# CURRENT AFFAIRS — 16-11-2026

Mon, 16 Nov 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

## TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MP CM unveils **69 works (~Rs 342.6 cr)** in **Shahdol** on **Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah**.
- MP 'Destination Cabinet' set for **Gandhi Sagar, Mandsaur on Nov 18**.
- **Gandhi Sagar Pumped Hydro** (**1,920 MW**, Rs **11,500 cr**) — India's largest standalone.
- **Ladli Behna** 42nd instalment: ~**Rs 1,831 cr** to **1.24 cr** women.
- **Bhavantar** soybean: **Rs 300 cr** to **1.32 lakh** farmers; wheat MSP **Rs 2,600/qtl**.
- **Project Cheetah**: Kuno + **Gandhi Sagar** as the second home.
- **PM Modi** in the **Philippines** (Nov 16–18) for the **49th ASEAN Summit**.
- **National Press Day**: **Press Council of India** completes **60 years**.
- **WHO Global TB Report 2026**: India's TB deaths down **38%** (2015–25).
- **Cyclone 'Akvan'** brewing over the **Bay of Bengal** (IMD watch).

## SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

### Shahdol gets Rs 342.6 cr push on Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (MP schemes & tribal welfare) + Mains GS-II; Prelims pointer: Tribal Affairs Dept works, EMRS, PESA. |
| **Context** | As part of **Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah** (Tribal Pride Week), CM **Mohan Yadav** attended a state-level event at **Byohari, Shahdol** on **16 Nov 2026**, dedicating/laying foundations for tribal-belt development. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **69 works worth ~Rs 342.6 crore**: 67 foundation works (**Rs 341.67 cr**) + 2 inaugurations (**Rs 94 lakh**).<br>■ Two power substations — **Jaisinghnagar (Rs 109.26 cr)** and **Papaudh (Rs 182.25 cr)**.<br>■ **Tribal Affairs Dept: 61 works (Rs 35.66 cr)** — hostels, dormitories, labs, libraries.<br>■ **Govt Banasagar College** building: **Rs 13.09 cr**; forest works and a Rural Mart added. |
| **Way Fwd** | Pair hard infrastructure with learning outcomes so EMRS/hostels translate into higher tribal enrolment and retention. |
| **Concept** | **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** (15 Nov, **Birsa Munda** birth anniversary); MP has India's **largest tribal population**; **PESA Act, 1996** enables tribal self-rule. |

### Gandhi Sagar to host 'Destination Cabinet'; pumped-hydro in focus

MADHYA PRADESH — MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy, Energy & Infrastructure)

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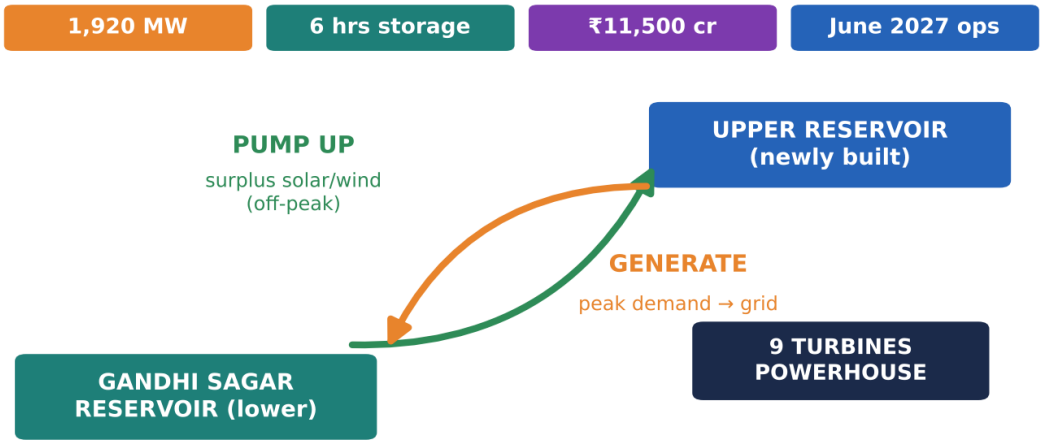
| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (MP energy, Chambal basin) + Mains GS-III; Prelims pointer: pumped storage, Neemuch/Mandsaur, Chambal. |
| **Context** | MP will hold its next **Cabinet meeting on 18 Nov 2026** in the **Gandhi Sagar** region of **Mandsaur district** under the **Destination Cabinet** idea, spotlighting the **Gandhi Sagar Pumped Hydro Storage Project**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Billed **India's largest standalone pumped hydro storage project** — cost **Rs 11,500 crore**.<br>■ Capacity **1,920 MW**; can supply power continuously for **6 hours**; **9 turbines**, ~**3,580 MU/year**.<br>■ Uses the existing **Gandhi Sagar Reservoir** as lower reservoir (Khemla block, **Neemuch** district).<br>■ First turbines by **Dec 2026**; full commercial operations targeted from **June 2027**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Pumped storage is the cheapest grid-scale battery for firming MP's solar — fast-track land and evacuation lines. |
| **Concept** | **Pumped Storage Plant (PSP)**: pumps water up in off-peak (cheap solar/wind), releases it during peak to generate — non-consumptive water reuse. |

### JANJATIYA GAURAV SAPTAH 2026 • Tribal Welfare Thrust



## GANDHI SAGAR PUMPED HYDRO STORAGE • How It Works




## Ladli Behna 42nd instalment: ~Rs 1,831 cr to 1.24 cr women

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

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (flagship MP schemes) + Mains GS-II; Prelims pointer: DBT, eligibility, monthly amount. |
| **Context** | The MP government released the **42nd instalment** of the **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana** via **Direct Benefit Transfer** around **13 Nov 2026**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ About **Rs 1,831 crore** transferred to roughly **1.24 crore** women.<br>■ Current monthly aid **Rs 1,500** per eligible woman (raised in phases from Rs 1,000).<br>■ Scheme launched in **2023**; aimed at economic self-reliance of women.<br>■ Flagship DBT scheme widely credited in MP's social-welfare push. |
| **Way Fwd** | Sustain fiscal headroom and link beneficiaries to livelihood/SHG credit so transfers build assets, not just income support. |
| **Concept** | **DBT** curbs leakage via Aadhaar-seeded bank transfers; compare with similar women cash-transfer schemes across states. |

## Bhavantar soybean payout; wheat MSP set at Rs 2,600/qtl

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (MP agriculture, MSP, soybean state) + Mains GS-III; Prelims pointer: Bhavantar, procurement. |
| **Context** | The 'Soybean State' continues price support — MP disbursed a **Bhavantar** (price-deficit) payment to soybean farmers and fixed a bonus-backed wheat price for Rabi. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **~Rs 300 crore** paid to about **1.32 lakh** soybean farmers (mid-Nov 2026).<br>■ Wheat procurement price for Rabi set around **Rs 2,600/quintal** (MSP + state bonus).<br>■ MP is India's leading **soybean** producer — the '**Soybean State**'.<br>■ Bhavantar bridges the gap between **MSP/model price** and actual **market price**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Widen procurement geography and digitise Bhavantar to cut delays; promote oilseed productivity to reduce edible-oil imports. |
| **Concept** | **MSP** = floor price announced by CACP; **Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana** compensates the price gap instead of physical procurement. |

## LADLI BEHNA YOJANA • 42nd Instalment (Nov 2026)



## Project Cheetah: Kuno plus Gandhi Sagar as second home

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

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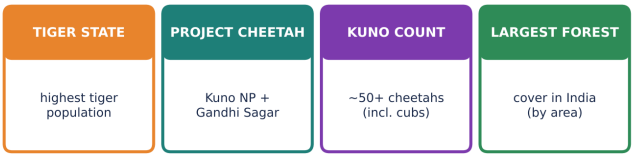
|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (MP wildlife, Tiger State) + Mains GS-III; Prelims pointer: Kuno NP, Gandhi Sagar WLS, cheetah. |
| **Context** | India's **Project Cheetah** has expanded beyond **Kuno National Park**, with **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** developed as the species' **second home** in MP. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Kuno's cheetah count has crossed **~50**, including **India-born cubs**.<br>■ **Gandhi Sagar WLS** (Mandsaur/Neemuch) prepared as the **second reintroduction site**.<br>■ MP is the **'Tiger State'** with the **highest tiger population** and **largest forest cover** by area.<br>■ Cheetahs sourced earlier from **Namibia** and **South Africa**; survival in the wild remains a challenge. |
| **Way Fwd** | Build prey base and reduce human-wildlife conflict in buffer zones; monitor genetics to keep the founder population viable. |
| **Concept** | Cheetah is the only large carnivore to have gone **locally extinct** in India (1952) and be **reintroduced**; links to IUCN & CITES. |

**MADHYA PRADESH — THE WILDLIFE STATE • Fact Schematic**



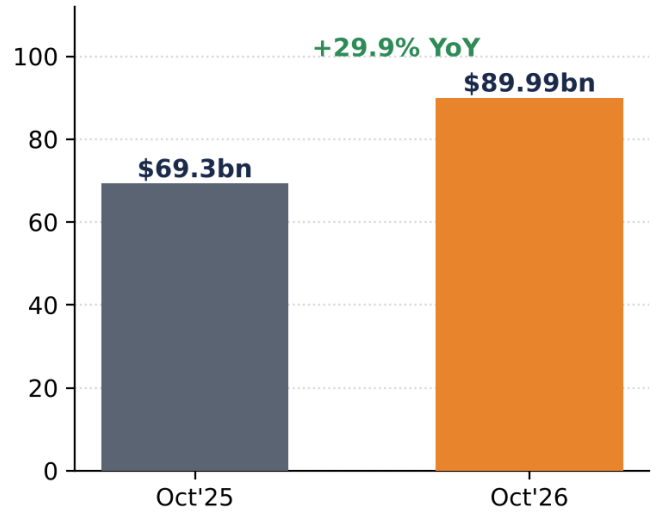

## SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

**India's Total Exports (Apr–Oct FY27)**

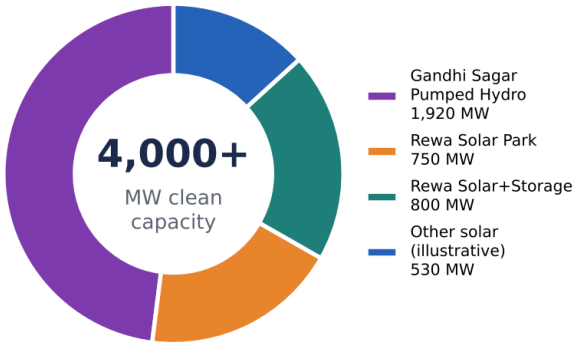
# USD 568.84 billion

Up **16.66%** year-on-year; **October 2026** exports alone were **USD 89.99 billion**, a **29.90%** YoY jump — a record monthly pace (official government data).

**India Total Exports (October)**
**USD billion**




**MP Clean-Energy Push (illustrative)**



## SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

### PM Modi in the Philippines for the 49th ASEAN Summit

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

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (groupings, summits) + Mains GS-II; Prelims pointer: ASEAN members, Act East Policy. |
| **Context** | **PM Narendra Modi** is on a visit to the **Philippines (16–18 Nov 2026)** for the **49th ASEAN Summit** and related India-ASEAN engagements. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ ASEAN is a **10-member** South-East Asian grouping; the summit covers security, trade and connectivity.<br>■ India engages ASEAN under its **Act East Policy** and as a **Comprehensive Strategic Partner**.<br>■ Focus areas: maritime security in the **Indo-Pacific**, supply chains and the India-ASEAN FTA review.<br>■ Bilateral India–Philippines talks on defence, trade and tech scheduled alongside. |
| **Way Fwd** | Deepen ASEAN ties as a hedge in the Indo-Pacific; conclude the goods-trade agreement review for market access. |
| **Concept** | **ASEAN** (est. **1967**, Bangkok Declaration), HQ **Jakarta**; India is a **dialogue partner** since 1992. |

### National Press Day: Press Council of India turns 60

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

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (statutory bodies) + Mains GS-II; Prelims pointer: PCI powers, Press Council Act. |
| **Context** | **16 November** is observed as **National Press Day**, marking the day the **Press Council of India (PCI)** began functioning in **1966**; in 2026 the PCI completes **60 years**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ PCI is a **statutory, quasi-judicial** body that safeguards press freedom and standards.<br>■ It is usually headed by a **retired Supreme Court judge**.<br>■ Under **Section 14**, it can warn, censure or condemn — but **cannot impose fines**.<br>■ 16 Nov is also the **International Day for Tolerance** (UNESCO). |
| **Way Fwd** | Strengthen self-regulation and fact-checking norms to counter misinformation without curbing free speech. |
| **Concept** | Press freedom flows from **Art. 19(1)(a)** (freedom of speech); PCI set up under the **Press Council Act, 1978** (first 1966). |

### PM Modi launches ~Rs 3,000 cr tribal projects on Gaurav Divas

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (central tribal schemes) + Mains GS-II; Prelims pointer: EMRS, PM-JANMAN, Birsa Munda. |
| **Context** | On **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (15 Nov 2026)**, PM Modi launched/laid foundations for about **246 projects worth ~Rs 3,000 crore**, with the main event at **Gadchiroli, Maharashtra**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **173 projects inaugurated**, including **38 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**.<br>■ **100 PM-JANMAN** multi-purpose centres and a **Tribal Research Institute** at Itanagar.<br>■ Foundation stones for **19 new EMRS**; museum for tribal freedom fighters in Aizawl.<br>■ Day marks **Birsa Munda's** birth anniversary, the tribal icon and freedom fighter. |
| **Way Fwd** | Ensure trained teachers and digital access in EMRS; converge PM-JANMAN with health and livelihood missions. |
| **Concept** | **PM-JANMAN** targets **PVTGs** (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups); **EMRS** are CBSE-model residential schools for ST students. |

### Cyclone 'Akvan' brewing over the Bay of Bengal

ENVIRONMENT MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I/III (Geography & Disaster Mgmt)

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (cyclones, IMD) + Mains GS-III; Prelims pointer: cyclone naming, Bay of Bengal. |
| **Context** | The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** flagged a depression over the **southeast Bay of Bengal** that could intensify into **Cyclonic Storm 'Akvan'**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Pre-cyclone watch issued for coastal **Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal**.<br>■ Cyclone names in the North Indian Ocean follow a **13-country rotating list**.<br>■ The **Bay of Bengal** is more cyclone-prone than the Arabian Sea.<br>■ IMD issues colour-coded warnings (green/yellow/orange/red) for preparedness. |
| **Way Fwd** | Pre-position NDRF teams and ensure early fisher advisories; strengthen coastal early-warning dissemination. |
| **Concept** | Tropical cyclones need **warm sea (>26.5°C)**, low shear and Coriolis force; named by **IMD** as a RSMC for the region. |

## WHO Global TB Report 2026: India's TB deaths down 38%

**HEALTH** MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II/III (Health & Reports)

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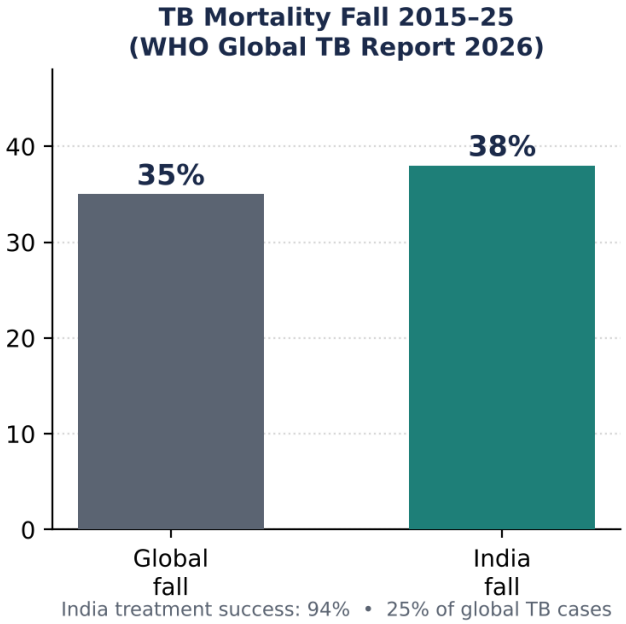
| **Syllabus Linkage** | MPPSC Prelims (health reports, indices) + Mains GS-II; Prelims pointer: WHO, TB Mukt Bharat. |
| **Context** | The **WHO Global TB Report 2026** recorded a sharp drop in India's tuberculosis mortality and strong treatment outcomes. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ India's **TB mortality fell 38%** over **2015–25**, against a global fall of **35%**.<br>■ Drug-susceptible TB **treatment success rate: 94%**.<br>■ India still accounts for about **25% of global TB cases**.<br>■ Aligns with India's **TB Mukt Bharat** goal and intensified case-finding. |
| **Way Fwd** | Scale up Ni-kshay nutrition support and private-sector notification to close the remaining case-detection gap. |
| **Concept** | TB caused by **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**; **SDG target 3.3** seeks to end the TB epidemic; WHO publishes the report annually. |




## SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

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| **1.** **Exercise Mitra Shakti 2026** (12th edn): **India–Sri Lanka** army drill at **Maduru Oya**, 13–26 Nov. | **2.** **Swachh Survekshan 2025-26**: **Navi Mumbai** ranked **1st** (Super Swachh League), then Surat, Vijayawada. |
| **3.** **Lakshya Sen** won the **Kumamoto Masters Japan** men's singles badminton title. | **4.** **U-19 Asia Cup**: India beat **Pakistan** by **1 wicket** in the final (Muscat) — **9th title**. |
| **5.** **IFSCA** notified commodity trading as a financial service — global commodity hub at **GIFT City**. | **6.** **Paytm Payments Services** got **RBI** in-principle nod to issue **prepaid payment instruments**. |

## SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

**Q1. The 'Gandhi Sagar Pumped Hydro Storage Project', in the news, is located in which state and basin?**

(A) Rajasthan – Luni basin
(B) Madhya Pradesh – Chambal basin
(C) Maharashtra – Godavari basin
(D) Gujarat – Narmada basin

**Ans: B.** The project uses the **Gandhi Sagar Reservoir** on the **Chambal river** in **Madhya Pradesh** (Neemuch/Mandsaur); it is billed as India's largest standalone PSP at **1,920 MW**.

**Q2. Consider the Press Council of India (PCI):**
**1. It is a statutory body.**
**2. It is headed by a retired Supreme Court judge.**
**3. It can impose monetary fines for violations.**
**Which are correct?**

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

**Ans: A.** PCI is a **statutory, quasi-judicial** body headed by a **retired SC judge**; under **Section 14** it can warn/censure/condemn but **cannot impose fines**. So 1 and 2 only.

**Mains Practice:** "Pumped storage, not just more solar panels, is the key to Madhya Pradesh's clean-energy transition." Examine this statement in the light of the Gandhi Sagar project. (GS-III, 150 words)

**Hint ▸** Explain intermittency of solar/wind, role of PSP as grid-scale storage, Gandhi Sagar's 1,920 MW/6-hr capacity and non-consumptive water reuse; add challenges (cost, land, evacuation).

**REVISE: Shahdol Rs 342.6 cr (Tribal Pride) • Gandhi Sagar PSP 1,920 MW/Rs 11,500 cr • Ladli Behna Rs 1,831 cr • ASEAN-49 (Philippines) • PCI 60 yrs • TB deaths −38%.**

*Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team*

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