CURRENT AFFAIRS — 28 OCT 2026

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Wednesday, 28 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

MP Cabinet clears **₹8,225 cr** basket (27 Oct)	Irrigation **₹3,378.69 cr**; Chhindwara **1.9 lakh ha**
CAMPA 2026-27: **₹2,050 cr** for forests	Kuno cheetah **KNG22** dies of pellet injuries
India's wild cheetah count down to **58**	Ladli Behna 41st: **₹1,834 cr** to **1.25 cr** women
Simhastha 2028: Ujjain gets **₹539 cr** push	RBI repo steady at **5.50%**, tightening stance
SCO: India invites a **Pakistan minister**	**SIMBEX-2026** — 33rd India-Singapore naval drill

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

MP Cabinet clears ₹8,225 crore for irrigation, forests & welfare

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

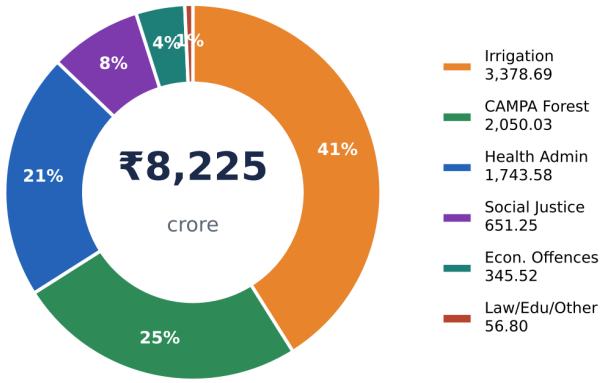
Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP schemes & polity) + Mains GS-III (state economy, infrastructure) and GS-II (governance).
Context	The Mohan Yadav Cabinet on 27 Oct 2026 approved outlays exceeding ₹8,225 crore spanning irrigation, forest conservation, welfare and administration for the new Finance Commission cycle.
Key Facts	■ Total outlay **over ₹8,225 crore** cleared on **27 October 2026**. ■ **Irrigation ₹3,378.69 cr** — Chhindwara Complex (**₹2,611 cr, 1,90,500 ha**), Pench Diversion, Chentikheda, Panchamnagar. ■ **Health administration ₹1,743.58 cr**; **Economic Offences Wing ₹345.52 cr**. ■ Post-facto nod to sale of **7 lakh MT** lustre-lost **wheat** by the State Civil Supplies Corporation.
Way Fwd	Micro-irrigation (**drip & sprinkler**) in the **Narmada belt** can lift the 'Soybean State's' cropping intensity if execution stays on schedule.
Concept	**CAMPA** = Compensatory Afforestation Fund; the **16th Finance Commission** cycle runs **2026-27 to 2030-31**; irrigation is a **State subject**.

Kuno cheetah KNG22 dies of pellet injuries; Centre orders probe

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (Project Cheetah, MP national parks) + Mains GS-III (conservation, wildlife crime).
Context	A 19-month-old male cheetah KNG22 — a cub of Nirva — found injured near Kuno on 25 Oct died on 27 Oct 2026; the Union MoEFCC deputed a central team to probe.
Key Facts	■ **KNG22** died **27 Oct 2026**; **five firearm pellets** were removed in surgery at Jabalpur. ■ Found in the **Sheopur/Morena territorial forest**, outside **Kuno National Park**. ■ India now has **58 cheetahs**: **Kuno 52, Gandhi Sagar 4, Veerangana Durgavati 2**. ■ Probe team: **NTCA** IG and **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau** officers; MP set up a Special Task Force.
Way Fwd	Tighter buffer-zone patrolling and community outreach are vital as cheetahs disperse beyond Kuno into human-dominated landscapes.
Concept	**Project Cheetah (2022)** was the world's first inter-continental large-carnivore translocation; the cheetah is **IUCN Vulnerable** and **CITES Appendix I**.

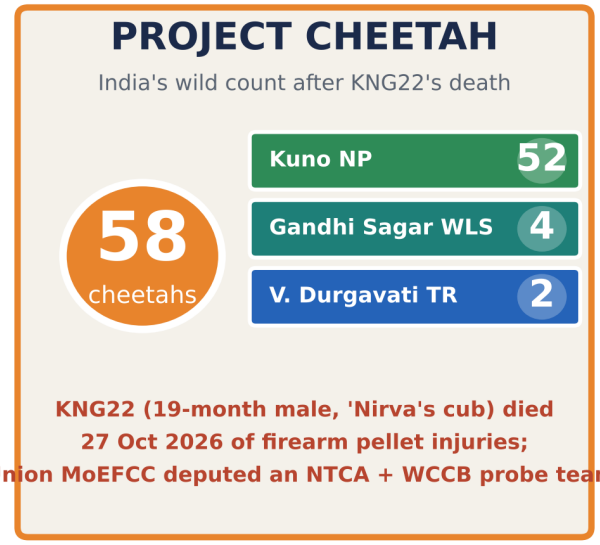
MP Cabinet Outlay (₹ cr) • 27 Oct 2026

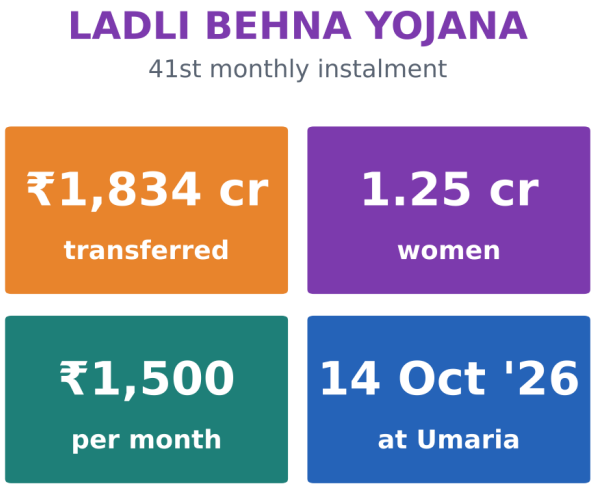


CAMPA 2026-27: Madhya Pradesh earmarks ₹2,050 crore for forests

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Mains GS-III (environment, forestry); Prelims (MP forests — largest forest cover state).
Context	In the same Cabinet meeting, MP approved its CAMPA Annual Plan of Operations worth ₹2,050.03 crore for 2026-27.
Key Facts	■ **CAMPA outlay ₹2,050.03 crore** for FY **2026-27**. ■ Funds **compensatory & catchment plantation** and degraded-forest restoration. ■ Supports **voluntary village relocation** from protected areas, habitat work and **urban forests**. ■ MP has **India's largest forest cover** and is the **'Tiger State'**.
Way Fwd	Tying CAMPA relocation to cheetah and tiger habitats can ease man-animal conflict across Kuno, Kanha and Bandhavgarh.
Concept	**CAMPA** operates under the **CAF Act 2016**; afforestation offsets forest land diverted for non-forest use (**Van Adhiniyam / FC Act 1980**).





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

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (MP flagship schemes) + Mains GS-II (women empowerment, DBT delivery).
Context	CM Mohan Yadav transferred the 41st monthly instalment of the Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana on 14 Oct 2026 at Umaria.
Key Facts	■ **₹1,834 crore** transferred to about **1.25 crore women** (41st instalment). ■ Regular beneficiaries receive **₹1,500 a month** via **DBT**. ■ Scheme launched in **2023** to boost women's financial autonomy and nutrition. ■ The CM has flagged the scheme's growing **fiscal burden**.
Way Fwd	Sustaining DBT welfare while protecting capital spending will test MP's fiscal space under the new Finance Commission award.
Concept	**DBT** = Direct Benefit Transfer; cash transfers to women draw on conditional-transfer theory to raise agency.

Ujjain gears up for Simhastha 2028 with a ₹539 crore push

SOCIETY	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Art, Culture & Geography)

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (Ujjain, Kumbh, Kshipra) + Mains GS-I (fairs, festivals, heritage of MP).
Context	CM Mohan Yadav performed bhoomi-pujan for ₹539 crore of works in Ujjain, part of a larger Simhastha 2028 preparation drive reported at around ₹13,851 crore.
Key Facts	■ **₹539 crore** of projects launched; total prep reported near **₹13,851 crore**. ■ **Simhastha 2028** is the Ujjain **Kumbh** on the **Kshipra (Shipra)** river. ■ Held every **12 years**; one of four Kumbh sites with **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik**. ■ Ujjain hosts the **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga** and the Mahakal Lok corridor.
Way Fwd	Durable civic infrastructure, not just event-time works, is the stated aim so the city benefits well beyond 2028.
Concept	**Simhastha** occurs when **Jupiter enters Leo (Simha rashi)**; it anchors MP's religious-tourism economy.

CAMPA Annual Plan 2026-27 • ₹2,050.03 crore

Compensatory Afforestation Fund — where MP will spend it

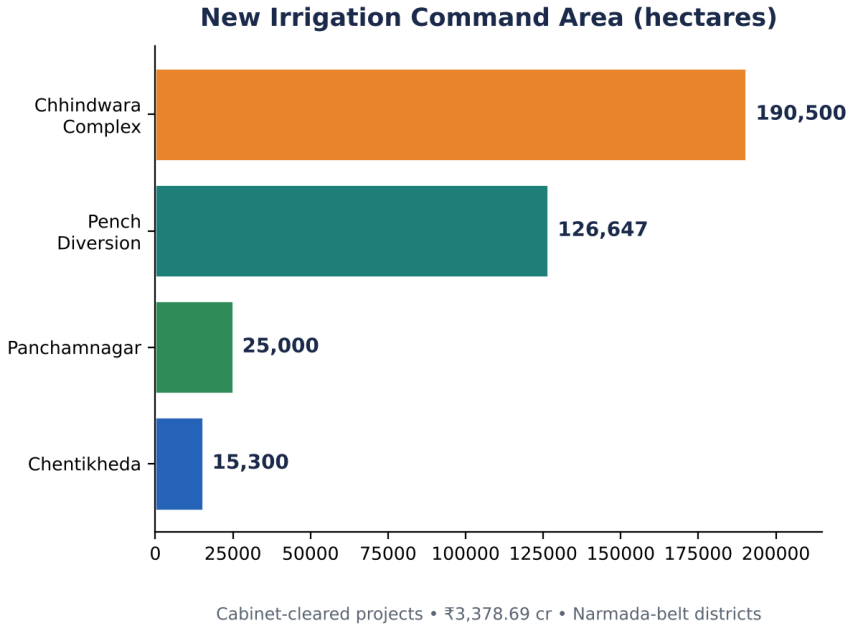


SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

NEW IRRIGATION COMMAND AREA CLEARED BY THE MP CABINET

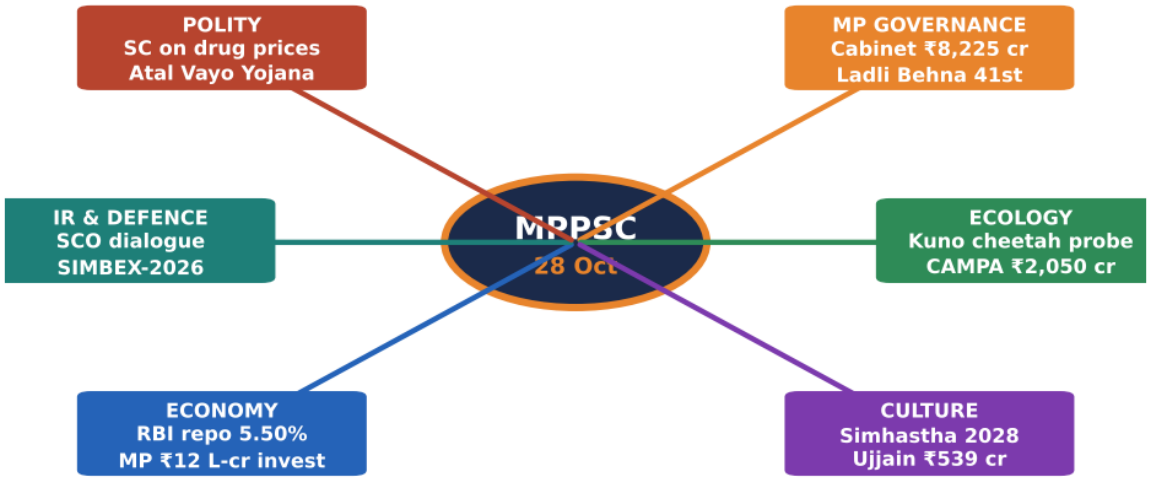
1,90,500 hectares

Chhindwara Complex alone (**₹2,611 crore**); part of **₹3,378.69 crore** and about **3.57 lakh hectares** of irrigation cleared on 27 Oct 2026.



Cabinet-cleared projects • ₹3,378.69 cr • Narmada-belt districts

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD



SCO Civilisational Dialogue: India invites a Pakistan minister

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (SCO, India's groupings) + Mains GS-II (India and its neighbourhood, multilateralism).
Context	India has invited a Pakistan minister to the SCO Civilisational Dialogue in New Delhi in November — the first such invitation since 2023.
Key Facts	■ First Indian invite to a **Pakistan minister since 2023** for an **SCO** event. ■ **SCO** = Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; India has been a full member since **2017**. ■ The event is the **SCO Civilisational Dialogue**, New Delhi, **November 2026**. ■ A joint **BRICS** declaration separately condemned the Pahalgam attack and sought UNSC reform.
Way Fwd	Multilateral platforms let India keep channels open without committing to bilateral normalisation.
Concept	**SCO** HQ is in **Beijing**; its **RATS** (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure) is based in **Tashkent**.

Japan pitches ₹8-10 lakh crore of investment into India

IR — **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (IR) & GS-III (Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Mains GS-II (bilateral partnerships) and GS-III (FDI, manufacturing).
Context	Japan has pitched investments of ₹8-10 lakh crore into India across manufacturing, infrastructure and clean energy.
Key Facts	■ Proposed Japanese investment of **₹8-10 lakh crore** in India. ■ Focus areas: **manufacturing, infrastructure, clean energy and semiconductors**. ■ Builds on the India-Japan **Special Strategic & Global Partnership**. ■ Japan is a key **Quad** partner with India, the US and Australia.
Way Fwd	Stable long-term FDI from Japan supports India's goal of raising manufacturing's share of GDP.
Concept	**FDI** = Foreign Direct Investment; the **Quad** is the India-US-Japan-Australia grouping.

SIMBEX-2026: 33rd India-Singapore maritime exercise concludes

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

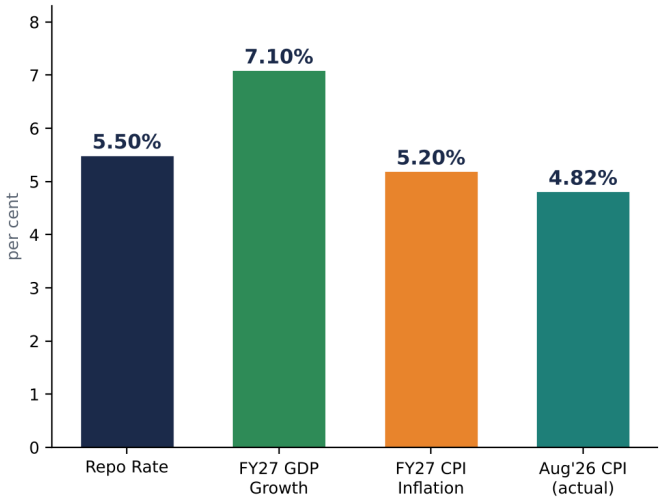
Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (joint exercises) + Mains GS-III (maritime security, Indo-Pacific).
Context	The 33rd edition of SIMBEX, the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise, concluded, deepening naval interoperability.
Key Facts	■ **SIMBEX-2026** was the **33rd edition** of the India-Singapore naval exercise. ■ It enhances **maritime interoperability** across the Indo-Pacific. ■ SIMBEX began in **1994**, one of India's longest continuous naval exercises. ■ It complements India's **SAGAR** maritime vision.
Way Fwd	Regular drills reinforce India's role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region.
Concept	**SAGAR** = Security and Growth for All in the Region, India's Indo-Pacific maritime doctrine.

RBI holds the line: repo rate 5.50%, 'calibrated tightening'

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (monetary policy, RBI) + Mains GS-III (growth, inflation, fiscal-monetary mix).
Context	The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee raised the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% on 7 Oct 2026 and switched its stance to 'calibrated tightening'.
Key Facts	■ **Repo rate 5.50%** (**+25 bps**); stance now **calibrated tightening**. ■ **FY27 GDP growth** projected at **7.1%**; **CPI inflation at 5.2%**. ■ Decision was **unanimous**; MPC chaired by Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**. ■ August 2026 retail inflation stood at **4.82%**.
Way Fwd	Further action is likely limited to a hike or a pause as the RBI guards against inflation re-acceleration.
Concept	The **MPC** is a 6-member body; India's inflation target is **4% ±2%** under flexible inflation targeting.

RBI Monetary Policy — 7 Oct 2026



Stance shifted to 'Calibrated Tightening' (+25 bps)

Supreme Court: economic policy cannot outweigh citizens' lives

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (Fundamental Rights, regulators) + Mains GS-II (judiciary, health governance).
Context	Hearing a challenge to the Centre's calibrated drug-price controls, the Supreme Court observed that economic policy cannot outweigh citizens' lives.
Key Facts	■ SC: **economic policy cannot outweigh citizens' lives**. ■ The matter concerns the Centre's **calibrated drug price control**. ■ It engages **Article 21 (Right to Life)** and access to affordable medicine. ■ Essential-drug prices are capped through the **NPPA** and the **DPCO**.
Way Fwd	Balancing pharmaceutical industry viability with patient affordability remains the core policy test.
Concept	**NPPA** = National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority; **DPCO** = Drug Price Control Order under the **Essential Commodities Act**.

Project GIB: one Great Indian Bustard lost, next batch due

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

Syllabus Linkage	MPPSC Prelims (endangered species, protected status) + Mains GS-III (conservation breeding, grasslands).
Context	Project GIB lost one bird even as conservators prepare to release the next batch of captive-bred Great Indian Bustards.
Key Facts	■ The **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** is **Critically Endangered (IUCN)**. ■ It is the **state bird of Rajasthan**, found in **Thar and Kutch** grasslands. ■ It is threatened by **power lines** and habitat loss; conservation-breeding is ongoing. ■ A separate note covered **CCUS** (Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage).
Way Fwd	Underground cabling of power lines and predator-free breeding enclosures are key to GIB recovery.
Concept	The GIB is in **Schedule I of the WLPA 1972**; grasslands are often mis-classified as 'wastelands'.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. MP's largest irrigation project cleared on 27 Oct: **Chhindwara Complex** (**₹2,611 cr**, **1,90,500 ha**).	**2.** India's wild cheetah count after KNG22's death: **58** (Kuno **52**, Gandhi Sagar **4**, Veerangana Durgavati **2**).
3. RBI repo rate (Oct 2026): **5.50%**; stance **calibrated tightening**; FY27 growth **7.1%**.	**4. Simhastha 2028** will be held at **Ujjain** on the **Kshipra** river, held every **12 years**.
5. SIMBEX-2026 was the **33rd** India-**Singapore** naval exercise (since **1994**).	**6. Ladli Behna** 41st instalment: **₹1,834 crore** to about **1.25 crore** women at **₹1,500**/month.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Project Cheetah, consider the following statements: (1) All of India's wild cheetahs are currently in Madhya Pradesh. (2) Cheetahs have been settled at both Kuno and Gandhi Sagar. (3) The cheetah is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List. 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: A. The African cheetah is IUCN **Vulnerable**, not Endangered, so (3) is wrong. All reintroduced cheetahs are in MP — Kuno, Gandhi Sagar and Veerangana Durgavati — so (1) and (2) are correct.

Q2. Regarding the RBI's October 2026 monetary policy, consider: (1) The repo rate was raised to 5.50%. (2) The policy stance was changed to 'calibrated tightening'. (3) The Monetary Policy Committee is a four-member body. Which are correct?

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

Answer: B. The repo rate of **5.50%** and the shift to **calibrated tightening** are correct. The **MPC has six members**, so (3) is wrong.

MAINS PRACTICE: 'Welfare direct-benefit transfers and capital investment compete for the same fiscal space.' In the light of Madhya Pradesh's recent Cabinet decisions, examine how the state can balance social-sector transfers with infrastructure creation. (GS-III, 250 words)

Hint: Use the ₹8,225 crore Cabinet mix (irrigation vs welfare) and the Ladli Behna fiscal-burden debate; discuss FRBM limits, the capex multiplier, better targeting and own revenue mobilisation.

REVISE: ₹8,225 cr MP Cabinet • 58 cheetahs (Kuno 52) • CAMPA ₹2,050 cr • Ladli Behna 41st ₹1,834 cr • RBI repo 5.50% • Simhastha 2028 Ujjain • SIMBEX-33.

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com** Research Team • ▶ **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** ➤ **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**