CURRENT AFFAIRS — 19-11-2026

Thursday, 19 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MPPSC

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MP cabinet clears ~Rs 70,650 cr projects, ~3.14 lakh jobs
- Four new industrial parks: Mandsaur, Garoth, Ratlam, Dhar
- Two-child norm scrapped for MP government employees
- Gandhi Sagar 1,920 MW pumped-hydro: first unit live
- Omkareshwar floating solar Phase-II (200 MW + storage) cleared
- MP leads India's ULLAS adult-literacy drive (75.2%)
- Retail inflation 6.09% in Oct, breaches RBI's 6% ceiling
- India-Israel deal to upgrade Barak air-defence missile
- India's first indigenous H5N1 poultry vaccine to be dedicated
- Record ~$11.3 bn FPI inflows in November; SCO meet in Delhi

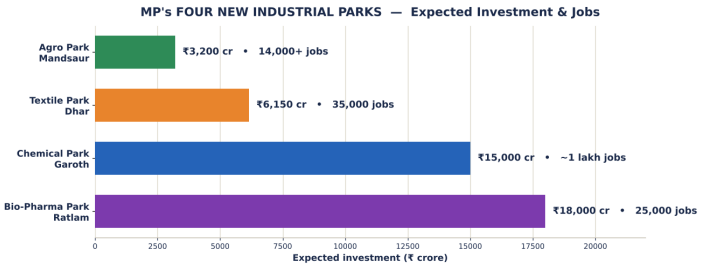
SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

State schemes · policy · ecology · economy

MP's 9th Destination Cabinet Clears ₹70,650 Crore Projects & Four New Industrial Parks

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — MP economy, industrial policy, MPIDC, PM MITRA; Mains GS-III — industrial growth, investment, employment generation.
Context	The Mohan Yadav cabinet held its **9th 'Destination Cabinet'** at **Gandhi Sagar (Mandsaur/Neemuch)** on **18 Nov 2026**, clearing projects worth about **₹70,650 crore** expected to generate roughly **3.14 lakh jobs**.
Key Facts	▸ **Four new industrial parks**: **Agro Park, Mandsaur** (~₹3,200 cr, 14,000+ jobs); **Chemical Park, Garoth** (~₹15,000 cr, ~1 lakh jobs); **Bio-Pharma Park, Ratlam** (~₹18,000 cr, 25,000 jobs); **Textile Park, Dhar** (~₹6,150 cr, 35,000 jobs) beside the **PM MITRA Park**. ▸ **MSME Infrastructure Development Scheme** extended with **₹1,507 crore** (2026-31); new state firm **MP MSME Limited** set up. ▸ **Deep-Tech Research & Innovation Park, Ujjain** (IIT Indore partner) and **Telecom Manufacturing Zone Phase-II, Gwalior** approved. ▸ **CII** named national partner of **MPIDC/MPSEDC** for investment promotion for **3 years**.
Way Fwd	Turning cleared parks into ground-level investment and skilled jobs will decide whether MP's post-GIS 2025 momentum sustains.
Concept	**Destination (Mobile) Cabinet** = cabinet meetings held outside Bhopal to spotlight regional development. **MPIDC** is MP's nodal industrial-development agency; **PM MITRA** = Mega Integrated Textile Region & Apparel park.



DESTINATION CABINET @ GANDHI SAGAR — KEY NUMBERS

₹70,650 cr	3.14 lakh	4	₹1,507 cr	6
Total projects approved	New jobs expected	Industrial parks Mandsaur·2 · Dhar · Ratlam	MSME Infra Scheme 2026–31	Special NDPS courts +72 posts

MP Scraps the Two-Child Norm for Government Employees

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

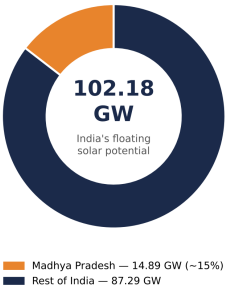
Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — MP Civil Services Rules; Mains GS-II — government policies & service rules; demography links (GS-I).
Context	The cabinet amended service rules to remove the **2001 two-child restriction** that barred people with more than two children (born after **26 Jan 2001**) from state jobs and exposed serving staff to disciplinary action.
Key Facts	▸ Provisions removed from **MP Civil Services (General Conditions of Service) Rules, 1961 (Rule 6)** and **MP Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965 (Rule 22)**. ▸ **Pending disciplinary proceedings** on this ground alone to be **dropped**; finalised penalties not reopened. ▸ Stated reason: the state's **declining fertility/reproduction rate**.
Way Fwd	Aligns MP with states rolling back coercive population measures; focus shifts to incentive-based family welfare.
Concept	Links to the debate on **coercive vs welfare-based population policy** and **Article 16** (equality of opportunity in public employment).

Omkareshwar Floating Solar Phase-II (200 MW + Storage) Cleared on the Narmada

[ENVIRONMENT] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Renewable Energy)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — floating solar, Narmada, RUMSL; Mains GS-III — renewable energy, climate action.
Context	The cabinet approved **Phase-II** of the **Omkareshwar floating solar project** on the **Narmada** - a 200 MW plant with large battery storage, adding to the completed **278 MW Phase-I**.
Key Facts	▸ Phase-II: **200 MW** floating solar + at least **800 MWh battery storage**; combined with Phase-I reaches **478 MW**. ▸ Phase-I (**278 MW**) tariff was **₹3.21/kWh**. ▸ A June 2026 assessment put India's floating-solar potential at **102.18 GW**, with ~**14.89 GW (about 15%) in MP**.
Way Fwd	Floating solar saves scarce land and cuts reservoir evaporation - a strong model for water-rich MP.
Concept	**Floating solar (floatovoltaics):** PV panels mounted on water bodies; reduces land use and evaporation and improves efficiency through cooling.

FLOATING SOLAR POTENTIAL — MP's Share

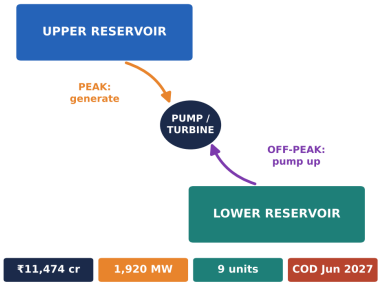


First Unit of 1,920 MW Gandhi Sagar Pumped-Storage Project Inaugurated

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — pumped storage, Chambal river, Neemuch; Mains GS-III — energy security, renewables, infrastructure.
Context	CM **Mohan Yadav** inaugurated the **first of nine units** of the **Gandhi Sagar Pumped Hydro Storage Project** in **Neemuch** district on the **Chambal**, a key step for grid balancing.
Key Facts	▸ Total capacity **1,920 MW** across **9 units**; cost about **₹11,474 crore**. ▸ Delivers power for **6 continuous hours** at full load using **two reservoirs**. ▸ Full commercial operation targeted by **June 2027**.
Way Fwd	Pumped storage is central to firming up MP's solar push and meeting peak demand as renewables rise.
Concept	**Pumped Storage Plant (PSP):** stores energy by pumping water to an upper reservoir off-peak and releasing it to generate during peak demand - a giant 'water battery'.

GANDHI SAGAR PUMPED HYDRO — How It Works



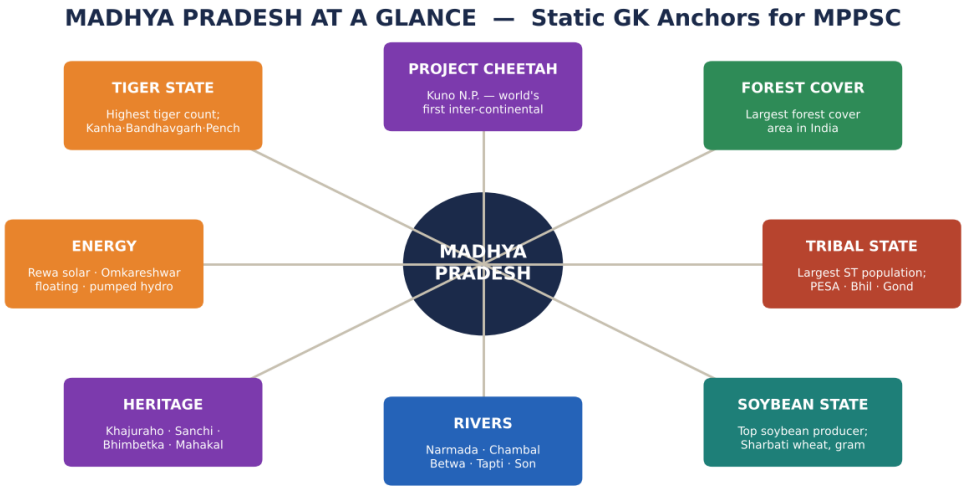
MP Leads India's ULLAS Adult-Literacy Drive, Eyes Full Literacy by 2027

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — ULLAS / New India Literacy Programme, NEP 2020; Mains GS-II — education & human development.
Context	Under **ULLAS (Nav Bharat Saksharta)**, **Madhya Pradesh leads the country** in adult-learner enrolment and targets **functional literacy** for all identified non-literate adults by **2027**.
Key Facts	▸ MP's ULLAS dashboard literacy-achievement is about **75.2%**. ▸ More than **31.14 lakh adult learners** enrolled - **highest in India** - aided by **1.33 lakh volunteer teachers**. ▸ Several **states/UTs have been declared 'fully literate'** nationally under ULLAS.
Way Fwd	Sustaining volunteer momentum and certification will be key to hitting the 2027 target.
Concept	**ULLAS** (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) = **New India Literacy Programme (2022-27)**, aligned with **NEP 2020**; the 'full literacy' benchmark is **95%**.

ULLAS — MP LEADS INDIA'S ADULT-LITERACY DRIVE





SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

₹70,650 crore
INVESTMENT CLEARED

MP Destination Cabinet - Investment Cleared

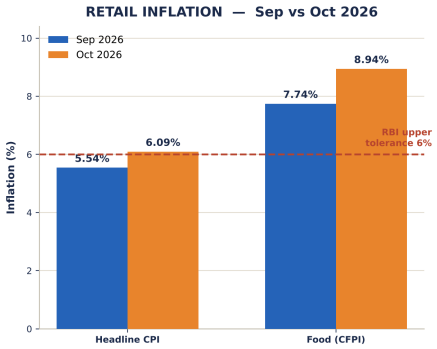
SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

Polity · economy · sci-tech · IR · defence

Retail Inflation Jumps to 6.09% in October 2026, Breaches RBI's 6% Ceiling

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — CPI, CFPI, RBI tolerance band, MPC; Mains GS-III — inflation & monetary policy.
Context	Provisional data showed **headline retail inflation (CPI) rose to 6.09%** in **October 2026** from **5.54%** in September, breaching the **RBI's upper tolerance** for the first time in about two years.
Key Facts	▸ **Headline CPI: 6.09%** (Sep: 5.54%); **food inflation (CFPI): 8.94%** (Sep: 7.74%). ▸ **Rural inflation 6.63%** exceeded **urban 5.41%**. ▸ Breaches **RBI's tolerance band of 4% +/- 2%** (upper limit **6%**), driven by vegetables (**onion, garlic**).
Way Fwd	A sustained breach raises the stakes for the **MPC's December decision** between taming prices and supporting growth.
Concept	**CPI** tracks retail prices; **CFPI** is the food sub-index. The RBI's flexible inflation target is **4% (+/- 2%)**, set by the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**.



India-Israel Deal to Upgrade the Barak Air-Defence Missile System

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — Barak-8 / MRSAM, DRDO-IAI; Mains GS-III — defence & indigenisation, GS-II — bilateral ties.
Context	India signed a deal with **Israel** to **upgrade the Barak surface-to-air missile system**, strengthening layered air defence amid evolving aerial threats.
Key Facts	▸ **Barak-8 / MRSAM** is a **DRDO-IAI (Israel)** jointly developed **surface-to-air missile**. ▸ The upgrade boosts India's **multi-layer air-defence** grid. ▸ Deepens the **India-Israel defence partnership**.
Way Fwd	Fits India's push for indigenised, networked air defence alongside **Akash, QRSAM and S-400**.
Concept	**MRSAM** = Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile, part of a layered **air-defence shield** against aircraft, drones and missiles.

India to Dedicate Its First Indigenous H5N1 Bird-Flu Vaccine for Poultry

[SCI-TECH] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Science & Tech / Health)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — H5N1, ICAR, avian influenza; Mains GS-III — sci-tech, biotech, animal husbandry.
Context	Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** is set to dedicate **India's first indigenous H5N1 (Clade 2.3.2.1a) poultry vaccine** on **20 November 2026**, a boost for the poultry sector.
Key Facts	▸ India's **first indigenous H5N1 avian-influenza vaccine** for poultry. ▸ Targets the **Clade 2.3.2.1a** strain; developed within the **ICAR** research system. ▸ Aims to cut poultry losses and protect farmer incomes.
Way Fwd	Vaccination policy must be balanced with export/trade norms on avian influenza.
Concept	**H5N1** is a highly pathogenic **avian influenza** virus; indigenous vaccines strengthen **One Health** biosecurity.

Voyager 1 Reaches One Light-Day From Earth

[SCI-TECH] MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Space & Science)

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — Voyager, interstellar space, light-day; Mains GS-III — space & science awareness.
Context	Nearly **50 years** after its **1977** launch, NASA's **Voyager 1** has reached a distance of about **one light-day** from Earth - the farthest human-made object.
Key Facts	▸ **Voyager 1** is now ~**one light-day** (~**25.9 billion km**) from Earth. ▸ It is the **farthest human-made object**, operating in **interstellar space**. ▸ Launched in **1977**, it still returns data after ~five decades.
Way Fwd	Highlights the value of deep-space missions and long-life spacecraft engineering.
Concept	A **light-day** is the distance light travels in one day (~25.9 billion km); Voyager 1 crossed into **interstellar space** in **2012**.

Record FPI Inflows and Eased Export-Mission Norms Lift Markets

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — FPI, Export Promotion Mission; Mains GS-III — external sector, markets, MSME.
Context	**Foreign portfolio investors** poured a record sum into Indian markets in **November 2026**, even as the Centre relaxed norms under the **Export Promotion Mission** to help MSME exporters.
Key Facts	▸ FPIs invested a record about **$11.3 billion** in Indian markets in November. ▸ **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)** norms relaxed to help **MSME exporters** reach new markets. ▸ The Chief Economic Adviser flagged a narrowing **India-US bond-yield gap**.
Way Fwd	Sustained inflows plus export diversification can cushion external-sector risks.
Concept	**FPI** = Foreign Portfolio Investment (shares/bonds, more liquid than **FDI**); **EPM** supports exporters, especially MSMEs.

Delhi Hosts SCO Meeting; India Deepens Ties with UK and Canada

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims — SCO, Indus Waters Treaty; Mains GS-II — India and the world, groupings.
Context	**Delhi hosted an SCO meeting** (with a cultural walk at **Purana Qila**) as **PM Modi** met the **Prince and Princess of Wales** and India and **Canada** weighed a defence pact.
Key Facts	▸ **SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)** meeting hosted in **Delhi**. ▸ PM Modi met the **Prince & Princess of Wales** on **India-UK** ties. ▸ India and **Canada** are considering a **defence pact** during a December visit; India linked river-sharing to the **Indus Waters Treaty**.
Way Fwd	Balancing Eurasian (SCO) and Western partnerships reflects India's **multi-alignment**.
Concept	**SCO** is a Eurasian political-security-economic grouping (India a full member since **2017**); headquartered in **Beijing**.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

■ **Gandhi Sagar** pumped-hydro (1,920 MW) sits on the **Chambal** river in **Neemuch** district.	■ RBI's inflation tolerance band is **4% +/- 2%**; Oct 2026 CPI was **6.09%**.
■ **Omkareshwar** floating solar is on the **Narmada**; combined capacity will reach **478 MW**.	■ **Barak-8 / MRSAM** is co-developed by **DRDO** and **Israel's IAI**.
■ **PM MITRA** textile park in MP is at **Dhar** (Bhainsola / Badnawar).	■ MP tops India in **ULLAS** adult-learner enrolment (**31.14 lakh**).

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Gandhi Sagar Pumped Hydro Storage Project, consider the following: 1) It is located on the Chambal river. 2) It has a total planned capacity of 1,920 MW. 3) It stores energy by pumping water to an upper reservoir during off-peak hours. 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. Gandhi Sagar PSP (Neemuch, on the Chambal) has a planned 1,920 MW capacity and works on the pumped-storage principle of pumping water up off-peak and releasing it to generate during peak demand.

Q2. Consider the following about retail inflation data for October 2026: 1) Headline CPI inflation was 6.09%. 2) It breached the upper limit of the RBI's tolerance band. 3) The RBI's flexible inflation target is set at 4% with a band of +/- 2%. Which are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (D) October 2026 headline CPI was 6.09%, which breached the 6% upper tolerance of the RBI's 4% (+/- 2%) flexible inflation target framework. All three statements are correct.

Mains Practice: Madhya Pradesh is positioning itself as a hub for green energy and industry. Discuss the significance of pumped-storage and floating-solar projects for the state's energy security, and the role of 'Destination Cabinet' meetings in driving regional investment. (250 words)
Hint: Link Gandhi Sagar PSP and Omkareshwar floating solar to grid balancing, land/water efficiency and renewable firming; connect Destination Cabinet + industrial parks (Mandsaur/Ratlam/Dhar) to decentralised, employment-led growth; add a balanced way forward on execution and financing.

REMEMBER TODAY: ₹70,650 cr MP cabinet projects + 4 parks | Gandhi Sagar 1,920 MW pumped-hydro (Chambal) | Omkareshwar floating solar 478 MW | CPI 6.09% breaches RBI 6% | Barak upgrade with Israel.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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