CURRENT AFFAIRS — 12 OCT 2026

Mon, 12 Oct 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

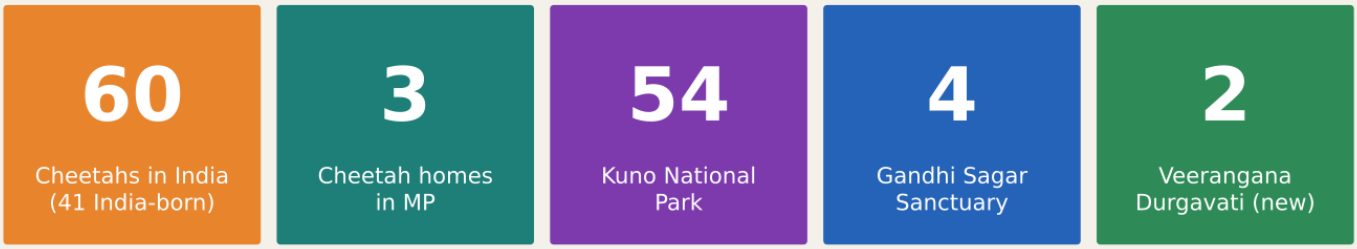
TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

MP gets its **3rd cheetah habitat** at **Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi)** Tiger Reserve	MP pulls **Rs 90,000 cr** investment; **Global Investors Summit** set for **Jan 2027**
India now has **60 cheetahs** (**41 India-born**); **Kuno** holds 54	**Youth Conclave 2026**: **MPPSC exam twice a year** from 2027; **2027 = Youth Year**
RBI hikes **repo rate to 5.5%** (+25 bps) — first hike since **Feb 2023**	**Nobel 2026**: Halzen (Physics), Pillay (Peace), Carson (Literature)
Stance shifted to **'calibrated tightening'**; **CPI FY27** seen at **5.2%**	**Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026** multinational air drill held at **Jodhpur**
CM: **Ladli Behna** costs about **Rs 22,680 cr/year** — a 'heavy burden'	**TRISHNA** Indo-French thermal-imaging satellite in advanced stage

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

PROJECT CHEETAH • MADHYA PRADESH

India's cheetah reintroduction — MP is the only state with cheetahs



MP opens its third cheetah home at Veerangana Durgavati

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

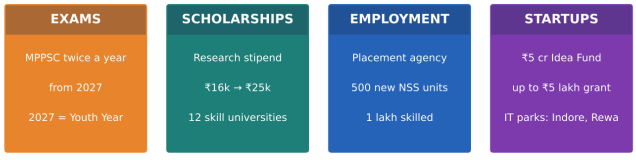
Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MP wildlife, protected areas; Mains **GS-III** — conservation, biodiversity, species reintroduction.
Context	Two cheetahs were moved from **Kuno** to the **Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) Tiger Reserve**, making it **Madhya Pradesh's third cheetah habitat** during **Wildlife Conservation Week** (early October 2026).
Key Facts	■ Durgavati/Nauradehi (~**2,339 sq km** across **Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur**) is MP's **largest tiger reserve** (status 2023). ■ India's cheetah count is **60** (**41 born in India**); **Kuno** retains **54**, **Gandhi Sagar** has **4**. ■ MP is the **only state with cheetahs** and holds the **'Tiger State'** tag too. ■ Reintroduction began **17 Sept 2022** with **Namibian** cheetahs at Kuno; later **South African** and **Botswana** animals added.
Way Fwd	Spreading cheetahs across sites reduces disease/inbreeding risk and builds a self-sustaining metapopulation.
Concept	**Project Cheetah** = world's first inter-continental large-carnivore translocation; cheetah is the only large cat gone extinct in India (**1952**) and now reintroduced.

Youth Conclave 2026: MPPSC exam to be held twice a year

[MADHYA PRADESH] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MP schemes & governance; Mains **GS-II** — governance, education, employment policy.
Context	At the **MP Youth Conclave 2026** (Bhopal), CM **Mohan Yadav** announced the **MPPSC examination will be conducted twice a year from 2027** and declared **2027 as 'Youth Year'**.
Key Facts	■ Monthly **research scholarship raised from Rs 16,000 to Rs 25,000**; Rs 1 crore university research fund. ■ **12 new medical colleges** and **12 skill universities** planned; free competitive-exam coaching in govt colleges. ■ **Rs 5 crore 'Idea Fund'** for startups; grants up to about **Rs 5 lakh** per youth. ■ **IT parks in Indore and Rewa**, a telecom hub in **Gwalior**, and AI/computing labs in colleges.
Way Fwd	Two exam cycles cut the long wait between attempts and align hiring with annual vacancies.
Concept	State PSCs derive from **Article 315** of the Constitution; MPPSC conducts the **State Service Examination** for MP.

MP YOUTH CONCLAVE 2026 — FOUR PILLARS



CM flags Ladli Behna's cost as a 'heavy burden'

[SOCIETY] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II / GS-III (Welfare & State Finances)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MP flagship schemes; Mains **GS-II** welfare of women, **GS-III** state fiscal management.
Context	CM **Mohan Yadav** publicly described the **Ladli Behna Yojana** as a **'heavy financial burden'**, citing its large and growing annual cost on the state exchequer.
Key Facts	■ Scheme costs roughly **Rs 22,680 crore a year** and covers about **1.27 crore women**. ■ Transfers around **Rs 1,250–Rs 1,500 per month** to eligible women; launched in **2023**. ■ A **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** scheme aimed at women's economic self-reliance. ■ The remark revives debate on **fiscal sustainability vs. welfare** in state budgets.
Way Fwd	Better targeting and outcome-linked design can protect welfare gains without straining finances.
Concept	**DBT** routes subsidies directly to **Aadhaar-linked** bank accounts, cutting leakages; a key test of cooperative-welfare federalism.

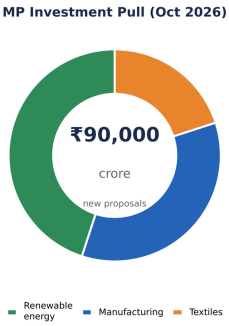
LADLI BEHNA YOJANA — BY THE NUMBERS

₹22,680 cr	~1.27 cr	₹1,250+	2023
Annual outgo (approx.)	Women beneficiaries	Monthly transfer per woman	Scheme launched

MP pulls Rs 90,000 crore in fresh investment; Summit in Jan 2027

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MP industrial policy & summits; Mains **GS-III** — investment, employment, industrial corridors.
Context	At an investors' interaction in **Mumbai**, CM **Mohan Yadav** secured about **Rs 90,000 crore** of fresh investment proposals ahead of MP's flagship summit.
Key Facts	■ Proposals span **renewable energy, manufacturing and textiles**; expected to create about **15,000 jobs**. ■ MP's **Global Investors Summit** is scheduled for **January 2027**. ■ State offers a **1.25 lakh-acre industrial land bank** and economic/logistics corridors. ■ Branding pitched under **'Make in MP'** and **'Faith in MP'**.
Way Fwd	Converting MoUs into ground-level projects is the real test of the investment push.
Concept	**GIS** are state-level investor platforms to attract capital; ties to the national drive for **Ease of Doing Business**.



Simhastha 2028: Ujjain preparations gather pace

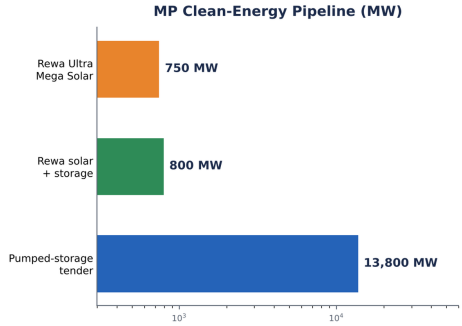
[MADHYA PRADESH] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Art, Culture & Heritage)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: fairs/festivals of MP; Mains **GS-I** — Indian culture, religious tourism; **GS-III** infra.
Context	Madhya Pradesh is ramping up infrastructure for the **Simhastha Kumbh 2028** at **Ujjain**, with large budget allocations and a technology-led crowd-management plan.
Key Facts	■ Around **Rs 2,000–Rs 2,005 crore** earmarked and further project packages cleared for the Ujjain region. ■ MP has partnered a major tech firm for **AI-led Simhastha management** (crowd, traffic, safety). ■ Simhastha is held on the banks of the **Shipra (Kshipra)** river at Ujjain, one of four Kumbh sites. ■ Ujjain also hosts the **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga** and the **Mahakal Lok** corridor.
Way Fwd	Early, tech-enabled planning can set a template for safe mega-event management.
Concept	The **Kumbh/Simhastha** rotates among **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain**, tied to Jupiter's transit.

MP's clean-energy pipeline deepens at Rewa and beyond

[ENVIRONMENT] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Energy & Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MP solar/energy projects; Mains **GS-III** — renewable energy, energy security.
Context	Madhya Pradesh is expanding renewable capacity, building on the landmark **Rewa Ultra Mega Solar** park with new solar-plus-storage and large pumped-storage plans.
Key Facts	■ **Rewa Ultra Mega Solar** park has a capacity of about **750 MW**. ■ The state approved around **800 MW** of **solar-plus-storage** projects in the Rewa belt. ■ MP floated a large **pumped-storage (pumped hydro) tender of about 13.8 GW**. ■ Supports India's target of **500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030**.
Way Fwd	Storage and pumped hydro are vital to firm up variable solar and ensure round-the-clock supply.
Concept	**Pumped-storage hydro** stores energy by moving water between reservoirs — a large-scale 'green battery'.



SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Rs 22,680 crore

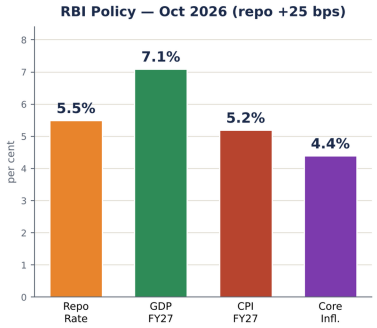
Ladli Behna Yojana — annual cost — The approximate yearly outgo of Madhya Pradesh's flagship women's cash-transfer scheme, reaching about 1.27 crore women at Rs 1,250+ a month.

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

RBI hikes repo rate to 5.5% — first hike in nearly four years

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

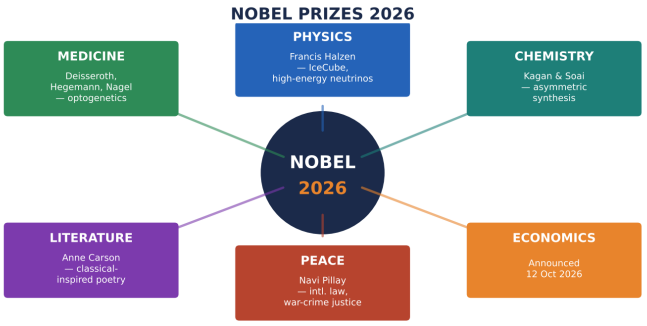
Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: monetary policy tools, MPC; Mains **GS-III** — inflation, growth, monetary management.
Context	The **Reserve Bank of India** raised the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.5%** in its October 2026 review — its **first hike since February 2023** — to rein in rising inflation.
Key Facts	■ Stance changed from **neutral** to **'calibrated tightening'** (rate hike unanimous; stance 4–2). ■ **CPI inflation** forecast raised to **5.2%** (FY27); core inflation to **4.4%**. ■ **Real GDP** growth projected at **7.1%** for the year. ■ Triggers: inflation above the **4% target** for three months and a crude-oil spike to about **$114–116/barrel**.
Way Fwd	Tightening guards against entrenched inflation but must balance strong growth momentum.
Concept	**Repo rate** = rate at which RBI lends to banks; the **MPC** targets **4% CPI (+/-2%)** inflation under the RBI Act.



Nobel Prizes 2026 announced across sciences, literature and peace

[REPORT] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Science & Awards)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: awards & honours, science basics; Mains **GS-III** — science & technology developments.
Context	The **2026 Nobel Prizes** were announced in early October, with the **Economics** prize due on **12 October 2026**; the science awards spanned physics, chemistry and medicine.
Key Facts	■ **Physics**: **Francis Halzen** — **IceCube** observatory and high-energy cosmic **neutrinos**. ■ **Medicine**: **Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel** — **optogenetics** / light-gated ion channels. ■ **Chemistry**: **Kagan & Soai** — asymmetric (chiral) synthesis & autocatalysis. ■ **Peace**: **Navi Pillay**; **Literature**: **Anne Carson**.
Way Fwd	Note each laureate's field and country — a recurring Prelims and interview area.
Concept	Nobel Prizes (since **1901**) are awarded in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Peace; Economics (since **1969**) is the **Sveriges Riksbank** prize.



Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026: multinational air drill at Jodhpur

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: military exercises; Mains **GS-III** — defence, internal & external security.
Context	The **Indian Air Force** hosted **Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026**, a large **multinational air exercise**, with participation of several foreign air forces at **Jodhpur (Rajasthan)**.
Key Facts	■ **Tarang Shakti** is India's **largest multinational air exercise**. ■ Aims to boost **interoperability** and joint air-combat training with friendly nations. ■ Showcases indigenous platforms such as the **Tejas (LCA)**. ■ Reflects India's growing role as a **security provider** in the region.
Way Fwd	Such drills strengthen defence diplomacy and expose the IAF to varied tactics and platforms.
Concept	Military exercises are a tool of **defence diplomacy**; remember India's bilateral drills too (e.g., **INDRA** with Russia).

TRISHNA: Indo-French thermal-imaging satellite in advanced stage

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: ISRO missions, space cooperation; Mains **GS-III** — space tech, climate monitoring.
Context	An **ISRO** official said the **TRISHNA** satellite — a joint mission with France's **CNES** — is in an advanced stage of realisation for high-resolution thermal monitoring.
Key Facts	■ **TRISHNA** = **Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment**. ■ A joint **ISRO–CNES** (India–France) earth-observation mission. ■ Will track **land-surface temperature, water stress, crop health and evapotranspiration**. ■ Supports **climate-change** study, agriculture and water-resource management.
Way Fwd	High-resolution thermal data can sharpen drought, irrigation and heat-stress planning.
Concept	**Thermal infrared remote sensing** measures emitted heat; India–France space ties also include earlier **Megha-Tropiques** and **SARAL**.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

▸ **Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi)** is MP's **largest tiger reserve** and its **3rd cheetah site**.	▸ India's cheetah reintroduction began at **Kuno** on **17 Sept 2022**.
▸ **RBI repo rate** now **5.5%**; policy stance **'calibrated tightening'**.	▸ **MPPSC** State Service Exam to be held **twice a year from 2027**.
▸ MP's **Global Investors Summit** is slated for **January 2027**.	▸ **Francis Halzen** won the **2026 Physics Nobel** for the **IceCube** neutrino observatory.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, recently in news as a cheetah habitat, is located in which state?

(A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Chhattisgarh

Ans: (B) Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) Tiger Reserve lies in Madhya Pradesh across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur; it is the state's largest tiger reserve and third cheetah habitat.

Q2. With reference to the RBI's October 2026 monetary policy, consider the following:
1. The repo rate was raised to 5.5%.
2. The policy stance was changed to 'calibrated tightening'.
Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (C) The RBI raised the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.5% (first hike since Feb 2023) and shifted its stance from neutral to 'calibrated tightening'. Both statements are correct.

Mains Practice: Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the hub of India's cheetah reintroduction. Discuss the ecological and administrative significance of expanding cheetah habitats across the state, and the challenges involved. (GS-III, ~250 words)

Hint: Cover metapopulation logic (disease/inbreeding), prey base & habitat readiness, human-wildlife conflict, eco-tourism and the 'Tiger/Cheetah State' branding; link to Kuno, Gandhi Sagar and Durgavati.

★ **ONE-LINE REVISION:** Remember today: MP's **3rd cheetah home = Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi)**; **RBI repo rate = 5.5%**; **MPPSC exam twice a year from 2027**; **2026 Physics Nobel = Francis Halzen (IceCube)**.