CURRENT AFFAIRS — 20 NOV 2026

Friday, 20 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MP's ninth 'Destination' Cabinet at Gandhi Sagar clears 4 new industrial parks (~₹42,000 cr).
- ₹1,507 cr MSME Infrastructure scheme (FY27-FY31) and a new MP MSME Ltd approved.
- MP scraps the two-child norm for government employees.
- Omkareshwar floating solar Phase-II: 200 MW plus battery storage on the Narmada.
- Ladli Behna 42nd instalment -- ₹1,500 each to about 1.27 crore women.
- Deep-Tech Research & Innovation Park, Ujjain, with IIT Indore as partner.
- India's Q2 FY27 GDP growth seen near 7.3% (RBI and Finance Ministry).
- 23rd ASEAN-India Summit at Manila reaffirms India's Act East Policy.
- India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue: Japanese SDF to use Indian firing ranges.
- GIFT City named India's first UNDRR MCR2030 Resilience Hub.

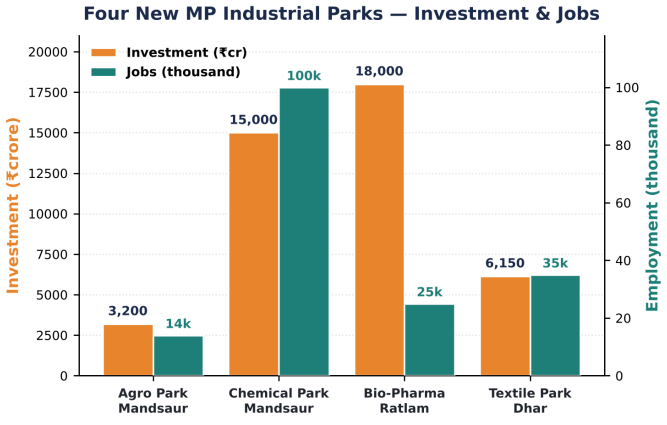
SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

MP "DESTINATION" CABINET @ GANDHI SAGAR — KEY DECISIONS (18 Nov 2026)

4 INDUSTRIAL PARKS	₹1,507 cr MSME SCHEME	OMKARESHWAR SOLAR Ph-II	DEEP-TECH PARK, UJJAIN	TWO-CHILD NORM SCRAPPED	72 NDPS COURT POSTS
Agro, Chemical, Bio-Pharma, Textile ~₹42,000 cr	Infra scheme FY27–FY31 + MP MSME Ltd	200 MW floating solar + battery storage	₹237 cr; IIT Indore partner; MPCST–MPIDC SPV	For MP govt employees (1961/1965 Rules)	6 special drug courts across MP districts
INVESTMENT	INDUSTRY	ENERGY	SCI-TECH	POLITY	JUDICIARY

MP's Ninth 'Destination Cabinet' Clears Four Mega Industrial Parks

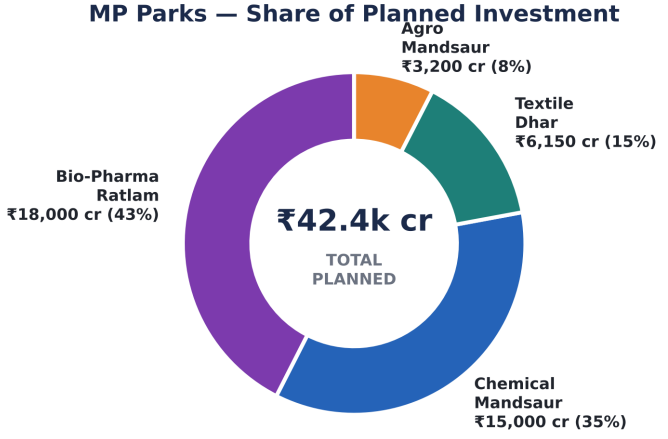
MADHYA PRADESH	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy & Infrastructure)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims (MP economy, industry) + Mains GS-III. Prelims pointers: **MP Industrial Promotion Policy 2025**, **MPIDC**, **PM MITRA**.
CONTEXT	At the **ninth 'Destination/Industry' Cabinet** held at the **Gandhi Sagar Forest Retreat, Mandsaur** on **18 Nov 2026**, the Cabinet chaired by CM **Dr Mohan Yadav** cleared four new sector-specific industrial parks and a slate of investment measures.
KEY FACTS	■ **Agro Park, Basai (Mandsaur)** -- **178.83 ha**; about **₹3,200 cr** investment; **~14,000 jobs**; garlic, onion, soybean, spice and AYUSH processing. ■ **Chemical Park, Kurlasi (Garoth)** -- over **3,500 acres**; about **₹15,000 cr**; **~1 lakh jobs**; proposal sent to the Centre. ■ **Bio-Pharma Park, Ratlam** -- about **₹18,000 cr**; **~25,000 jobs**; biologics, vaccines and APIs. ■ **Textile & Allied Park, Bhainsola (Dhar)** -- next to **PM MITRA Park**; about **₹6,150 cr**; **~35,000 jobs**.
WAY FWD	Positions MP as a **processing and pharma hub** and feeds the state's investment pipeline under the Industrial Promotion Policy 2025.
CONCEPT	**MPIDC** = MP Industrial Development Corporation (nodal agency). **PM MITRA** = Mega Integrated Textile Region & Apparel parks scheme.



MP's four new industrial parks — investment & jobs

MP Removes the Two-Child Norm for Government Employees

MADHYA PRADESH	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity & Governance)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-II (state service rules, population policy).
CONTEXT	The same Cabinet **deleted the two-child disqualification** for Madhya Pradesh government service.
KEY FACTS	■ Deletes **sub-rule (6) of Rule 6**, MP Civil Services (General Conditions of Service) Rules, **1961**. ■ Removes the 'more than two living children' bar under Rule 22, MP Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, **1965**. ■ Pending disciplinary cases **solely** on this ground are discontinued; finalised penalties are not reopened.
WAY FWD	Eases recruitment and mirrors the national debate on **coercive population measures versus a rights-based approach**.
CONCEPT	The two-child norm was earlier tied to panchayat poll eligibility; the Supreme Court upheld such norms in **Javed v. State of Haryana (2003)**.



Four parks — share of planned investment

Tiger & Cheetah State: MP Expands Big-Cat Conservation

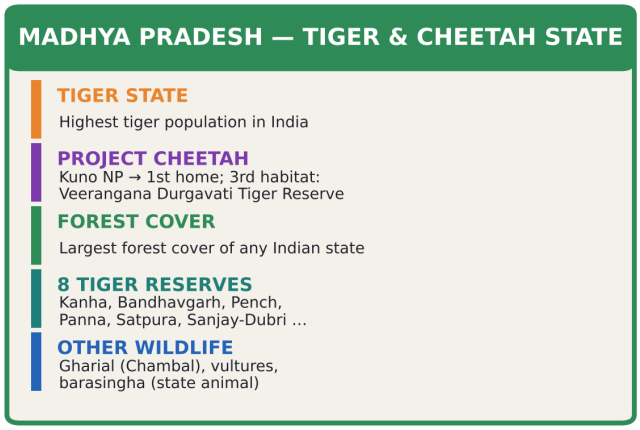
MADHYA PRADESH	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment & Ecology)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-III (biodiversity, protected areas, Project Cheetah).
CONTEXT	MP, the **'Tiger State'** with India's largest forest cover, is widening habitats under **Project Cheetah**.
KEY FACTS	■ MP has India's **highest tiger population** and the **largest recorded forest cover** of any state. ■ **Project Cheetah**: **Kuno National Park** (first home); **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** made the **third cheetah habitat**. ■ Tiger reserves include **Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura, Sanjay-Dubri** and Ratapani.
WAY FWD	A cheetah **metapopulation** across Kuno-Gandhi Sagar-Nauradehi aims at long-term viability.
CONCEPT	Cheetahs were reintroduced from **Namibia and South Africa (2022)** -- the world's first inter-continental carnivore translocation.

Clean-Energy & Deep-Tech Push: Omkareshwar Solar Ph-II and Ujjain Park

MADHYA PRADESH	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Energy, Sci-Tech & Environment)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-III (energy, S&T;). Prelims pointers: **Rewa Ultra Mega Solar**, floating solar.
CONTEXT	The Cabinet cleared **Phase-II of the Omkareshwar floating solar project** and a new **Deep-Tech Research & Innovation Park at Ujjain**.
KEY FACTS	■ **Omkareshwar floating solar Phase-II**: **200 MW** with **battery energy storage**, adding to the 278 MW Phase-I on the Narmada reservoir. ■ Floating solar **saves land and curbs water evaporation**; strengthens MP's solar leadership alongside Rewa. ■ **Deep-Tech Park, Ujjain**: about **₹237 cr**, ~100 acres; SPV with **MPCST (70%)** and **MPIDC (30%)**; **IIT Indore** academic partner.
WAY FWD	Supports India's **500 GW non-fossil capacity** target by 2030 and builds MP's innovation ecosystem.
CONCEPT	**Floating solar** = photovoltaic panels mounted on water bodies; MPCST = MP Council of Science & Technology.

Soybean & Wheat: Farm Support in the 'Soybean State'

MADHYA PRADESH	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Agriculture & Economy)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-III (MP agriculture, MSP, procurement).
CONTEXT	As India's **'Soybean State'**, MP continues price support for oilseed growers and has set wheat procurement terms for the coming Rabi season.
KEY FACTS	■ **Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana** pays the **price difference** to soybean farmers (about **₹300 cr** recently transferred to ~13 lakh farmers). ■ **Wheat MSP for Rabi 2026-27** announced at **₹2,600/quintal** (including the state bonus). ■ MP is a leading wheat procurer; **'Sharbati' wheat** (Sehore/Vidisha belt) carries a **GI tag**.
WAY FWD	Price-deficiency payments cushion farmers when **mandi prices fall below MSP**.
CONCEPT	Bhavantar pays **(MSP minus market price)**; MSP is recommended by the **CACP**; soybean is a kharif oilseed.



MP — Tiger & Cheetah State fact sheet

Ladli Behna Yojana: 42nd Monthly Instalment of ₹1,500 Paid

MADHYA PRADESH	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Social Justice & Women Empowerment)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-II (welfare schemes, women empowerment, DBT).
CONTEXT	The CM transferred the **42nd monthly instalment** of the **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana** to beneficiary women across Madhya Pradesh.
KEY FACTS	■ **₹1,500** per beneficiary per month to about **1.27 crore women**; monthly outlay about **₹1,900 crore**. ■ Monthly aid was raised from **₹1,250 to ₹1,500** in 2026 (scheme launched in 2023 at ₹1,000). ■ Delivered by **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** to women aged **21-60**; a flagship women-welfare scheme.
WAY FWD	Keeps alive the debate on **fiscal sustainability** versus **women's financial inclusion**.
CONCEPT	**DBT** = Direct Benefit Transfer; MP's scheme is the template for Maharashtra's 'Ladki Bahin' and similar transfers.

LADLI BEHNA YOJANA — 42nd INSTALMENT AT A GLANCE

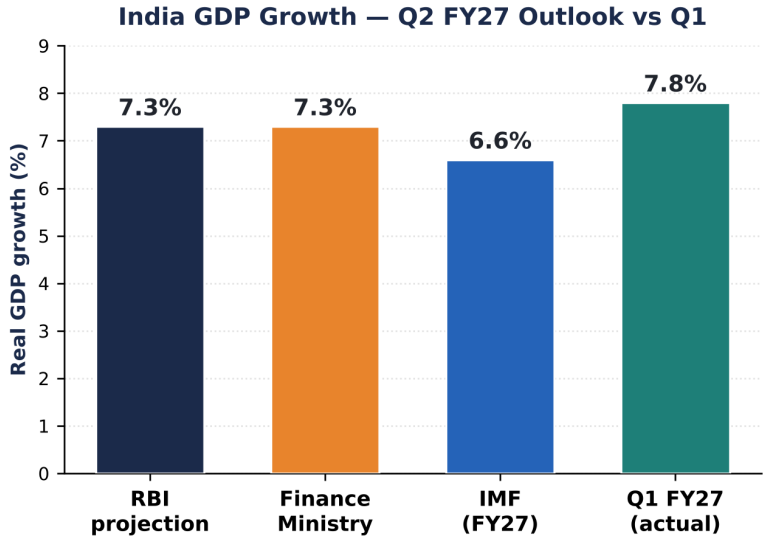


SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

India's Q2 FY27 real GDP growth outlook

~7.3%

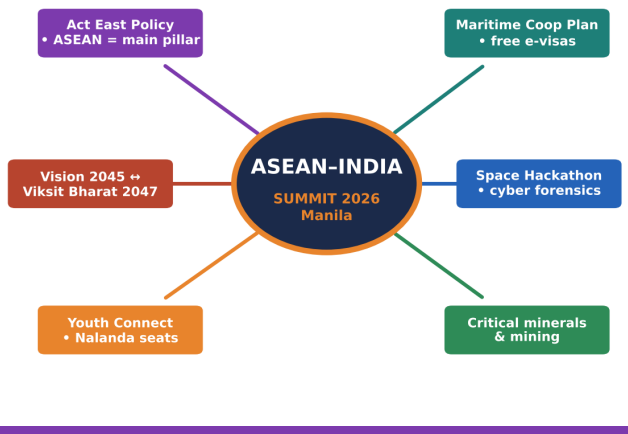
Both the **RBI** and the **Finance Ministry** peg Q2 (Jul-Sep) FY27 growth near **7.3%**, supported by strong GST collections and festive demand, after **7.8%** in Q1. The IMF's full-year FY27 estimate is softer at about **6.6%**.



SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

Supreme Court Orders Probe into Fake 'Form 7' Voter-Deletion Bids

POLITY	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity & Governance)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-II (elections, constitutional bodies).
CONTEXT	The **Supreme Court** directed verification of allegations that **fabricated Form 7 applications** sought deletion of genuine voters during a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)**.
KEY FACTS	■ The case concerned Delhi's **Mustafabad** seat, where **36 of 37** examined applications were allegedly false. ■ **Form 7** is the objection/application for **deletion of a name** from the electoral roll. ■ The ECI's **SIR** aims to purge duplicate, dead and shifted voters.
WAY FWD	Balancing **roll purity** with protection of genuine voters through due-process safeguards.
CONCEPT	Electoral rolls are governed by the **RP Act, 1950**; the ECI is a constitutional body under **Article 324**.



ASEAN–India Summit — key themes

Rooppur Plant Links to Grid; Bangladesh Becomes 33rd Nuclear Nation

SCI-TECH	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Science & Technology)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-III (nuclear energy, neighbourhood).
CONTEXT	**Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant** Unit-1 (Ishwardi, Pabna) was **connected to the grid on trial** on **17 Nov 2026**, making **Bangladesh the 33rd nuclear-power nation**.
KEY FACTS	■ Two units of **1,200 MW each (VVER-1200)**, total **2,400 MW**. ■ Built by **Rosatom (Russia)** via Atomstroyexport.
WAY FWD	Expands South Asia's **civil-nuclear footprint**, relevant to India's neighbourhood energy diplomacy.
CONCEPT	**VVER** is a Russian pressurised-water reactor; India's fleet runs mainly **PHWRs** plus imported LWRs.

23rd ASEAN-India Summit at Manila Reaffirms Act East Policy

IR	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-II (India and its neighbourhood, groupings).
CONTEXT	PM **Narendra Modi** attended the **23rd ASEAN-India** and **21st East Asia** Summits at **Manila (16-17 Nov 2026)**; theme **'Navigating Our Future, Together'**.
KEY FACTS	■ ASEAN called the **main pillar of India's Act East Policy**; **ASEAN Vision 2045** linked with **Viksit Bharat 2047**. ■ Proposals: **Maritime Cooperation Plan**, free **e-visas** for ASEAN tourists, a **Space Hackathon** and critical-minerals cooperation. ■ **Timor-Leste** became ASEAN's **11th member (Oct 2025)**; the new emblem shows **11 rice stalks**.
WAY FWD	Deepens **Indo-Pacific** economic and security ties amid supply-chain realignment.
CONCEPT	ASEAN was founded in **1967 (Bangkok Declaration)**; India became a dialogue partner in 1992 and a strategic partner in 2012.

India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue: SDF to Train on Indian Ranges

DEFENCE	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (IR) / GS-III (Security)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-II/III (defence diplomacy, bilateral ties).
CONTEXT	India and Japan held their **Foreign & Defence Ministers' 2+2 Dialogue**, deepening defence cooperation.
KEY FACTS	■ A **Letter of Intent** would let **Japan's Self-Defence Forces use Indian firing ranges** for training. ■ Both sides discussed cooperation on the **UNICORN** integrated stealth mast/antenna for warships.
WAY FWD	Strengthens the **Special Strategic & Global Partnership** and **Quad** coordination.
CONCEPT	**2+2** = Foreign plus Defence ministers' dialogue; India holds 2+2 with the **US, Japan, Australia and Russia**.

GIFT City Named India's First UNDRR 'MCR2030' Resilience Hub

ENVIRONMENT	MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Disaster Management & Environment)
SYLLABUS	MPPSC Prelims + Mains GS-III (disaster risk, urban resilience).
CONTEXT	The **UNDRR** recognised **GIFT City (Gujarat)** as **India's first 'Making Cities Resilient 2030' (MCR2030) Resilience Hub** and the newest in Asia-Pacific.
KEY FACTS	■ **MCR2030** was launched in **October 2020**; GIFT City joined in **July 2022**. ■ A Resilience Hub mentors other cities on **disaster- and climate-resilient planning**.
WAY FWD	A model for **climate- and disaster-resilient urban planning**, linked to the Sendai Framework.
CONCEPT	**UNDRR** = UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; the **Sendai Framework** runs 2015-2030.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1	**World Children's Day** is observed on **20 November** (UN CRC adopted 1989).	2	**World AMR Awareness Week**: **18-24 November** (WHO-led).
3	Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve lies in MP's **Sagar-Damoh-Narsinghpur** region.	4	MP's **wheat MSP** for Rabi 2026-27: **₹2,600/quintal** (with state bonus).
5	**Karnataka Bank** named **Biji S.S.** interim MD & CEO (HQ: Mangaluru).	6	**Amazon** to invest an extra **US$7 billion** in India renewables by 2030 (MP, Karnataka, Rajasthan).

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana, consider the following statements:
1. It pays farmers the difference between the MSP and the market price.
2. In Madhya Pradesh it is prominently used for soybean.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 ✓
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (C). Bhavantar compensates the gap between MSP and market price, and MP applies it chiefly to soybean, the state's signature oilseed.

Q2. The 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve', recently in the news as a cheetah habitat, is located in which state?

(A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh ✓
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Chhattisgarh

Ans: (B). It is Madhya Pradesh's reserve, made the third cheetah habitat after Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar.

Mains Practice: "Madhya Pradesh is using sector-specific industrial parks to shift from an agrarian economy towards a processing and manufacturing hub." Discuss with reference to recent state cabinet decisions.

Hint: *Cover the Agro/Chemical/Bio-Pharma/Textile parks, PM MITRA and MPIDC's role, investment and employment figures, incentives offered, and challenges such as land acquisition, skilling and water/power demand.*

60-SECOND REVISION: Gandhi Sagar Cabinet: 4 parks (~₹42,000 cr), ₹1,507 cr MSME scheme, two-child norm scrapped, Omkareshwar solar Ph-II | Ladli Behna 42nd (₹1,500 to ~1.27 cr) | ASEAN-India at Manila | Q2 FY27 GDP ~7.3%.

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