CURRENT AFFAIRS — 13 OCTOBER 2026

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Tuesday, 13 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MP's **3rd cheetah habitat**: Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, Sagar
- India's cheetah tally rises to **60** after **5 cubs** born at Kuno
- **MP Travel Mart 2026**: **₹3,729 cr** investment proposals, Bhopal
- Ladli Behna **40th instalment**: **₹1,500/month** to **1.25 cr+** women
- RBI repo rate up **25 bps to 5.50%**; stance 'calibrated tightening'
- Retail **CPI inflation 5.54%** in Sept 2026 — highest in 2024=100 series
- **57th GST Council**: officers' arrest powers removed; penalty cut
- **Navi Pillay** (Indian-origin) wins the **2026 Nobel Peace Prize**
- WWF **Living Planet Index 2026**: wildlife down **73%** (1970–2022)
- DRDO **HAPS** pseudo-satellite flies to **~21 km** altitude

SECTION A — MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

Schemes • Policy • Ecology • State Economy

Veerangana Durgavati becomes MP's third cheetah habitat

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

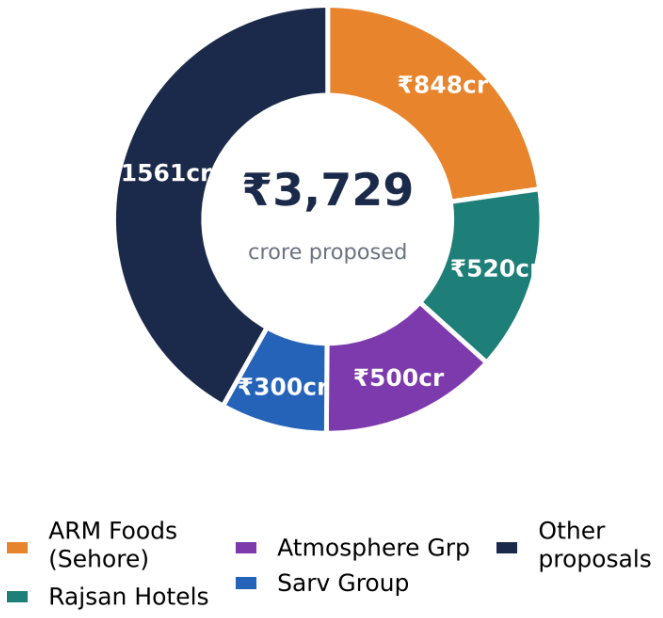
Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-III (ecology, biodiversity, wildlife reserves); Prelims – MP protected areas, Project Cheetah, Tiger State.
Context	On **7 October 2026**, during the concluding event of **Wildlife Conservation Week**, CM **Dr Mohan Yadav** released cheetahs **Vyom and Neera** (brought from **Kuno**) at **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**, **Sagar** district.
Key Facts	• This is MP's **third cheetah habitat** after **Kuno** and **Gandhi Sagar**. • India's cheetah population reached **60** after **5 cubs** were born at Kuno. • **2 more cheetahs** are to be shifted to the new habitat next month. • Wildlife tourism earned about **₹80 crore** this year; around **₹20 crore** reached nearby villagers. • **Project Cheetah** began in **2022** at Kuno – the world's first inter-continental carnivore translocation.
Way Fwd	Expanding habitats spreads translocation risk and boosts eco-tourism; MP must balance cheetah metapopulation goals with prey base and human-wildlife conflict.
Concept	MP = 'Tiger State' (most tigers) & 'Cheetah State'; largest forest cover by area. Reserves: Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura, Kuno, Gandhi Sagar, Veerangana Durgavati.

MP Travel Mart 2026 draws ₹3,729 crore tourism investment

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-III (state economy, services, infrastructure); Prelims – MP tourism, investment summits.
Context	The **7th MP Travel Mart (MPTM 2026)** was held at the **Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre, Bhopal**, attracting roughly **₹3,729 crore** in proposed private tourism investment.
Key Facts	• A record **10,263 B2B meetings** were held – up **14%** over 2025. • **100+ international tour operators** from **34 countries** participated. • Largest proposal: **ARM Foods – ₹848.40 crore** (Sehore), ~**920 direct jobs**. • **Rajsan Hotels** signed a **₹520 crore** deal for resorts near **Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Satpura**. • Over 10 years MP drew **₹3,963 crore** tourism investment & **38,432 jobs**.
Way Fwd	Linking heritage (Khajuraho, Mandu, Orchha) and wildlife circuits with homestays and air connectivity can make tourism a major employment multiplier.
Concept	Tourism is a 'smokeless industry'. MP leverages Khajuraho, Sanchi, Bhimbetka, Mandu, Ujjain-Mahakal and six tiger reserves; 'Year of Adventure' proposed for 2027.

MP Travel Mart 2026 — Investment Proposals



Ladli Behna Yojana: 40th instalment transferred to 1.25 crore women

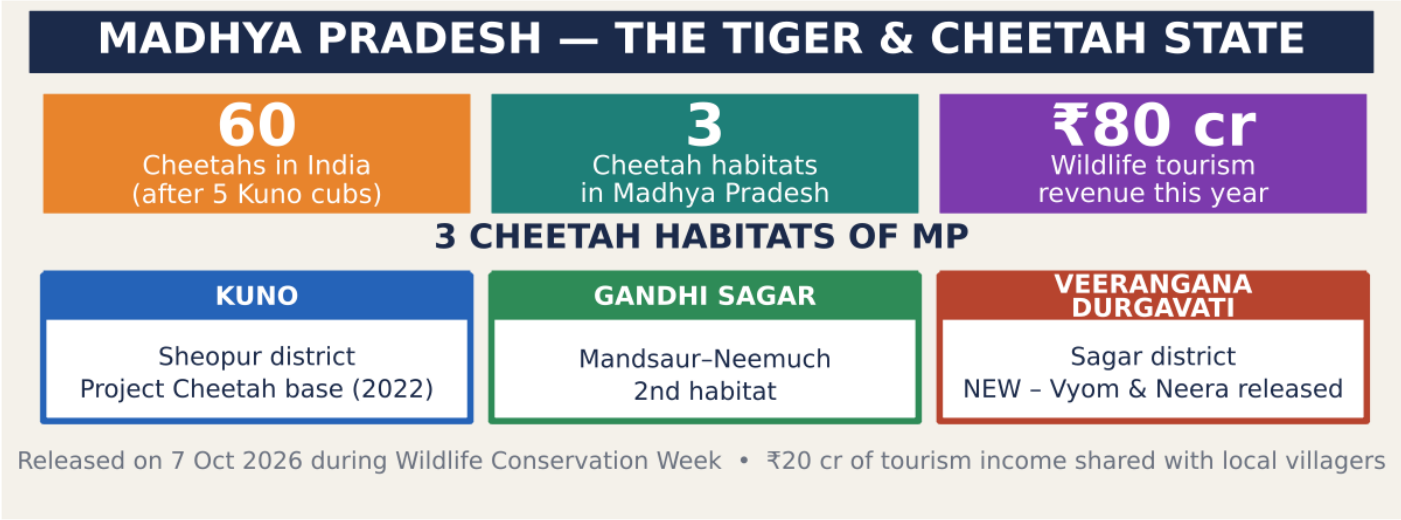
[SOCIETY] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance & Social Justice)

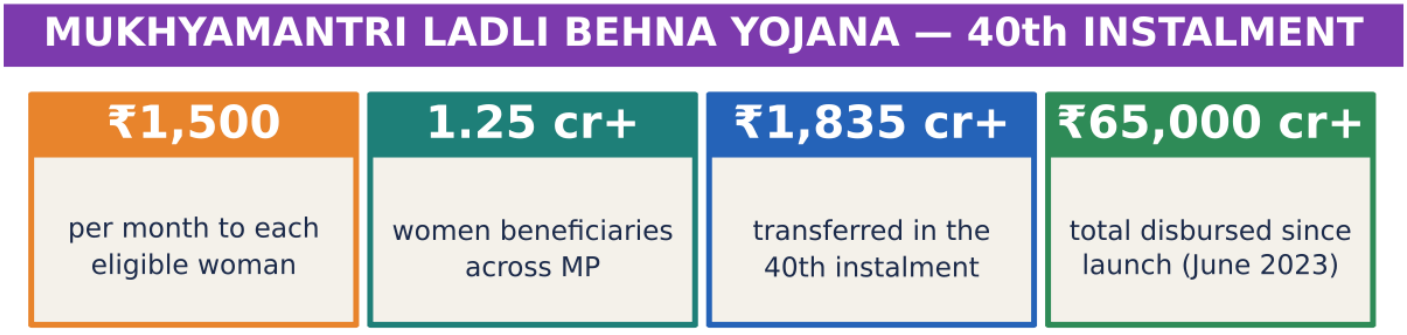
Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-II (welfare schemes, women empowerment, DBT); Prelims – MP flagship schemes.
Context	Under **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana**, the **40th instalment** was credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts via **DBT**, continuing MP's flagship women's income-support scheme.
Key Facts	• **₹1,500 per month** to each eligible woman (up from ₹1,000 at 2023 launch). • Over **1.25 crore** women are beneficiaries across the state. • More than **₹1,835 crore** disbursed in a single instalment. • Total of over **₹65,000 crore** paid since launch in **June 2023**. • Delivered through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, cutting leakages.
Way Fwd	Sustaining large DBT schemes requires fiscal prudence; convergence with skilling and self-help groups can turn income support into livelihoods.
Concept	DBT uses the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile). Women-centric cash transfers aim at financial inclusion and nutrition outcomes.

MP clears ₹491 crore projects to fast-track Simhastha 2028

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-I (fairs/festivals, cultural heritage, urban infra); Prelims – Ujjain, Kumbh/Simhastha, Narmada-Shipra.
Context	The MP government approved a fresh set of projects worth about **₹491 crore** to accelerate infrastructure in the **Ujjain** region ahead of the **Simhastha 2028** Kumbh.
Key Facts	• **Simhastha** is held at **Ujjain** on the banks of the **Shipra (Kshipra)** river. • It is one of **four Kumbh Melas**, occurring roughly every **12 years**. • Projects cover roads, sanitation, ghats and civic amenities for crores of pilgrims. • Ujjain is home to **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga** and the **Mahakal Lok** corridor.
Way Fwd	Early, phased infrastructure build-up avoids last-minute cost overruns and supports crowd safety and sustainable pilgrimage tourism.
Concept	Simhastha/Kumbh sites: Ujjain (Shipra), Haridwar (Ganga), Prayagraj (Sangam), Nashik (Godavari). Ujjain lies on the Tropic of Cancer; historic Greenwich of India (Mahakal/Vedh Shala).





SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

5.54%

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Retail inflation (CPI), September 2026

Highest in the new **2024=100** series. Food inflation (CFPI) at **7.74%**, with onion up about **108%** – a reminder that food prices drive India's headline CPI.

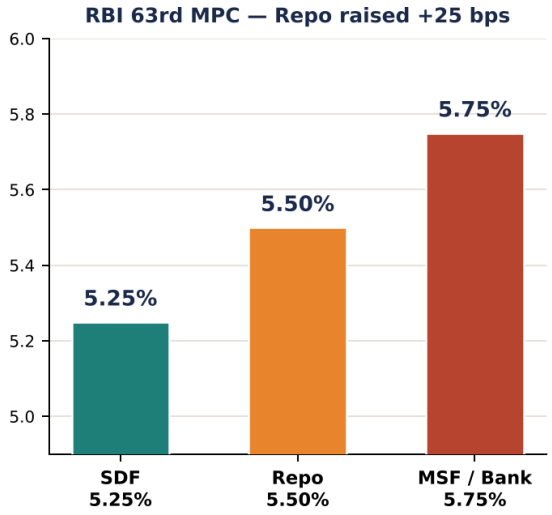
SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

Polity • Economy • Sci-Tech • IR • Environment

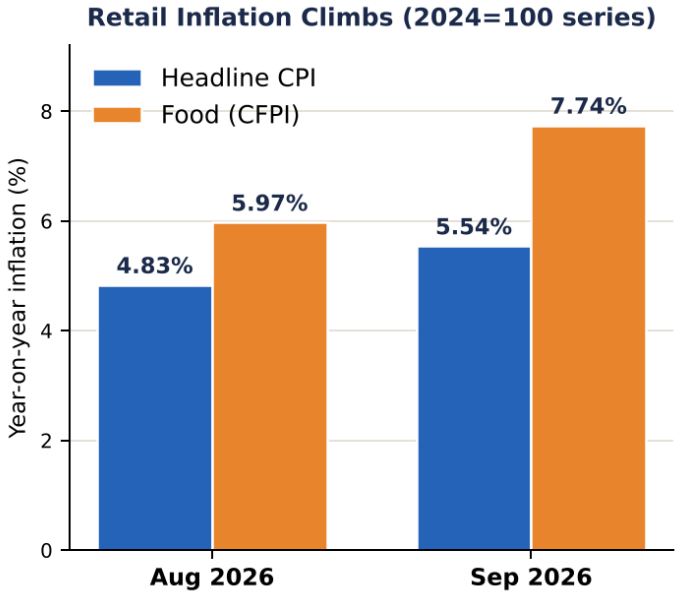
RBI's 63rd MPC raises repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-III (monetary policy, inflation, banking); Prelims – RBI, MPC, repo/SDF/MSF, policy stances.
Context	The **Reserve Bank's 63rd Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting (chaired by Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**) raised the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%** and shifted the stance to **'calibrated tightening'**.
Key Facts	• **Repo 5.50%**, **SDF 5.25%**, **MSF & Bank Rate 5.75%**. • **FY2026-27 GDP growth** projected at **7.1%**. • Rate hike aimed at anchoring rising **inflation** and food-price pressures. • The MPC is a **6-member** body under the **RBI Act, 1934**; CPI target **4% ± 2%**. • Next MPC meeting scheduled for **2–4 December 2026**.
Way Fwd	Calibrated tightening signals data-dependence; RBI must balance growth momentum against sticky food inflation and global oil/geopolitical risks.
Concept	Repo = rate RBI lends to banks; SDF/MSF form the liquidity corridor. Higher repo raises borrowing costs, cooling demand and inflation.



Stance: "calibrated tightening" • FY27 GDP growth projected 7.1%



Retail inflation jumps to 5.54% in September 2026

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-III (price stability, CPI/WPI, food inflation); Prelims – CPI base year, CFPI, NSO.
Context	Retail **CPI inflation** rose to **5.54%** in **September 2026** from **4.83%** in August – the **highest in the new 2024=100 series**, driven by food prices.
Key Facts	• **Food inflation (CFPI)** rose to **7.74%** from 5.97%. • **Onion inflation** spiked to about **108%** year-on-year. • **Rural inflation 6.08%**, **urban 4.88%**. • Data released under the revised **base year 2024=100**. • WPI data due **14 October**; next CPI print on **12 November**.
Way Fwd	Supply-side action on vegetables and buffer stocking is key; monetary tightening alone cannot tame food-led inflation spikes.
Concept	CPI tracks retail prices (consumer); WPI tracks wholesale. CFPI = Consumer Food Price Index. Compiled by NSO/MoSPI.

57th GST Council clears major compliance reforms

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-III (taxation, GST), GS-II (centre-state fiscal relations); Prelims – GST Council, Article 279A.
Context	The **57th GST Council** (met **8 October 2026**) approved reforms to ease compliance for small firms while keeping **tax rates unchanged**.
Key Facts	• **Arrest powers** of GST officers to be **removed**. • **Prosecution threshold** raised from **₹1 crore to ₹5 crore**. • **General penalty** cut from **₹25,000 to ₹10,000**. • Process reforms on refunds, registration and ITC, effective **1 April 2027**. • The Council is chaired by the **Union Finance Minister** (Article **279A**).
Way Fwd	Decriminalising minor defaults improves ease of doing business; a functional **GSTAT** is needed to clear the appeals backlog.
Concept	GST (2017) is a destination-based indirect tax; the **GST Council** is a federal body of Centre + States. GSTAT = GST Appellate Tribunal.

Navi Pillay awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize

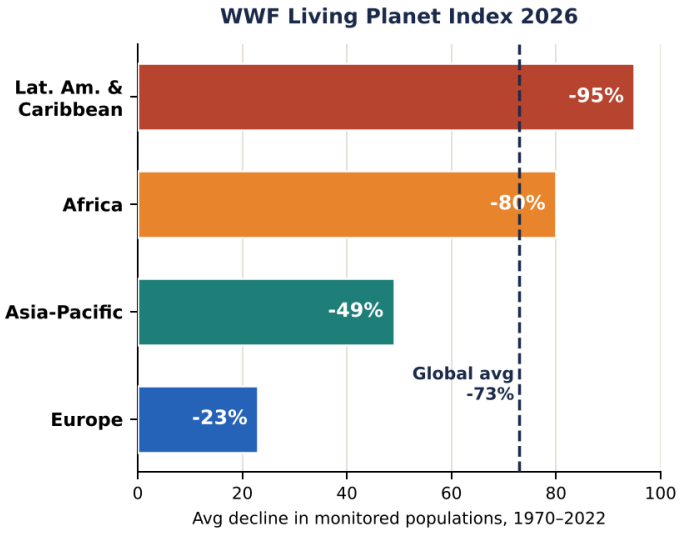
[IR] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-II (international bodies, human rights); Prelims – Nobel Prizes, UN human rights system.
Context	**Navi Pillay**, a South African jurist of **Indian origin** (born in **Durban**) and former **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, won the **2026 Nobel Peace Prize**.
Key Facts	• She was the **first woman of colour** on South Africa's High Court (**1995**). • Served as **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008–2014)**. • Has been an **ad hoc ICJ judge** since 2019 (Gambia v. Myanmar). • The Peace Prize is awarded by the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** in Oslo. • Strong **India connection** adds diaspora significance.
Way Fwd	Recognition of human-rights jurisprudence reinforces global accountability norms that India engages with at the UN and ICJ.
Concept	Nobel Prizes (since 1901) cover Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace & Economics. Peace Prize alone is decided in Norway, not Sweden.

WWF Living Planet Index 2026: wildlife populations down 73%

[REPORT] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Reports)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-III (biodiversity loss, conservation); Prelims – global environment reports & bodies.
Context	The **WWF Living Planet Index (LPI) 2026** found monitored wildlife populations fell by an average of **73%** between **1970 and 2022**.
Key Facts	• Based on **35,803 populations** of vertebrate species. • Steepest decline: **Latin America & Caribbean (-95%)**; **Africa -80%**. • **Asia-Pacific -49%**, **Europe -23%**. • The index is compiled by the **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)**. • Signals accelerating biodiversity and ecosystem-service loss.
Way Fwd	India's response runs through protected areas, species programmes (Tiger, Cheetah, Elephant) and restoring wetlands and grasslands.
Concept	LPI tracks relative abundance of vertebrate populations. Complements IPBES and IUCN Red List in measuring biodiversity health.



DRDO test-flies HAPS pseudo-satellite to ~21 km altitude

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC GS-III (indigenous defence tech, space/aerial platforms); Prelims – DRDO labs, HAPS.
Context	**DRDO** successfully flight-tested a **High-Altitude Platform System (HAPS)** – a solar 'pseudo-satellite' – developed by **ADRDE, Agra**, with the **IAF**.
Key Facts	• Reached about **21 km** and held **20 km for over 30 minutes**. • HAPS offers **satellite-like** surveillance & communication at lower cost. • Operates in the **stratosphere**, above commercial air traffic & weather. • Boosts **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in strategic aerial platforms.
Way Fwd	HAPS can give persistent ISR over borders and disaster zones; scaling endurance and payloads is the next milestone.
Concept	'Pseudo-satellite' = long-endurance stratospheric platform bridging drones and satellites. ADRDE = Aerial Delivery R&D Establishment, Agra.

57th GST COUNCIL — KEY COMPLIANCE REFORMS

Arrest powers of GST officers	Prosecution threshold	General penalty
REMOVED	**₹1 cr → ₹5 cr**	**₹25,000 → ₹10,000**
Earlier: officers could arrest	Higher bar before prosecution	Lower penalty for small defaults

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Tiger State** of India (most tigers): **Madhya Pradesh**.
2. Project Cheetah base: **Kuno National Park**, Sheopur (MP).
3. MP's new (3rd) cheetah habitat: **Veerangana Durgavati**, Sagar.
4. RBI repo rate (Oct 2026): **5.50%**; MPC chair: **Sanjay Malhotra**.
5. CPI base year (new series): **2024 = 100**.
6. 2026 Nobel Peace Prize: **Navi Pillay** (Indian-origin).
7. GST Council constitutional provision: **Article 279A**.
8. Simhastha Kumbh is held at **Ujjain** on the **Shipra** river.
9. Ladli Behna monthly support: **₹1,500** per woman.
10. WWF Living Planet Index 2026 global decline: **73%**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS MCQ 1

Q1. With reference to Project Cheetah in Madhya Pradesh, consider the following:
1. Kuno National Park was the first site of cheetah reintroduction in India.
2. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is the state's third cheetah habitat.
3. Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary is located in the Chambal region of MP.
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). All three are correct. Kuno (Sheopur) hosted the 2022 reintroduction; Veerangana Durgavati (Sagar) is the 3rd habitat after Kuno and Gandhi Sagar; Gandhi Sagar lies in the Chambal belt (Mandsaur-Neemuch).

PRELIMS MCQ 2

Q2. Consider the following about India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):
1. It is a statutory body under the RBI Act, 1934.
2. It has six members, with the RBI Governor having a casting vote.
3. Its flexible inflation target is 4% within a band of +/- 2%.
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

Ans (D). All correct. The MPC is statutory (RBI Act, 1934), has six members (3 RBI + 3 government-nominated), the Governor has a second/casting vote on a tie, and the CPI target is 4% +/- 2%.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. "Madhya Pradesh's conservation leadership – as the Tiger State and now a multi-site cheetah habitat – can be leveraged into inclusive eco-tourism." Examine, with reference to Project Cheetah and the state's protected-area network. (GS-III, 250 words)

Hint: Cover: MP's forest/wildlife endowment (largest forest cover, 6+ tiger reserves, Kuno/Gandhi Sagar/Durgavati cheetahs); eco-tourism revenue & benefit-sharing (₹80 cr, ₹20 cr to villagers); risks (prey base, conflict, carrying capacity); way forward (homestays, community livelihoods, scientific metapopulation management).

QUICK REVISION

TODAY'S ONE-LINER: MP opened its **3rd cheetah habitat (Veerangana Durgavati, Sagar)** taking India's cheetahs to **60**; RBI raised repo to **5.50%** as CPI hit **5.54%**; and **Navi Pillay** won the **2026 Nobel Peace Prize**.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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