CURRENT AFFAIRS — 22-10-2026

Thursday, 22 October 2026 • IST (Asia/Kolkata) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains

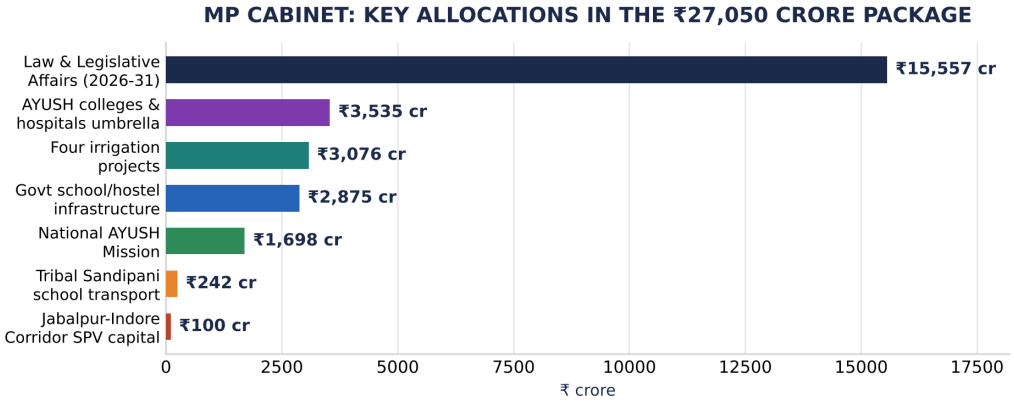
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Soybean **Bhavantar** sale period in MP opens **today, 22 Oct 2026**
- **MP Semiconductor Summit 2026** at Indore on **23–24 Oct**; 50+ firms
- India's cheetah tally reaches **60**; MP now has its **3rd** cheetah home
- Eight **core industries grew 7.9%** in Sept 2026 — a series high
- **India to mandate 1% SAF** blending on international flights from January
- MP Cabinet cleared a **₹27,050 cr** package incl. a **Jabalpur–Indore Corridor** SPV
- Cheetahs **Vyom & Neera** released at **Veerangana Durgavati** Tiger Reserve
- **MP Urban Conclave** (28 Oct) to push **Simhastha 2028** at Ujjain
- **RBI** hiked the **repo rate to 5.5%** (+25 bps), first hike in 3+ years
- **Rajnath Singh** flagged cross-border terror at the **SCO** meet in Tajikistan

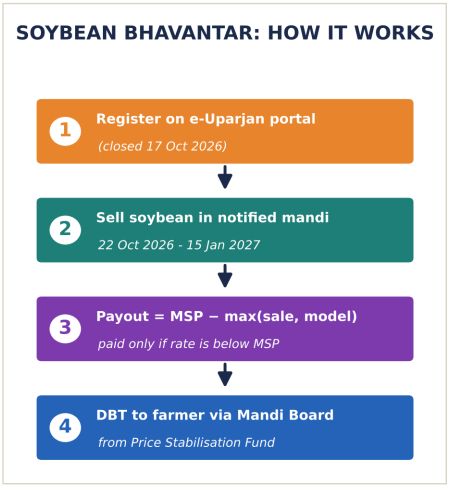
A SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL



Soybean Bhavantar sale window opens today across MP mandis

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

Syllabus Linkage	MP economy & agriculture; MSP, price-support mechanisms, PM-AASHA. Prelims: Bhavantar vs PDPS vs PSS; e-Uparjan; soybean as kharif oilseed.
Context	The **2026 Kharif Soybean Bhavantar (Price Deficiency Payment) scheme** sale period begins **today, 22 October 2026** and runs up to **15 January 2027**, letting registered soybean farmers claim the gap when market prices stay below the **MSP**.
Key Facts	• Operates under **PDPS** guidelines of the central **PM-AASHA** umbrella; payout via **DBT** by the Mandi Board. • Registration on the Food Department **e-Uparjan** portal closed **17 Oct 2026**; sales from **1–21 Oct** are deducted from eligible quantity. • Compensation = **MSP minus** the higher of sale price or the **model rate** (14-day weighted mandi average, updated daily on e-Mandi). • Payment basis = **registered area × previous-year state average productivity**; seed funding from the **Price Stabilisation Fund**. • Oversight by a state committee under the **Chief Secretary** and district committees under **Collectors**.
Way Fwd	Transparent model-rate publication and timely DBT can shield MP's soybean growers from distress sales and stabilise the oilseed economy.
Concept	**Bhavantar** pays the price difference (farmer keeps the crop sold in the mandi), unlike **PSS** where the agency physically procures at MSP. MP's **Malwa** black-soil (Vertisol) belt is India's soybean heartland.

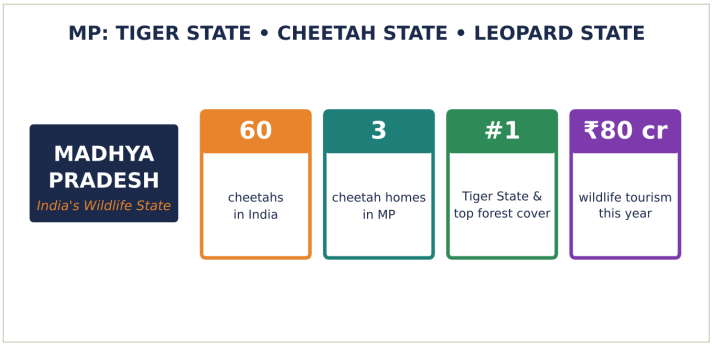


Cabinet clears ₹27,050 cr package; govt SPV for Jabalpur–Indore corridor

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

Syllabus Linkage	MP infrastructure, industrial corridors, SPV/PPP models, ease of doing business. Prelims: MP Investment Region Act 2013; NPV on forest land.
Context	The MP Cabinet approved proposals worth about **₹27,050 crore**, headlined by a fully government-owned **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** to develop the **Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor** with an initial paid-up capital of **₹100 crore**.
Key Facts	• SPV: **Jabalpur-Indore Economic Corridor Development Company Ltd** — land pooling, zoning, leasing, monetisation and infra within hubs. • Designated an **Investment Region Agency** under the **MP Investment Region Development & Management Act, 2013**. • Package also funds **₹3,076 cr** for four irrigation projects and **₹15,557 cr** for law & legislative affairs (2026–31). • Hubs to host industrial, agro-processing, logistics, IT parks and **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**. • Forest land use needs **compensatory afforestation** and **Net Present Value (NPV)** payment.
Way Fwd	A professional SPV can speed up land assembly and investor servicing, but transparent land pricing and environmental compliance will decide its credibility.
Concept	An **SPV** ring-fences a project's assets/finances in a separate company. Industrial corridors aim to cut logistics costs and cluster manufacturing along a defined spine.





Indore to host MP Semiconductor Summit 2026 on 23–24 October

MADHYA PRADESH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy, Science & Technology)**

Syllabus Linkage	MP industrial policy, electronics/semiconductor ecosystem, investment promotion. Prelims: OSAT, fabless, MP Semiconductor Policy 2025.
Context	On the eve of the event, MP is set to host the **Semiconductor Summit 2026** at the **Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore on 23–24 October 2026**, to position the state as a chip-ecosystem hub under CM **Dr Mohan Yadav**.
Key Facts	• More than **50 companies** to exhibit; format spans **8 panels, 5 roundtables, 2 keynotes**, an exhibition and a startup contest. • **Paras Semiconductors** signed an MoU for a proposed **₹6,200 crore OSAT** (assembly & testing) facility. • Backed by the **MP Semiconductor Policy 2025**: a **25% subsidy** and power at **₹2/unit for 10 years**. • Themes: chip design, advanced packaging & testing, photonics, **quantum** tech, AI infrastructure and MSMEs. • CM to deliver the inaugural address on 'MP's Vision as a Semiconductor Hub'.
Way Fwd	Skilling, assured power and water, and anchor fabless/OSAT investors will determine whether MP can move up the electronics value chain.
Concept	**OSAT** = Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (back-end). **Fabless** firms design chips without owning a fab. India's drive sits under the national **Semicon India** programme.

Cheetahs Vyom & Neera settle MP's third cheetah home; India tally hits 60

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

Syllabus Linkage	Species reintroduction, protected areas of MP, conservation. Prelims: Project Cheetah sites, Kuno, Gandhi Sagar, IUCN status.
Context	CM **Dr Mohan Yadav** released two cheetahs, **Vyom and Neera**, at the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Sagar district)** — Madhya Pradesh's **third cheetah habitat** — as Wildlife Conservation Week concluded.
Key Facts	• Both animals were translocated from **Kuno National Park**; India's cheetah population has reached **60** after five cubs were born at Kuno. • MP's other cheetah sites: **Kuno National Park** and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**. • **Project Cheetah** began in **2022** as the world's first intercontinental large-carnivore translocation. • The reserve extends cheetahs into the **Bundelkhand** region; it already hosts tigers. • Also released: the **Vulture Population Estimation Report 2026**; wildlife tourism earned about **₹80 crore** this year.
Way Fwd	Spreading cheetahs across multiple sites reduces single-site risk, but prey density, water and community buffers remain key to a self-sustaining metapopulation.
Concept	MP is India's **'Tiger State'** with the largest **forest cover** by area. Cheetah is the world's fastest land animal; all **big cats** here are **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

MP Urban Conclave (28 Oct) to drive Simhastha 2028 and city investment

MADHYA PRADESH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I & GS-III (Urbanisation, Culture & Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Urban governance, municipal finance, heritage/pilgrimage economy. Prelims: AMRUT 2.0, Simhastha at Ujjain, urban financing tools.
Context	Madhya Pradesh will hold the **Urban Conclave 2026 at Indore on 28 October**, with a dedicated session on developing **Ujjain into a world-class pilgrimage city ahead of Simhastha 2028**.
Key Facts	• Financing tools on show: **PPPs, Urban Challenge Fund, green & municipal bonds, temple bonds** and viability gap funding. • Simhastha prep: **digital-twin modelling**, technology-based crowd and traffic management for Ujjain. • Themes include **AMRUT 2.0**, Namo Green City, EVs, waste-to-energy and compressed biogas (**CBG**). • Urban planning focus: **Transit-Oriented Development**, TDR, FAR reform and **ABPAS** building-permit automation. • CM **Mohan Yadav** to hold investor meetings and inaugurate urban projects.
Way Fwd	Linking Simhastha spending to lasting civic assets — water, transit, sanitation — can turn a one-time mega-event into durable urban capacity.
Concept	**Simhastha** is the Kumbh held at **Ujjain** on the **Kshipra** river, one of four Kumbh sites. **Municipal/green bonds** let cities raise market finance for infrastructure.

Cabinet boosts tribal school transport to ₹241.88 cr under Sandipani push

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

Syllabus Linkage	Tribal welfare, education access, PESA context. Prelims: MP's tribal demography, Sandipani schools, DBT outsourcing.
Context	Within the same Cabinet package, MP sanctioned **₹241.88 crore** for student transport at **94 Sandipani schools** under the **Tribal Affairs Department**, deepening education access for India's **largest tribal population** state.
Key Facts	• Per-student annual transport allocation rises from **₹10,000 to ₹21,000**, with a **5% yearly increase**. • Transport to be **outsourced and IT-monitored** for accountability. • MP has the country's **largest Scheduled Tribe population**; **PESA, 1996** governs Fifth Schedule areas. • Also cleared: **24 new posts** for Women & Child Development in new districts (Niwari, Mauganj, Pandhurna, Maihar). • Linked schemes: **Saksham Anganwadi, POSHAN 2.0** and Integrated Child Protection.
Way Fwd	Reliable transport tackles a key dropout driver in tribal belts; pairing it with hostels and nutrition can lift retention and learning outcomes.
Concept	**PESA, 1996** extends panchayat self-rule to Fifth Schedule tribal areas, empowering the Gram Sabha. Sandipani Vidyalayas are MP's upgraded government schools.

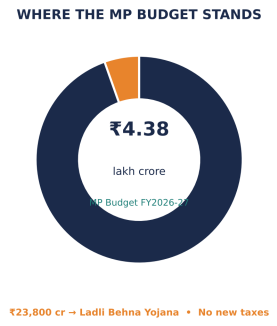
B SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

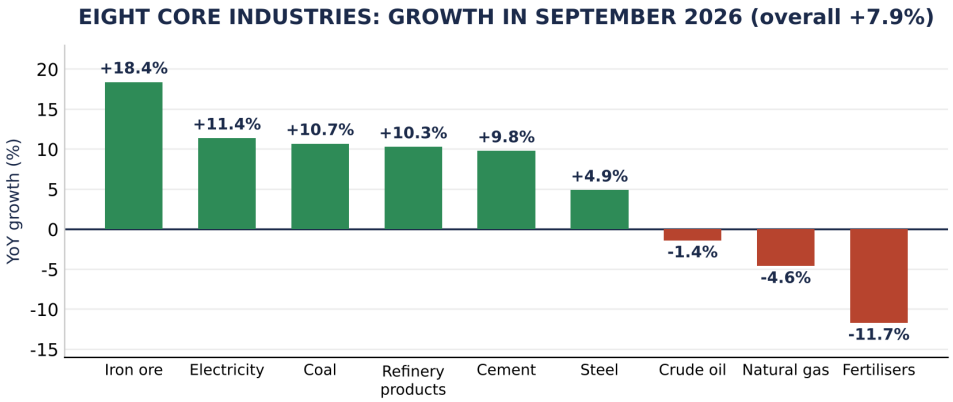
₹4.38 lakh crore

MP Budget FY2026-27

Madhya Pradesh's FY2026-27 Budget was presented at about **₹4.38 lakh crore** with **no new taxes**; **₹23,800 crore** was earmarked for the flagship **Ladli Behna Yojana** (₹1,500/month per beneficiary).



C SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD





Themes to revise today

Core industries grow a record 7.9% in September 2026

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

Syllabus Linkage	Industrial performance indicators, IIP linkage. Prelims: 8 core industries & weights, base year, compiling body.
Context	The Index of **Eight Core Industries** grew **7.9% in September 2026**, the highest since the new series began in April 2024, signalling broad-based industrial momentum.
Key Facts	• Growth led by **iron ore (18.4%)**, **electricity (11.4%)**, **coal (10.7%)** and refinery products (10.3%). • **Cement** rose 9.8% and **steel** 4.9%; **crude oil (-1.4%)**, **natural gas (-4.6%)** and **fertilisers (-11.7%)** contracted. • Fertiliser output has now fallen for **seven straight months**. • Compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser, **DPIIT**; new series base year is **2022-23**. • Wholesale (WPI) inflation stood at **11.4%** in September 2026.
Way Fwd	Sustained core-sector strength supports GDP and jobs, but weak fertiliser and gas output warrant policy attention ahead of the rabi season.
Concept	The **8 core industries** (coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, electricity) have about a **40%** weight in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

India to mandate 1% SAF blending on international flights from January

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

Syllabus Linkage	Energy transition, decarbonisation, aviation. Prelims: SAF, biofuels, net-zero targets.
Context	India plans to mandate **1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** blending for all international flights from **January**, its first concrete step to decarbonise aviation.
Key Facts	• **SAF** is made from feedstocks like used cooking oil, agri-residue and municipal waste; it cuts lifecycle CO2. • Aviation is a hard-to-abate sector; SAF blending supports India's **net-zero-by-2070** goal. • Separately, **NHPC** sought approval to fell over **23 lakh trees** for the Kamala hydel project in Arunachal Pradesh. • Links to the national **biofuel/ethanol** push and circular-economy feedstocks. • India targeted **20% ethanol blending** in petrol under its biofuel roadmap.
Way Fwd	Scaling SAF needs feedstock supply chains and price support so blending mandates do not sharply raise airfares.
Concept	**SAF** is a drop-in jet fuel that can cut emissions by up to ~80% over its lifecycle versus fossil jet fuel, without new aircraft engines.

RBI raises repo rate to 5.5% as inflation pressures widen

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

Syllabus Linkage	Monetary policy, inflation targeting. Prelims: MPC composition, repo rate, CPI target band, stance terms.
Context	The **RBI Monetary Policy Committee** raised the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.5%** — its first hike in over three years — citing widening inflationary pressures.
Key Facts	• The hike was **unanimous**; two external members dissented only on shifting the stance to **'calibrated tightening'**. • Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** projected headline **CPI near 6% in Q3**, staying above 5% for two quarters. • Share of CPI items with inflation above 4% rose to **37% in August** (from 20% in March). • **Core inflation** was **4.2% in August**; risks include West Asia conflict and high oil prices. • India's flexible inflation-targeting band is **4% (+/- 2%)**.
Way Fwd	The RBI must balance anchoring inflation expectations against protecting the growth recovery, keeping a close watch on food and fuel prices.
Concept	The **repo rate** is the rate at which the RBI lends to banks against securities. The **6-member MPC** sets policy to keep CPI inflation at **4% within a 2–6% band**.

Data of ~3,900 SBI customers surfaces on the dark web

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

Syllabus Linkage	Cyber security, data protection law. Prelims: DPDP Act 2023, CERT-In, SEBI disclosure norms.
Context	Personal data of **3,897 SBI customers** was found among about **3.75 lakh records** on the dark web, spotlighting India's cyber-resilience gaps and data-protection timelines.
Key Facts	• SBI learned of the leak from its threat-intelligence provider, the **Defence Cyber Agency** and **CERT-In** — not its own systems. • Disclosure to stock exchanges came **five days** after alerts, under **SEBI** listing norms; bank cites no material impact. • The **DPDP Act, 2023** duty to notify affected individuals takes effect only in **2027**. • Separately, eight web-security keys of a firm used by government/PSUs were reported leaked. • **CERT-In** is India's national nodal cyber-incident response agency.
Way Fwd	Faster breach notification, third-party audits and zero-trust architecture are needed as DPDP obligations phase in.
Concept	The **DPDP Act, 2023** governs processing of digital personal data, creating a Data Protection Board and duties for 'data fiduciaries'. **CERT-In** mandates incident reporting.

Rajnath Singh flags cross-border terror at SCO meet in Tajikistan

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

Syllabus Linkage	India's neighbourhood & multilateral diplomacy. Prelims: SCO members, CHG vs CHS, RATS, HQ.
Context	At the **SCO Council of Heads of Government** in **Tajikistan**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** argued that regional cooperation cannot succeed if terrorism is treated selectively.
Key Facts	• India stressed that connectivity and trade depend on a **stable security environment**. • Pakistan's Deputy PM **Ishaq Dar** was present at the meet. • Follows India's 2025 refusal to endorse the SCO statement at **Qingdao** that omitted the **Pahalgam** attack. • The **SCO** is a Eurasian security-economic bloc; India became a full member in **2017**. • SCO's counter-terror arm is **RATS** (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure), based in Tashkent.
Way Fwd	India seeks to keep terrorism central to SCO discourse while safeguarding its connectivity and energy interests in Central Asia.
Concept	The **SCO** has two councils: Heads of **State (CHS)** for strategy and Heads of **Government (CHG)** for economic/trade agenda. Its HQ is in **Beijing**.

D SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **India–New Zealand** signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on **Electronic Origin Data Exchange** to ease FTA trade.	**2.** The **Supreme Court** is examining the **religion-neutrality of OBC classification**.
3. India's cheetah population has reached **60** after five cub births at **Kuno**.	**4.** The new **core-sector** index series uses base year **2022-23** and is compiled by **DPIIT**.
5. Madhya Pradesh is India's **largest soybean producer** (~**45%** of output), centred on the **Malwa** plateau.	**6.** All **cetaceans** (whales, dolphins) are listed in **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, **1972**.

E SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana, consider the following statements:
1. It compensates farmers for the difference between the MSP and the market/model rate.
2. Under it, the government agency physically procures the crop at MSP.
3. It is implemented under the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme of PM-AASHA.
Which of the statements given above 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) Bhavantar pays the price difference and the farmer keeps selling in the mandi, so statement 2 (physical procurement) is wrong — that describes the Price Support Scheme (PSS). It runs under PDPS of PM-AASHA, so 1 and 3 are correct.

Q2. Consider the following national parks/reserves currently associated with Project Cheetah in Madhya Pradesh:
1. Kuno National Park
2. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve
How many of the above host cheetahs?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: (c) As of the latest release, all three — Kuno, Gandhi Sagar and Veerangana Durgavati — host cheetahs, making MP's third cheetah habitat. India's cheetah tally has reached 60.

Mains Practice: "Price-deficiency payment schemes such as Bhavantar can protect farmers without the fiscal and storage burden of physical procurement." In light of Madhya Pradesh's Soybean Bhavantar scheme, critically examine the strengths and limitations of this approach. (250 words)

Hint: Define Bhavantar vs PSS; strengths — no storage cost, market-linked, DBT transparency; limits — trader collusion suppressing mandi rates, model-rate design, budget caps, exclusion of unregistered farmers. Conclude with reforms (price monitoring, wider coverage).

★ **QUICK REVISION:** Today's must-revise: Bhavantar = MSP minus (higher of sale/model rate), under PDPS of PM-AASHA; Jabalpur–Indore Corridor SPV; MP cheetahs = Kuno + Gandhi Sagar + Veerangana Durgavati (India tally 60); core industries +7.9% (record); RBI repo 5.5%.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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