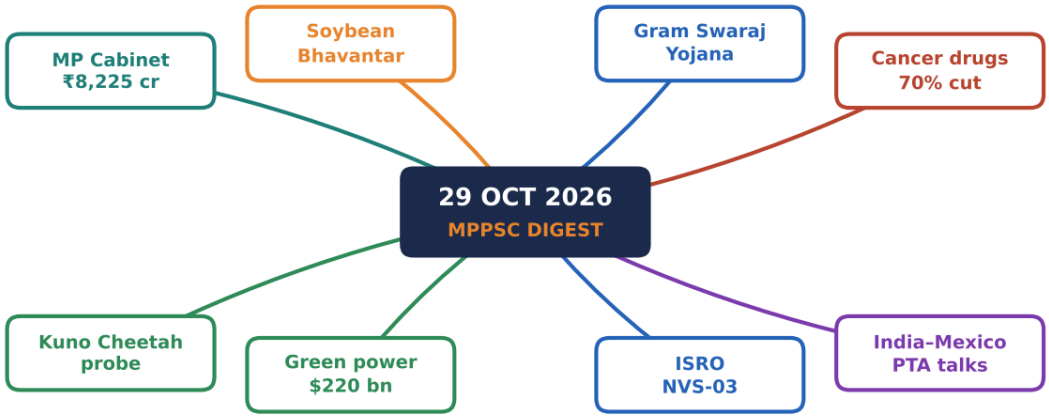
CURRENT AFFAIRS — 29 OCTOBER 2026

Thursday, 29 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Kuno NP: high-level team to probe death of a 19-month-old cheetah (MP).
- MP Cabinet clears ₹8,225 cr — irrigation, CAMPA, health, welfare.
- Soybean Bhavantar: price support for MP's kharif-2026 soybean farmers.
- Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor SPV set up (₹100 cr paid-up capital).
- Veerangana Durgavati becomes MP's 3rd cheetah habitat.
- Union Cabinet: ₹7,396 cr PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (2026–31).
- NPPA caps margins on 137 cancer drugs — prices to fall up to 70% (Nov 9).
- India & Mexico to begin preferential trade agreement (PTA) talks.
- ISRO to launch NVS-03 navigation satellite (NavIC).
- SC: 'Digital arrest is digital dacoity' — must be dealt with ruthlessly.



SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

High-Level Panel to Probe Cheetah Death at Kuno National Park

MADHYA PRADESH

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

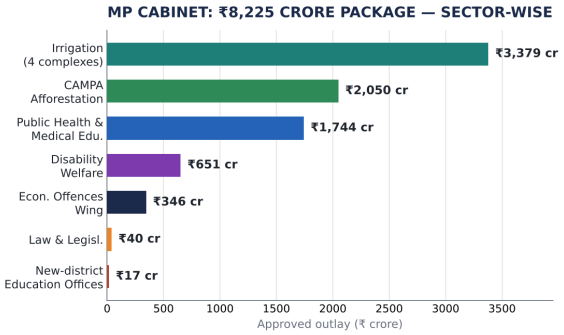
Syllabus Linkage	GS-III Environment & Biodiversity; Prelims: Kuno NP, Project Cheetah, Chambal basin.
Context	A high-level committee has been constituted to investigate the death of a **19-month-old cheetah** at **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh, the flagship site of **Project Cheetah** — the world's first inter-continental large-carnivore translocation.
Key Facts	● **Kuno National Park** lies in **Sheopur district** of MP's **Chambal region**, on the **Kuno river**. ● Project Cheetah began in **September 2022** with cheetahs from **Namibia** and later **South Africa**. ● MP has a **third cheetah habitat** at **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**, after Kuno and **Gandhi Sagar** (Mandsaur). ● The cheetah is the **only large carnivore** to have gone **extinct in India** (1952) and been reintroduced.
Way Fwd	Strengthen veterinary monitoring, prey-base augmentation and habitat corridors; expand the founder population across multiple sites to cut single-site risk.
Concept	**Project Cheetah** (IUCN translocation norms); **in-situ conservation**; **eco-sensitive zones**; **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

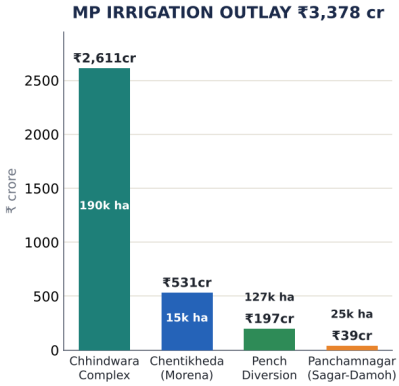
MP Cabinet Clears ₹8,225 Crore for Irrigation, Forests & Welfare

MADHYA PRADESH

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II state governance & GS-III economy/agriculture; Prelims: CAMPA, Finance Commission, MP irrigation.
Context	The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by CM **Dr Mohan Yadav**, approved projects and financial proposals worth over **₹8,225 crore** spanning irrigation, forests, health and welfare.
Key Facts	● **₹3,378.69 cr** for four irrigation projects incl. the **Chhindwara Irrigation Complex (₹2,611 cr)** and **Pench Diversion**. ● **₹2,050.03 cr** under **CAMPA** for afforestation, catchment restoration and village relocation from protected areas. ● **₹1,743.58 cr** for Public Health & Medical Education (2026–31). ● **₹651.25 cr** for welfare of **Persons with Disabilities**; new DEO offices for 4 new districts (Niwari, Mauganj, Pandhurna, Maihar).
Way Fwd	Ensure time-bound execution of micro-irrigation to raise cropping intensity and transparent CAMPA utilisation aligned with forest-dwellers' rights.
Concept	**CAMPA** (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016); **16th Finance Commission** period (2026–31); **Narmada valley** command areas.





Soybean Bhavantar Scheme & Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor

ECONOMY

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III agriculture marketing & industry; Prelims: MSP, PM-AASHA, e-Uparjan, GCCs.
Context	MP has rolled out the **Soybean Bhavantar (price-deficiency) Scheme** for the **kharif 2026** season and incorporated the **Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor Development Company**, a state SPV.
Key Facts	● Bhavantar pays the gap between **MSP** and sale/model price via **DBT** when market rates fall below MSP — under the central **PM-AASHA** umbrella. ● Farmers register on the **e-Uparjan** portal; MP is **India's largest soybean producer** (the 'Soybean State', Malwa black soils). ● The **Jabalpur–Indore Economic Corridor** SPV has **₹100 cr** initial paid-up capital for industrial, logistics, food-processing and IT parks and **GCCs**. ● Centre sanctioned **26.49 lakh MT** of soybean MSP procurement for MP (**9.36 lakh farmers**, **22.64 lakh ha**).
Way Fwd	Pair price support with value-addition (soy processing), warehousing and crop diversification to cut price-crash risk.
Concept	**MSP & PM-AASHA** (PSS + PDPS); **Price Deficiency Payment**; **industrial corridors** & **GCC** (Global Capability Centres).

MP Consolidates 'Tiger State' Status & Project Cheetah Leadership

ENVIRONMENT

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Biodiversity)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III biodiversity & conservation; Prelims: tiger reserves, biosphere reserves, MP rivers.
Context	Madhya Pradesh continues to consolidate its status as India's **'Tiger State'** and the leading hub of **Project Cheetah**, having opened a **third cheetah habitat** this year.
Key Facts	● MP holds the **highest tiger population** among states and the **largest forest cover** by area in India. ● Cheetah habitats: **Kuno NP** (Sheopur), **Gandhi Sagar WLS** (Mandsaur) and **Veerangana Durgavati TR**. ● Major tiger reserves: **Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura, Sanjay-Dubri**. ● **Panna** is a UNESCO-listed **Biosphere Reserve**; MP's forests anchor the **Narmada, Chambal, Betwa, Tapti, Son** basins.
Way Fwd	Develop wildlife tourism responsibly, strengthen anti-poaching and inter-state corridors, and fund conservation via CAMPA and eco-development.
Concept	**Project Tiger (1973)**; **NTCA**; **biosphere reserves**; **tiger corridors** and **eco-sensitive zones**.

MADHYA PRADESH — THE 'SOYBEAN STATE'

26.49 L MT	9.36 Lakh	22.64 L ha	~55 L MT	#1
Soybean approved for MSP purchase	Farmers registered (e-Uparjan)	Area registered for procurement	Annual MP soybean production	MP's rank in India's soybean output

MADHYA PRADESH: TIGER STATE & PROJECT CHEETAH HOME

3 Cheetah Habitats

Kuno NP (Sheopur) ▶ Gandhi Sagar (Mandsaur) ▶ V. Durgavati (3rd home)

Latest: high-level probe into death of a 19-month cheetah at Kuno

8	Tiger reserves
785+	Tigers (Tiger State)
3	Cheetah habitats
#1	Forest cover in India

SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

$220 billion

Green-Power Finance Need (India, by FY2030)

Investment India requires by FY30 to fund its green-power (renewable) transition — underscoring the capital scale behind the 500 GW non-fossil capacity goal.

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

Cabinet Approves ₹7,396 cr PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

POLITY

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

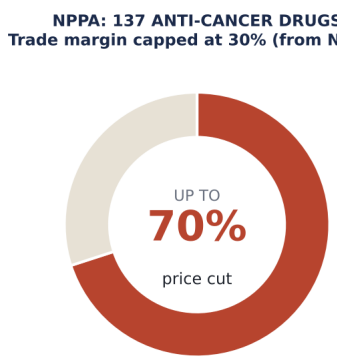
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II governance & local self-government; Prelims: RGSA, 73rd Amendment, 11th Schedule.
Context	The **Union Cabinet** approved the **PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana**, a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for **2026–27 to 2030–31**, to strengthen panchayati-raj institutions.
Key Facts	● Outlay of about **₹7,396 crore** for panchayat **capacity-building**, e-governance and rural planning. ● Builds on the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** to deepen **grassroots democracy**. ● Aligns panchayats with **Viksit Bharat @2047** and localisation of the **SDGs**. ● Flows alongside **16th Finance Commission** devolution to local bodies.
Way Fwd	Ensure devolution of the 3Fs (funds, functions, functionaries), digital Gram Sabhas and outcome-based capacity building.
Concept	**73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992)**; **Part IX**, **11th Schedule**; **PRIs**; cooperative & fiscal **federalism**.

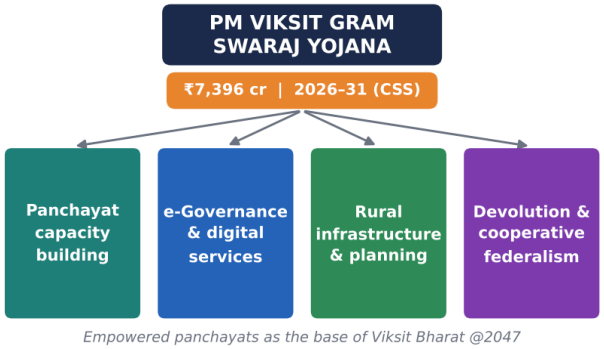
NPPA Caps Trade Margins on 137 Anti-Cancer Drugs

HEALTH

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II health governance; Prelims: NPPA, DPCO 2013, NLEM, Jan Aushadhi.
Context	The **NPPA** rationalised **trade margins** on **137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs**, capping them at **30%**, cutting retail prices by up to **70%** from **9 November 2026**.
Key Facts	● Applies to **immunotherapy and targeted-therapy** (non-scheduled) cancer medicines. ● **Trade Margin Rationalisation (TMR)** invoked under **Para 19** of the **DPCO, 2013** in public interest. ● **NPPA** functions under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. ● Complements **Jan Aushadhi** and price caps on scheduled drugs under the **NLEM**.
Way Fwd	Monitor compliance along the supply chain; expand affordable access via Jan Aushadhi Kendras and insurance under Ayushman Bharat.
Concept	**DPCO, 2013**; **Essential Commodities Act**; **NLEM**; **public-interest price control**.





India & Mexico to Begin Preferential Trade Agreement Talks

IR

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II India & trade groupings; Prelims: PTA vs FTA/CEPA, Latin America ties.
Context	India and **Mexico** signed the **terms of reference** to begin negotiations for a **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)**, deepening ties with Latin America.
Key Facts	● Mexico is among India's **largest trade partners in Latin America**. ● A **PTA** offers tariff concessions on a **limited set of goods** (narrower than an FTA/CEPA). ● Supports India's push to **diversify export markets** amid global trade realignment. ● Parallels India's momentum on trade talks with **New Zealand** and others.
Way Fwd	Balance market access with domestic-sector sensitivities; leverage pharma, autos and IT-services strengths.
Concept	**PTA vs FTA vs CEPA/CECA**; **MFN** & tariff lines (WTO); **export diversification**.

Cabinet Clears Khelo India Sports-Goods & Container Manufacturing Schemes

ECONOMY

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy & Manufacturing)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III manufacturing & industrial policy; Prelims: Make in India, PLI, PM GatiShakti.
Context	The Union Cabinet cleared the **Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme** and a **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme** to build globally competitive manufacturing ecosystems.
Key Facts	● Aims to make India a **global hub** for **sports-goods manufacturing** and cut imports. ● The **container scheme** promotes domestic **shipping-container** production to aid **logistics** and **EXIM** trade. ● Supports **Make in India**, **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **PLI**-style self-reliance. ● Expected to boost **MSMEs**, exports and employment.
Way Fwd	Anchor manufacturing clusters near ports and sports hubs with quality certification and skilling.
Concept	**Make in India**; **PLI schemes**; **MSME** competitiveness; **logistics-cost reduction (PM GatiShakti)**.

ISRO to Launch NVS-03 Navigation Satellite for NavIC

SCI-TECH

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Science & Technology)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III space tech; Prelims: NavIC/IRNSS, NVS series, GNSS, atomic clocks.
Context	**ISRO** is set to launch the **NVS-03** navigation satellite, expanding India's regional satellite-navigation constellation **NavIC**.
Key Facts	● **NVS** (Navigation Satellite) series are **second-generation** NavIC satellites. ● **NavIC** (Navigation with Indian Constellation) covers India and ~**1,500 km** around it. ● NVS satellites add an indigenous **atomic clock** and the civilian **L1** signal. ● NavIC supports transport, disaster alerts, defence and precision timing.
Way Fwd	Mainstream NavIC in consumer devices and critical infrastructure to cut dependence on foreign GNSS.
Concept	**GNSS** (GPS/GLONASS/Galileo/BeiDou); **NavIC/IRNSS**; **atomic clocks**; **PNT** services.

Supreme Court: 'Digital Arrest is Digital Dacoity'

POLITY

MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II/III (Polity & Cyber Security)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II judiciary & GS-III internal security; Prelims: IT Act 2000, I4C, cyber-fraud helpline 1930.
Context	The **Supreme Court** sharply criticised the rising **'digital arrest'** cyber-fraud, remarking that **'digital arrest is digital dacoity'** and must be dealt with ruthlessly.
Key Facts	● In a **digital arrest** scam, fraudsters impersonate officials and coerce victims via video call to transfer money. ● The Court flagged the need for stronger **enforcement** and victim protection. ● Links to safeguards under the **BNS/BNSS** and the **IT Act, 2000**. ● Cyber-fraud can be reported on the **1930 helpline** / national cybercrime portal.
Way Fwd	Scale cyber-forensics, inter-agency coordination and mass digital-literacy campaigns.
Concept	**Cyber-crime**; **IT Act, 2000**; **I4C** (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre); **digital public safety**.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Kuno National Park**, home of **Project Cheetah**, lies in **Sheopur district** of MP on the **Kuno river** (a Chambal tributary).	**4.** **NPPA** functions under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
2. Madhya Pradesh is India's **'Tiger State'** and has the **largest forest cover** by area in the country.	**5.** **NavIC**, served by ISRO's **NVS** series, is India's regional navigation system (~1,500 km beyond borders).
3. **Soybean Bhavantar** (price-deficiency) payments are made under the central **PM-AASHA** umbrella scheme.	**6.** **CAMPA** = **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority** (Act of 2016).

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Project Cheetah, consider the following statements:
1. Kuno National Park is situated in the Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh.
2. The cheetahs translocated to India were sourced from Namibia and South Africa.
3. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve has been developed as a cheetah habitat in MP.
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

Answer: (D)

Explanation: All three are correct. Kuno NP is in the Chambal region (Sheopur); cheetahs came from Namibia (2022) and South Africa (2023); Veerangana Durgavati is MP's third cheetah habitat.

Q2. The 'Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana', seen recently in the news in Madhya Pradesh, is best described as:

(A) A crop-insurance scheme
(B) A price-deficiency payment scheme compensating farmers when market prices fall below MSP
(C) An interest-subvention scheme for farm loans
(D) A minimum-income guarantee for landless labourers

Answer: (B)

Explanation: Bhavantar is a Price Deficiency Payment (PDPS) scheme under the PM-AASHA umbrella; it pays the gap between MSP and the sale/model price via DBT when market rates fall below MSP.

Mains Practice: Madhya Pradesh has emerged as a national leader in wildlife conservation while remaining India's largest soybean producer. Examine the challenge of balancing biodiversity conservation (Project Cheetah, Tiger State) with agrarian and irrigation expansion in the state. (250 words)

Hint: Link Kuno/Durgavati cheetah habitats and tiger reserves with CAMPA afforestation funding; contrast with new irrigation complexes and soybean/agri expansion; weave in PESA, tribal livelihoods, eco-sensitive zones, river basins and the sustainable-development balance.

★ **ONE-LINE REVISION:** Kuno cheetah probe + MP Cabinet's ₹8,225 cr package (irrigation, CAMPA, health) + Soybean Bhavantar; nationally — PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (₹7,396 cr), NPPA's up-to-70% cancer-drug price cut, India–Mexico PTA, and ISRO's NVS-03.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

▶ YouTube: @Study_ForGS ➤ Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies