CURRENT AFFAIRS — 21 OCT 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

Wednesday, 21 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

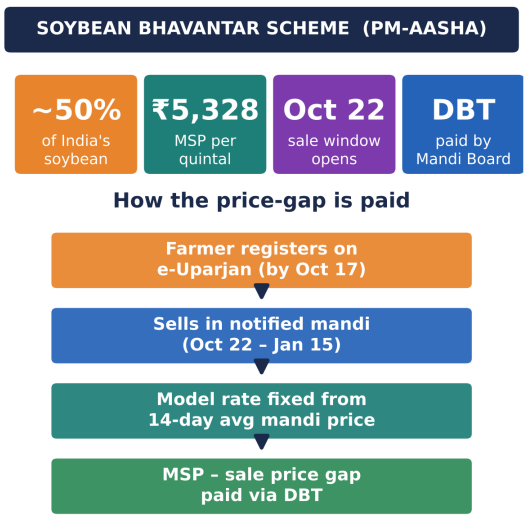
- Soybean Bhavantar sale window in MP opens 22 October (MSP ₹5,328/quintal).
- MP Semiconductor Summit 2026 in Indore on 23–24 October.
- MP Cabinet clears ₹27,050 crore package + Jabalpur–Indore corridor SPV.
- Ladli Behna 41st instalment: ₹1,500 to 1.25 crore women (₹1,834 crore).
- Project Cheetah count hits 60 in India; 41 born on Indian soil.
- Peacock conservation project & Badnagar food park announced in Ujjain.
- PLFS 2025: rural female labour participation up to 45.9% from 33%.
- CJI cites separation of powers on CEC/SIR complaint.
- AUSTRAHIND 2026 India–Australia army exercise under way in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ICAR's biofortified purple potato 'Kufri Jamunia' in focus.

SECTION A — MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

Soybean Bhavantar: MP's mandi sale window opens 22 October

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

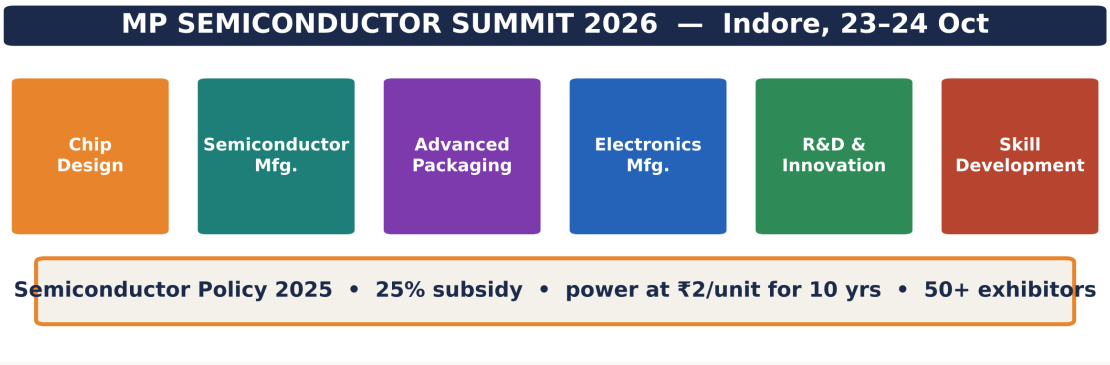
Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: PM-AASHA, PDPS, MSP, e-Uparjan portal. Mains GS-III: agricultural marketing, farm price support, MP's soybean economy.
Context	Madhya Pradesh — which grows **nearly 50%** of India's soybean — has reintroduced the **Bhavantar Bhugtan** (price-deficiency) scheme for **Kharif 2026**, with the eligible mandi sale period running **22 October 2026 to 15 January 2027**.
Key Facts	■ Operates under the **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)** of the central umbrella scheme **PM-AASHA**. ■ Soybean **MSP is ₹5,328 per quintal**; farmers registered on the **e-Uparjan portal** by **17 October** are eligible. ■ Payout = gap between **MSP and the sale/model rate**, paid by **DBT** via the Mandi Board from the **Price Stabilisation Fund**. ■ The **model rate** is the 14-day weighted average of mandi prices, published daily on the **e-Mandi portal**.
Way Fwd	Timely DBT and transparent model-rate fixing can shield farmers from distress sales without the storage burden of open-ended procurement.
Concept	**MSP** is recommended by the **CACP**; **Bhavantar** pays the price gap instead of physically buying the crop, unlike open-ended procurement.



MP Semiconductor Summit 2026 in Indore on 23–24 October

MADHYA PRADESH — MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy & Industry)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: MP Semiconductor Policy 2025, Brilliant Convention Centre. Mains GS-III: industrial growth, investment, electronics manufacturing.
Context	CM **Dr Mohan Yadav** will inaugurate the **MP Semiconductor Summit 2026** at the **Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore**, on the theme of making the state a **semiconductor hub**.
Key Facts	■ **50+ companies** to exhibit; the event has **8 panel discussions, 5 roundtables and 2 keynote addresses**. ■ Themes: **chip design, semiconductor manufacturing, advanced packaging & testing, electronics manufacturing, R&D and skilling**. ■ The **MP Semiconductor Policy 2025** offers a reported **25% subsidy** and **power at ₹2 per unit for 10 years**. ■ Winners of the **MP Semicon Startup Competition** final will be felicitated at the closing session.
Way Fwd	Linking the policy to skilling and anchor investors can help MP compete with Gujarat and Assam in the chip value chain.
Concept	India's **Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** and the **DLI scheme** aim to build a domestic chip ecosystem; states add their own incentives.



Pillar diagram of MP Semiconductor Summit 2026 themes and the Semiconductor Policy 2025 incentives.

MP Cabinet clears ₹27,050 crore package, Jabalpur–Indore corridor

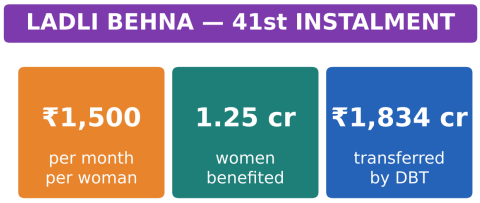
MADHYA PRADESH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II/III (Governance & Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor SPV, Sandipani schools. Mains: state planning, tribal welfare, infrastructure financing.
Context	The state cabinet approved projects worth about **₹27,050 crore** and a new **Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor Development Company** to drive industrial and social infrastructure along the route.
Key Facts	■ The corridor SPV is **fully government-owned** with **₹100 crore** initial paid-up capital for land pooling, parks, GCCs and logistics hubs. ■ **₹15,557 cr** for law & judicial schemes; **₹3,076 cr** for **four irrigation projects**; **₹2,875 cr** for school infrastructure. ■ **₹241.88 cr** for **Sandipani school** transport (Tribal Affairs Dept): per-student aid up from **₹10,000 to ₹21,000**. ■ AYUSH gets **₹3,535 cr** (colleges & hospitals) plus **₹1,697 cr** (National AYUSH Mission).
Way Fwd	An SPV-led corridor can speed land assembly, but compensatory afforestation and transparent allocation will decide its credibility.
Concept	A **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** is a dedicated company for a project; the corridor also acts as an **Investment Region Agency** under MP's 2013 Act.

Ladli Behna: 41st instalment of ₹1,500 to 1.25 crore women

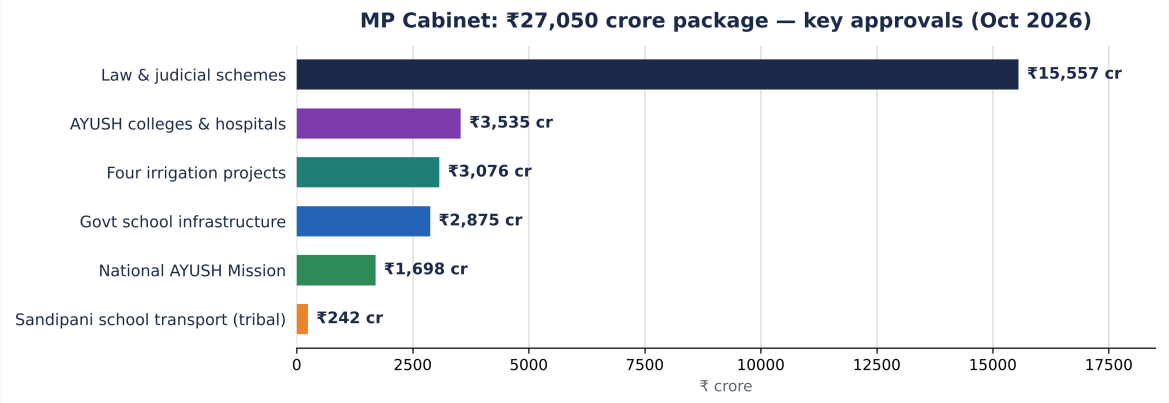
MADHYA PRADESH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance & Social Justice)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana, DBT. Mains GS-II: women empowerment, direct-benefit welfare, state finances.
Context	CM Mohan Yadav released the **41st instalment** of the **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana** at **Umaria** on **14 October 2026**, crediting women's accounts by **DBT**.
Key Facts	■ **₹1,500 per month** transferred to about **1.25 crore women**, totalling over **₹1,834 crore**. ■ The monthly aid has risen from **₹1,000 → ₹1,250 → ₹1,500** (since **November 2025**). ■ Pension-receiving beneficiaries get a **₹900** top-up under the scheme's rules. ■ Payments go directly via **DBT**, cutting leakages and middlemen.
Way Fwd	Sustaining the payout while funding capital projects tests MP's fiscal space; outcome audits can gauge real empowerment.
Concept	**DBT** routes cash straight to Aadhaar-linked accounts; Ladli Behna is a flagship **unconditional cash transfer** for women.



Monthly aid raised ₹1,000 → ₹1,250 → ₹1,500 (Nov 2025)

Released 14 Oct 2026, Umaria district



Horizontal bar chart of the MP Cabinet's ₹27,050 crore allocations by head.

Peacock conservation project and food park announced in Ujjain

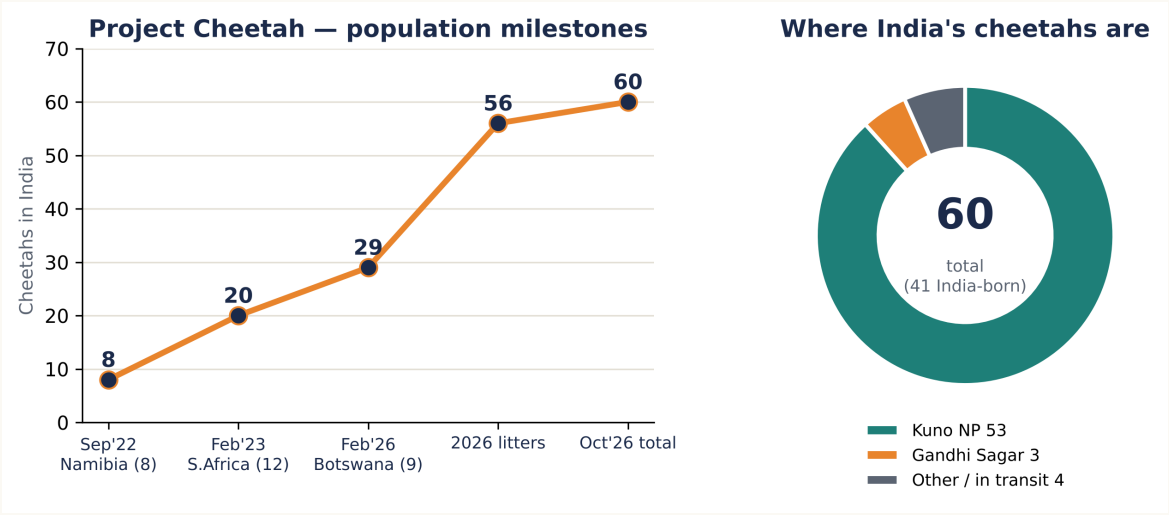
MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: national bird, Maa Chamunda Dham, Simhastha 2028. Mains GS-III: biodiversity, food processing, rural livelihoods.
Context	At **Maa Chamunda Dham, Gajni Khedi (Ujjain)**, the CM launched works worth **₹22.34 crore** and announced a **peacock conservation project** and a **food processing park at Badnagar**.
Key Facts	■ New **potato processing units** in **Ujjain and Agar** will buy from farmers across **35 districts**. ■ A project will conserve and rehabilitate the **peacock**, India's **national bird**. ■ About **₹25,000 crore** of works are underway for **Simhastha 2028** in Ujjain. ■ **Mukhyamantri Sugam Bus Seva** was relaunched; a **₹25,000** incentive is offered for taking road-accident victims to hospital.
Way Fwd	Pairing agro-processing with conservation can lift farm incomes while protecting the state's biodiversity.
Concept	The **Indian peacock** is protected under **Schedule I** of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**; food parks add value near production clusters.

Project Cheetah: India's cheetah count reaches 60

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: Kuno NP, Gandhi Sagar, Project Cheetah, source countries. Mains GS-III: species reintroduction, habitat management.
Context	With a fresh litter at **Kuno National Park** in early October, India's cheetah population has climbed to **60**, of which **41 were born on Indian soil**.
Key Facts	■ **Kuno (MP)** holds about **53** cheetahs; **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** is being developed as the **second home**. ■ The project began on **17 September 2022** with **8 from Namibia**; **12 from South Africa (2023)** and **9 from Botswana (2026)** followed. ■ The latest birth introduced the **Botswanan genetic lineage**, widening the founder gene pool. ■ India is the only country attempting **inter-continental cheetah reintroduction**.
Way Fwd	A viable metapopulation needs more habitats, prey augmentation and wildlife corridors beyond Kuno.
Concept	The **cheetah** is the world's fastest land animal; it was declared **extinct in India in 1952** before this reintroduction.



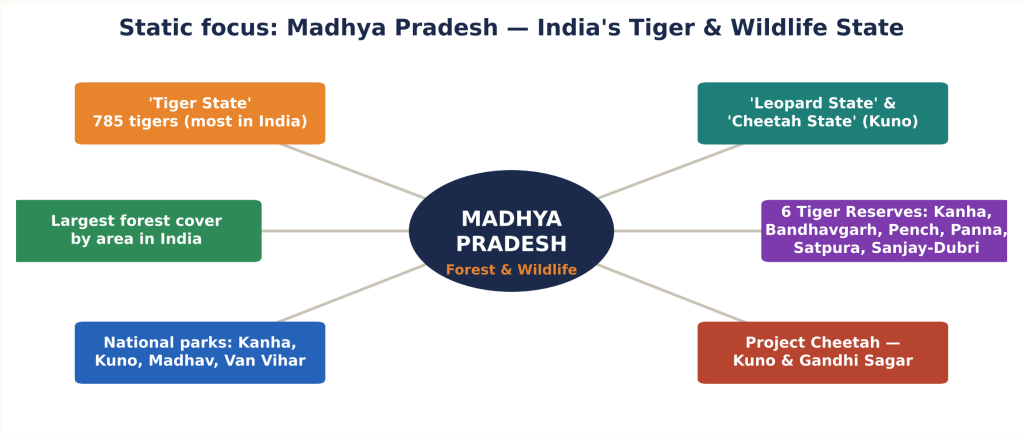
Line chart of Project Cheetah population milestones and a donut of where India's 60 cheetahs live.

STATE STATIC SPOTLIGHT

State Spotlight: Madhya Pradesh — India's Tiger & Wildlife State

MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I/III (Geography & Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: tiger reserves, national parks, forest-cover rank. Mains: conservation, eco-tourism, forest economy.
Context	As cheetah numbers rise, revise MP's standing as India's foremost wildlife state — a recurring **MPPSC** theme across both prelims and mains.
Key Facts	■ MP is the **'Tiger State'** with the **most tigers in India** (**785**, 2022 estimate) and the **largest forest cover by area**. ■ **Six tiger reserves**: **Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura, Sanjay-Dubri**. ■ It is also tagged the **'Leopard State'** and now a **'Cheetah State'** via **Kuno & Gandhi Sagar**. ■ Key national parks: **Kanha, Kuno, Madhav, Van Vihar, Satpura**.
Way Fwd	Balancing tiger-tourism revenue with core-zone protection and tribal rights remains the governance challenge.
Concept	**Tiger reserves** are notified under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act** and managed by the **NTCA** under **Project Tiger (1973)**.



Mind-map of Madhya Pradesh's wildlife profile: Tiger State, forest cover, tiger reserves, national parks and Project Cheetah.

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

SOYBEAN MSP & MP'S SHARE

₹5,328 / quintal

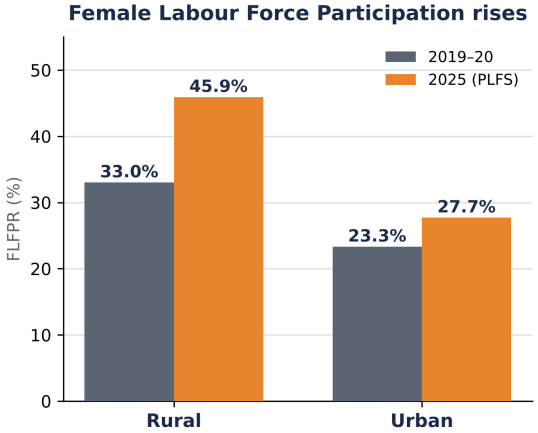
Minimum Support Price for soybean this season. Madhya Pradesh grows **nearly 50%** of India's soybean, and its **Bhavantar** sale window opens **22 October 2026**.

SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

PLFS 2025: Female labour force participation jumps

REPORT **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III/II (Economy & Society)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: PLFS, FLFPR, NSO, MoSPI. Mains: women in the workforce, employment data, gender and economy.
Context	The latest **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** shows a sharp rise in the **Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)** between **2019–20 and 2025**.
Key Facts	■ Rural FLFPR rose from **33% to 45.9%**; urban from **23.3% to 27.7%**. ■ **Arunachal Pradesh** recorded the highest annual rise among the NE states/UTs studied. ■ **Lakshadweep** recorded the largest rural decline. ■ PLFS is released by the **NSO** under the **MoSPI**.
Way Fwd	Translating higher participation into quality, paid jobs and closing the wage gap is the next policy frontier.
Concept	**FLFPR** is the share of working-age women who are working or seeking work — a key gender-and-growth indicator.



CJI cites separation of powers on CEC complaint

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: separation of powers, basic structure, ECI. Mains GS-II: judiciary–executive relations, electoral administration.
Context	**CJI Surya Kant** declined a request by opposition leaders to take up allegations against the **CEC** over the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, citing **separation of powers** and judicial propriety as the matter is sub judice.
Key Facts	■ **Separation of powers** divides functions among the **legislature, executive and judiciary** and is part of the Constitution's **basic structure**. ■ Judicial conduct norms draw on the **Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct**. ■ The **Election Commission** conducts the **SIR** to clean up and update electoral rolls. ■ Matters that are **sub judice** are generally not taken up administratively.
Way Fwd	Institutional restraint preserves the credibility of both the judiciary and the poll body ahead of elections.
Concept	The **basic structure doctrine** (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973) bars amendments that damage the Constitution's core, including separation of powers.

Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 begins in Thiruvananthapuram

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: AUSTRAHIND, India's bilateral exercises. Mains GS-III: defence diplomacy, Indo-Pacific cooperation.
Context	The **5th edition** of the India–Australia joint military exercise **AUSTRAHIND** began on **19 October 2026** and runs to **1 November 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Held at the **Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram** (Kerala). ■ About **120 personnel** from each army are taking part. ■ Focus on **sub-conventional operations** in semi-urban and jungle terrain under a **UN mandate**. ■ Part of India's deepening **defence ties with Australia** in the Indo-Pacific.
Way Fwd	Regular joint drills build interoperability and signal convergence on a free, open Indo-Pacific.
Concept	Bilateral exercises enhance **interoperability**; India also holds **Malabar** and **Pitch Black** with Australia and partners.

ICAR highlights biofortified purple potato 'Kufri Jamunia'

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: ICAR-CPRI, biofortification, anthocyanins. Mains GS-III: agricultural research, nutrition security.
Context	**ICAR-CPRI** has highlighted **Kufri Jamunia**, a **purple-skinned, purple-fleshed potato** rich in micronutrients, to help tackle **hidden hunger**.
Key Facts	■ Released in **2024**; rich in **vitamin C, anthocyanins, carotenoids, iron and zinc**. ■ Earlier coloured varieties: **Kufri Neelkanth (2018)** and **Kufri Manik (2021)**. ■ Developed by the **Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla**. ■ **Biofortification** breeds higher nutrient content into staple crops.
Way Fwd	Scaling biofortified staples can cheaply improve dietary micronutrients across India.
Concept	**Hidden hunger** is micronutrient deficiency despite adequate calories; **anthocyanins** are antioxidant plant pigments.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

➤ MP is India's 'Tiger State' with **785 tigers** (2022) — the most of any state.	➤ Soybean MSP is **₹5,328 per quintal**; MP grows **~50%** of India's soybean.
➤ **Kuno National Park** & **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary** host Project Cheetah in MP.	➤ **PM-AASHA's PDPS** pays the gap between **MSP and market price**.
➤ **PLFS** is released by the **NSO** under **MoSPI**.	➤ **AUSTRAHIND** is the **India–Australia** joint army exercise.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Soybean Bhavantar scheme, which one of the following is NOT correct?
(A) It operates under PM-AASHA's Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).
(B) The price gap is paid to registered farmers through DBT.
(C) The government procures and stores the farmer's entire soybean crop.
(D) The reference soybean MSP is ₹5,328 per quintal.
Ans: C. Bhavantar (PDPS) pays farmers the difference between the MSP and the sale/model rate via DBT; it does NOT physically procure or store the crop. The other three are correct.

Q2. Consider the following about Project Cheetah:
1. Kuno National Park is in Madhya Pradesh.
2. The first cheetahs were brought from Namibia in 2022.
3. Gandhi Sagar is being developed as a second cheetah habitat.
Which of the 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 is in MP, the first 8 cheetahs arrived from Namibia in September 2022, and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is the planned second home.

Mains Practice: Madhya Pradesh is branding itself at once as an agrarian powerhouse and an emerging industrial and conservation hub. Examine this with reference to the Soybean Bhavantar scheme, the Semiconductor Summit and Project Cheetah. (250 words)
Hint: Link farm price support (Bhavantar/PDPS) to farmer welfare, the Semiconductor Policy 2025 to investment-led growth, and cheetah reintroduction to conservation and eco-tourism; weigh the fiscal and ecological trade-offs.

ONE-LINE REVISION — Lock it in: Soybean Bhavantar window opens 22 Oct (MSP ₹5,328) · Semiconductor Summit Indore 23–24 Oct · MP Cabinet ₹27,050 cr · Ladli Behna 41st (₹1,500) · Cheetahs touch 60 · PLFS rural FLFPR 45.9%.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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