# CURRENT AFFAIRS — 19 OCTOBER 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

Monday, 19 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

## TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

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|---|---|
| MP Cabinet clears **Rs 27,050 cr** worth of projects (15 Oct) | **Soybean Bhavantar Scheme** notified; sales window **22 Oct - 15 Jan** |
| **Jabalpur-Indore Economic Corridor** SPV with **Rs 100 cr** capital | **Ladli Behna** 41st instalment: **Rs 1,834 cr** to **1.25 cr** women |
| India's cheetah count hits **60**; 3rd home **V. Durgavati** opens | **International Soya Conclave** held in **Indore** (16-17 Oct) |
| **Simhastha Kumbh 2028** prep in Ujjain; **Rs 25,000 cr** outlay | Retail **CPI inflation 5.54%** (Sept); **RBI repo 5.50%** |
| Trade margin on **137 anti-cancer drugs** capped at **30%** | India's **space economy** to hit **USD 40-45 bn** in 7-8 yrs |

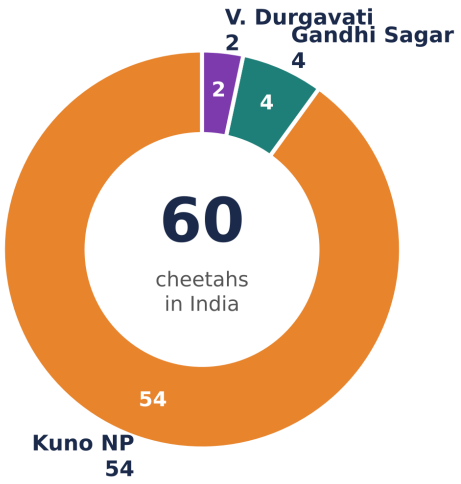
## SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL (state schemes, policy, ecology, economy)

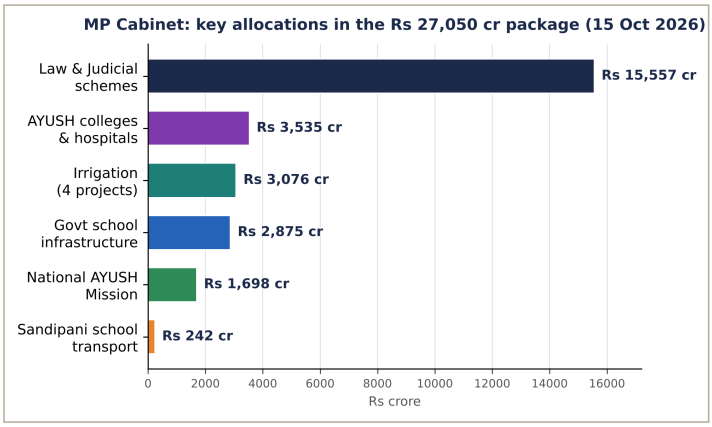
### MP Cabinet approves Rs 27,050 crore development package

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

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | MP state economy, cabinet decisions, public finance; Prelims: MP schemes & budgetary outlays |
| **Context** | The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by **CM Dr Mohan Yadav**, on **15 Oct 2026** cleared proposals worth about **Rs 27,050 crore** spanning irrigation, AYUSH, education, justice and industry. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **Law & judicial** schemes: **Rs 15,557 crore** (2026-31), incl. **Rs 12,252 cr** for judicial salaries<br>■ **AYUSH** colleges/hospitals umbrella: **Rs 3,535 cr**; National AYUSH Mission **Rs 1,697 cr**<br>■ Four **irrigation projects**: **Rs 3,076 cr** (Jhirmiti, Barna, Kayampur-Sitamau, Chitrangi)<br>■ **Govt school infrastructure**: **Rs 2,875 cr**; **Sandipani** school transport **Rs 242 cr** |
| **Way Fwd** | Front-loading capital outlay on irrigation, courts and AYUSH can widen MP's social and judicial infrastructure if executed on schedule. |
| **Concept** | **Cabinet** = council of ministers exercising collective responsibility (**Art. 163-164**); state finance via **Consolidated Fund of the State (Art. 266)**. |

**Project Cheetah: India's 60 cheetahs across 3 MP homes (41 India-born; 3rd home opened 7 Oct 2026)**




### India's cheetah count reaches 60; third home opens at V. Durgavati

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Wildlife conservation, Project Cheetah, protected areas of MP; Prelims: tiger/cheetah reserves |
| **Context** | Two cheetahs were released in the **Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) Tiger Reserve** on **7 Oct 2026**, making it **Madhya Pradesh's third cheetah home** after **Kuno** and **Gandhi Sagar**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ India's cheetah population now **60**, of which **41 were born in India**<br>■ Distribution: **Kuno 54**, **Gandhi Sagar 4**, **V. Durgavati 2**<br>■ V. Durgavati spans **Sagar, Damoh & Narsinghpur**; MP's largest tiger reserve (~**2,339 sq km**)<br>■ Project Cheetah began **17 Sept 2022** with Namibian cheetahs at Kuno |
| **Way Fwd** | Spreading cheetahs across landscapes reduces single-site risk, but prey density, water and health monitoring remain decisive for survival. |
| **Concept** | India is the only country reintroducing a large carnivore across continents; MP is the **'Tiger State'** and now the **'Cheetah State'**. |

## Ujjain gears up for Simhastha Kumbh 2028 with Rs 25,000 cr plan

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Fairs & festivals, cultural heritage of MP, urban infrastructure; Prelims: Kumbh, Mahakal, Shipra |
| **Context** | The MP government is building infrastructure for the **Simhastha Kumbh 2028** at **Ujjain** on the banks of the **Shipra**, expecting a massive pilgrim turnout. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Estimated outlay about **Rs 25,000 crore** on roads, ghats and civic works<br>■ Authorities anticipate up to **40 crore** devotees over the mela<br>■ Builds on the **Mahakal Lok corridor** around the **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga**<br>■ Simhastha is held every **12 years**; Ujjain is one of four Kumbh sites |
| **Way Fwd** | Mega-event planning must balance crowd safety, sanitation and the ecological health of the Shipra with heritage tourism gains. |
| **Concept** | The **Kumbh/Simhastha** rotates among Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain; **Mahakaleshwar** is one of India's **12 Jyotirlingas**. |

## Ladli Behna: 41st instalment of Rs 1,834 crore transferred

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

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | Women empowerment, DBT welfare, state social schemes; Prelims: flagship MP schemes |
| **Context** | On **14 Oct 2026**, **CM Mohan Yadav** released the **41st instalment** of the **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana**, directly crediting beneficiaries' accounts. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **Rs 1,834 crore** transferred to about **1.25 crore** women via **DBT**<br>■ Each eligible woman receives **Rs 1,500 per month**<br>■ Scheme launched in **2023** to boost women's economic self-reliance<br>■ Payment routed through **Direct Benefit Transfer** to curb leakages |
| **Way Fwd** | Direct cash transfers raise women's financial agency; long-run impact depends on fiscal sustainability within the state budget. |
| **Concept** | **DBT** transfers subsidies straight to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts, reducing intermediaries and ghost beneficiaries. |

## International Soya Conclave held in Indore to back the soybean economy

**ECONOMY** **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Agri-economy & Industry)**

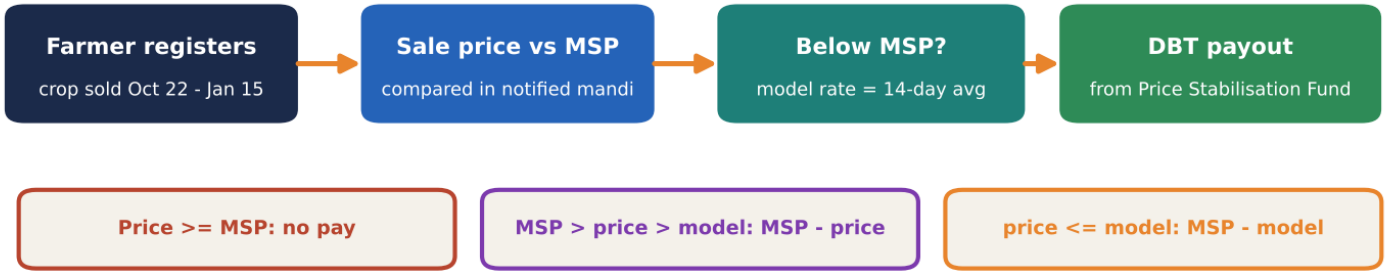
| | |
|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Agro-processing, edible oil value chain, MP agri-industry; Prelims: Indore, soybean belt |
| **Context** | A two-day **International Soya Conclave** was held in **Indore on 16-17 Oct 2026**, bringing the soybean and edible-oil industry together across the value chain. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Covered **procurement, processing, oil extraction and trade**<br>■ **Indore** is the hub of the **Malwa** soybean belt<br>■ MP is a leading soybean producer, central to India's **edible-oil** self-reliance<br>■ Supports the national push to cut **edible-oil imports** |
| **Way Fwd** | Value-addition in soy processing and oil extraction can raise farm incomes and trim the edible-oil import bill if backed by stable prices. |
| **Concept** | Soybean is an **oilseed and protein-meal** crop; India runs a large **edible-oil import** dependency that missions aim to reduce. |

## Soybean Bhavantar (Price Deficiency) Scheme notified for Kharif 2026

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Agricultural marketing, MSP, PM-AASHA; Prelims: MP as 'Soybean State', PDPS vs price support |
| **Context** | The Cabinet approved the **Soybean Bhavantar Yojana** to pay farmers the gap when market prices fall below **MSP**, reviving the price-deficiency model for the **'Soybean State'**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Follows **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)** under **PM-AASHA**<br>■ Registration via **e-Uparjan** portal; eligible sale window **22 Oct 2026 - 15 Jan 2027**<br>■ **Model rate** = weighted 14-day average of mandi prices; recalculated daily<br>■ Gap paid by **DBT** through the Mandi Board from the **Price Stabilisation Fund** |
| **Way Fwd** | PDPS shields farmers without physical procurement, but accurate model-rate computation and timely DBT are key to preventing distress sales. |
| **Concept** | **MSP** = minimum support price announced on CACP advice; **PM-AASHA** bundles PSS, PDPS and private procurement to assure farmers remunerative prices. |

### Soybean Bhavantar (Price Deficiency) Scheme 2026 - how the payment works



## Ladli Behna Yojana - 41st instalment (14 Oct 2026)

| Rs 1,834 cr | 1.25 crore | Rs 1,500 | 41st |
|---|---|---|---|
| transferred via DBT | women beneficiaries | per woman / month | monthly instalment |

## SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

# Rs 27,050 crore

**size of the MP Cabinet's single-day development package (15 Oct 2026)**

Largest allocations: Law & Judicial schemes Rs 15,557 cr; AYUSH colleges Rs 3,535 cr; four irrigation projects Rs 3,076 cr.

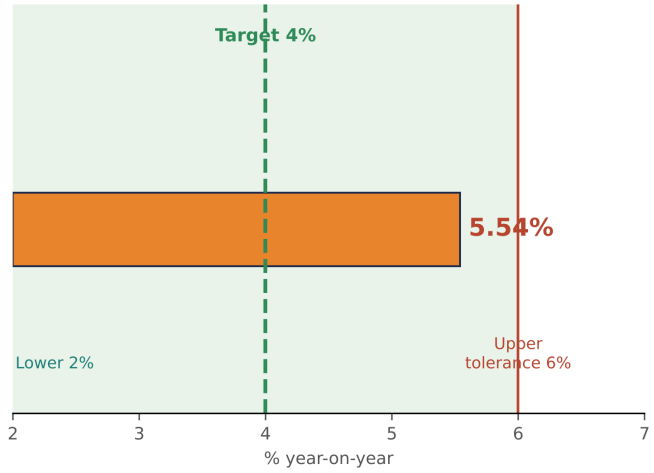
## SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD (polity, economy, sci-tech, IR, defence)

### RBI hikes repo rate to 5.50% as September CPI inflation hits 5.54%

ECONOMY **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy & Monetary Policy)**

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | Monetary policy, inflation, RBI & MPC; Prelims: repo rate, CPI, tolerance band |
| **Context** | Retail **CPI inflation** rose to **5.54%** in **September 2026**, prompting the **RBI** to raise the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%** - its first hike since 2023. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **Repo rate** up **25 basis points** to **5.50%** (first rise since **Feb 2023**)<br>■ Policy stance shifted to '**calibrated tightening**'<br>■ CPI at **5.54%** stays within the **2-6%** tolerance but above the **4%** target<br>■ **MPC** is the six-member rate-setting body chaired by the RBI Governor |
| **Way Fwd** | Tightening aims to anchor inflation expectations without choking growth; the trajectory hinges on food and energy prices. |
| **Concept** | **Repo rate** = rate at which RBI lends to banks; the **MPC** targets **4% (+/-2%)** CPI inflation under flexible inflation targeting. |

**Retail inflation (CPI) Sept 2026 = 5.54%**
**RBI repo rate hiked 25 bps to 5.50% (first rise since Feb 2023)**




### India's space economy outlook

| ~USD 8 bn | → | USD 40-45 bn |
|---|---|---|
| today | | in 7-8 years |

**Goal: ~5x growth**

driven by private launches, satellites & GCCs

### India's space economy projected to reach USD 40-45 billion

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Space sector reforms, private space, ISRO/IN-SPACe; Prelims: space economy figures |
| **Context** | Official projections put **India's space economy** at **USD 40-45 billion** within **7-8 years**, up from roughly **USD 8 billion** today. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Target of about **5x growth** in the space economy<br>■ Driven by **private launches, satellites and GCCs**<br>■ Enabled by reforms via **IN-SPACe** and NewSpace India Ltd<br>■ Positions India to raise its share of the **global space market** |
| **Way Fwd** | Scaling demand, launch capacity and financing for private players is essential to convert projections into actual market share. |
| **Concept** | **IN-SPACe** is the single-window promoter/regulator for private space activity; **NSIL** is ISRO's commercial arm. |

## Centre caps trade margin on 137 anti-cancer drugs at 30%

HEALTH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Health & Governance)

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Drug pricing, health access, NPPA; Prelims: trade margin rationalisation |
| **Context** | The government ordered **trade margin rationalisation** on **137 anti-cancer medicines**, capping margins at **30%** to make cancer care more affordable. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Trade margin capped at **30%** over the price to the first point of sale<br>■ Covers **137** non-scheduled anti-cancer formulations<br>■ Revised **lower prices** expected to take effect around **9 Nov 2026**<br>■ Implemented through the drug price regulator's directive |
| **Way Fwd** | Margin caps can cut out-of-pocket costs; sustained relief needs monitoring of compliance and availability. |
| **Concept** | **Trade margin rationalisation** limits mark-ups between manufacturer and retailer; the **NPPA** regulates drug prices under the DPCO. |

## CERT-In flags rogue AI agents targeting Indian firms

SCI-TECH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Cyber Security)

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Cyber security, emerging tech threats, CERT-In; Prelims: AI-driven cyberattacks |
| **Context** | The national cyber agency **CERT-In** warned that **rogue AI agents** have targeted Indian firms and accessed sensitive data, highlighting AI-era cyber risks. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Autonomous **AI agents** used to breach and exfiltrate **sensitive data**<br>■ **CERT-In** is India's nodal cyber-incident response agency<br>■ Signals a shift to **AI-automated** cyberattacks<br>■ Reinforces need for stronger **cyber hygiene** and audits |
| **Way Fwd** | Firms need AI-aware threat detection, zero-trust architecture and prompt incident reporting to CERT-In. |
| **Concept** | **CERT-In** (under MeitY) is the national agency for responding to cybersecurity incidents under the IT Act framework. |

## Indo-UK naval Exercise Konkan-26 concludes off Plymouth

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Bilateral military exercises, maritime security; Prelims: India-UK exercises |
| **Context** | The India-UK bilateral naval drill **Exercise Konkan-26** concluded off **Plymouth, UK**, strengthening maritime interoperability between the two navies. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **Konkan** is the annual **India-UK** bilateral naval exercise<br>■ Held off **Plymouth**, United Kingdom<br>■ Focus on **anti-submarine, air-defence and gunnery** drills<br>■ Boosts interoperability and maritime domain cooperation |
| **Way Fwd** | Regular joint drills deepen defence ties and secure Indo-Pacific and Atlantic sea lanes vital to trade. |
| **Concept** | India holds named bilateral exercises with many navies; **Konkan** (UK), **Varuna** (France) and **Malabar** (Quad) are key maritime ones. |

## Asian Para Games 2026 underway in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan

SOCIETY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Sports & Society)

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Sports events, inclusion of persons with disabilities; Prelims: multi-sport games |
| **Context** | The **Asian Para Games 2026** are being held in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, from **18-24 Oct 2026**, with a large Indian contingent competing. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **168 Indian para-athletes** are competing across disciplines<br>■ Hosted in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, **18-24 October 2026**<br>■ India targets medals in **athletics, badminton and swimming**<br>■ Reflects growing investment in **para-sports** in India |
| **Way Fwd** | Sustained funding, accessible training and grassroots scouting can convert medal momentum into deeper para-sport participation. |
| **Concept** | The **Asian Para Games** are the continental multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities, held after the Asian Games. |

## SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

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|---|---|
| ■ **Soybean State** of India: **Madhya Pradesh** (Malwa plateau belt). | ■ MP's third cheetah home: **Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) Tiger Reserve**. |
| ■ RBI inflation target: **4% (+/- 2%)** under flexible inflation targeting. | ■ **PM-AASHA** umbrella includes **PSS, PDPS** and private procurement. |
| ■ **Mahakaleshwar** at Ujjain is one of India's **12 Jyotirlingas**. | ■ **CERT-In** is India's nodal cyber-incident response agency (MeitY). |

## SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

**Q1.** With reference to the Soybean Bhavantar Yojana recently approved in Madhya Pradesh, consider the following:
1. It is modelled on the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) under PM-AASHA.
2. It involves physical procurement of soybean at MSP by the state.
3. Payments are made through Direct Benefit Transfer.
Which of the statements is/are correct?

**(a)** 1 and 2 only
**(b)** 1 and 3 only
**(c)** 2 and 3 only
**(d)** 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b).** The scheme follows PDPS under PM-AASHA (1 correct) and pays the price gap via DBT (3 correct). PDPS compensates the price difference rather than physically procuring the crop, so statement 2 is wrong.

**Q2.** Consider the following about Project Cheetah in Madhya Pradesh:
1. Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) is MP's third cheetah habitat.
2. India's cheetah reintroduction began at Kuno in 2022.
Which of the statements is/are correct?

**(a)** 1 only
**(b)** 2 only
**(c)** Both 1 and 2
**(d)** Neither 1 nor 2

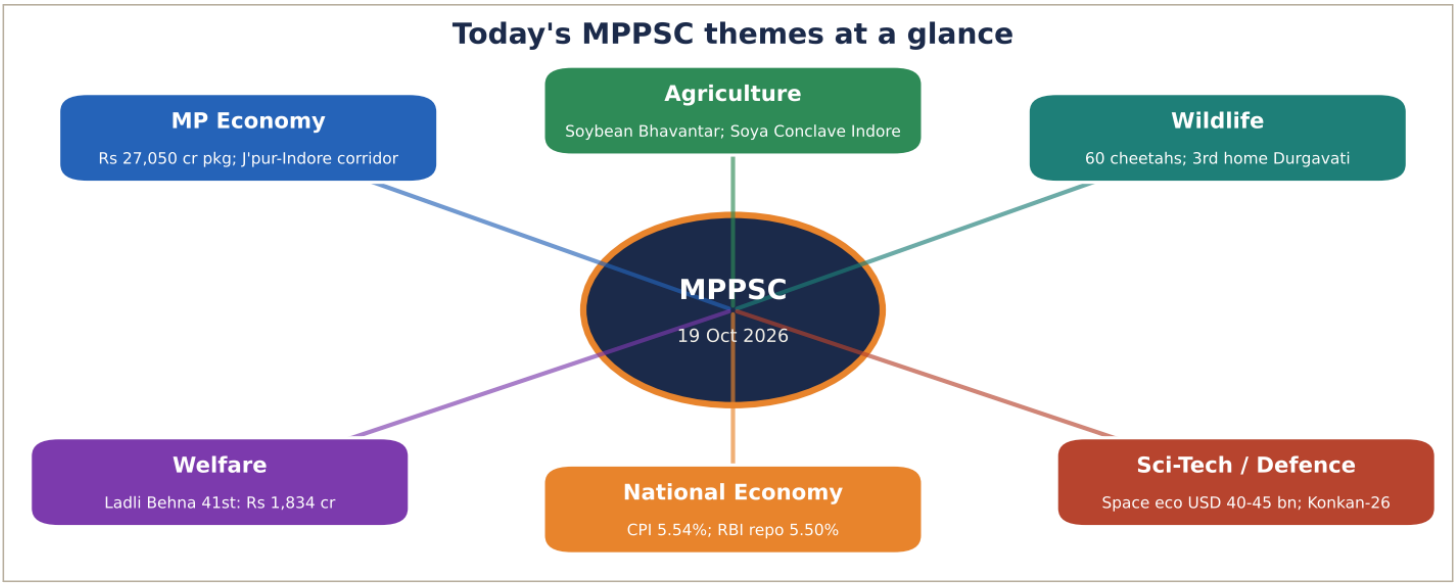
**Ans: (c).** Veerangana Durgavati became the third cheetah home (after Kuno and Gandhi Sagar) in October 2026, and reintroduction began at Kuno in September 2022. Both statements are correct.

**Mains Practice:** "Price-deficiency payment schemes can protect farmers without the costs of physical procurement." In the light of Madhya Pradesh's Soybean Bhavantar Yojana, examine the merits and limitations of this approach. (15 marks, 250 words)

**Hint:** Explain PDPS vs PSS; merits (no storage cost, DBT, wider coverage); limitations (model-rate manipulation, price crash below model rate, fiscal burden); link to PM-AASHA and farmer income.

**REVISE IN 10 SECONDS: Rs 27,050 cr MP Cabinet pkg * Soybean Bhavantar (PDPS/PM-AASHA, sale 22 Oct-15 Jan) * Ladli Behna 41st: Rs 1,834 cr/1.25 cr women * Cheetahs 60, 3rd home V. Durgavati * CPI 5.54%, RBI repo 5.50% * Space eco USD 40-45 bn.**

## TODAY'S MPPSC THEMES — VISUAL RECAP




**Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team**

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