CURRENT AFFAIRS — 23 OCTOBER 2026

Friday, 23 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS · MPPSC

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MP Cabinet clears Soybean Bhavantar Scheme
- Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor SPV (₹100 cr) set up
- 'Bagh Didis' women-led tiger watch near Kanha
- Ladli Behna 41st: ₹1,834 cr to 1.25 cr+ women
- Cheetahs shifted to V. Durgavati TR; India count 60
- Viksit MP 2047 resolution; UCC Bill 2026 passed
- Army's new Land Warfare Doctrine released
- RBI MPC: repo 5.50% (+25 bps), calibrated tightening
- SC: internet access a fundamental right (Art 21)
- UNEP Emissions Gap 2026 → ~2.8°C; India–NZ FTA live

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

MP Cabinet clears Soybean Bhavantar Scheme & Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor

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

SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-III — agriculture, MSP & price-support; Prelims — MP economy, PM-AASHA, e-Uparjan, SPVs.
CONTEXT	The **Mohan Yadav** cabinet approved the **Soybean Bhavantar (Price Deficiency Payment) Scheme** for the **2026 kharif** season, along with development proposals worth about **₹27,050 crore** and a new industrial-corridor company.
KEY FACTS	• Bhavantar pays the gap between **MSP** and the higher of sale/model rate via **DBT**, under **PDPS of PM-AASHA**. • Farmers must register on the **e-Uparjan portal by 17 Oct 2026**. • **Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor Development Co. Ltd** — a 100% state **SPV** with **₹100 crore** paid-up capital. • SPV to develop industrial, agro-processing, logistics, IT parks & **GCCs** along the corridor. • MP is India's largest **soybean** producer — the 'Soybean State' (Malwa belt).
WAY FWD	Timely DBT and wider mandi coverage can shield farmers from price crashes and cut distress sales.
CONCEPT	**PM-AASHA** = PSS + PDPS + PSF. Bhavantar compensates price **deficiency** — it does not buy produce. Soybean: deep **Vertisol** (black-cotton) soil, SW-monsoon kharif crop.

'Bagh Didis' — women-led tiger watch launched near Kanha

MADHYA PRADESH — MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Forests) & GS-I (Society)

SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-III — conservation, human–wildlife conflict; GS-I — tribal society & women; Prelims — MP tiger reserves.
CONTEXT	The **MP Forest Department** launched **'Bagh Didis' (Tiger Sisters)** around **Kanha Tiger Reserve**, involving local, mainly **tribal women** in tiger-movement alerts to reduce human–tiger conflict.
KEY FACTS	• **~20 women** appointed in the first phase in villages near Kanha. • Trained to read **pugmarks**, report sightings and issue safety advisories. • Priority to **tribal women** and high-conflict villages. • **Kanha**: among the first **9 Project Tiger reserves (1973)**; national park since **1955**. • Famous for the hard-ground **Barasingha** — MP's **state animal**.
WAY FWD	Community-led, women-first models deepen coexistence and give locals a stake in conservation.
CONCEPT	**Project Tiger** (1973, NTCA); human–wildlife conflict mitigation; Kanha mascot 'Bhoorsingh the Barasingha'.

MADHYA PRADESH — THE 'TIGER STATE'



Ladli Behna 41st instalment — ₹1,834 crore to 1.25 crore+ women

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

SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-II — welfare schemes, women empowerment, DBT; Prelims — MP flagship schemes.
CONTEXT	CM **Mohan Yadav** released the **41st instalment** of the **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana**, transferring over **₹1,834 crore** to more than **1.25 crore women**, along with an LPG refill subsidy.
KEY FACTS	• Each woman gets **₹1,500/month** via **Aadhaar-linked DBT**. • **₹115.10 crore** two-month LPG (**₹450 cylinder**) subsidy to **23 lakh+** women. • Scheme allocation **₹23,882.81 crore** for **2026-27**; first instalment paid **June 2023**. • Also inaugurated/foundation-laid **136 works** worth about **₹144.16 crore**.
WAY FWD	Direct cash transfers boost women's financial autonomy but raise fiscal-sustainability questions.
CONCEPT	**DBT** + **JAM** trinity; women-centric welfare; conditional vs unconditional cash transfers.

'Viksit MP 2047' resolution adopted; Assembly passes UCC Bill, 2026

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

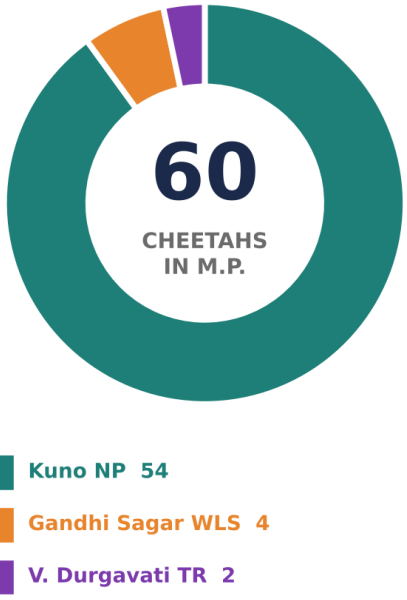
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-II — state policy, governance; GS-III — infrastructure & investment; Prelims — MP schemes, GIS.
CONTEXT	The MP cabinet adopted a **'Developed Madhya Pradesh for a Developed India'** resolution targeting **2047**, as the Assembly passed the **Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026** by voice vote.
KEY FACTS	• Pillars: **Ken-Betwa/PKC/Tapi** irrigation, **Bhopal–Indore Metro** (~₹23,000 cr), **PM MITRA** park (Dhar). • **GIS 2025** drew **₹30.77 lakh crore** proposals; **~₹10 lakh crore** under implementation. • Targets: **2 lakh+** govt jobs, **12** new medical colleges, **12** skill universities. • **Simhastha 2028** (Ujjain) prep; linked works to finish by **Diwali 2027**.
WAY FWD	Converting investment intent into on-ground jobs is the key execution challenge.
CONCEPT	**Viksit Bharat@2047**; cooperative & competitive federalism; **Simhastha** (Ujjain, on the Shipra) — one of four Kumbh sites.

Project Cheetah: Veerangana Durgavati becomes MP's 3rd cheetah home; India count hits 60

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

SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-III — biodiversity, species translocation; Prelims — protected areas of MP, NTCA, WII.
CONTEXT	With cheetahs **Vyom & Neera** shifted from **Kuno**, the **Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) Tiger Reserve** became MP's **third cheetah habitat**; India's cheetah population reached **60**.
KEY FACTS	• India's cheetahs now **60** (**41 India-born**) — all in **Madhya Pradesh**. • Habitats: **Kuno NP, Gandhi Sagar WLS, Veerangana Durgavati TR**. • Durgavati TR **~2,339 sq km** (Sagar–Damoh–Narsinghpur); **largest** TR in MP; **439-ha** release area. • **Project Cheetah** (2022): **NTCA** + MP Forest Dept + **WII**.
WAY FWD	Spreading cheetahs across reserves cuts disease/space risk and boosts Bundelkhand eco-tourism.
CONCEPT	World's first inter-continental **cheetah** translocation; **NTCA** — statutory under WLPA 1972; metapopulation strategy.

India's Cheetahs: all 60 are in Madhya Pradesh (41 born in India)



SOYBEAN BHAVANTAR SCHEME 2026 — Price Deficiency Payment (PDPS) under PM-AASHA



Madhya Pradesh — India's largest soybean producer ('Soybean State')

MUKHYAMANTRI LADLI BEHNA YOJANA — AT A GLANCE

₹1,500	1.25 cr+	41st	₹1,834 cr	₹23,883 cr
per month / woman	women beneficiaries	instalment released	transferred (Oct)	FY27 allocation

'DEVELOPED MADHYA PRADESH FOR A DEVELOPED INDIA' — Cabinet Resolution, 2047 Vision



SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

₹30.77 lakh crore

GIS 2025 • Bhopal

Global Investors Summit 2025 — Investment intent for Madhya Pradesh

Investment proposals received at **GIS 2025 (Bhopal)**; about **₹10 lakh crore** already under implementation. MP has rolled out **25 industrial policies** to court investors.

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

Army unveils new Land Warfare Doctrine at Commanders' Conference

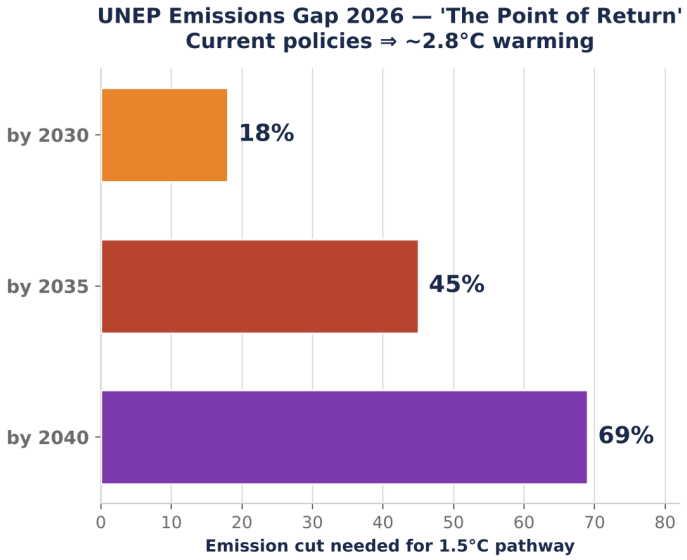
DEFENCE MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Internal & Defence Security)

SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-III — security, defence modernisation; Prelims — doctrines, apex defence structures.
CONTEXT	At the **Army Commanders' Conference (21–23 Oct, New Delhi)**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is releasing the Indian Army's new **Land Warfare Doctrine** today.
KEY FACTS	• Doctrine reorients land warfare for **drones, cyber & multi-domain** operations. • The **biannual apex conference** reviews operational preparedness. • Reflects lessons from recent operations and evolving threats.
WAY FWD	Doctrine-led modernisation must sync with **theaterisation** and indigenous procurement.
CONCEPT	**CDS** & integrated theatre commands; **Aatmanirbharta** in defence; multi-domain operations.

UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026 warns of ~2.8°C warming

ENVIRONMENT MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment) [REPORT]

SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-III — climate change, international reports; Prelims — UNEP, Paris Agreement, NDCs.
CONTEXT	**UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026**, 'The Point of Return', warns that current policies put the world on track for about **2.8°C** warming by 2100.
KEY FACTS	• Needed cuts for the 1.5°C path: **18% by 2030, 45% by 2035, 69% by 2040**. • Released ahead of the **COP** climate talks. • Stresses the fast-closing window to limit overshoot.
WAY FWD	Steeper NDCs, finance for the Global South and rapid coal-to-clean shifts are essential.
CONCEPT	**UNFCCC/Paris Agreement** 1.5°C goal; **NDCs**; net-zero; carbon budget.



RBI MPC minutes: repo hiked 25 bps to 5.50%, stance 'calibrated tightening'

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

SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-III — monetary policy, inflation; Prelims — RBI, MPC, policy rates & stances.
CONTEXT	The **63rd MPC (5–7 Oct)** raised the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%** — its first hike in about three years — and shifted the stance to **'calibrated tightening'**; the minutes were released on **21 Oct**.
KEY FACTS	• Decision **6-0**; **SDF 5.25%**, **MSF & Bank Rate 5.75%**. • **FY27 real GDP 7.1%**; **CPI 5.2%**, peaking at **6.0%** in Q3. • **CPI** rose to **4.8%** in Aug 2026 on food & fuel. • Next MPC meeting: **2–4 Dec 2026**.
WAY FWD	Front-loaded tightening aims to anchor inflation expectations without choking growth.
CONCEPT	**Repo rate**; **MPC** (6 members); flexible inflation targeting at **4% ± 2%**; policy stances.

Supreme Court recognises internet access as a fundamental right

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

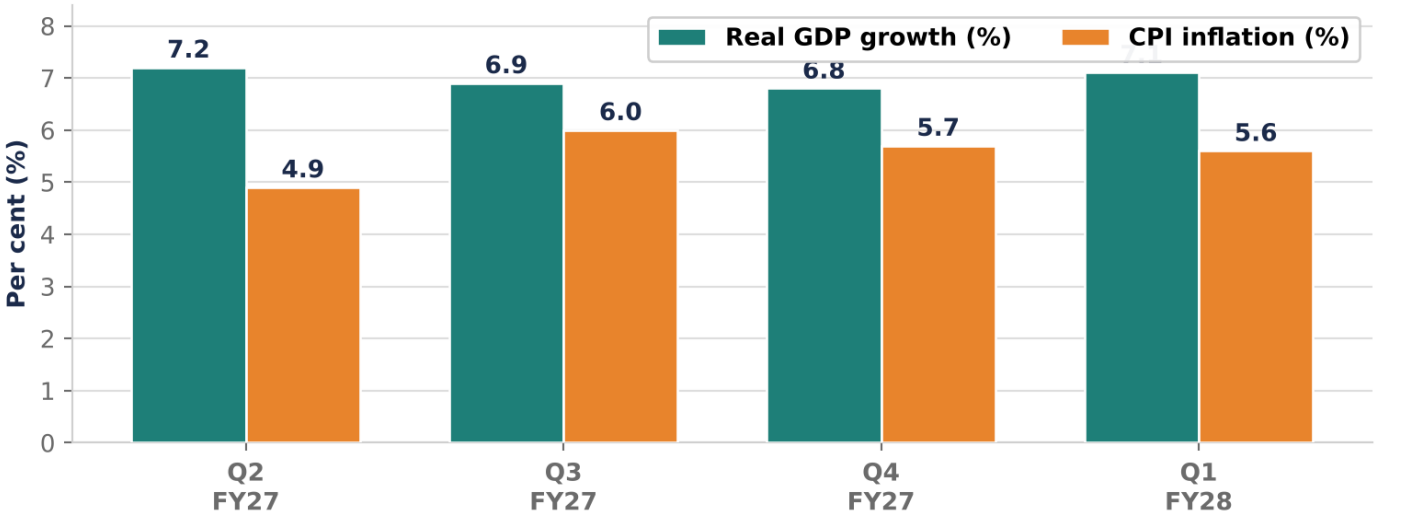
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-II — fundamental rights, judiciary; Prelims — Articles 19 & 21, landmark judgments.
CONTEXT	The **Supreme Court** held that **access to the internet** is a fundamental right under **Article 21** read with **Article 19(1)(a)**, favouring targeted safeguards over blanket bans.
KEY FACTS	• Arose from a plea concerning **child sexual exploitation material (CSEAM)**. • Children must not be cut off; action should target the **sources of harm**. • Builds on **Anuradha Bhasin (2020)** digital-rights jurisprudence.
WAY FWD	Age-appropriate design and targeted takedowns can balance safety with access.
CONCEPT	**Art 19(1)(a)** free speech; **Art 21** life & liberty; reasonable restrictions doctrine.

India–New Zealand FTA enters into force

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

SYLLABUS	MPPSC Mains GS-II — trade agreements, foreign policy; Prelims — FTA/CECA/CEPA, rules of origin.
CONTEXT	The **India-New Zealand FTA** entered into force on **20 Oct 2026**; CBIC and NZ Customs also signed a pact on **electronic exchange of origin data**.
KEY FACTS	• Boosts goods trade, services access and dairy-sensitive negotiations. • Customs pact speeds up **rules-of-origin** verification. • Part of India's widening **FTA network** (UAE, Australia, EFTA, UK).
WAY FWD	Deeper Indo-Pacific economic ties help diversify India's trade basket.
CONCEPT	**FTA/CECA/CEPA**; rules of origin; India's **Act East** / Indo-Pacific strategy.

RBI MPC Projections • Repo Rate 5.50% (+25 bps) • FY27 GDP 7.1% | CPI 5.2%



SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

- **Barasingha** (hard-ground swamp deer) is the **state animal of MP**; Kanha's mascot is 'Bhoorsingh'.
- India's **cheetah** population reached **60** (41 India-born), all housed in Madhya Pradesh.
- India's **eight core industries** grew **7.9%** YoY in **Sept 2026** (base year **2022-23**).
- **Global Hunger Index 2026**: India ranked **100 of 122**, score **24.1** ('serious' category).
- **PLFS (Sept 2026)**: unemployment **5.0%**, LFPR **55.5%**, female LFPR **34.6%**.
- **Jio Platforms IPO** (**₹30,213 crore**, all fresh equity) closes **23 Oct 2026**.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Soybean Bhavantar Scheme, consider the following statements: (1) It is implemented under the Price Deficiency Payment (PDPS) component of PM-AASHA. (2) It pays farmers the difference between MSP and the market/model price through DBT. (3) Under this scheme the government physically procures soybean at MSP. Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (A) PDPS compensates the price deficiency via DBT without physical procurement; physical procurement at MSP is the Price Support Scheme (PSS), not PDPS. Hence (1) and (2) are correct, (3) is wrong.

Q2. Which of the following are currently cheetah habitats in Madhya Pradesh? (1) Kuno National Park (2) Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (3) Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) Tiger Reserve (4) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. Select the correct answer:

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (B) Kuno NP, Gandhi Sagar WLS and the newly added Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi) TR host cheetahs. Bandhavgarh is a tiger reserve, not a cheetah habitat.

MAINS PRACTICE

Community participation — especially of tribal women — is emerging as a cornerstone of wildlife conservation in Madhya Pradesh. Discuss with reference to recent initiatives. (GS-III, 250 words)

Hint: Anchor on 'Bagh Didis' (Kanha) + Project Cheetah soft-release + PESA/tribal rights + eco-tourism livelihoods; argue a coexistence model balancing conservation and local stake.

ONE-LINE REVISION

Soybean Bhavantar (PDPS/PM-AASHA) • Cheetahs 60 across 3 MP reserves • RBI repo 5.50% • Internet = Fundamental Right (Art 21 + 19(1)(a)) • Army Land Warfare Doctrine • India–NZ FTA in force.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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