

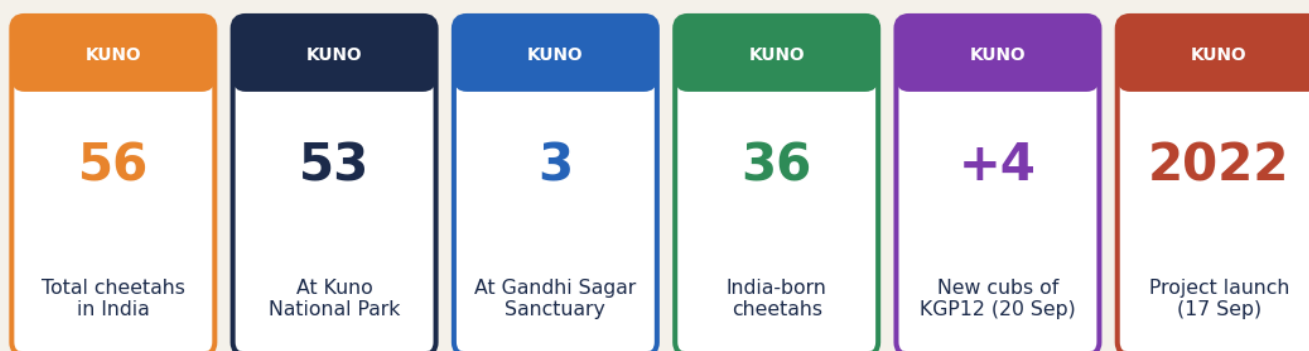
TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Kuno cheetahs rise to **56**; KGP12 births **4 cubs** (20 Sep)
- **40th** Ladli Behna: **Rs 1,500** to **1.25 cr** women
- EPFO wage ceiling up to **Rs 25,000** (17 Sep)
- **GIFT City** climbs to **37th** in GFCI 40
- Semicon Mission 2.0: **Rs 1.27 lakh cr** committed
- MP Cabinet clears **Rs 42,490 cr** of schemes (15 Sep)
- Ujjain gears up for **Simhastha-2028** (27 Mar-27 May)
- **Delhi** tops India Electric Mobility Index 2025
- DRDO to field **30 kW** anti-drone laser
- US law: up to **100%** tariff on Russian-oil buyers

SECTION A — MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

StudyForGS.com

PROJECT CHEETAH — 4 YEARS • KUNO NATIONAL PARK, MP (Sheopur)



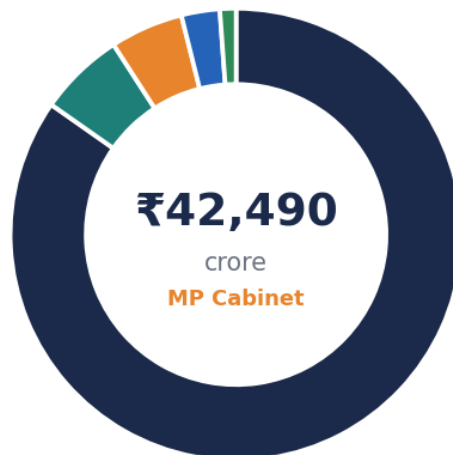
Kuno cheetah tally hits 56 as India-born KGP12 births four cubs

[MADHYA PRADESH]		MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment and Ecology)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-III environment, biodiversity and conservation; Prelims: Project Cheetah, Kuno (Sheopur), Gandhi Sagar, Namibia/South Africa/Botswana source stock, national parks of MP.	
Context	On 20 September 2026 , Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced that India-born female cheetah KGP12 delivered four cubs at Kuno National Park , lifting India's cheetah count from 52 to 56 as Project Cheetah completed four years .	
Key Facts	■ Kuno National Park lies in Sheopur district, MP; the 56 cheetahs comprise 53 at Kuno and 3 at Gandhi Sagar sanctuary. ■ 36 of the 56 are India-born; Project Cheetah was launched on 17 September 2022 with 8 Namibian cheetahs; the animal was declared extinct in India in 1952. ■ MP is the only 'Cheetah State' and also the 'Tiger State' with the country's largest forest cover by area. ■ The cheetah is the world's fastest land animal, rated Vulnerable on the IUCN list; commercial trade is barred under CITES.	
Way Fwd	Develop the second home at Gandhi Sagar , curb cub mortality, secure the prey base and grow eco-tourism livelihoods around Kuno.	
Concept	Project Cheetah — the world's first inter-continental large-carnivore translocation and India's flagship species-reintroduction programme.	

MP Cabinet clears Rs 42,490 crore for schools, irrigation and welfare

[MADHYA PRADESH]		MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance and Polity)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II governance and state policy; GS-III infrastructure and irrigation; Prelims: MP Cabinet, Samagra Shiksha, MARKFED, major and micro irrigation projects.	
Context	The Mohan Yadav Cabinet on 15 September 2026 approved schemes worth Rs 42,490 crore covering school education, transport, horticulture and irrigation across the state.	
Key Facts	■ Rs 36,006 crore for Samagra Shiksha (2026-27 to 2030-31); Rs 1,167 crore for 11 transport schemes; Rs 491 crore for horticulture and food processing. ■ Irrigation: Chitawad project, Ujjain (Rs 1,846 cr, 65,000 ha on the Kshipra); Gaund, Singrauli (Rs 750 cr, 34,500 ha); Chanderi, Ashoknagar. ■ Rs 2,220 crore interest-free loan to MARKFED for foodgrain credit repayment by 30 September 2026.	
Way Fwd	Outcome-linked, time-bound spending with third-party audit will decide real gains in learning levels and irrigated area.	
Concept	Samagra Shiksha — a centrally sponsored, integrated school-education scheme spanning pre-primary to Class 12.	

MP Cabinet Outlay — Rs 42,490 crore (15 Sep 2026)



- Samagra Shiksha (Education) ₹36,006 cr
- Irrigation projects ₹2,607 cr
- MARKFED loan ₹2,221 cr
- Transport schemes ₹1,167 cr
- Horticulture & Food Proc. ₹491 cr

40th Ladli Behna instalment: Rs 1,500 reaches over 1.25 crore women

[SOCIETY]	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Social Justice and Governance)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II welfare schemes for women and vulnerable sections, DBT governance; Prelims: Ladli Behna Yojana, Direct Benefit Transfer, women-centric MP schemes.
Context	CM Mohan Yadav on 13 September 2026 released the 40th instalment of the Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana — Rs 1,500 each to over 1.25 crore women through DBT at a state event in Agar-Malwa .
Key Facts	■ 1,25,22,542 women received Rs 1,500; the monthly outgo is roughly Rs 1,835 crore. ■ August 2026 paid Rs 1,750 owing to a one-off Rs 250 Raksha Bandhan shagun; September reverts to the regular Rs 1,500. ■ Launched in 2023, the scheme aims at women's economic self-reliance through direct cash transfer.
Way Fwd	Link the cash support with skilling and credit to shift from income support to durable livelihoods.
Concept	DBT — Direct Benefit Transfer routes subsidy or benefit cash straight to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts to cut leakages.

MP fast-tracks Simhastha-2028 works at Ujjain

[MADHYA PRADESH]	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Art, Culture and Geography)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-I culture, fairs and festivals, Narmada-Kshipra geography; Prelims: Simhastha Kumbh, Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga, Kshipra river, Ujjain.
Context	The state has cleared fresh infrastructure works to prepare Ujjain for Simhastha-2028 , the twelve-yearly Kumbh held on the banks of the Kshipra .
Key Facts	■ Simhastha-2028 is scheduled from 27 March to 27 May 2028; the 2026-27 Budget earmarked about Rs 2,000 crore for it. ■ Ujjain hosts the Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga and the Mahakal Lok corridor; the Simhastha recurs every 12 years. ■ Works span roads, ghats, sanitation and a dedicated flower cluster for the crores of expected pilgrims.
Way Fwd	Balance mega-event infrastructure with Kshipra river rejuvenation and robust crowd-safety planning.
Concept	Simhastha/Kumbh — held by rotation at four sites: Ujjain, Prayagraj, Haridwar and Nashik.

MUKHYAMANTRI LADLI BEHNA YOJANA — 40th INSTALMENT (13 Sep 2026)



Soybean and wheat anchor MP's MSP crop basket

[MADHYA PRADESH]

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III
(Agriculture and Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III agriculture, MSP and food security; Prelims: MSP, soybean, Sharbati wheat GI, MARKFED, MP crop geography.
Context	With MP's economy resting on farming, the MSP 2026-27 basket keeps soybean and wheat — the state's signature crops — central to farmer incomes.
Key Facts	■ Soybean MSP 2026-27: Rs 5,708/quintal; MP is India's largest soybean producer, the 'Soybean State'. ■ Gram (chana) Rs 5,875, wheat Rs 2,585, paddy Rs 2,441 per quintal; MP's Sharbati wheat carries a GI tag. ■ MP procured close to 85 lakh MT of wheat at MSP in Rabi 2025-26; the 2026-27 state wheat price is Rs 2,600/quintal with bonus.
Way Fwd	Diversify beyond the wheat-soybean cycle, expand food processing and strengthen MSP procurement logistics.
Concept	MSP — Minimum Support Price at which government agencies procure notified crops to shield farmers from price crashes.

MSP 2026-27 — Key Crops (per quintal)
Soybean: MP is India's 'Soybean State'

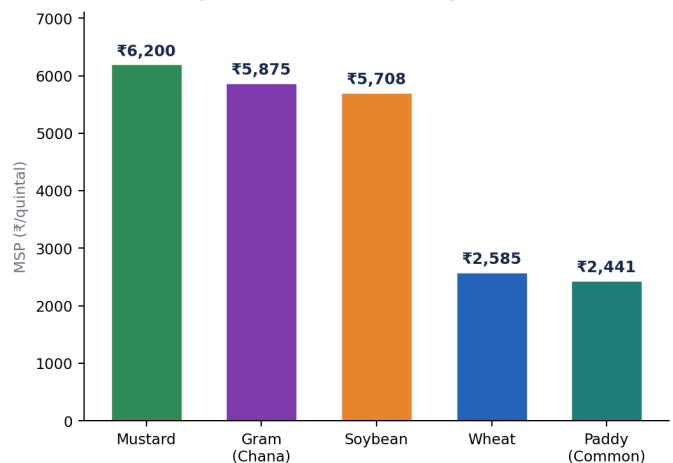
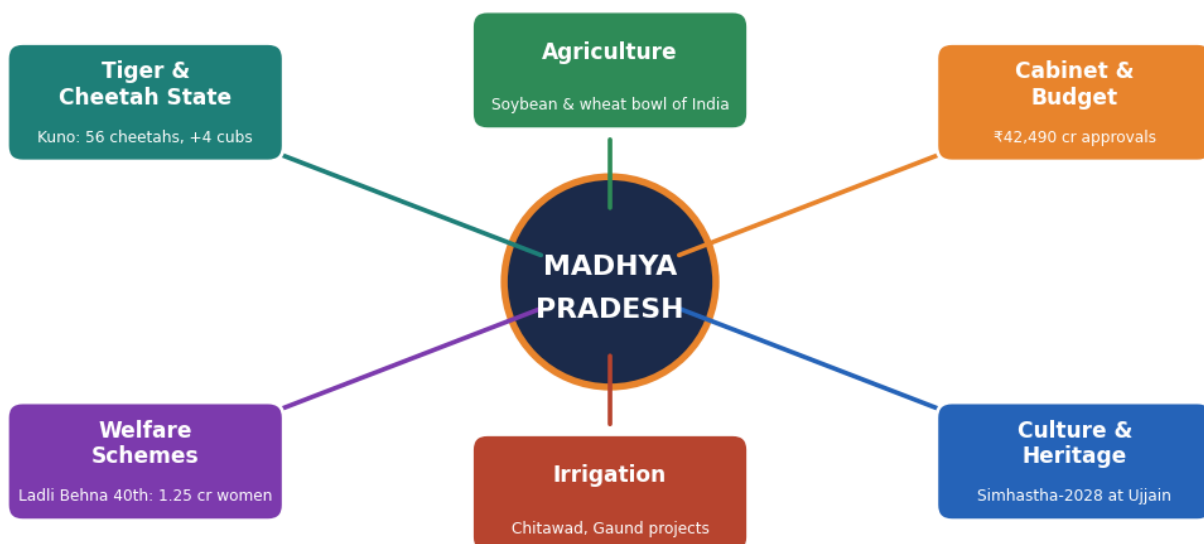


Fig: MSP 2026-27 for key crops

MP IN TODAY'S NEWS — THEME MAP



SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

StudyForGS.com

~85 lakh MT

MP wheat procurement at MSP (Rabi 2025-26)

Madhya Pradesh — the wheat bowl and India's '**Soybean State**' — procured close to **85 lakh metric tonnes** of wheat at MSP. The state's Rabi **2026-27** wheat price is set at **Rs 2,600 per quintal** (including bonus), while the **Soybean MSP 2026-27** is **Rs 5,708 per quintal**.

SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

StudyForGS.com

EPFO wage ceiling raised to Rs 25,000

[ECONOMY]	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy) / GS-II (Social Security)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-III social security and labour reform; Prelims: EPFO, EPS, wage ceiling, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
Context	From 17 September 2026 ('Sewa Divas'), the EPFO raised the statutory monthly wage ceiling from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 , widening formal social-security coverage.
Key Facts	- The EPS pension-contribution cap rises from Rs 1,250 to Rs 2,080. - A higher ceiling brings more workers under mandatory PF and pension; the ceiling was last revised in 2014. EPFO functions under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
Way Fwd	Combine wider coverage with account portability and timely pension revision to strengthen retirement security.
Concept	EPFO — Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, a statutory retirement-savings body for the organised sector.

EPFO Wage Ceiling Raised
(effective 17 Sep 2026, 'Sewa Divas')

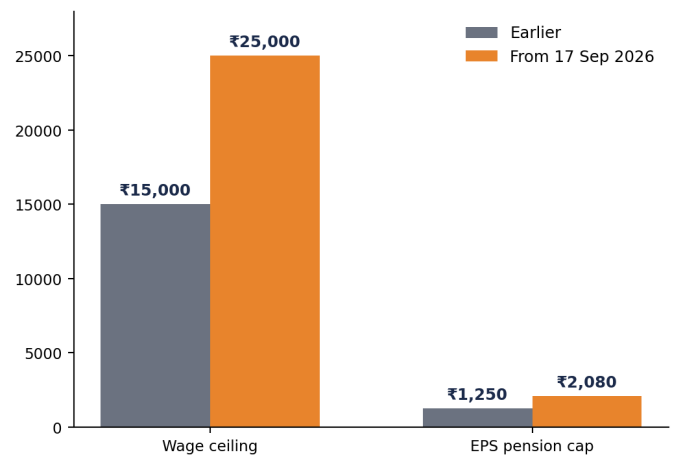


Fig: EPFO wage ceiling revision

Delhi tops the India Electric Mobility Index 2025

[REPORT]	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy and Environment)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-III clean mobility and policy indices; Prelims: NITI Aayog, WRI India, EV policy, composite indices.
Context	NITI Aayog and WRI India released the India Electric Mobility Index 2025 , with Delhi leading on EV adoption and readiness.
Key Facts	- Scores (of 100): Delhi 84, Maharashtra 78, Karnataka 73. - The index assessed 36 States and UTs across 16 indicators. - It rewards charging infrastructure, EV sales share and supportive policy.
Way Fwd	MP can climb by expanding charging density, e-bus fleets and demand-side EV incentives.
Concept	Composite index — several weighted indicators combined into a single comparative score.

India Electric Mobility Index 2025
(NITI Aayog + WRI India • score /100)

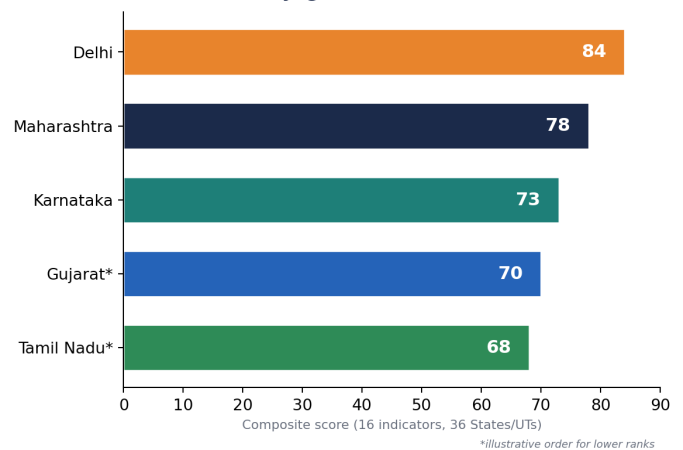


Fig: India Electric Mobility Index 2025

GIFT City climbs to 37th in Global Financial Centres Index

[ECONOMY]	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-III financial centres and IFSC; Prelims: GIFT City, GFCI, IFSCA, IFSC.
Context	GIFT City in Gujarat climbed to 37th globally (from 46th) in the 40th edition of the Global Financial Centres Index .
Key Facts	- The top four are New York, London, Hong Kong and Singapore; 139 centres were ranked on 144 indicators. - GIFT City hosts India's only IFSC, regulated by the IFSCA.
Way Fwd	Deepen the product range and talent pool to compete with Singapore and Dubai.
Concept	IFSC — International Financial Services Centre for cross-border finance conducted in foreign currency.

DRDO to field a 30 kW anti-drone laser weapon

[DEFENCE]	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Security and Sci-Tech)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-III defence indigenisation and emerging technology; Prelims: DRDO, Directed Energy Weapon, counter-drone systems.
Context	DRDO is moving to productionise a 30-kilowatt Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) capable of neutralising drones at ranges up to 5 km .
Key Facts	- Final trials were completed in August 2025; an industry partner is to be selected within six months. - Laser DEWs offer a very low cost-per-shot against low-cost drone swarms.
Way Fwd	Scale to higher-power lasers and integrate the weapon within a layered air-defence grid.
Concept	DEW — Directed Energy Weapon that uses focused laser or microwave energy to disable targets.

Semicon Mission 2.0 gets Rs 1.27 lakh crore push

[SCI-TECH]	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Science and Technology)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-III science-technology and self-reliance; Prelims: India Semiconductor Mission, fabs, chip design.
Context	The government committed about Rs 1.27 lakh crore for Phase 2 of the India Semiconductor Mission , shifting focus from assembly to design and fabrication .
Key Facts	- Investor interest of nearly Rs 1 lakh crore has already been received. - The five-year goal is automotive, power and appliance chips designed and manufactured in India.
Way Fwd	Build materials, equipment and skilled-talent ecosystems, not fabrication plants alone.
Concept	Semiconductor fab — a facility that fabricates integrated circuits on silicon wafers.

US law clears up to 100% tariffs on Russian-oil buyers

[IR]	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations)
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II India and the world, energy and trade diplomacy; Prelims: secondary sanctions, crude imports, India-US-Russia ties.
Context	New US legislation authorises tariffs of up to 100% on countries that buy Russian oil , adding pressure on India's energy-import basket.
Key Facts	Russia made up over 51% of India's oil imports (July 2026); the US absorbs about 20% of India's goods exports. - The tariff stacks on existing US duties on Indian goods.
Way Fwd	Diversify crude sources and press for a balanced India-US trade agreement.
Concept	Secondary sanctions — penalties imposed on third countries for trading with a sanctioned nation.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

StudyForGS.com

Topic	Quick Fact
Project Cheetah launch	17 Sep 2022 at Kuno NP, Sheopur (MP)
MP's cheetah homes	Kuno (53) and Gandhi Sagar (3) — 56 total
Samagra Shiksha	Integrated school-education scheme, pre-primary to Class 12
Sewa Divas (17 Sep)	EPFO wage ceiling raised to Rs 25,000
IEMI 2025 topper	Delhi (score 84) — NITI Aayog + WRI India
Soybean MSP 2026-27	Rs 5,708/quintal — MP is the 'Soybean State'

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

StudyForGS.com

Q1. With reference to Project Cheetah, consider the following statements: 1. It was launched at Kuno National Park in Sheopur district. 2. The first cheetahs were brought from Namibia. 3. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is the second cheetah site in Madhya Pradesh. 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

Answer: D All three are correct. Project Cheetah began on 17 September 2022 at Kuno (Sheopur) with 8 Namibian cheetahs, and Gandhi Sagar sanctuary is the second cheetah home in MP.

Q2. The Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana is associated with which state, and what is its regular monthly amount as of September 2026?

- (A) Rajasthan; Rs 1,000 (B) Madhya Pradesh; Rs 1,500
(C) Madhya Pradesh; Rs 1,250 (D) Maharashtra; Rs 1,500

Answer: B It is a Madhya Pradesh scheme paying Rs 1,500 per month via DBT; the 40th instalment was released on 13 September 2026.

Mains Practice: Project Cheetah has been described as both a conservation milestone and an ecological experiment. Critically examine its progress in Madhya Pradesh and the challenges that lie ahead. (250 words)

Hint: Trace translocation from Namibia and South Africa; note the population of 56 and the India-born share; discuss the Kuno and Gandhi Sagar habitats, cub mortality, carrying capacity and prey base; and weigh eco-tourism livelihoods against ecological risk.

QUICK REVISION: Kuno cheetahs 56 (36 India-born) | MP Cabinet Rs 42,490 cr | Ladli Behna 40th, Rs 1,500 to 1.25 cr women | EPFO ceiling Rs 25,000 | GIFT City 37th (GFCI 40) | Delhi tops EV Index 2025.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

► YouTube: @Study_ForGS

► Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies