CURRENT AFFAIRS — 17 NOV 2026

Tuesday, 17 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MP Cabinet met at **Gandhi Sagar (Mandsaur)** — first-of-its-kind 'Cabinet Destination' meeting
- **₹11,474 cr**, **~2,000 MW** Gandhi Sagar pumped-hydro storage project highlighted
- **Ladli Behna** aid now **₹1,500/month**; **42nd** instalment to **1.25 cr** women
- MP Cabinet cleared **₹23,300 cr+** — incl. **₹17,240 cr** forests & wildlife
- **MP High Court (Jabalpur)** seeks probe into **Kanha tiger deaths** (CDV)
- Project Cheetah crosses **60 cheetahs** (41 India-born) at **Kuno–Gandhi Sagar**
- **H5N1 bird flu** confirmed by **NIHSAD, Bhopal** in a Tamil Nadu sample
- **WPI inflation 12.3%** (Oct 2026) — second straight double-digit month
- **Quad** leaders meet in **Manila**; **23rd ASEAN–India Summit** held
- **COP31** under way at **Antalya, Türkiye** (9–20 Nov 2026)

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

Cabinet goes to Gandhi Sagar: ₹11,474 cr pumped-hydro & 'Cabinet Destination' model

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

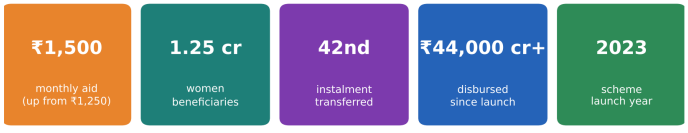
Syllabus Linkage	MP economy & energy infrastructure; Prelims: Gandhi Sagar dam on **Chambal**, pumped-storage hydropower (PSP), MP power mix.
Context	The MP Cabinet met in the **Gandhi Sagar** area of **Mandsaur** district, which CM **Mohan Yadav** called unlike any previous meeting, launching a 'Cabinet Destination' approach of convening at key sites to study local issues first-hand.
Key Facts	■ **Pumped-hydro storage project: ₹11,474 crore**, proposed capacity **~2,000 MW**. ■ Works by **recycling the same water**; **solar power** refills the **upper reservoir** by day. ■ CM: will supply peak-time power at **nearly half the cost**. ■ Gandhi Sagar is also a **cheetah** home and a **cage-culture fisheries** site for local fishermen. ■ Next Cabinet scheduled for **18 November 2026** in the Gandhi Sagar region.
Way Fwd	Pumped storage is India's cheapest grid-scale **energy storage** for balancing solar/wind — key to MP's renewable ambitions and round-the-clock power.
Concept	**PSP**: two reservoirs at different heights; off-peak surplus pumps water up, peak demand releases it through turbines — a giant 'water battery'. Gandhi Sagar dam is on the **Chambal** river.

Ladli Behna aid raised to ₹1,500; 42nd instalment to 1.25 crore women

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

Syllabus Linkage	Women & child welfare schemes of MP; DBT; Prelims: launch year, eligibility, amount, nodal dept.
Context	CM Mohan Yadav transferred a recent instalment of **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana** via **DBT**, with monthly aid raised to **₹1,500** (from ₹1,250) as promised.
Key Facts	■ Monthly assistance hiked to **₹1,500** per eligible woman. ■ Around **1.25 crore** women beneficiaries covered. ■ Over **₹44,000 crore** disbursed since the scheme's launch. ■ Scheme launched in **2023**; aid delivered by **Direct Benefit Transfer**.
Way Fwd	A flagship welfare + electoral model now copied by other states; fiscal sustainability vs women's economic empowerment is the key debate.
Concept	**DBT** routes subsidy straight to bank accounts, cutting leakages (**JAM trinity**: Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile).

Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana — Key Numbers



How the Gandhi Sagar Pumped Hydro Storage Project Works • ₹11,474 cr • ~2,000 MW



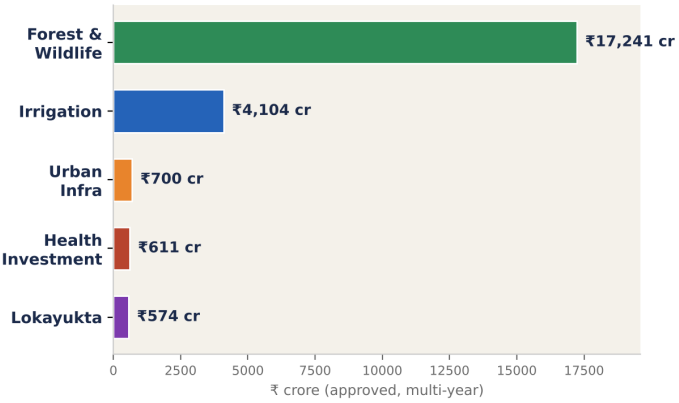
Recycles the same water • electricity at nearly half the cost • upper reservoir refilled by solar

MP Cabinet clears ₹23,300 cr+ — ₹17,240 cr for forests & wildlife

[MADHYA PRADESH] **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (MP Economy & Environment)**

Syllabus Linkage	MP budget/expenditure; forest economy; Prelims: MP has India's **largest forest cover**; CAMPA; afforestation.
Context	A recent MP Cabinet approved proposals **exceeding ₹23,300 crore** across forests, irrigation, urban infrastructure, health and the Lokayukta, mostly multi-year (2026–31).
Key Facts	■ **Forests & wildlife: ₹17,240.55 cr** for nine schemes (2026–31). ■ **Irrigation: ₹4,103.73 cr** — Panna, Vidisha, Mauganj, Sidhi, Singrauli, Ujjain. ■ **Urban infra: ₹700 cr**; **Health investment promotion: ₹610.51 cr**. ■ **Lokayukta: ₹573.85 cr**; a **Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum** post in Jabalpur approved.
Way Fwd	Heavy forest outlay reflects MP's role as India's green lung; balancing conservation funding with tribal livelihoods remains central.
Concept	MP has India's **largest recorded forest area**; the **Raja Shankar Shah-Kunwar Raghunath Shah** museum honours 1857 tribal freedom fighters.

MP Cabinet: ₹23,300 cr Development Outlay

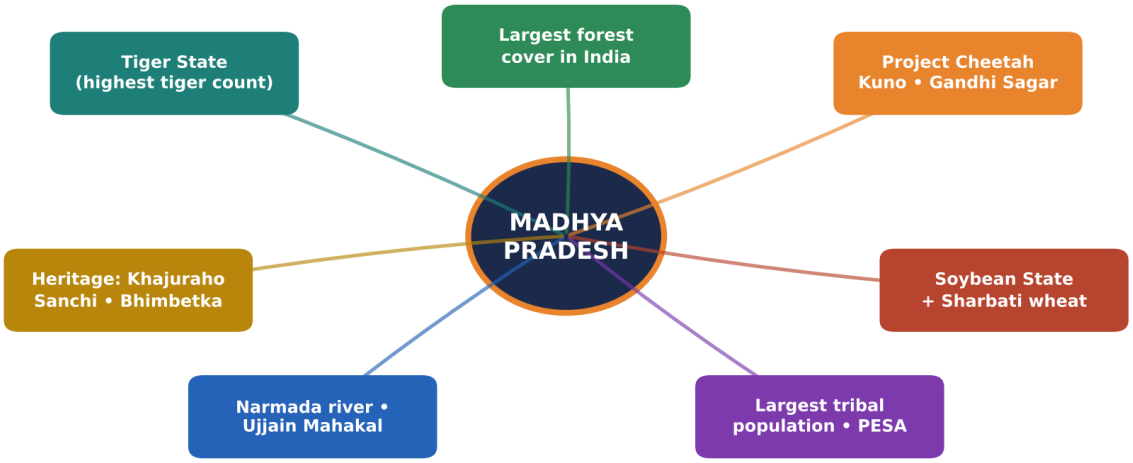


MP High Court seeks probe into fresh Kanha tiger deaths

[MADHYA PRADESH] **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity/PIL) + GS-III (Environment)**

Syllabus Linkage	High Court as protector of rights; PIL; wildlife health; Prelims: **Kanha** (Mandla/Balaghat), **Tiger State** MP.
Context	The **Madhya Pradesh High Court (Jabalpur)** bench of CJ **Alpesh Y. Kogje** and Justice **Vivek Jain** sought a probe into two more tiger deaths at **Kanha**, hearing a PIL linking deaths to **Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)**.
Key Facts	■ Court gave the state **two weeks** to investigate and report. ■ Earlier order: **vaccinate dogs** in tiger territory — over **2,000 dogs** vaccinated. ■ Petition cited tigress **T-141 & 4 cubs**, **T-122**, tiger **T-220** (Mar–May 2026). ■ MP is India's **'Tiger State'** with the highest tiger numbers.
Way Fwd	Courts increasingly enforce wildlife-health accountability; disease surveillance at the forest–village interface needs institutionalising.
Concept	**CDV** spreads from unvaccinated dogs to big cats; the **High Court's writ jurisdiction (Art. 226)** lets it issue such directions.

Madhya Pradesh — The State of Superlatives (Static + Current Linkages)

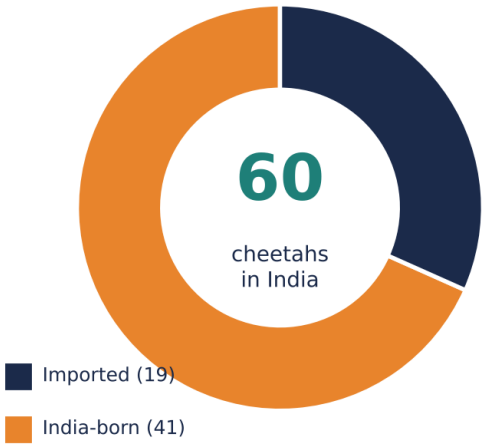


Project Cheetah crosses 60; five cubs born at Kuno

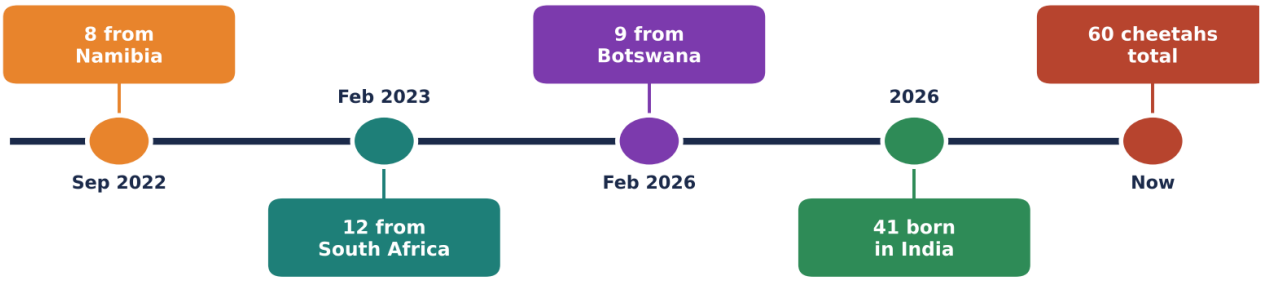
[ENVIRONMENT] **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Biodiversity)**

Syllabus Linkage	Species reintroduction; in-situ conservation; Prelims: **Kuno** (Sheopur), **Gandhi Sagar** sanctuary, cheetah source countries.
Context	Under **Project Cheetah**, an India-born female (KJP21) gave birth to **five cubs** at **Kuno National Park**; the Environment Minister said India now has **60 cheetahs**, including **41 born in India**.
Key Facts	■ Cheetahs were declared **extinct in India in 1952**; reintroduction began **Sep 2022**. ■ Batches: **8 Namibia (2022)**, **12 South Africa (2023)**, **9 Botswana (2026)**. ■ Target: a connected **60–70 cheetah** population across **Kuno–Gandhi Sagar**. ■ **Kuno** lies in **Sheopur** district, MP.
Way Fwd	Gandhi Sagar as a second home spreads risk; building wild-prey base and reducing cub mortality are the next tests.
Concept	World's **first intercontinental** large-carnivore translocation; cheetah is the only large cat India had lost in modern times.

Project Cheetah: Kuno–Gandhi Sagar Landscape



Project Cheetah Timeline — World's First Intercontinental Big-Cat Translocation



Bhopal's NIHSAD confirms H5N1 bird flu in Tamil Nadu sample

[HEALTH] **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Science, Tech & Health)**

Syllabus Linkage	Zoonotic diseases; One Health; Prelims: **NIHSAD Bhopal** is India's top animal-disease lab; H5N1.
Context	The **National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal** confirmed **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1** in poultry from **Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu** (samples of 5 Nov 2026).
Key Facts	■ **NIHSAD, Bhopal** is the national referral lab for exotic & emerging animal diseases. ■ **H5N1** is a highly pathogenic **avian influenza** virus with zoonotic potential. ■ Confirmation triggers **culling & containment** under the national action plan. ■ Shows MP's role in India's **biosecurity** architecture.
Way Fwd	Strengthen the **One Health** approach linking animal, human and environmental surveillance to pre-empt pandemics.
Concept	**One Health** treats human, animal and ecosystem health as interconnected — central to pandemic preparedness.

SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT

₹11,474 cr • ~2,000 MW

Gandhi Sagar Pumped-Hydro Storage

MP's flagship clean-energy 'water battery' at Gandhi Sagar on the Chambal — peak power at nearly half the cost, with solar refilling the upper reservoir.

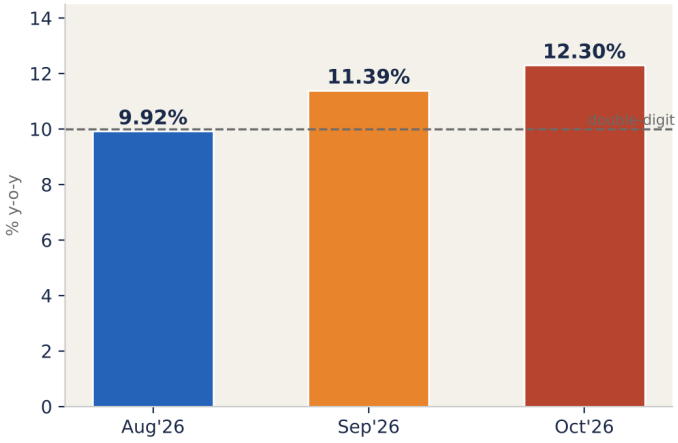
SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

WPI inflation climbs to 12.3% — second straight double-digit month

[ECONOMY] **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Indian Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Inflation types & measurement; Prelims: **WPI vs CPI**, base year, nodal agencies.
Context	**Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** inflation rose to **12.3% in October 2026** on the new **2022-23 base**, the second consecutive month above 10%.
Key Facts	■ WPI: **Aug 9.92% → Sep 11.39% → Oct 12.3%**. ■ **Crude petroleum & natural gas** inflation topped **70%**; manufactured products **9.5%**. ■ **Consumer Food Price Index** rose to **8.9%**, a 23-month high. ■ WPI released by **Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT**; CPI by **NSO**.
Way Fwd	Persistent wholesale inflation pressures margins and may feed into retail prices; the **RBI**'s CPI target band is **4% ±2%**.
Concept	**WPI** tracks producer-level wholesale prices (no services); **CPI** tracks retail prices incl. services — RBI targets CPI.

WPI Inflation (new 2022-23 base)



Quad leaders meet in Manila alongside 23rd ASEAN–India Summit

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

Syllabus Linkage	India & groupings; Indo-Pacific; Prelims: **Quad** members, **ASEAN** (10), East Asia Summit.
Context	Leaders of **India, the US, Japan and Australia (Quad)** met in **Manila** on the sidelines of the **23rd ASEAN–India Summit** and the **21st East Asia Summit**.
Key Facts	■ **Philippines** chairs **ASEAN** in 2026; the summits were held in Manila. ■ **ASEAN–India** bilateral trade was about **$128.37 billion** in 2025-26. ■ **Quad**: India, US, Japan, Australia — an Indo-Pacific coordination platform. ■ India also backed a **UNGA resolution** (151-7-11) on Palestinian natural-resource rights.
Way Fwd	India balances Quad (security) with ASEAN centrality and strategic autonomy; Act East policy deepens Indo-Pacific ties.
Concept	**ASEAN** (est. 1967, 10 members) is central to Indo-Pacific; India–ASEAN ties mark **'Act East'** policy.

Census 2027: self-enumeration portal opens for poll-bound states

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

Syllabus Linkage	Census process & law; Prelims: **Census Act 1948**, RGI, digital self-enumeration, reference dates.
Context	The **Census 2027** self-enumeration portal opened for poll-bound states (**UP, Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand**); digital self-enumeration runs **16-30 November 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Reference date: **1 March 2027** (most of India); **5 Jan 2027** for poll-bound states. ■ Snow-bound areas reference date: **1 October 2026**. ■ First **digital** census with self-enumeration; Manipur enumeration **deferred**. ■ Census 2027 will be India's first to also **count castes**.
Way Fwd	Digital census can cut errors and speed results, but needs data privacy and inclusion of the digitally excluded.
Concept	Census is conducted under the **Census Act, 1948** by the **Registrar General of India (RGI)**; it is a **Union List** subject.

COP31 under way at Antalya, Türkiye; draft pushes electrification

[ENVIRONMENT] **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Climate)**

Syllabus Linkage	UNFCCC & climate diplomacy; Prelims: COP presidency, 1.5°C goal, India's net-zero 2070.
Context	**COP31** of the UNFCCC is being held at **Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 Nov 2026)**; the draft cover decision urges returning warming to **1.5°C** 'as early as possible'.
Key Facts	■ **Türkiye** holds the COP Presidency; **Australia** is President of Negotiations. ■ Draft: raise electricity's share of final energy from **23% to 35% by 2035**. ■ **UNEP**: about **1.7–1.8°C** of warming is now considered inevitable. ■ India's **net-zero target is 2070**; the US has exited the Paris Agreement.
Way Fwd	Electrification + clean power is the core decarbonisation lever; equity and climate finance remain the sticking points for the Global South.
Concept	**COP** is the supreme body of the **UNFCCC (1992)**; the **Paris Agreement (2015)** set the 1.5°C/2°C goals.

Van Dhan Kendras cross 4,172 sanctions under PM Janjati Vikas Mission

[SOCIETY] **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Social Justice & Tribal Welfare)**

Syllabus Linkage	Tribal welfare & MFP; Prelims: **MSP for MFP**, Van Dhan, TRIFED; MP has India's largest tribal population.
Context	The Ministry of Tribal Affairs reported **4,172 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)** sanctioned under the **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Vikas Mission (PMJVM)**, with 2,911 functional (July 2026).
Key Facts	■ VDVKs recorded sales of about **₹168 crore**; **~12.48 lakh** tribals associated. ■ Each VDVK = **15 SHGs (~300 members)**; **60%+** members must be **Scheduled Tribes**. ■ **Van Dhan Yojana** (14 April 2018) is a component; implemented via **TRIFED**. ■ MP, with India's **largest tribal population**, is a key implementation state.
Way Fwd	Value-addition of minor forest produce can transform tribal incomes; MP's PESA implementation is central to this.
Concept	**MFP** = Minor Forest Produce (tendu, mahua, etc.); **MSP for MFP** scheme assures prices to tribal gatherers.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

■ **Gandhi Sagar dam** is built on the **Chambal** river (MP–Rajasthan).	■ **Kuno National Park** — cheetah home — is in **Sheopur** district, MP.
■ **NIHSAD**, the national animal-disease lab, is located in **Bhopal**.	■ **WPI** base year was revised to **2022-23**; released by **DPIIT**.
■ **Quad** = India, USA, Japan, Australia; **Philippines** chairs ASEAN 2026.	■ **COP31** host city: **Antalya**, in **Türkiye**; India's net-zero year is **2070**.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Gandhi Sagar Pumped-Storage Project recently in news, consider: 1) It is built on the Narmada river. 2) It stores energy by pumping water to an upper reservoir using surplus power. 3) Its proposed capacity is about 2,000 MW. Which are correct?

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

Ans: (B) Gandhi Sagar dam is on the **Chambal** (not Narmada), so (1) is wrong. The ~₹11,474 cr project has **~2,000 MW** capacity and works by pumping water up with surplus (solar) power — (2) and (3) are correct.

Q2. Consider the following about Project Cheetah: 1) Kuno National Park is located in Madhya Pradesh. 2) Cheetahs were reintroduced in India from Namibia and South Africa. 3) The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952. 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: **Kuno** is in **Sheopur, MP**; cheetahs came from **Namibia (2022)**, **South Africa (2023)** and later **Botswana (2026)**; the cheetah was declared **extinct in India in 1952**.

Mains Practice: "Pumped-storage hydropower is emerging as the backbone of India's renewable-energy transition." Discuss with reference to Madhya Pradesh's Gandhi Sagar project. (250 words)

Hint: Link intermittency of solar/wind → need for storage; explain PSP economics (half-cost peak power, water recycling); add MP's solar push (Rewa) and grid-balancing; conclude with challenges (land, ecology, cost).

★ **ONE-LINE REVISION:** Gandhi Sagar = Chambal • ₹11,474 cr pumped-hydro (~2,000 MW) • Ladli Behna ₹1,500 • Cheetah 60 (Kuno, Sheopur) • Tiger State MP • WPI 12.3% • Quad in Manila • COP31 Antalya.

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