CURRENT AFFAIRS — 18 NOV 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

Wednesday, 18 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

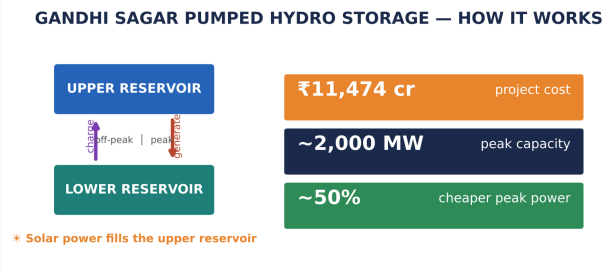
- MP cabinet meets at **Gandhi Sagar (Mandsaur)** under 'Cabinet Destination'.
- **₹11,474-cr** Gandhi Sagar **Pumped Hydro** (~2,000 MW) in focus.
- **Ladli Behna** monthly aid raised to **₹1,500**.
- MP produces **~45%** of India's **soybean** - the 'Soya Pradesh'.
- **Gandhi Sagar** = India's **2nd cheetah** home after Kuno.
- MP is India's **Tiger State** and **Leopard State**.
- **Quad** Manila Summit: maritime, AI and cyber plans.
- **Amazon** to add **$7 bn** to India's clean energy by **2030**.
- **RBI/Yes Bank** seek SC review on **AT-1 bonds** (₹8,415 cr).
- **Cyclone Akvan** to near the Andhra coast around **20 Nov**.

SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

MP 'Destination Cabinet' at Gandhi Sagar; ₹11,474-cr pumped hydro in focus

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

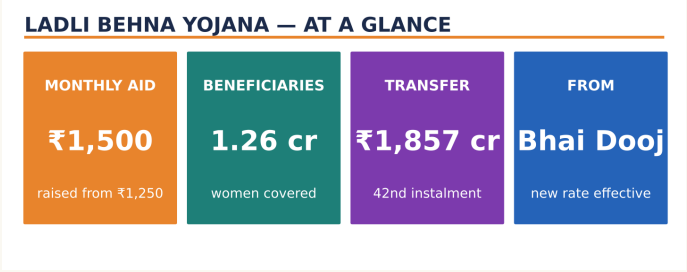
SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-III (Energy/Infrastructure) | Prelims: MP geography (Chambal), renewable energy, state schemes
CONTEXT	The Mohan Yadav cabinet met at **Gandhi Sagar in Mandsaur** on **18 Nov 2026** under the **'Cabinet Destination'** initiative. The **₹11,474-crore Gandhi Sagar Pumped Hydro Storage Project** was the centrepiece of the agenda.
KEY FACTS	■ **Pumped Storage Project (PSP):** about **2,000 MW** peak capacity; water is recycled between an upper and a lower reservoir. ■ **Solar power** fills the upper reservoir; the state claims peak power at nearly **half the cost**. ■ Gandhi Sagar Dam lies on the **Chambal River**; the area is also India's **second cheetah** home. ■ 'Cabinet Destination' takes cabinet meetings to heritage and tourism sites across MP.
WAY FWD	Pumped hydro is India's cheapest grid-scale storage; MP is positioning itself as a **renewable + storage hub**.
CONCEPT	**Pumped Storage Plant:** stores energy by pumping water uphill when demand is low and releasing it to generate during peak hours - key to integrating variable solar and wind.



Ladli Behna Yojana aid raised to ₹1,500 a month

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

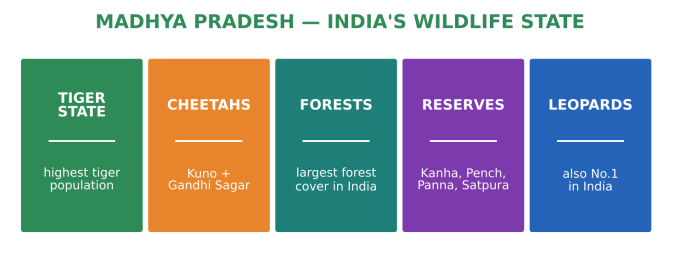
SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-II (Welfare schemes, women empowerment, DBT) | Prelims: MP flagship schemes
CONTEXT	Monthly assistance under the **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana** was hiked from **₹1,250 to ₹1,500**, effective from **Bhai Dooj**. The **42nd instalment** (about **₹1,857 crore**) was transferred to roughly **1.26 crore women**.
KEY FACTS	■ Launched in **2023**; a direct cash transfer to eligible women aged **21-60**. ■ New rate of **₹1,500/month** equals **₹18,000 a year**. ■ Funds are sent via **DBT** to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. ■ A central plank of MP's gender-budgeting push.
WAY FWD	Strengthens women's financial autonomy; fiscal sustainability remains the key debate.
CONCEPT	**DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer):** routes benefits straight to beneficiaries' bank accounts, cutting leakages and middlemen.



Gandhi Sagar becomes India's 2nd cheetah home; MP the 'Tiger State'

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

SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-III (Conservation, protected areas) | Prelims: MP national parks, Project Cheetah
CONTEXT	The cabinet tied the Gandhi Sagar region's tourism to **Project Cheetah**. The **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** is India's **second cheetah reintroduction site** after **Kuno**.
KEY FACTS	■ MP is India's **'Tiger State'** (highest tiger numbers) and also the **'Leopard State'**. ■ It has the **largest forest cover** in India by area. ■ Tiger reserves include **Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna** and **Satpura**. ■ **Project Cheetah** (2022) reintroduced African cheetahs at **Kuno**; the cat was declared extinct in India in **1952**.
WAY FWD	Dispersing cheetahs across **Kuno + Gandhi Sagar** reduces the risk of a single-site failure.
CONCEPT	**Reintroduction:** releasing a species into a historical range where it had become locally extinct, to rebuild a wild population.

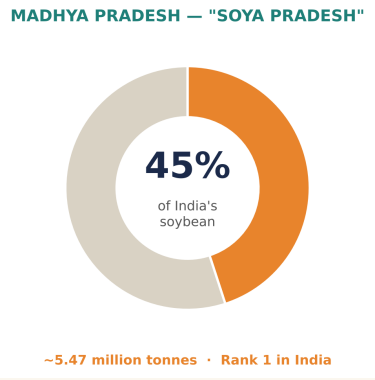


Janjatiya Gaurav Divas marked; spotlight on tribal welfare and PESA

[SOCIETY] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I & GS-II (Society & Governance)

SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-I (Tribal society) & GS-II (Social justice, PESA) | Prelims: MP tribes, Fifth Schedule
CONTEXT	**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** (**15 November**, birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**) was observed across the country. MP, with **India's largest tribal population**, renewed its focus on PESA implementation and tribal outreach.
KEY FACTS	■ MP has the **largest Scheduled Tribe population** in India (about **1.53 crore**, Census 2011). ■ Major tribes: **Gond, Bhil, Baiga, Sahariya** and **Korku**. ■ The **PESA Act, 1996** empowers Gram Sabhas in Fifth-Schedule areas; MP notified its **PESA Rules in 2022**. ■ **Birsa Munda** led the **Ulgulan** (1899-1900) revolt against British rule.
WAY FWD	The next step is strengthening Gram Sabha control over minor forest produce and land records.
CONCEPT	**Fifth Schedule:** governs the administration of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than those of the North-East.

SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY



MP - India's 'Soya Pradesh'

~45%

Madhya Pradesh produces about **45%** of India's **soybean** (roughly **5.47 million tonnes**), ranking **No. 1** in the country; the **Malwa** region is its soybean capital.

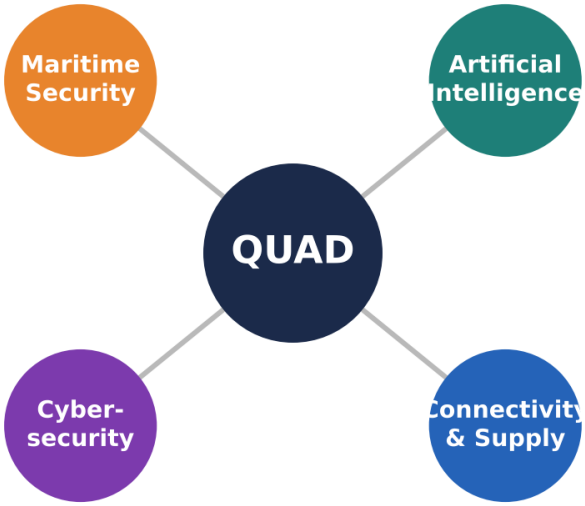
SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

Quad Summit in Manila unveils maritime, AI and cyber initiatives

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

SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-II (Groupings & agreements involving India) | Prelims: Quad, Indo-Pacific
CONTEXT	The **Quad Leaders' Summit** at **Manila (Philippines)** announced plans on **maritime security, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and connectivity**. A **Quad Business Leaders' Forum** is planned for early 2027.
KEY FACTS	■ Quad members: **India, USA, Japan and Australia**. ■ Revived in **2017**; the first leaders' summit was held in **2021**. ■ Centres on a **free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific**. ■ It is an issue-based coalition, **not a military alliance**.
WAY FWD	Expect deeper technology and supply-chain cooperation to counter regional coercion.
CONCEPT	**Indo-Pacific:** a strategic super-region linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans, central to India's maritime outlook.

QUAD MANILA SUMMIT 2026



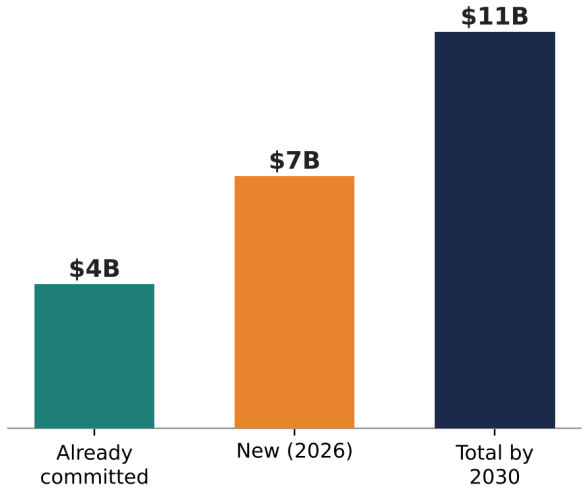
Members: India · USA · Japan · Australia

Amazon to invest $7 billion more in India's clean energy by 2030

[ECONOMY] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy & Environment)

SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-III (Infrastructure, energy, FDI) | Prelims: renewable energy targets
CONTEXT	**Amazon** announced an additional **$7 billion** investment in India's **renewable energy** by **2030**, on top of about **$4 billion** already committed - a total of around **$11 billion**.
KEY FACTS	■ Supports India's target of **500 GW** non-fossil capacity by **2030**. ■ Rising **data-centre** demand is driving corporate clean-power purchases. ■ Will add fresh **solar and wind** capacity.
WAY FWD	Corporate power-purchase agreements are accelerating India's energy transition.
CONCEPT	**Net-Zero:** India's target year is **2070**, pledged under the COP26 'Panchamrit' commitments.

AMAZON — CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT IN INDIA



RBI, Yes Bank seek review of SC verdict on ₹8,415-cr AT-1 bond write-down

[ECONOMY] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III & GS-II (Economy & Polity)

SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-III (Banking, financial regulation) & GS-II (Judiciary) | Prelims: AT-1 bonds, Basel III, RBI
CONTEXT	**RBI** and **Yes Bank** filed **review petitions** in the **Supreme Court** against the ruling that quashed the **₹8,415-crore** write-down of **AT-1 bonds** during the bank's 2020 reconstruction.
KEY FACTS	■ **AT-1 (Additional Tier-1) bonds** are perpetual, high-risk, loss-absorbing instruments under **Basel III**. ■ They can be **written down** if a bank's capital falls below a trigger level. ■ Yes Bank was rescued in **March 2020** under an **SBI-led** reconstruction plan.
WAY FWD	A clearer line is needed between bondholder rights and the regulator's resolution powers.
CONCEPT	**Basel III:** global bank capital-adequacy norms framed by the Basel Committee to strengthen financial stability.

Cyclone Akvan intensifies into a Severe Cyclonic Storm

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

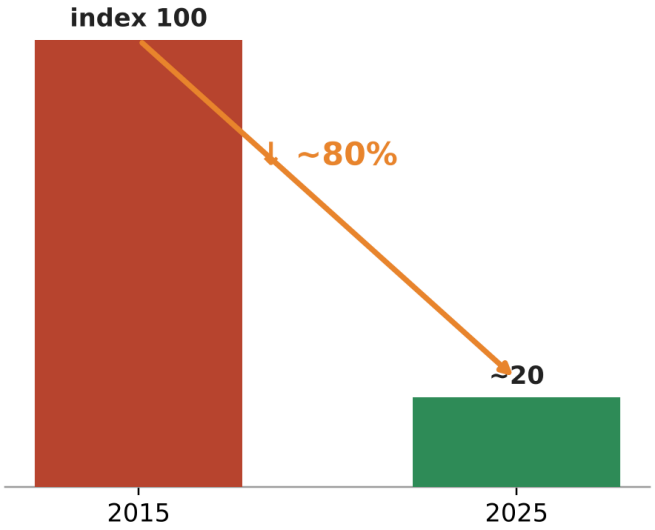
SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-I (Cyclones) & GS-III (Disaster management) | Prelims: IMD, cyclone naming
CONTEXT	**Cyclone Akvan** strengthened into a **Severe Cyclonic Storm** over the Bay of Bengal. The **IMD** expects landfall between **Nellore and Visakhapatnam** around **20 Nov 2026**.
KEY FACTS	■ It formed over the **Bay of Bengal**; tropical cyclones here peak in the **post-monsoon (Oct-Dec)** season. ■ Cyclone names are assigned by a **13-member WMO/ESCAP panel**. ■ The **IMD** is India's nodal cyclone-warning agency.
WAY FWD	Early warning plus coastal evacuation under NDMA guidelines limits loss of life.
CONCEPT	**Cyclone:** a low-pressure system with spiralling high winds; it needs sea-surface temperatures above **26.5 degrees C** to form.

India logs about 80% fall in malaria cases and deaths (2015-2025)

[HEALTH] **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Health & Governance)**

SYLLABUS LINKAGE	Mains GS-II (Health, SDGs) | Prelims: vector-borne diseases, elimination targets
CONTEXT	The President noted that India cut **malaria cases and deaths by about 80%** between **2015 and 2025**, in line with the goal of a **malaria-free India by 2030**.
KEY FACTS	■ Malaria spreads through the female **Anopheles** mosquito carrying the **Plasmodium** parasite. ■ Targets: **zero indigenous cases by 2027** and elimination by **2030**. ■ Key tools are bed nets (**LLINs**), rapid diagnostics and **ACT** drugs.
WAY FWD	Sustained surveillance is vital to prevent any resurgence.
CONCEPT	**SDG-3 (Good Health):** target 3.3 seeks to end epidemics including malaria, TB and neglected tropical diseases.

MALARIA: ~80% FALL IN CASES & DEATHS (2015 → 2025, India)



SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. Gandhi Sagar Dam is on the **Chambal River** in **Mandsaur** district.	**2.** MP's largest tribe is the **Gond**; the state has India's largest ST population.
3. The **PESA Act, 1996** empowers Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas.	**4.** **Birsa Munda's** birth anniversary (**15 Nov**) is Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
5. **Voyager-1** is now about **one light-day** (~26 billion km) from Earth.	**6.** The Centre cleared **₹10 lakh** annual health cover for **transgender** persons.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to a Pumped Storage Plant (PSP), consider the following statements: 1. It stores energy using two reservoirs at different heights. 2. It generates electricity during peak demand. 3. It can be charged using solar power. Which of the above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D — A PSP pumps water to an upper reservoir when demand/price is low (including with solar power) and releases it through turbines during peak demand - so all three statements are correct.

Q2. Consider the following about Project Cheetah: 1. Kuno National Park is in Madhya Pradesh. 2. Gandhi Sagar is India's second cheetah site. 3. The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952. Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D — Kuno is in MP, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is the second reintroduction site, and the cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952 - all three are correct.

Mains Practice: Pumped storage projects are central to India's clean-energy transition. Discuss their significance, using Madhya Pradesh's Gandhi Sagar project as an example. (250 words)

Hint: Define a PSP; link it to the 500 GW target and integrating variable solar/wind; cover grid balancing and peak management; position MP as a renewable-plus-storage hub; note challenges - cost, ecology and land.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Remember: Gandhi Sagar (Chambal, Mandsaur) -> ₹11,474-cr Pumped Hydro + India's 2nd cheetah home; Ladli Behna now ₹1,500; MP = 'Soya Pradesh' (~45%) and the Tiger State.

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