

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MP Cabinet clears ₹42,490 cr; ₹36,006 cr for Samagra Shiksha
- Centre raises EPFO wage ceiling ₹15,000 → ₹25,000
- Sugam Parivahan Bus Seva to launch statewide on 25 September
- India-MERCOSUR sign e-Certificate of Origin protocol
- MP wins 12 GI tags in one phase — a national first
- Zero UPI charges on payments up to ₹2,000 notified
- Project Cheetah's MP journey: Kuno + new Gandhi Sagar home
- PM opens SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi, Delhi
- Ujjain gears up for the Simhastha 2028 Kumbh
- Retail inflation eases to 4.82% in August 2026

SECTION A — MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

State schemes • policy • ecology • economy

MP Cabinet approves ₹42,490 crore for schools, irrigation & transport

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

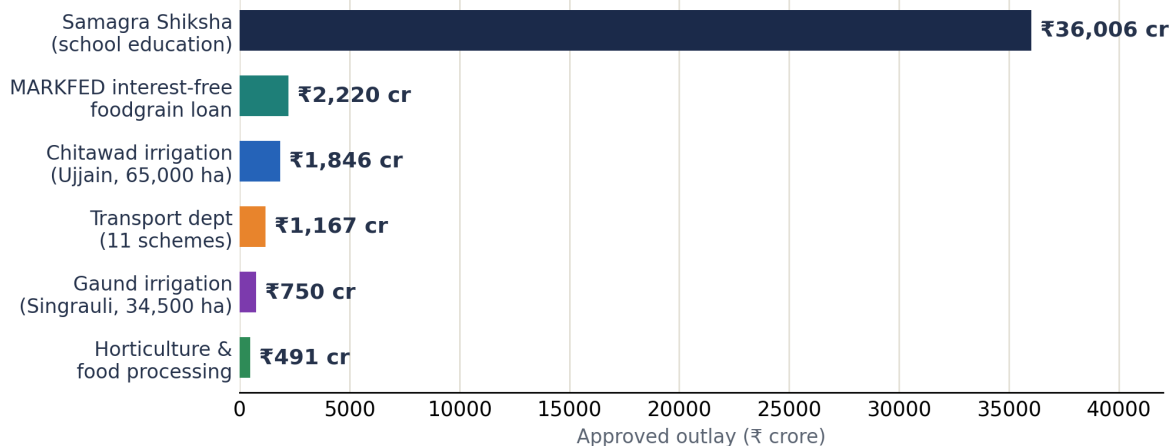
Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (MP GK/schemes) + Mains GS-II governance & GS-III state economy, irrigation
Context	The Madhya Pradesh cabinet cleared proposals worth over ₹42,490 crore on 15 September 2026 , mixing a big education outlay with new irrigation and transport spending.
Key Facts	■ ₹36,006 crore for Samagra Shiksha (2026-27 to 2030-31), pre-primary to Class 12 ■ ₹1,846 crore Chitawad project (Ujjain) to irrigate 65,000 ha; ₹750 cr Gaund (Singrauli) 34,500 ha ■ ₹1,167 crore for 11 transport schemes; ₹491 cr for horticulture & food processing ■ ₹2,220 crore interest-free loan to MARKFED for foodgrain credit
Way Fwd	Front-loading school funding with irrigation shows MP linking human capital and farm productivity in one budget cycle.
Concept	Samagra Shiksha is a centrally-sponsored integrated school-education scheme (pre-school to Class 12); state cabinets approve the multi-year state share.

'Mukhyamantri Sugam Parivahan Bus Seva' to launch on 25 September

MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance & Service Delivery)

Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (state schemes) + Mains GS-II public services, PPP in transport
Context	CM Mohan Yadav announced a new state-wide public bus service to start on 25 September 2026 , aimed at safe, reliable last-mile connectivity.
Key Facts	■ MP road network of about 5 lakh km can potentially run 15,000+ buses ■ MoU with Rapido for first- and last-mile connectivity ■ MP Mobility Innovation Challenge 2026 launched for citizens & researchers ■ Targets residents plus millions of tourists and pilgrims
Way Fwd	Pairing a state bus body with an aggregator (Rapido) is a low-cost model to revive public transport without a heavy fleet subsidy.
Concept	Last-mile connectivity = the final short leg linking a transport hub to the traveller's destination; key to public-transport adoption.

MP CABINET CLEARS ₹42,490 CRORE — WHERE IT GOES



MUKHYAMANTRI SUGAM PARIVAHAN BUS SEVA

25 Sep

New statewide bus service launch

5 lakh km

State road network it will serve

15,000+

Buses the network can run

Rapido MoU

1st/last-mile tie-up + Innovation Challenge

Madhya Pradesh secures 12 GI tags in one phase — a national first

MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Geography & Culture) & GS-III (Agri-economy)

Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (GI tags of MP — high-yield) + Mains GS-I cultural geography, GS-III agri value-addition
Context	On 30 June 2026 MP became the first state to win 12 horticultural GI tags in a single phase , spanning mangoes, spices, vegetables and jaggery.
Key Facts	- Includes Noorjahan Mango (Alirajpur), Gajariya Mango (Betul), Khargone Red Chilli - Also Kumbhraj Coriander (Guna), Barman Brinjal (Narsinghpur), Narsinghpur Jaggery Malvi Potato/Garadu, Jabalpur Green Pea & Singhada, Seoni Custard Apple - MP horticulture area 2.8 mn ha, targeting 3 mn ha by 2030
Way Fwd	GI tags let MP brand and export niche produce at a premium, boosting farmer incomes and rural jobs.
Concept	A Geographical Indication (GI) tag (GI Act, 1999) marks goods from a specific origin with qualities due to that place; valid 10 years, renewable.

Ujjain gears up for the Simhastha 2028 Kumbh on the Kshipra

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

Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (fairs, festivals, heritage sites of MP) + Mains GS-I Indian heritage
Context	Preparations are picking up in Ujjain for Simhastha 2028 , one of India's four Kumbh Melas, held on the banks of the Kshipra river.
Key Facts	- Simhastha is held every 12 years at Ujjain (last major mela in 2016) - Ujjain hosts Mahakaleshwar, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Shiva - The Mahakal Lok corridor has boosted pilgrim footfall in the city - Kshipra rejuvenation and civic works are being fast-tracked
Way Fwd	A mega-event like Simhastha is a chance to build durable urban and river infrastructure , not just temporary facilities.
Concept	The Kumbh Mela rotates among Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nashik; at Ujjain it is called Simhastha (linked to Jupiter's entry into Leo).

MADHYA PRADESH — 12 GI TAGS IN ONE PHASE (NATIONAL FIRST)



MP horticulture area 2.8 mn ha → target 3 mn ha by 2030

Project Cheetah's MP story: Kuno anchors, Gandhi Sagar joins in

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

Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (national parks/WLS of MP) + Mains GS-III conservation & species reintroduction
Context	Madhya Pradesh remains the hub of Project Cheetah , launched at Kuno National Park in 2022 , with Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary developed as a second home.
Key Facts	- Kuno NP lies in Sheopur district; Gandhi Sagar spans Mandsaur-Neemuch - Cheetahs were sourced from Namibia (2022) and South Africa/Botswana - MP is India's 'Tiger State' and has the largest forest cover by area - Recent concern: a proposed irrigation dam near Kuno's cheetah habitat
Way Fwd	Spreading cheetahs across two habitats cuts single-site risk, but must be balanced against local displacement and water projects .
Concept	Project Cheetah is the world's first inter-continental large-carnivore translocation, reintroducing the cheetah declared extinct in India in 1952 .

PROJECT CHEETAH — THE MP STORY

2022

Cheetahs first released at Kuno NP

Kuno

1st home (Sheopur dist.)

Gandhi Sagar

2nd home (Mandsaur-Neemuch)

Tiger State

MP leads India in tiger numbers

Watch: relocation of cheetahs across Kuno & Gandhi Sagar; largest forest cover state

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

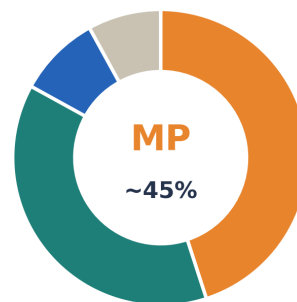
One key MP / national statistic

DATA POINT: MP farm budget & the 'Soybean State'

₹600 cr → ₹27,000+ cr

MP's **agriculture budget** grew from about **₹600 crore (2002-03)** to over **₹27,000 crore (2024-25)**; **2026** is the state's '**Year of Agriculture**' and MP leads India in **soybean** output (the 'Soybean State').

INDIA'S SOYBEAN BOWL — MP'S LEADING SHARE



indicative shares — the 'Soybean State of India'

Madhya Pradesh 45% Rajasthan 9%
Maharashtra 38% Others 8%

SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

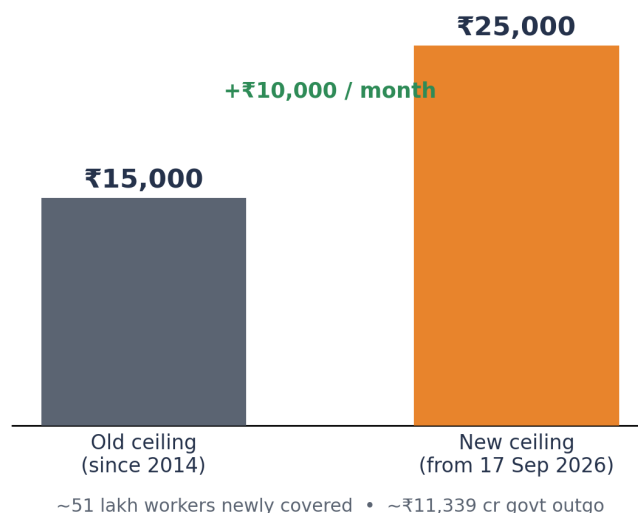
Polity • economy • sci-tech • IR • defence

Union Cabinet raises EPFO wage ceiling ₹15,000 → ₹25,000

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

Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (EPFO, social security) + Mains GS-III labour welfare & formalisation
Context	On 17 September 2026 the Union Cabinet approved raising the EPFO wage ceiling from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month — the first revision since September 2014 .
Key Facts	- Expected to bring about 51 lakh more employees under mandatory EPFO cover - Estimated annual government outgo of about ₹11,339 crore - Raises the base for PF, pension (EPS) and insurance (EDLI) contributions - Effective 17 September 2026
Way Fwd	A higher ceiling deepens formal social security but raises payroll costs — a trade-off for employers and take-home pay.
Concept	EPFO (under EPF & MP Act, 1952) runs PF, the Employees' Pension Scheme and EDLI insurance for organised-sector workers.

EPFO WAGE CEILING RAISED ₹15k → ₹25k



India-MERCOSUR sign First Additional Protocol for e-Certificates of Origin

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

Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (trade blocs, MERCOSUR) + Mains GS-II bilateral/regional groupings
Context	India and the MERCOSUR bloc signed the First Additional Protocol to their Preferential Trade Agreement, enabling electronic Certificates of Origin (e-CoO) .
Key Facts	- Amends Article 16 of Annex III (Rules of Origin) of the PTA - MERCOSUR members: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay (plus associates) - India-MERCOSUR PTA has been in force since 2009 - e-CoO cuts paperwork and speeds up preferential tariff claims
Way Fwd	Digital origin certification deepens India-Latin America trade and can be a template for future FTAs.
Concept	A Certificate of Origin proves where goods are made, deciding eligibility for preferential (lower) tariffs under a trade pact.

Centre notifies zero charges on UPI payments up to ₹2,000

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

Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (UPI, NPCI, MDR) + Mains GS-III digital economy & financial inclusion
Context	The Finance Ministry notified zero charges (no MDR) on UPI and RuPay-based payments up to ₹2,000 , protecting small-value digital transactions.
Key Facts	- Issued under Section 10A of the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 MDR = Merchant Discount Rate, the fee a merchant pays per card/UPI sale - Keeps small merchants on the digital payment network cost-free - UPI is operated by NPCI
Way Fwd	Zero MDR sustains UPI's mass adoption, but the cost of the ecosystem must still be funded sustainably.
Concept	UPI (Unified Payments Interface) is NPCI's real-time mobile payment system linking bank accounts via a single ID.

PM opens SEMICON India 2026 on the 'Silicon to Systems' theme

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

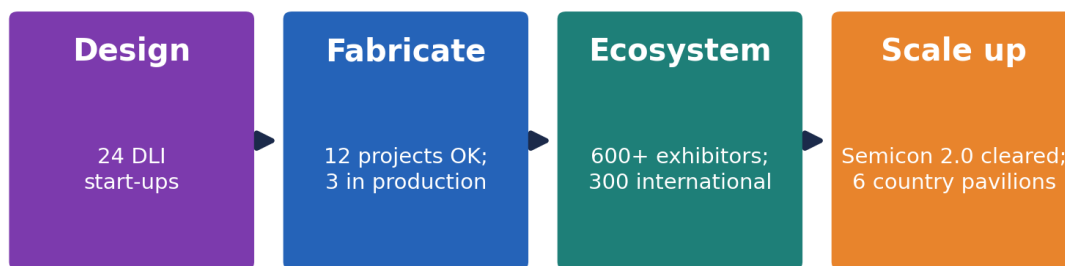
Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (semiconductor mission, schemes) + Mains GS-III indigenisation & tech ecosystem
Context	PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4th SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi (17-19 Sep), themed ' Silicon to Systems '.
Key Facts	600+ exhibitors including 300 international firms, 6 country pavilions 12 semiconductor projects approved; 3 units in commercial production - Cabinet approved Semicon 2.0; EDA tools extended to 400+ institutes - Organised by India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), MeitY and SEMI
Way Fwd	India is moving from assembly to design-and-fabrication , seeking a resilient chip supply chain.
Concept	The India Semiconductor Mission (2021) offers fiscal incentives (up to 50% support) to build fabs, ATMP/OSAT and design capacity.

India-US hold Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 in a first dual-theatre format

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

Syllabus	MPPSC Prelims (India's military exercises) + Mains GS-III defence diplomacy
Context	The 22nd edition of Yudh Abhyas , the India-US army exercise, runs 15-28 September 2026 at two sites at once.
Key Facts	- Held at Auli (Uttarakhand) — high-altitude, and Mahajan (Rajasthan) — mechanised - US contingent includes the 11th Airborne Division - First-ever dual-theatre format for the exercise - Focus: interoperability under a UN peacekeeping mandate
Way Fwd	Dual-theatre drills sharpen India's ability to fight across terrains and deepen the India-US defence partnership.
Concept	Yudh Abhyas is the annual India-US joint army exercise, alternating between the two countries; it builds tactical interoperability.

SEMICON INDIA 2026 — 'SILICON TO SYSTEMS'



Inaugurated at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi (17-19 Sep 2026)

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Quick MP + national facts

1. Retail inflation eased to **4.82%** in August 2026 (food **5.95%**).

2. Asian Games 2026 open at **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan** (19 Sep-4 Oct); India send **508 athletes**.

3. 18 September marks International **Equal Pay Day** and **World Bamboo Day**.

4. Dhiraj Bommadevara becomes the first Indian man to win the **Archery World Cup Final** (recurve).

5. MP's Gandhi Sagar WLS (Mandsaur-Neemuch) is India's **second cheetah home**.

6. MP's e-Mandi system now runs in **259 mandis** with about **40 lakh** farmers.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

MPPSC-pattern MCQs + Mains question

Q1. Which of the following (product – district) is correctly matched among Madhya Pradesh's 2026 GI-tagged horticultural crops?

- (A) Noorjahan Mango – Alirajpur
(B) Khargone Red Chilli – Betul
(C) Barman Brinjal – Guna
(D) Kumbhraj Coriander – Seoni

Ans: A. Noorjahan Mango is from Alirajpur. Khargone Red Chilli is from Khargone, Barman Brinjal from Narsinghpur, and Kumbhraj Coriander from Guna.

Q2. With reference to Project Cheetah, consider: (1) It was launched at Kuno National Park in 2022. (2) Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is being developed as a second cheetah home in MP. Which is/are correct?

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

Ans: C. Both are correct: Project Cheetah began at Kuno NP (Sheopur) in September 2022, and Gandhi Sagar WLS (Mandsaur-Neemuch) is the designated second habitat.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS)

Madhya Pradesh's new Sugam Parivahan Bus Seva and its record 12 GI tags reflect a governance approach that ties public-service delivery to the rural economy. Examine.

Hint: Link improved rural connectivity → better market access → GI-based branding of local produce → higher farm incomes and jobs; add challenges of fiscal sustainability and quality control.

★ ONE-LINE REVISION

18 Sep 2026: MP clears ₹42,490 cr (₹36,006 cr for Samagra Shiksha) & readies Sugam Parivahan Bus Seva (25 Sep); Centre raises EPFO ceiling to ₹25,000, frees UPI up to ₹2,000, and PM opens SEMICON India 2026.

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