CURRENT AFFAIRS — 08-10-2026

Thursday, 8 October 2026 • IST • MP + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- RBI hikes repo rate 25 bps to 5.50%; stance now calibrated tightening
- Kuno: 5 cheetah cubs born; India's cheetah count rises to 60
- Mandla: ₹36.17 cr tendu patta bonus to 9.04 lakh collectors
- Cabinet clears ₹10,000 cr SME Growth Fund (patient equity)
- Nobel Chemistry 2026: Kagan & Soai for asymmetric synthesis
- CM Yadav in Mumbai to woo investors ahead of GIS 2027, Bhopal
- Ladli Behna 40th instalment: ₹1,835 cr to 1.25 cr women
- SC sets aside 50 Punjab municipal wards; fresh polls in 6 weeks
- Cabinet approves Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority
- WWF Living Planet 2026: 73% average fall in wildlife (1970-2022)

A MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

CM Yadav's Mumbai roadshow builds momentum for Global Investors Summit 2027

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

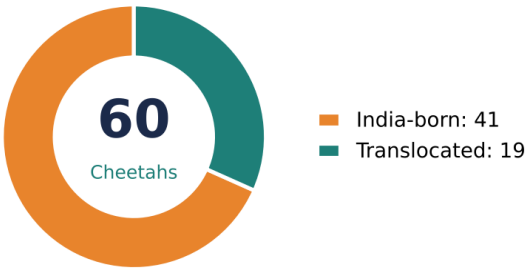
Syllabus	MP economy & industrial policy; GS-III (industry, investment, infra). Prelims: GIS, PM MITRA, industrial corridors.
Context	Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** met industry leaders in **Mumbai on 8 October 2026** to attract investment ahead of the **Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2027**, scheduled for **January 2027 in Bhopal**.
Key Facts	■ Focus sectors: **pharma, medical devices, auto components, electronics, textiles, chemicals, energy tech**; a pharma round-table was held. ■ Flagship offers showcased: **Asia's first telecom manufacturing zone (Gwalior)**, a **renewable-energy equipment zone at Babai-Mohsa (Narmadapuram)**, **PM MITRA textile park, Dhar** and a **medical devices park, Ujjain**. ■ Investment proposals of over **₹5,500 crore** already received for the Gwalior telecom zone; **bhoomi pujan on 12 October 2026**. ■ Incentive pitched: land at **₹1 per sq ft** in notified manufacturing zones and parks, plus subsidies.
Way Fwd	Converting MoUs into ground-level investment and jobs, backed by single-window clearances and reliable power, will decide GIS 2027's real payoff.
Concept	**GIS**: MP's flagship investor meet. **PM MITRA**: 7 mega textile parks scheme. **Industrial corridors** link MP to the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).

Project Cheetah milestone: five cubs at Kuno lift India's count to 60

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

Syllabus	Wildlife conservation & species reintroduction; GS-III. Prelims: Project Cheetah, Kuno NP, IUCN status.
Context	An Indian-born female cheetah, **KJP21**, gave birth to **five cubs at Kuno National Park (MP)** on **5 October 2026**, taking India's total cheetah count to **60**.
Key Facts	■ Of the **60** cheetahs, **41 are India-born**; the rest were translocated. ■ The cheetah was declared **extinct in India in 1952**; **Project Cheetah** began in **September 2022** with translocation from **Namibia** (later South Africa). ■ **Kuno National Park** lies in the **Chambal region**; **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary** is the planned second cheetah home. ■ MP is already India's **'Tiger State'** with the highest tiger numbers and the **largest forest cover** by area.
Way Fwd	Sustained breeding success and a viable second site are key to a self-sustaining metapopulation under the world's first inter-continental big-cat reintroduction.
Concept	**Project Cheetah**: world's first inter-continental carnivore translocation. Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) is IUCN **'Vulnerable'**; African cheetah introduced to India.

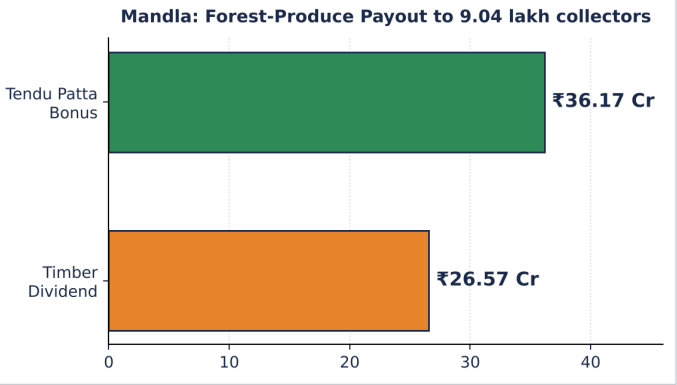
Project Cheetah: count rises to 60 (Kuno)



Ladli Behna Yojana: 40th monthly instalment transfers ₹1,835 crore

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

Syllabus	Welfare schemes & women empowerment; GS-II. Prelims: Ladli Behna, DBT, scheme figures.
Context	The MP government released the **40th instalment** of the **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana**, a Direct Benefit Transfer scheme for women, continuing one of the state's largest welfare commitments.
Key Facts	■ **₹1,835 crore** transferred to **1.25 crore** (1,25,10,150) eligible women. ■ Each eligible woman receives **₹1,500 per month**; the amount rose from **₹1,000 (2023)** to **₹1,250** and then **₹1,500**. ■ Cumulative transfers have crossed **₹65,000 crore** since **June 2023**. ■ FY 2026-27 budget provision for the scheme is about **₹23,882 crore**.
Way Fwd	Fiscal sustainability and periodic beneficiary verification will be crucial as the scheme's annual outgo grows.
Concept	**DBT**: electronic, Aadhaar-seeded transfers that cut leakages. Such income-support schemes aim at **financial inclusion** and **women's agency**.



MP targets 100+ lakh hectares of irrigation in five years

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

Syllabus	Irrigation, agriculture & rural development; GS-III. Prelims: lift irrigation, major MP rivers.
Context	At a farmers' programme in **Harsud (Khandwa)** marking **Rani Durgavati's 502nd birth anniversary**, CM Yadav set a target to expand the state's irrigated area, declaring 2026 a '**Krishak Kalyan Varsh**'.
Key Facts	■ Target: raise irrigated area to **over 100 lakh hectares in five years**. ■ Push for the **Karwani Lift Irrigation Project** and **10 hours of daytime power** for farmers. ■ State to undertake welfare and development works worth about **₹1 lakh crore** this year. ■ MP is the '**Soybean State**' and a leading **wheat (incl. Sharbati), gram and pulses** producer; rivers: **Narmada, Chambal, Betwa, Tapti, Son**.
Way Fwd	Micro-irrigation and river-linking (e.g., Ken-Betwa) can stretch scarce water while curbing power subsidy stress.
Concept	**Lift irrigation**: water pumped to higher land where gravity canals can't reach. **Ken-Betwa** is India's first major river-interlinking project.

Ladli Behna Yojana — Key Numbers

₹1,835 Cr Sept 2026 transfer	**1.25 Cr** women beneficiaries
₹1,500 per month	**₹65,396 Cr** cumulative outgo
40th monthly instalment	

Mandla: ₹36 crore tendu patta bonus for 9 lakh forest-produce collectors

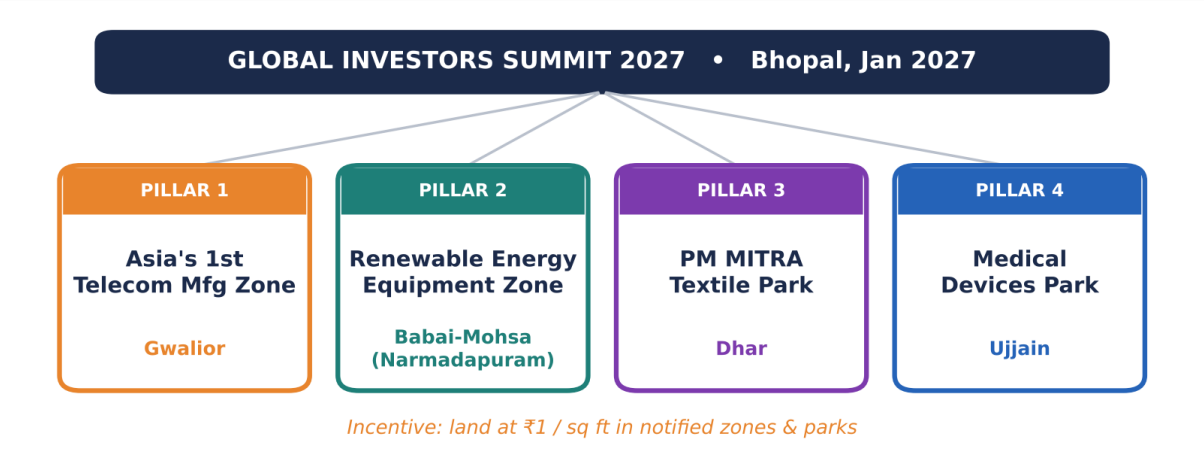
MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Tribal Welfare)

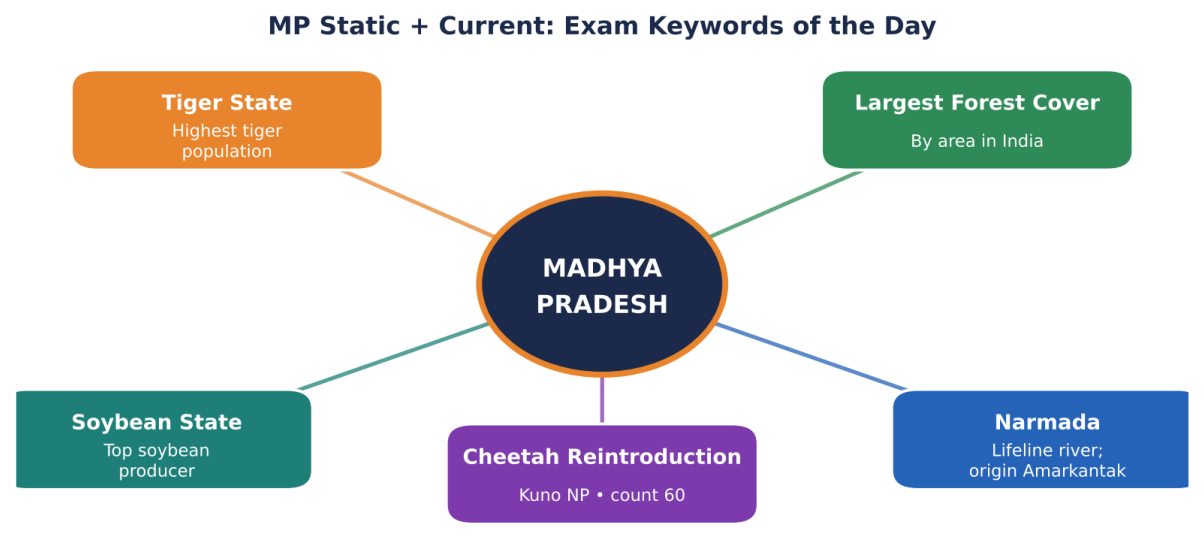
Syllabus	Tribal livelihoods & minor forest produce; GS-II/III. Prelims: tendu patta, PESA, FRA.
Context	The state distributed incentive bonus to members of primary forest-produce cooperative societies in the **Mahakoshal (Mandla) region**, strengthening tribal and forest-dependent livelihoods.
Key Facts	■ **₹36.17 crore** bonus distributed to **9,04,126 tendu leaf collectors**. ■ An additional **₹26.57 crore** in **timber dividend** paid to members of **84 forest committees**. ■ Covered divisions include **Mandla, Dindori, Jabalpur, Seoni and Balaghat**. ■ MP has India's **largest tribal population**; **tendu leaf (bidi leaf)** is a key minor forest produce.
Way Fwd	Linking MFP collectors to value-addition and fair pricing under PESA/FRA can deepen tribal economic security.
Concept	**PESA, 1996**: extends Panchayati Raj to Scheduled Areas, empowering Gram Sabhas over MFP. **FRA, 2006**: recognises forest rights of tribals.

Simhastha 2028: ₹491 crore of fresh projects cleared for Ujjain region

MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Art & Culture)

Syllabus	Culture, heritage & event management; GS-I. Prelims: Simhastha/Kumbh, Mahakaleshwar, Jyotirlingas.
Context	A cabinet-level committee under CM Yadav approved new infrastructure works to prepare **Ujjain** for **Simhastha 2028**, the state's grand religious congregation on the **Shipra (Kshipra) river**.
Key Facts	■ **17 new projects worth ₹491.66 crore** approved; about **148 ongoing projects worth ₹16,910 crore** under way. ■ Includes **₹160 crore** redevelopment of the **Omkareshwar** temple complex and phased **Shipra ghat** works. ■ **Simhastha** (Ujjain Kumbh) is held roughly **every 12 years**; Ujjain hosts the **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga**. ■ Other MP heritage: **Khajuraho, Sanchi, Bhimbetka** (all UNESCO sites).
Way Fwd	Front-loading sanitation, crowd-management and river-rejuvenation can make Simhastha 2028 a model for sustainable mega-events.
Concept	**Jyotirlinga**: 12 revered shrines of Shiva (Mahakal at Ujjain). **Kumbh/Simhastha**: cyclical pilgrimage tied to planetary positions (Jupiter in Leo).



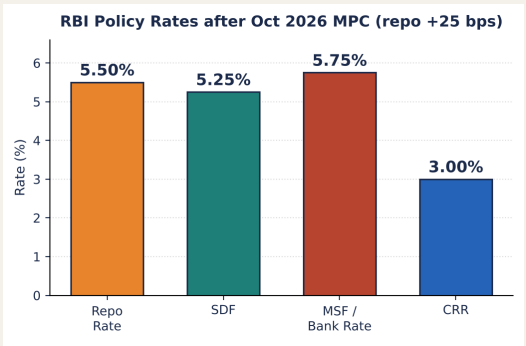


B DATA POINT OF THE DAY

5.50%

RBI Repo Rate (after +25 bps hike, 7 Oct 2026)

First rate hike of the cycle; stance shifted to **calibrated tightening**. FY27 projections: **GDP 7.1%**, **CPI 5.2%** (core 4.4%). SDF **5.25%**, MSF/Bank rate **5.75%**, CRR **3%**. Trigger: CPI rose to **4.8% (Aug)** and crude averaged **$116/bbl (Sept)**.



C NATIONAL & WORLD

Supreme Court sets aside 50 Punjab municipal wards; orders fresh polls

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

Syllabus	Local self-government & free elections; GS-II. Prelims: 74th Amendment, State Election Commission.
Context	The Supreme Court **set aside elections in 50 municipal wards** of Punjab after a court-appointed commission found obstruction of the nomination process, and ordered **fresh polls within six weeks**.
Key Facts	■ Wards affected: **28 in Patiala and 22 in Moga**; the original polls were held in **December 2024**. ■ Commission found **damaged nomination papers and threats** to candidates. ■ Bench led by **CJI Surya Kant**; a monitoring committee under a retired High Court judge to be set up. ■ Upholds the sanctity of **free and fair local-body elections**.
Way Fwd	Robust State Election Commissions and secure nomination processes are essential to grassroots democracy.
Concept	**74th Constitutional Amendment (1992)**: gave constitutional status to urban local bodies; **Art. 243ZA**: State Election Commission conducts municipal polls.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026 awarded for asymmetric synthesis

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

Syllabus	Science awards & chemistry; GS-III / Prelims GK. Prelims: Nobel laureates 2026, chirality.
Context	The **2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** went to **Henri Kagan (France)** and **Kenso Soai (Japan)** for work on **chiral molecules and asymmetric synthesis**.
Key Facts	■ Recognises advances in making **single-'handed' (chiral) molecules**. ■ Crucial for **pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals**, where one mirror-image form may be active. ■ Awarded by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**. ■ **Soai reaction** is famed for **asymmetric autocatalysis**.
Way Fwd	Cleaner, selective synthesis routes cut drug side-effects and chemical waste, aiding green chemistry.
Concept	**Chirality**: molecules that are non-superimposable mirror images (enantiomers). **Asymmetric synthesis**: making one enantiomer preferentially.

Union Cabinet approves ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund

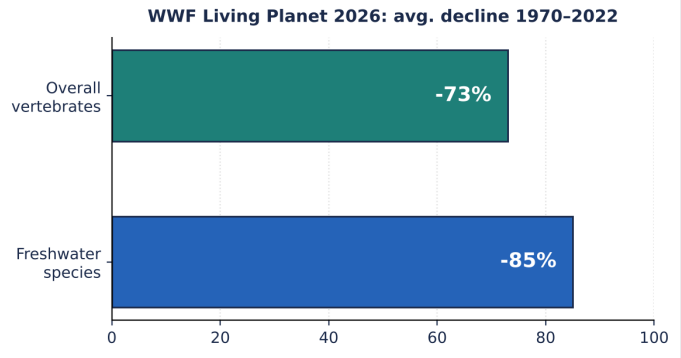
ECONOMY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy)

Syllabus	MSME finance & industrial policy; GS-III. Prelims: MSME classification, patient capital.
Context	The Union Cabinet cleared a **₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund** to provide long-term equity ('patient capital') to high-potential small and medium enterprises, linked to Budget 2026-27 MSME measures.
Key Facts	■ Aims to give **growth equity**, not just debt, to promising SMEs. ■ **Small** enterprise: investment up to **₹25 cr**, turnover up to **₹100 cr**. ■ **Medium** enterprise: investment up to **₹125 cr**, turnover up to **₹500 cr**. ■ Addresses the **'missing middle'** financing gap in Indian manufacturing.
Way Fwd	Patient equity can help SMEs scale, formalise and plug into global value chains, aiding job creation.
Concept	**Patient capital**: long-horizon equity tolerant of delayed returns. MSMEs contribute roughly **30% of GDP** and a large share of exports.

Cabinet clears Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)

ECONOMY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Infrastructure)

Syllabus	Logistics & infrastructure governance; GS-III. Prelims: PM GatiShakti, National Logistics Policy.
Context	The Union Cabinet approved the **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)** as a Special Purpose Vehicle to coordinate planning across roads, railways, ports, aviation and waterways.
Key Facts	■ ITLA to handle **integrated planning, project appraisal, monitoring and impact assessment**. ■ Complements **PM GatiShakti** and the **National Logistics Policy (2022)**. ■ To support a **National Transport Master Plan**. ■ Targets India's high **logistics cost** (aiming to cut it towards global levels).
Way Fwd	A single coordinating authority can reduce siloed planning and lower logistics costs, boosting competitiveness.
Concept	**PM GatiShakti**: a digital master-plan for multimodal connectivity. **SPV**: a dedicated legal entity for a specific project/mandate.



WWF Living Planet Report 2026: 73% average decline in wildlife

ENVIRONMENT **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Report)**

Syllabus	Biodiversity loss & global reports; GS-III. Prelims: Living Planet Index, WWF/ZSL.
Context	The **Living Planet Report 2026** recorded an average **73% decline in monitored vertebrate populations between 1970 and 2022**, underscoring an accelerating biodiversity crisis.
Key Facts	■ Based on **35,803 population trends** across **5,790 species**. ■ **Freshwater** populations fell about **85%** on average. ■ **Latin America** saw the steepest regional decline. ■ The **73%** figure is an **index-based average**, not a count of animals lost.
Way Fwd	Halting habitat loss, over-exploitation and climate stress is vital to meet the Kunming-Montreal 30x30 target.
Concept	**Living Planet Index**: tracks vertebrate population trends. **30x30**: protect 30% of land & seas by 2030 (GBF).

D PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

- **Project Cheetah** began **Sept 2022**; cheetah declared **extinct in India in 1952**; count now **60**.
- **Kuno National Park** is in MP's **Chambal** region; **Gandhi Sagar** is the second cheetah site.
- MP superlatives: **Tiger State**, **Soybean State**, **largest forest cover** by area.
- **RBI corridor**: Repo **5.50%**, SDF **5.25%**, MSF/Bank rate **5.75%**, CRR **3%**.
- **Ladli Behna**: **₹1,500/month** to **1.25 crore** women; **40** instalments since June 2023.
- **Nobel Chemistry 2026**: Kagan & Soai — **asymmetric synthesis / chirality**.

E PRACTICE CORNER

Q1 (Prelims)

With reference to Project Cheetah, consider the following statements:
1. Cheetahs were reintroduced at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
2. The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952.
3. The first translocated cheetahs were brought from Australia.
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: A. Cheetahs were brought from Namibia (and later South Africa), not Australia, so statement 3 is wrong. Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q2 (Prelims)

Consider the following about the RBI's monetary policy:
1. A 'calibrated tightening' stance generally rules out rate cuts in the near term.
2. The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends to commercial banks against government securities.
Which of the statements is/are correct?

A) 1 only
B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2
D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C. Both are correct. Under calibrated tightening the RBI moves rates up or holds, not cuts; the repo rate is the overnight lending rate against G-secs.

Mains Practice: Madhya Pradesh's bid to become a leading investment destination rests on dedicated industrial zones and parks. Discuss the opportunities and challenges, with reference to the Global Investors Summit 2027.

Hint: Cover PM MITRA (Dhar), telecom zone (Gwalior), ₹1/sq ft land & subsidies, logistics/power readiness, skilling, and converting MoUs into actual jobs.

★ ONE-LINE REVISION
MP = Tiger State, Soybean State & now home to India's 60 cheetahs; RBI repo at 5.50% after the first hike of the cycle (calibrated tightening).

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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