CURRENT AFFAIRS — 26-10-2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

Monday, 26 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MP launches 'Bagh Didis' women tiger-alert network near Kanha
- MP Cabinet clears ₹27,050 cr; soybean Bhavantar Yojana 2026 begins
- Veerangana Durgavati = MP's 3rd cheetah home; India's cheetahs hit 60
- Ladli Behna 41st instalment: ₹1,834 cr to 1.25 crore women
- GI tag for Jabalpuri Matar & Jabalpur Singhada
- Operation Trident: NCB busts NE drug–hawala network (₹100 cr)
- PM opens RBI data centre & cyber institute at Bhubaneswar (₹169 cr)
- Free-bus schemes raise women's trip share to 45% (NSO data)
- India at UN pushes SAARC revival, targets Pakistan
- US H-1B $100,000 fee set to hit Indian tech talent

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

'Bagh Didis' (Tiger Sisters): MP's women-led tiger-alert network

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP wildlife, Project Tiger); Mains GS-III — biodiversity & human-wildlife conflict; GS-I MP tribal society.
Context	The **MP Forest Department** has launched the **'Bagh Didis' (Tiger Sisters)** initiative in villages around **Kanha Tiger Reserve** to involve local women in tracking tiger movement and cutting human–tiger conflict.
Key Facts	■ First phase trains about **20 women**, prioritising **tribal women** and high-conflict villages. ■ Roles: report **pugmarks** and sightings, relay **safety advisories**, discourage entry into tiger zones. ■ **Kanha** lies in the **Maikal range of the Satpuras** (Mandla & Balaghat); national park since **1955**, among the first **9 Project Tiger reserves (1973)**. ■ Famous for reviving the **hard-ground Barasingha** — MP's **state animal**; mascot **'Bhoorsingh the Barasingha'**.
Way Fwd	Women-led, community monitoring can become a replicable coexistence model across MP's **9 tiger reserves**.
Concept	**Project Tiger (1973)**; **human-wildlife conflict**; **community conservation**; MP = the **'Tiger State'**.

Veerangana Durgavati is MP's 3rd cheetah home; India's cheetahs reach 60

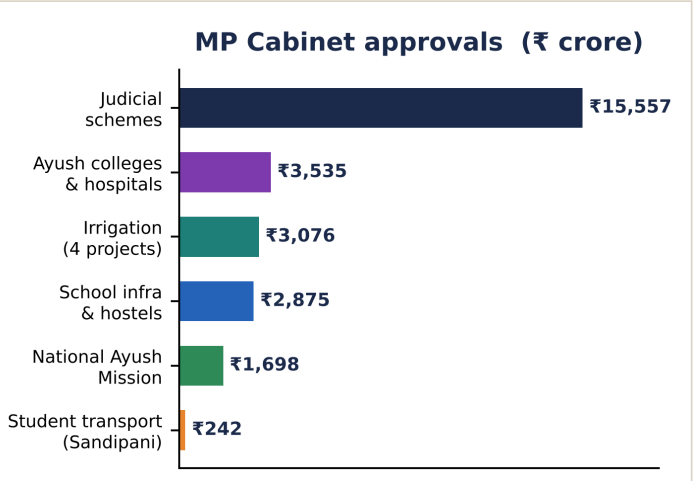
MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Wildlife)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (Project Cheetah, MP protected areas); Mains GS-III — species reintroduction & conservation.
Context	**CM Mohan Yadav** released cheetahs **Vyom and Neera** at the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** in **Sagar district (Bundelkhand)**, making it MP's **third cheetah habitat** after **Kuno** and **Gandhi Sagar**.
Key Facts	■ India's **cheetah population reached 60** after **5 cubs** were born at **Kuno** this week. ■ **Project Cheetah** began in **2022** with the world's first inter-continental reintroduction at **Kuno National Park**. ■ The two cheetahs were translocated from **Kuno**; two more are planned next month. ■ MP is both the **'Cheetah State'** and the **'Tiger State'**, with India's largest forest cover.
Way Fwd	A third habitat spreads reintroduction risk and helps build a **metapopulation** across central India.
Concept	**Project Cheetah**; **reintroduction/rewilding**; **IUCN** translocation norms; **metapopulation**.

MP Cabinet clears ₹27,050 cr: soybean Bhavantar & Jabalpur–Indore corridor

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP schemes, MSP, DBT); Mains GS-III — agri-marketing, industrial policy, state economy.
Context	A **Cabinet** chaired by **CM Dr Mohan Yadav** approved proposals worth about **₹27,050 crore**, headlined by the **Bhavantar Yojana 2026** for soybean and a new **Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor**.
Key Facts	■ **Bhavantar Yojana 2026**: pays the gap between **MSP** and sale price via **DBT**; soybean mandi sales **22 Oct 2026 – 15 Jan 2027**; registration on **e-Uparjan**; Mandi Board credit limit up to **₹1,500 crore**. ■ **Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor Development Co. Ltd** — a state **SPV** with **₹100 crore** seed capital for industrial, agri-processing, logistics & IT parks. ■ Other heads: **irrigation ₹3,076 cr**, Ayush colleges **₹3,535 cr**, school infra **₹2,875 cr**, Sandipani student transport **₹241.88 cr**. ■ MP is India's largest **soybean** producer — the **'Soybean State'**.
Way Fwd	Price-deficit support plus corridor-led industrialisation aim to raise farm incomes and private investment together.
Concept	**MSP vs Bhavantar (price-deficit) model**; **DBT**; **SPV**; **economic corridor**.



Ladli Behna: 41st instalment of ₹1,834 cr sent to 1.25 crore women

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP welfare schemes, DBT); Mains GS-II — women empowerment & welfare delivery.
Context	**CM Mohan Yadav** released the **41st instalment** of the **Ladli Behna Yojana** at **Umaria**, transferring over **₹1,834 crore** to about **1.25 crore women**.
Key Facts	■ Regular beneficiaries get **₹1,500/month**; pensioners get **₹900/month**. ■ Launched **10 June 2023** at **₹1,000**, raised to **₹1,250**, then **₹1,500 (Nov 2025)**. ■ Total paid since launch has crossed **₹65,000 crore**; 2026-27 outlay is **₹23,882.81 crore**. ■ Payments flow through **DBT**; status at **cmladlibahna.mp.gov.in**.
Way Fwd	Direct cash transfers aid women's financial autonomy but weigh on the state's **fiscal** space.
Concept	**DBT**; **women's financial inclusion**; **welfarism vs fiscal prudence**.

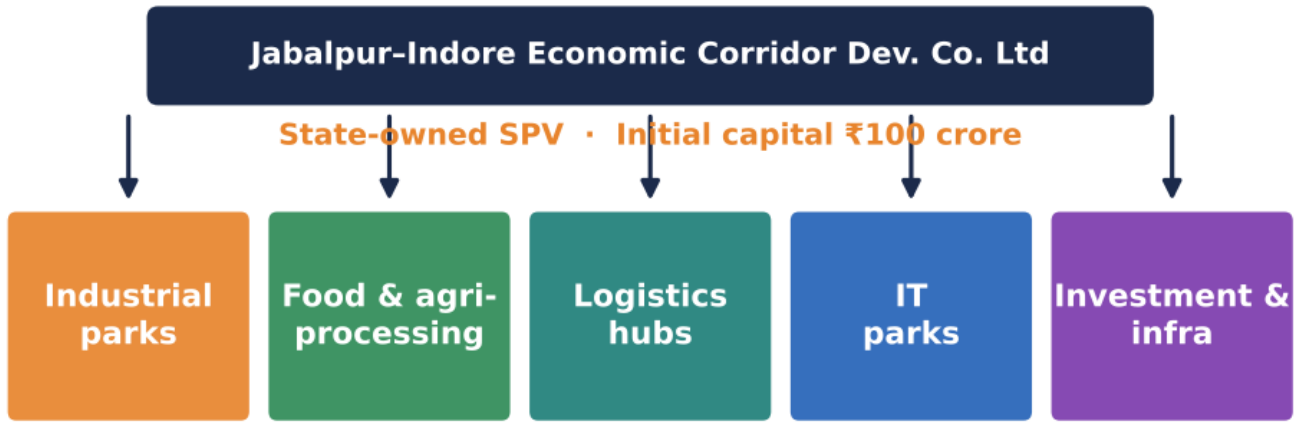
GI tag for Jabalpuri Matar (peas) & Jabalpur Singhada (water chestnut)

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (GI tags of MP); Mains GS-III — agri-marketing, GI as IPR.
Context	**Jabalpuri Matar (peas)** and **Jabalpur Singhada (water chestnut)** received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** — **Jabalpur** is the first region in India to get a GI for these two crops.
Key Facts	■ A **GI tag** marks goods from a specific origin whose qualities are tied to that place. ■ Administered under the **GI of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999**. ■ Adds to MP's GI basket — e.g., **Chanderi & Maheshwari sarees, Ratlami Sev, Morena Gajak**.
Way Fwd	GI branding can raise farmer incomes and shield regional produce from imitation.
Concept	**GI tag**; **IPR**; **TRIPS**; **One District One Product (ODOP)** linkage.

MADHYA PRADESH — India's wildlife capital





Ladli Behna Yojana — 41st instalment



SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

7.0%

IMF — India real GDP growth, 2026-27

The **IMF** raised India's **FY2026-27** growth forecast to **7.0%**, citing **strong domestic demand** and keeping India the **fastest-growing major economy**.

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

Operation Trident: NCB-led crackdown on Northeast drug networks

POLITY **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Internal Security)**

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (NCB, ED, agencies); Mains GS-III — internal security & money laundering.
Context	The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**, with state police and the **ED**, raided **38 locations** across **Assam, Mizoram and Manipur** under **Operation Trident**.
Key Facts	■ **18 arrests**; a **₹100 crore hawala** trail traced; **1,424 bank accounts frozen**. ■ Assets of about **₹17.82 crore** attached; **500 detonators** and **₹12 lakh** cash seized. ■ One ED-tracked counter made **2,947 transfers worth ₹175.03 crore (2024 – Jun 2026)**. ■ Stated target: dismantle drug networks by **31 December 2029**.
Way Fwd	Follow-the-money enforcement linking narcotics to terror financing needs sustained inter-agency coordination.
Concept	**NCB**; **ED / PMLA**; **hawala**; **narco-terrorism**; **NDPS Act, 1985**.

PM opens RBI data centre & Cybersecurity Training Institute, Bhubaneswar

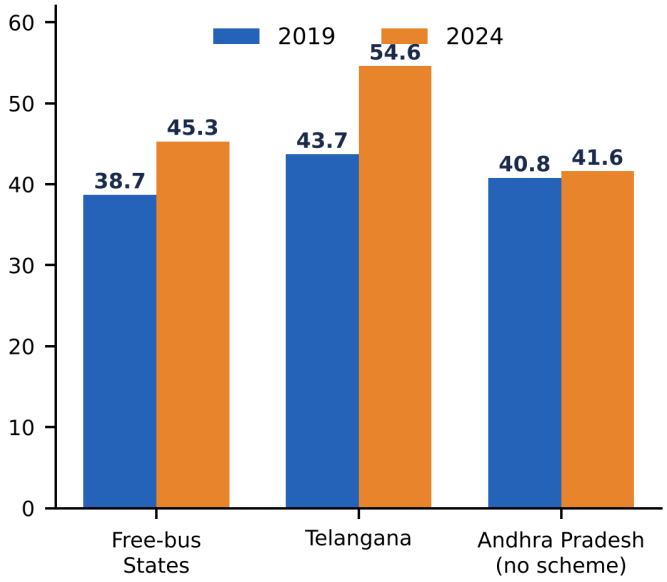
SCI-TECH **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Science-Tech & Economy)**

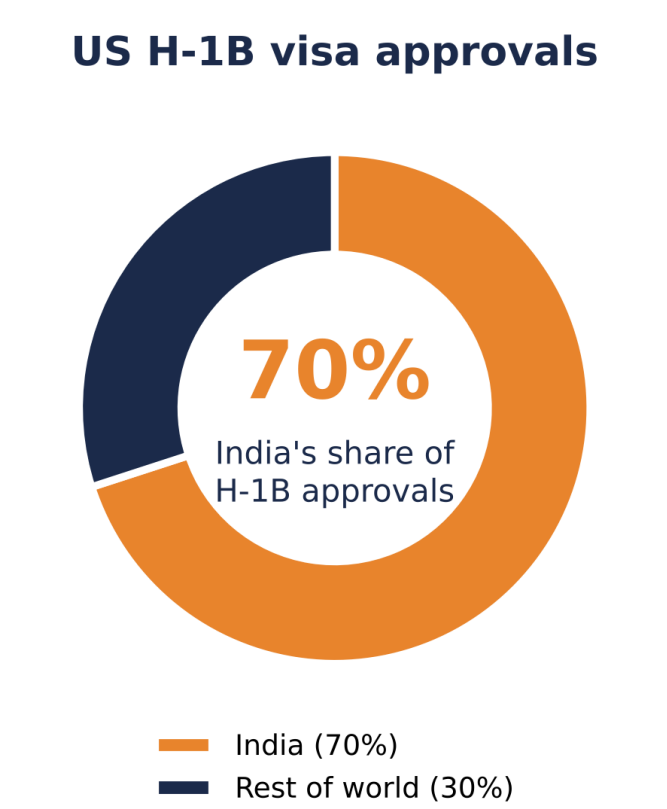
Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (RBI, cybersecurity); Mains GS-III — digital infra & cyber resilience.
Context	**PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **RBI's ₹169-crore data centre** and a **Cybersecurity Training Institute** at **Bhubaneswar**, stressing protection of banks from cyber threats.
Key Facts	■ The institute will build **skilled manpower** and resilient **financial digital infrastructure**. ■ Comes amid rising **cyber-fraud** in banking and UPI-era digital payments. ■ **RBI** is India's central bank and banking regulator, established in **1935**.
Way Fwd	Dedicated training and **data sovereignty** strengthen trust in India's digital financial system.
Concept	**Cybersecurity**; **data localisation**; **RBI**; **digital public infrastructure (DPI)**.

Free bus schemes lift women's mobility — NSO Time Use data

REPORT **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I/II (Society & Social Justice)**

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (Time Use Survey, NSO); Mains GS-I society, GS-II welfare.
Context	An analysis of **NSO Time Use Surveys (2019 & 2024)** shows **free bus travel for women** markedly raised their share of trips.
Key Facts	■ In free-bus states, women's trip share rose **38.7%→45.3%** (+6.6 pts) vs **+3.7 pts** for men. ■ **Telangana**: women's share **43.7%→54.6%**; **Andhra Pradesh** (no scheme) barely moved **40.8%→41.6%**. ■ Schemes run in **Punjab, Tamil Nadu (2021), Karnataka (2023), Telangana (2023)**. ■ **Care-related trips** nearly **tripled** in free-bus states.
Way Fwd	Affordable public transport is a lever for women's **workforce participation** and autonomy.
Concept	**Time Use Survey**; **NSO**; **gendered mobility**; **feminisation of the workforce**.





India at UN: pushes SAARC revival, calls out Pakistan's 'real rulers'

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (UN, SAARC, BIMSTEC); Mains GS-II — India's neighbourhood & groupings.
Context	At the **UN General Assembly Third Committee**, India's diplomat said Pakistan's **military** are its 'real rulers' and urged a **revival of SAARC**, dormant since **2016**.
Key Facts	■ **SAARC** has **8 members**, HQ **Kathmandu**, founded **1985**. ■ India withdrew from the **2016 SAARC summit** after the **Uri attack**. ■ India increasingly backs **BIMSTEC**-led sub-regional connectivity as an alternative.
Way Fwd	India balances a stalled SAARC with **BIMSTEC**-led sub-regionalism.
Concept	**SAARC**; **BIMSTEC**; **UNGA**; **Neighbourhood First policy**.

US tightens H-1B: $100,000 fee to hit Indian tech talent

IR MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (IR & Diaspora)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (H-1B, migration, remittances); Mains GS-II — diaspora & India-US ties.
Context	New US measures include a **$100,000 payment** on certain new **H-1B** petitions and a **wage-weighted** selection system, hitting Indian professionals hardest.
Key Facts	■ **Indian nationals receive ~70%** of all H-1B approvals. ■ Measures also suspend some **PERM** labour-certification processing. ■ Raises costs for India's **IT services** exporters and skilled migrants. ■ India is the world's largest recipient of **remittances** (~**$129 billion**, 2024).
Way Fwd	India must deepen domestic high-skill job creation and diversify services exports.
Concept	**H-1B visa**; **brain drain/gain**; **remittances**; **India-US economic ties**.

Siang Upper project: CRPF deployed as protests rock Arunachal

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (rivers, hydro projects); Mains GS-III — environment vs development; GS-II border security.
Context	The Centre deployed **two CRPF RAF companies (~250 personnel)** to **Pasighat** after violence during protests against the **11,200-MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project**.
Key Facts	■ Locals cite **displacement** and **ecological** risks in the eco-sensitive **Eastern Himalaya**. ■ The dam is a strategic counter to **China's dam-building on the Yarlung Tsangpo**. ■ The **Siang** is called **Yarlung Tsangpo** in Tibet and **Brahmaputra** downstream.
Way Fwd	Balancing strategic hydro needs with tribal rights and ecology demands genuine **consultation**.
Concept	**Brahmaputra/Siang/Yarlung Tsangpo**; **FRA / PESA consent**; **transboundary rivers**; **EIA**.

Operation Trident — NCB anti-narcotics drive (NE India)



SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. State animal of MP: the **hard-ground Barasingha**; Kanha's mascot is **'Bhoorsingh'**.	**2. Project Cheetah** began in **2022** at **Kuno National Park**, Sheopur.
3. Bhavantar Yojana pays the gap between **MSP** and mandi price via **DBT**.	**4.** The **NCB** works under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**; the **NDPS Act** dates to **1985**.
5. SAARC was founded in **1985**, HQ **Kathmandu**; it has been dormant since **2016**.	**6.** India's share of global **H-1B** visa approvals is about **70%**.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, recently in news as a cheetah habitat, is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?

(a) Sheopur **(b)** Mandsaur **(c)** Sagar **(d)** Panna

Ans: C. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is in **Sagar district** (Bundelkhand) and is MP's **third cheetah habitat** after Kuno (Sheopur) and Gandhi Sagar (Mandsaur-Neemuch).

Q2. With reference to Madhya Pradesh's Bhavantar Yojana 2026, consider: 1) It pays the difference between MSP and sale price. 2) Payment is made through DBT. 3) It is being implemented for soybean in the Kharif 2026 season. Which 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 — the **price-deficit** amount (MSP minus sale price) is paid via **DBT** for **soybean**, Kharif 2026.

Mains Practice: Community-based, women-led conservation models such as Madhya Pradesh's 'Bagh Didis' can reconcile wildlife protection with tribal livelihoods. Discuss. (250 words)
Hint: *Link human-wildlife conflict, Project Tiger, PESA/FRA rights and women's agency; use Kanha as a case study and suggest scaling across MP's tiger reserves.*

★ **REVISION BOX: Remember today: MP = Tiger + Cheetah State (3 habitats, 60 cheetahs) · Bhavantar 2026 for soybean · Ladli Behna ₹1,500/month (41st instalment ₹1,834 cr) · Operation Trident (NCB) · IMF pegs India at 7.0%.**

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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