

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Project Cheetah completes 4 years; India's cheetah count at 52.
2. MP Cabinet approves ₹42,490 crore welfare & infra package.
3. 'Sugam Parivahan' public bus service to launch 25 September.
4. 7,500+ meritorious students get e-scooties in Bhopal.
5. MP now holds six wildlife 'state' titles, incl. Cheetah State.
6. EPFO wage ceiling raised to ₹25,000; 51 lakh+ more covered.
7. Supreme Court upholds RBI power over multi-state co-op banks.
8. India's GDP grows 7.8% in Q1 FY27 — fastest big economy.
9. 26th SCO Summit held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
10. ISRO launches EOS-05 earth-observation satellite.

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

Project Cheetah Turns Four: India's Cheetah Count Reaches 52 at Kuno & Gandhi Sagar

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

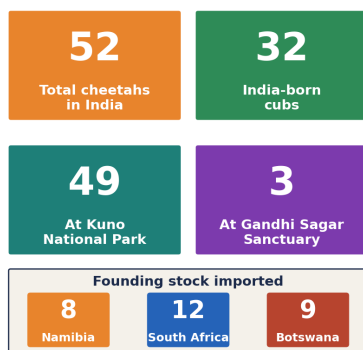
Syllabus	Prelims: MP national parks, wildlife, extinct/reintroduced species. Mains GS-III: conservation & translocation.
Context	17 September 2026 marks four years of Project Cheetah , the world's first inter-continental large-carnivore translocation, launched at Kuno National Park (Sheopur) on the same date in 2022.
Key Facts	- India's cheetah population is now 52 — 49 at Kuno and 3 at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. 32 are India-born cubs; founding stock: 8 (Namibia, 2022), 12 (South Africa, 2023), 9 (Botswana, 2026). - The cheetah went extinct in India in 1952; the project aims to restore grassland & open-forest ecosystems. - MP is the only state hosting cheetahs, adding 'Cheetah State' to its wildlife titles.
Way Fwd	Sustain a self-breeding wild population and develop Gandhi Sagar and Veerangana Durgavati/Nauradehi as second homes to ease crowding at Kuno.
Concept	Kuno NP lies in the Chambal region; cheetah is the only large mammal hunted to extinction in modern India; IUCN status Vulnerable .

MP Cabinet Clears ₹42,490 crore Package for Education, Irrigation & Farm Credit

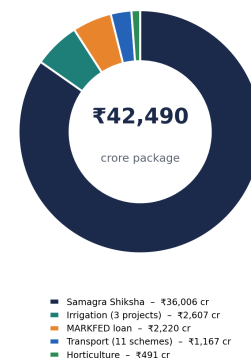
MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance) & GS-III (Economy)

Syllabus	Prelims: MP schemes & projects. Mains GS-II governance/welfare; GS-III state finances & irrigation.
Context	The state Cabinet (15 Sep 2026) approved proposals worth over ₹42,490 crore across school education, irrigation, transport, horticulture and cooperative credit.
Key Facts	₹36,006 crore to continue Samagra Shiksha (2026-27 to 2030-31), pre-primary to Class 12. ₹2,607 crore for three irrigation projects — Chitawad (Ujjain), Gaund (Singrauli), Chanderi Micro (Ashoknagar), ~1.27 lakh ha. ₹2,220.62 crore interest-free loan to MARKFED; ₹1,166.6 crore for 11 transport schemes. ₹491 crore for eight horticulture & food-processing schemes to raise farmer income.
Way Fwd	Timely fund release and last-mile delivery will decide whether outlays translate into learning outcomes and assured irrigation.
Concept	Samagra Shiksha is a centrally-sponsored integrated school-education scheme (shared Centre-State funding); MARKFED is the MP State Cooperative Marketing Federation.

PROJECT CHEETAH — 4 YEARS



MP CABINET - ₹42,490 cr APPROVED



MP to Launch 'Sugam Parivahan' Public Bus Service From 25 September

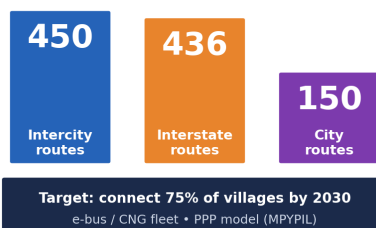
MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance) & GS-III (Infrastructure)

Syllabus	Prelims: MP flagship schemes. Mains GS-II service delivery; GS-III infrastructure & transport.
Context	The CM announced (14 Sep 2026) a state-wide public bus network to fill the gap left by declining private/nationalised services, starting 25 September 2026 .
Key Facts	■ ~1,000+ routes across all 55 districts: ~150 city, ~450 intercity, ~436 interstate. ■ Electric/CNG buses with CCTV, GPS, panic buttons; run on PPP via MPYPIL with an Intelligent Transport Management System. ■ Target: connect 75% of villages by 2030; MoU with a ride-hailing firm for first/last-mile in Bhopal & Indore. ■ An electric-bus plant at Pithampur (5,000/year capacity) to support the fleet.
Way Fwd	Financial viability of thin rural routes and clear PPP risk-sharing will be key to keeping service affordable.
Concept	Public transport is a State subject ; 'safe, affordable, tech-enabled mobility' aligns with SDG-11 (sustainable cities).

SUGAM PARIVAHAN BUS SEVA

~1,000+ new bus routes across all 55 districts

Launch: 25 September 2026 • GPS • CCTV • Panic button

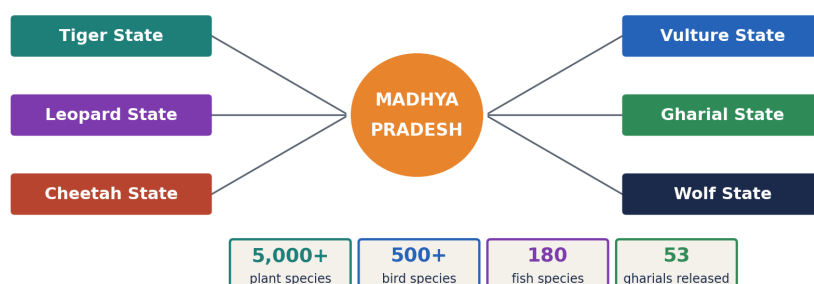


7,500+ Meritorious Students Get E-Scooties Under Mukhyamantri Scooty Yojana

SOCIETY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Social Justice & Education)

Syllabus	Prelims: MP welfare/education schemes. Mains GS-II education & social empowerment.
Context	On 16 Sep 2026 in Bhopal , the CM distributed e-scooties to over 7,500 meritorious Class-12 students of 2025-26 to support higher education and mobility.
Key Facts	■ Beneficiaries: top-scoring Class 12 students of the 2025-26 board exams. ■ Aim: cut transport barriers to college, reward merit and promote electric mobility. ■ Adds to MP's student-support ecosystem (scholarships, laptop assistance).
Way Fwd	Transparent merit criteria and adequate coverage of girl and rural students strengthen equity outcomes.
Concept	Merit-linked conditional benefits are a demand-side education intervention improving enrolment and retention.

MADHYA PRADESH — INDIA'S MULTI-SPECIES WILDLIFE STATE



Beyond the Tiger: MP Cements Status as India's Multi-Species 'Wildlife State'

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

Syllabus	Prelims: MP tiger reserves, national parks, key species. Mains GS-III biodiversity & conservation.
Context	Alongside Project Cheetah, MP now holds a cluster of wildlife 'titles' backed by fresh biodiversity and water-conservation data.
Key Facts	- MP is Tiger, Leopard, Cheetah, Vulture, Gharial and Wolf State. - Biodiversity: 5,000+ plant, 500+ bird, 180 fish species; 53 gharials & 33 turtles released in the Kuno river. - Key tiger reserves: Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura; MP has India's largest forest cover. - Water drive restored/created 56,000 water sources, 827 stepwells and cleaned 212 rivers.
Way Fwd	Habitat corridors and human-wildlife conflict management are essential as animal populations grow.
Concept	MP has India's largest forest cover (area) and highest tiger numbers; Project Tiger began 1973 ; PESA, 1996 governs tribal forest areas.

SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

**₹30.77
lakh crore**

MP investment intent — Global Investors Summit 2025

Record investment MoUs/intentions attracted at the Bhopal Global Investors Summit (Feb 2025); MP's task now is to convert these into ground-level industrial projects and jobs.

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

EPFO Wage Ceiling Raised From ₹15,000 to ₹25,000; 51 Lakh More Covered

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

Syllabus	Prelims: EPFO, EPS, EDLI. Mains GS-II social security; GS-III labour & economy.
Context	The Union Cabinet (16 Sep 2026) raised the mandatory EPF wage ceiling from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000/month , effective 17 Sep 2026 (Vishwakarma Jayanti) — the first revision since 2014 .
Key Facts	- Expected to bring 51 lakh+ additional employees under mandatory EPFO cover. - Extends access to provident fund, EPS pension and EDLI insurance. - Annual government outgo rises to about ₹11,339 crore (from ~₹10,250 crore). - Average private-sector salary (~₹23,000) had outgrown the old ₹15,000 threshold.
Way Fwd	Deepens formal social security but raises employer PF liability; indexation of the ceiling could avoid future lags.
Concept	EPFO runs EPF, EPS-1995 and EDLI ; governed by the EPF & MP Act, 1952 ; a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour & Employment .

EPFO WAGE CEILING RAISED

₹15,000

old ceiling (2014)



₹25,000

new ceiling (2026)

51 lakh+

new employees covered

₹11,339 cr

annual govt outgo

Effective 17 Sep 2026 (Vishwakarma Jayanti)

Supreme Court Upholds RBI's Power to Supersede Multi-State Co-op Bank Boards

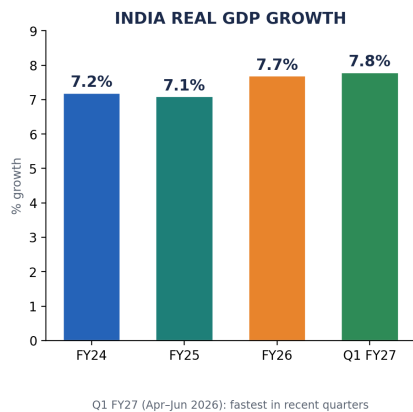
POLITY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity & Constitution)

Syllabus	Prelims: Part IX-B, Article 243ZL, Banking Regulation Act. Mains GS-II Constitution & federalism.
Context	In <i>Sandeep S. Ghandat v. RBI</i> (Sept 2026), the Supreme Court held that the RBI can supersede a multi-state cooperative bank's board beyond the six-month limit, up to five years .
Key Facts	- Reads the third proviso to Article 243ZL as incorporating the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (Sec 36AAA). - Cooperatives were added to the Constitution by the 97th Amendment (2011), Part IX-B. Depositor protection justifies banking regulation overriding general cooperative safeguards. - Distinguishes state vs multi-state cooperative banks on consultation.
Way Fwd	Balances the electoral autonomy of cooperatives with financial-sector stability and depositor safety.
Concept	Cooperative societies are a State subject (Entry 32, State List); multi-state co-ops fall under the Union; RBI regulates their banking functions.

Indian Economy Grows 7.8% in Q1 FY27, Fastest Among Major Economies

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

Syllabus	Prelims: GDP, GVA, GFCF, base year. Mains GS-III growth & sectoral performance.
Context	GDP rose 7.8% in Q1 FY27 (Apr-Jun 2026) , extending a run of ~7%+ growth (FY24 7.2% , FY25 7.1% , FY26 7.7%).
Key Facts	- Sectors: manufacturing +9.2%, services +10%, construction +7.7%, agriculture +3.6%; mining -2.4%. - Investment (GFCF) +11.9%; private consumption +7.1%; exports +12%. - Growth outpaces China (~4.3%) and major ASEAN economies.
Way Fwd	Sustaining private capex and reviving mining/agri resilience are key to durable high growth.
Concept	GDP is measured via GVA (production side) and expenditure (C+I+G+NX); GFCF proxies investment; base year 2011-12 .



Pakistani Corvette PNS Hunain Collides With Indian Navy Ship in Arabian Sea

DEFENCE MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Security) & GS-II (IR)

Syllabus	Prelims: UNCLOS, EEZ, Arabian Sea geography. Mains GS-III maritime security; GS-II India-Pakistan.
Context	On 16 Sep 2026 , Pakistan's corvette PNS Hunain collided with an Indian Navy warship in the North Arabian Sea during a routine surveillance mission; India lodged a protest.
Key Facts	- India cited violation of the 1991 Agreement on advance notice of naval movements; Pakistan claimed its EEZ. - Minor damage reported; the episode recalls the 2011 PNS Babur-INS Godavari incident. - Underlines the need for maritime confidence-building measures (CBMs).
Way Fwd	Reactivating naval CBMs and hotlines can prevent inadvertent escalation at sea.
Concept	EEZ extends 200 nautical miles (UNCLOS, 1982); high seas lie beyond; freedom of navigation applies with due regard.

26th SCO Summit Held at Bishkek; India Balances Engagement and Concerns

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

Syllabus	Prelims: SCO members, HQ, RATS. Mains GS-II regional groupings & India's foreign policy.
Context	The 26th SCO Heads of State summit was hosted by Kyrgyzstan at Bishkek (Sept 2026), with connectivity, counter-terrorism and trade on the agenda.
Key Facts	SCO was founded in 2001; secretariat in Beijing, RATS in Tashkent; India a full member since 2017. - Members include China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus and Central Asian states. - India stresses counter-terrorism and connectivity respecting sovereignty (Chabahar/INSTC).
Way Fwd	India weighs the SCO's Eurasian reach against differences with China-Pakistan on terror and connectivity.
Concept	RATS = Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure; INSTC links India-Iran-Russia; contrast the SCO with the QUAD .

ISRO Launches EOS-05 Earth-Observation Satellite; Space-Sector Reforms Advance

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

Syllabus	Prelims: ISRO missions, launch vehicles, IN-SPACe/NSIL. Mains GS-III space tech & indigenisation.
Context	ISRO successfully placed EOS-05 , an indigenous Earth-observation ('eye in the sky') satellite, in orbit (Sept 2026), amid a push to hand launch-vehicle manufacturing to private industry.
Key Facts	EOS-05 supports development planning, agriculture, disaster and security monitoring. - ISRO to focus on R&D and transfer launch-vehicle production to the private sector. - Enabled by the IN-SPACe / NSIL ecosystem promoting private space activity.
Way Fwd	Private participation can scale launches, but ISRO's core R&D role and technology-transfer safeguards remain vital.
Concept	IN-SPACe regulates/promotes private space activity; NSIL is ISRO's commercial arm; EOS = Earth Observation Satellite series.

TODAY'S THEMES — 17 SEPTEMBER 2026



SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Q1. Kuno National Park (Sheopur, MP) hosted India's first wild cheetahs, reintroduced on **17 Sep 2022**.

Q2. MP's **Sharbati wheat** and **Chinnor rice** carry **GI tags**; MP is India's top **soybean** producer.

Q3. The **EPFO wage ceiling** was revised to **₹25,000/month**, effective 17 Sep 2026.

Q4. Article 243ZL is in **Part IX-B** (Cooperative Societies), added by the **97th Amendment, 2011**.

Q5. India's **Q1 FY27 GDP** grew **7.8%**; the RBI's inflation tolerance band is **2-6%**.

Q6. The **SCO** secretariat is in **Beijing**; India became a full member in **2017**.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Consider the following about Project Cheetah: 1) It is the world's first inter-continental translocation of a large carnivore. 2) The cheetahs were first released at Kanha National Park. 3) The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952. Which of the above are correct?

(A) 1 and 3 only (B) 2 and 3 only (C) 1 and 2 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (A) Cheetahs were first released at **Kuno National Park**, not Kanha, so statement 2 is wrong. Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q2. With reference to the EPFO, consider: 1) It administers the Employees' Pension Scheme. 2) Its wage ceiling was raised to ₹25,000 per month in September 2026. 3) It functions under the Ministry of Finance. Which are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only (C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (A) EPFO works under the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, not Finance, so statement 3 is wrong. Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Mains Practice: Project Cheetah has been described as both an ecological experiment and a governance challenge. In the light of four years of implementation in Madhya Pradesh, examine its achievements and the challenges of sustaining a wild cheetah population. (250 words)

Hint: Cover translocation success (52 cheetahs, 32 India-born), the second-home strategy (Gandhi Sagar, Veerangana Durgavati/Nauradehi), mortality and carrying-capacity concerns, and community livelihoods/eco-tourism.

★ ONE-LINE REVISION

17 Sep 2026: Project Cheetah turns 4 (52 cheetahs) • MP Cabinet clears ₹42,490 cr • EPFO ceiling ₹15k→₹25k • India GDP 7.8% (Q1 FY27) • SC backs RBI over co-op bank boards.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team • ► **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** • ► **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**