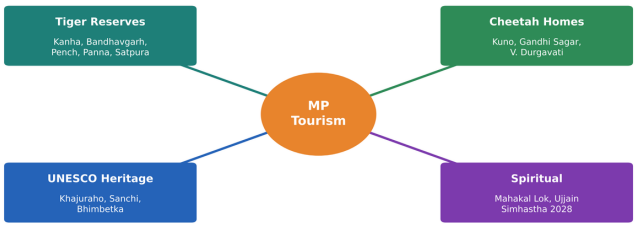


Madhya Pradesh Travel Mart 2026 Opens in Bhopal (7-10 Oct), Showcasing Tiger & Heritage Tourism

MADHYA PRADESH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I / GS-III (Culture, Geography & Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MP tourism circuits & heritage sites. Mains GS-III: tourism as a growth and jobs engine.
Context	The Madhya Pradesh Travel Mart, the state's flagship tourism B2B event, is being held in Bhopal from 7 to 10 October 2026 to market MP to domestic and global travel buyers.
Key Facts	● Pitches MP's **'Tiger State'** wildlife, **Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna & Satpura**, plus new cheetah tourism. ● Showcases UNESCO World Heritage Sites: **Khajuraho, Sanchi Stupa and Bhimbetka rock shelters**. ● Promotes spiritual tourism, especially **Ujjain's Mahakal Lok**, ahead of **Simhastha 2028**. ● **FAM (familiarisation) tours** route buyers via Bhopal-Pachmarhi-Bhimbetka-Sanchi and Gwalior.
Way Fwd	Last-mile connectivity, homestays and skilled guides can convert tourist footfall into sustained rural income.
Concept	Tourism is a high employment-elasticity sector with a strong local multiplier; MP brands itself the 'Heart of Incredible India'.

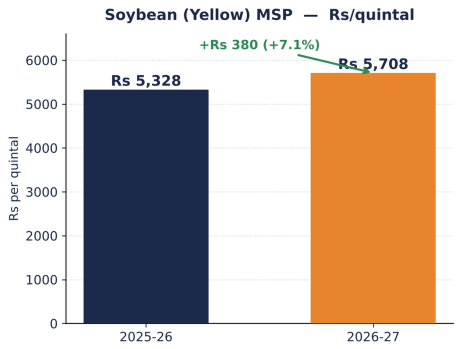
MADHYA PRADESH — WILDLIFE, HERITAGE & SPIRITUAL TOURISM



Kharif Procurement: Soybean MSP at Rs 5,708/Quintal; MP the 'Soybean State' Gears Up

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MSP, kharif crops, MP agri profile. Mains GS-III: farm incomes and procurement.
Context	Ahead of MSP-based procurement, the 2026-27 support price for yellow soybean is set at Rs 5,708 per quintal, a figure of direct relevance to Madhya Pradesh, India's top soybean producer.
Key Facts	● **Soybean (yellow) MSP 2026-27 = Rs 5,708/quintal**, up **Rs 380 (+7.1%)** from **Rs 5,328**. ● **MP leads India in soybean output**, which is why it is called the '**Soybean State**'. ● MSP procurement in MP is scheduled to begin around **25 October 2026** at designated centres. ● MP is also a top producer of **wheat (incl. Sharbati)** and **gram/pulses**; the **Narmada valley** is its agri heartland.
Way Fwd	Timely, assured procurement together with crop diversification can shield farmers from sharp price crashes.
Concept	MSP is a floor price announced on the advice of the CACP for 22+ crops; the A2+FL versus C2 cost debate frames farm-income policy.



Simhastha 2028: MP Fast-Tracks Ujjain Kumbh Infrastructure with AI-Led Crowd Management

MADHYA PRADESH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Art & Culture) / GS-III (Infrastructure)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: Simhastha/Kumbh, Ujjain, Shipra river. Mains GS-I: fairs & festivals; GS-III: event infrastructure.
Context	Madhya Pradesh is accelerating preparations for the Ujjain Simhastha 2028, clearing infrastructure packages and partnering technology majors for AI-led crowd and traffic management.
Key Facts	● Simhastha (Ujjain Kumbh) is held **every 12 years** on the banks of the **Shipra (Kshipra) river**. ● Ujjain is one of the **four Kumbh cities** (with Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik) and home to the **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga / Mahakal Lok**. ● State is clearing **road, ghat, sanitation and crowd-tech projects**; **AI tools** planned for safety and flow. ● Positioned as a **global spiritual-tourism showcase** for MP.
Way Fwd	Apply crowd-safety lessons from past mega-events and embed sustainability measures to protect the Shipra.
Concept	The Kumbh/Simhastha is on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list (2017); the name 'Simhastha' comes from Jupiter's transit into Leo (Simha rashi).

SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

RBI Repo Rate

Hiked +25 bps on 7 Oct 2026; stance now 'calibrated tightening'. FY27 projections: real GDP 7.1%, CPI 5.2%.

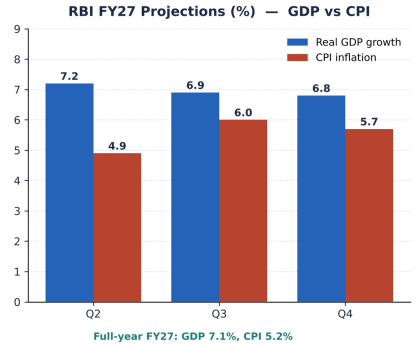
5.50%

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

RBI Hikes Repo Rate to 5.50%, Shifts to 'Calibrated Tightening'

ECONOMY **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: repo rate, MPC, monetary tools. Mains GS-III: monetary policy and inflation.
Context	On 7 October 2026 the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee unanimously raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% and switched its stance from 'neutral' to 'calibrated tightening'.
Key Facts	● Repo rate raised **5.25% to 5.50% (+25 bps)**, by a **unanimous vote**. ● **SDF at 5.25%**, **MSF and Bank Rate at 5.75%**; stance now **'calibrated tightening'**. ● Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**: near-term rate cuts are **'off the table'**. ● **FY27 real GDP growth projected at 7.1%**; **CPI inflation at 5.2%**. ● RBI to set up a **technical consultative committee** for financial markets.
Way Fwd	Higher borrowing costs may cool demand; watch food inflation and global crude-oil prices for the next move.
Concept	The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends to banks; the 6-member MPC targets CPI inflation of 4% (+/-2%) under flexible inflation targeting.



National Supercomputing Mission Crosses 40 Systems, 68 Petaflops with Indigenous PARAM Rudra

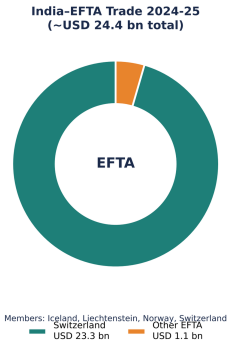
SCI-TECH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Science & Technology)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: NSM, PARAM, petaflops. Mains GS-III: indigenous high-performance computing.
Context	The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed 40 supercomputers delivering 68 petaflops, led by indigenous PARAM Rudra systems.
Key Facts	● NSM target is **50 systems / 123+ petaflops**; **40 deployed so far at 68 PF**. ● Indigenous **'Rudra' servers, interconnect, cooling and software stack**. ● **PARAM Rudra** systems installed in **Pune, Delhi and Kolkata**. ● Supports **16,000+ researchers** across **400+ institutions**; over **1.5 crore compute jobs** run.
Way Fwd	Scale indigenous chips and skilled HPC talent for AI, weather forecasting and drug discovery.
Concept	NSM (2015) is a joint MeitY-DST mission anchored by C-DAC; one petaflop equals 10 to the power 15 operations per second.

India-EFTA TEPA Turns One; India-Switzerland Deepen Trade and Mobility Ties

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: EFTA members, TEPA. Mains GS-II: India and trade blocs.
Context	Marking one year of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), India and Switzerland signed fresh pacts on migration, mobility, transport, infrastructure and science.
Key Facts	● **EFTA** = **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland** (non-EU bloc). ● TEPA targets **USD 100 billion investment over 15 years** and about **1 million direct jobs** in India. ● India-EFTA trade was about **USD 24.4 billion in 2024-25**, of which **Switzerland was ~USD 23.3 billion**. ● A **Young Professionals** pact allows about **300 a year**, expandable to **500**.
Way Fwd	Translating investment pledges into on-the-ground FDI and jobs is the real test of the agreement.
Concept	TEPA is India's first free-trade agreement with a legally binding investment-and-jobs commitment; note that EFTA is distinct from the EU.



India Launches First Indigenous Fleet Support Ship 'INS Surya' at Visakhapatnam

DEFENCE **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Defence & Security)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: naval platforms, indigenisation. Mains GS-III: defence self-reliance.
Context	India launched its first indigenous Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1), 'INS Surya', at Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam, on 6 October 2026, boosting the Navy's blue-water logistics.
Key Facts	● First of **5 Fleet Support Ships** under a **Rs 19,000-crore contract**; **82% indigenous content**. ● Carries about **20,000 tonnes of diesel** and **2,500 tonnes of aviation fuel** for at-sea replenishment. ● Replaces the ageing **INS Deepak and INS Shakti**, extending fleet endurance. ● Advances the **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'** push in warship-building.
Way Fwd	Sustain shipyard order-books and a domestic component ecosystem to cut import dependence.
Concept	Fleet Support Ships enable 'underway replenishment', fuel and stores delivered at sea, which is key to sustained blue-water operations.

India's First 3D-Printed Rural Homes Pilot Launched Under PMAY-G

SCI-TECH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Sci-Tech & Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: PMAY-G, 3D concrete printing. Mains GS-III: technology in housing.
Context	India's first national pilot of 3D concrete printing for rural housing under PMAY-G was launched in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, on 4 October 2026.
Key Facts	● **177 houses** to be 3D-printed (**100 at Burripalem, 77 at Pothuru**) in about **6 months**. ● Project outlay **Rs 13.93 crore**, with faster builds than conventional masonry. ● **PMAY-G standard assistance** is about **Rs 1.2-1.3 lakh** per house. ● Showcases **construction-tech** for mass affordable housing.
Way Fwd	Validate cost, durability and local materials before any nationwide scale-up.
Concept	PMAY-Gramin targets 'Housing for All' in rural areas; 3D printing is additive, layer-by-layer concrete construction.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

- ◆ India's cheetah count: 60 (41 India-born) as of 5 October 2026.
- ◆ Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) is MP's largest tiger reserve, 2,339 sq km.
- ◆ Policy rates: Repo 5.50%, SDF 5.25%, MSF & Bank Rate 5.75%.
- ◆ EFTA members: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.
- ◆ INS Surya built at Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam; 82% indigenous.
- ◆ MP research stipend raised from Rs 16,000 to Rs 25,000 per month.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Project Cheetah, consider the following statements: (1) Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is the third cheetah habitat in Madhya Pradesh. (2) The reserve was earlier known as Nauradehi. (3) The two cheetahs released on 7 October 2026 were translocated from Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. Which of the statements are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only

(B) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 3 only

(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A — Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong, the cheetahs (Tholo and CCB-3) were translocated from Kuno National Park, not Gandhi Sagar.

Q2. Which of the following about the RBI Monetary Policy decision of October 2026 is/are correct? (1) The repo rate was raised to 5.50%. (2) The policy stance was changed to 'calibrated tightening'. (3) The Monetary Policy Committee has six members.

(A) 1 only

(B) 1 and 2 only

(C) 2 and 3 only

(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D — All three are correct. The repo rate was raised 25 bps to 5.50%, the stance moved to 'calibrated tightening', and the MPC has six members (three from the RBI and three appointed by the Government).

Mains Practice (GS): Madhya Pradesh is emerging as India's wildlife-tourism capital. Examine how initiatives such as Project Cheetah and the state's tiger reserves can be leveraged for inclusive local development while ensuring ecological balance. (250 words, 15 marks)

Hint: Link the 'Tiger State' tag and three cheetah sites to eco-tourism jobs; balance with prey-base management, man-animal conflict mitigation and tribal livelihoods; cite Kuno, Gandhi Sagar and Veerangana Durgavati.

★ **QUICK REVISION: Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) = MP's 3rd cheetah site & largest tiger reserve (2,339 sq km); Repo 5.50%; Soybean MSP Rs 5,708/qtl; TEPA = India-EFTA FTA.**

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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