# CURRENT AFFAIRS — 23 November 2026

Monday, 23 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Madhya Pradesh + National • MPPSC Prelims & Mains digest

## TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Women's Asian Champions Trophy, Bhopal: India beat Thailand **7-0**, into the semis.
- Cabinet Committee reviews **Simhastha-2028** (Ujjain) works; **~₹25,000 crore** outlay.
- **Wakankar Gallery** opens in Bhopal; Bhimbetka rock-art in focus.
- **Supreme Court** hears the Bhopal residential-area sealing case.
- **MP Police** recruitment exam postponed; **~9.76 lakh** candidates affected.
- MP scales up **Omkareshwar floating solar** on the Narmada.
- **Nepal PM Balendra Shah** on first state visit; Janakpur-Ayodhya train flagged off.
- **COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye)** ends without a fossil-fuel deal.
- **India-Netherlands** upgrade ties to a **Strategic Partnership**.
- New **Small Hydro Power** scheme: **₹2,584.60 crore**, target **~1,500 MW**.

## SECTION A • MADHYA PRADESH SPECIAL

### India Thrash Thailand 7-0 at Women's Asian Champions Trophy, Bhopal

**MADHYA PRADESH** **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (MP Sports, Society & Infrastructure)**

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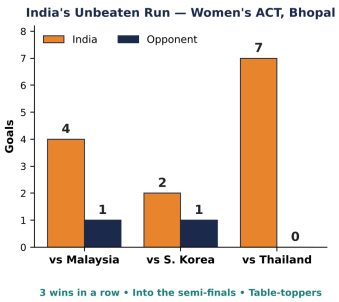
|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — host city, defending champions, pool standings; Mains GS-I — MP society, sporting infrastructure. |
| **Context** | At the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2026**, hosted in **Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)**, India hammered **Thailand 7-0** on **22 November 2026** to seal a **third straight win** and a **semi-final** berth. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ India's pool run: **Malaysia 4-1**, **South Korea 2-1** and **Thailand 7-0** — nine points and **table-toppers**.<br>■ India's forwards ran riot in the 7-0 win; India are the **defending champions**, chasing a record **fourth** title.<br>■ Bhopal is turning into a sports hub, with the **~₹985.76 crore Bhopal International Sports Complex** under development.<br>■ MP has announced **sports stadiums in all 230 Assembly constituencies**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Hosting continental events builds MP's sporting profile; converting infrastructure into grassroots talent is the next step. |
| **Concept** | The **Asian Champions Trophy** is an **annual** continental hockey event; hockey is India's field-sport flagship (**Major Dhyan Chand**). |




### Simhastha-2028: Cabinet Committee Reviews Ujjain Mega-Kumbh Preparations

**MADHYA PRADESH** **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Art & Culture) / GS-III (Infrastructure)**

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — Kumbh cycle, Kshipra river, Ujjain; Mains GS-I MP fairs & culture, GS-III river rejuvenation. |
| **Context** | The State **Cabinet Committee on Simhastha-2028** met on **23 November 2026** to review preparations for the **Simhastha Kumbh** at **Ujjain**, held on the banks of the **Kshipra (Shipra)** river. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Infrastructure outlay of about **₹25,000 crore**; nearly **40 crore** devotees are expected.<br>■ **Simhastha** is the **Kumbh** observed at **Ujjain** roughly every **12 years** — the next in **2028**.<br>■ A **pollution-free Kshipra** is the top priority; about **₹598 crore** is earmarked to divert the **Kanh** river's waters.<br>■ Ujjain hosts **Mahakaleshwar**, one of the **12 Jyotirlingas**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Clean-river and civic works must finish well before 2028 to manage one of the world's largest religious gatherings. |
| **Concept** | The **Kumbh/Simhastha** rotates among **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain**; Ujjain (ancient **Avantika/Ujjayini**) sits near the **Tropic of Cancer**. |

## CM Inaugurates Wakankar Gallery; Spotlight on Bhimbetka Rock Art

MADHYA PRADESH MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Art, Culture & Heritage)

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — UNESCO sites in MP, Bhimbetka, rock shelters; Mains GS-I prehistory & MP heritage. |
| **Context** | The Chief Minister inaugurated the **Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Gallery** in **Bhopal** on **23 November 2026**, honouring the archaeologist who discovered the **Bhimbetka** rock shelters. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **V. S. Wakankar** (born **1919, Neemuch**; d. 1988) reported the **Bhimbetka** rock shelters in **1957**; awarded the **Padma Shri (1975)**.<br>■ **Bhimbetka** is in **Raisen district** (~45 km SE of Bhopal), within the **Ratapani Tiger Reserve** on the **Vindhya** range.<br>■ Bhimbetka became a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **2003**; its paintings span the **Palaeolithic to Mesolithic**.<br>■ Wakankar is called the **'Pitamaha' of Indian rock art**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Heritage galleries and site conservation can deepen cultural tourism across MP's prehistoric landscape. |
| **Concept** | MP's **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**: **Khajuraho**, the **Sanchi** Buddhist monuments and **Bhimbetka**; the rock art depicts hunting, dancing and animals. |

## MP Expands Omkareshwar Floating Solar on the Narmada

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — floating solar, Narmada, Omkareshwar; Mains GS-III renewable energy & environment. |
| **Context** | Madhya Pradesh is scaling up the **Omkareshwar Floating Solar Park** on the **Narmada** (Omkareshwar reservoir), among the **world's largest** floating solar projects. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Phase-I capacity is about **278 MW**; a **Phase-II expansion** with **battery storage** has been cleared.<br>■ The park floats on the **Omkareshwar dam** reservoir on the **Narmada**, cutting land use and water evaporation.<br>■ MP is a solar leader, also home to the **Rewa Ultra Mega Solar** park. |
| **Way Fwd** | Floating solar paired with storage can firm up renewable supply without consuming scarce land. |
| **Concept** | **Floating solar** mounts panels on water bodies; the **Narmada** is MP's lifeline river, rising at **Amarkantak**. |

## Supreme Court Hears Bhopal Residential-Area 'Sealing' Case

POLITY MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance & Urban Local Bodies)

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — 74th Amendment, municipal corporations; Mains GS-II urban governance & judiciary. |
| **Context** | The **Supreme Court** took up on **23 November 2026** the **sealing of commercial activity in residential areas** of **Bhopal**, following residents' petitions. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ The **Municipal Corporation** said it issued about **10,000 notices** in **three phases** and **sealed 639 properties**.<br>■ Petitioners from **Arera Colony** and **Rohit Nagar** alleged that some sealed units had reopened.<br>■ Separately, **599** dilapidated **Housing Board quarters** in **Aishbagh** are being demolished after High Court permission. |
| **Way Fwd** | Firm zoning enforcement plus a transparent regularisation policy can balance livelihoods with planned urban growth. |
| **Concept** | Urban local bodies draw powers from the **74th Constitutional Amendment (1992)**; land-use and zoning are governed by town-planning law. |

## MP Police Recruitment Exam Postponed; ~9.76 Lakh Candidates Wait

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

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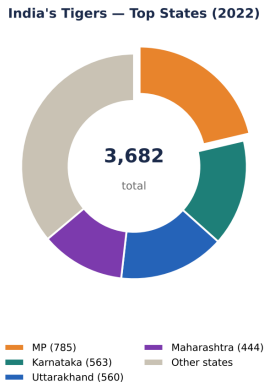
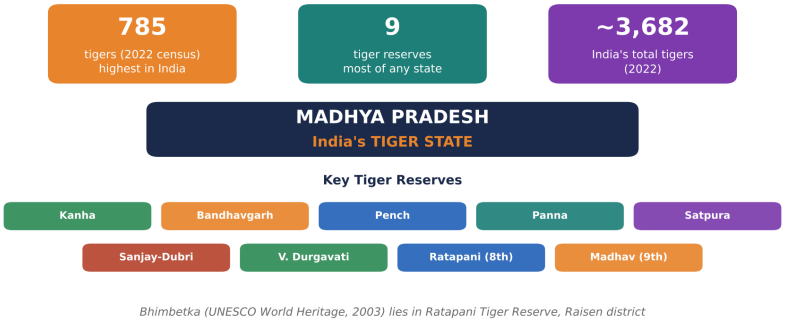
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — MP recruitment bodies, police as a State subject; Mains GS-II governance & employment. |
| **Context** | The **Madhya Pradesh Police** recruitment examination was **postponed**, leaving about **9.76 lakh** candidates awaiting a fresh date and admit cards. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Nearly **9.76 lakh** candidates are registered for the examination.<br>■ A revised schedule and **admit cards** are awaited.<br>■ The scale of applicants reflects heavy pressure on **state employment** avenues. |
| **Way Fwd** | Timely, glitch-free examinations are essential to maintain candidate trust and fill vacancies. |
| **Concept** | MP conducts such recruitment via bodies like the **Employees Selection Board (ESB)**; **police** is a **State subject** under the Constitution. |




**SIMHASTHA-2028 • UJJAIN (Kumbh on the Kshipra, every 12 years)**

| ₹25,000 cr | 40 crore | Kshipra | ₹598 cr |
|---|---|---|---|
| Infrastructure outlay | Devotees expected | Pollution-free: top priority | Kanh diversion project |




*Bhimbetka (UNESCO World Heritage, 2003) lies in Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Raisen district*

## SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

**FPI equity inflows — November 2026**

# ₹1,22,265 crore

Foreign portfolio investors were **net buyers** of Indian equities on almost every trading session in **November 2026**, drawn by a global tech-stock correction, a **stronger rupee**, softer crude and better earnings — mainly into **banking, telecom and consumer** stocks.

## SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

### Nepal PM Balendra Shah's First State Visit; Janakpur-Ayodhya Train Launched

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — Janakpur, cross-border rail, 1950 Treaty; Mains GS-II India's neighbourhood & India-Nepal ties. |
| **Context** | **Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra (Balen) Shah** is on a **two-day state visit** to India (**22-23 November 2026**) — his **first bilateral** visit since taking office in 2026. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ PM **Modi** and PM **Shah** jointly flagged off (by video, **23 Nov**) a new **weekly train** between **Janakpur Dham (Nepal)** and **Ayodhya (UP)**.<br>■ Shah held talks with PM **Modi**, called on **President Droupadi Murmu**, and paid tribute at **Rajghat**.<br>■ **Janakpur** is revered as the birthplace of **Sita** and **Ayodhya** of **Ram** — a civilisational link. |
| **Way Fwd** | Connectivity and people-to-people ties can reset India-Nepal relations on trust and shared heritage. |
| **Concept** | India and Nepal share an **open border** (**1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship**); Nepal is central to India's **'Neighbourhood First'** policy. |

### India-Netherlands Elevate Ties to a Strategic Partnership

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — India-EU/Netherlands cooperation; Mains GS-II bilateral & technology diplomacy. |
| **Context** | During Dutch Foreign Minister **Tom Berendsen**'s visit on **22 November 2026**, **India and the Netherlands** elevated their relationship to a **Strategic Partnership**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ The roadmap covers **water, health, agriculture, defence, technology, semiconductors and renewable energy**.<br>■ Talks were led by **EAM S. Jaishankar**; **2027** marks **80 years** of diplomatic ties.<br>■ The Netherlands is among India's largest **European trade and investment** partners. |
| **Way Fwd** | Semiconductor and water-management cooperation can anchor long-term India-Netherlands economic ties. |
| **Concept** | A **Strategic Partnership** signals deep, structured cooperation; the Netherlands is a key **EU** economy with the major **Rotterdam** port. |

### COP31 Concludes in Antalya Amid Fossil-Fuel Deadlock

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

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|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — UNFCCC, COP, Paris Agreement, Green Climate Fund; Mains GS-III climate governance. |
| **Context** | The **UN Climate Conference (COP31)** at **Antalya, Türkiye** ended in late **November 2026** without a strong new deal, as nations split over naming **fossil fuels** in the final text. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **Saudi Arabia** and the **Arab Group** opposed targeting specific energy sources, while island states pushed for a **fossil-fuel transition**.<br>■ Guidance to the **Green Climate Fund** and climate-finance issues stayed contested; several items were deferred to **2027**.<br>■ COP31's President is **Murat Kurum (Türkiye)**; the conference follows **COP30** at **Belém, Brazil**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Bridging the finance gap and agreeing a credible fossil-fuel pathway are the unfinished tasks for the next COP. |
| **Concept** | **COP** is the apex body of the **UNFCCC (1992)**; the **Paris Agreement (2015)** targets limiting warming to **well below 2°C**, pursuing **1.5°C**. |

## New Small Hydro Power Development Scheme Approved

**ENVIRONMENT** **MPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Energy & Infrastructure)**

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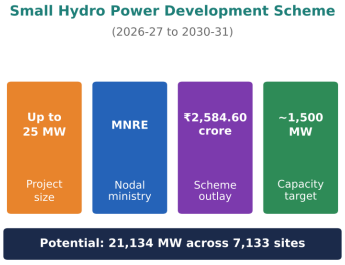
|---|---|
| **Syllabus Linkage** | Prelims — small-hydro definition, MNRE, capacity figures; Mains GS-III renewable & decentralised power. |
| **Context** | The Centre unveiled a **Small Hydro Power Development Scheme** for **2026-27 to 2030-31** to tap decentralised hydropower. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **Small hydro** = projects up to **25 MW**, administered by the **MNRE** (larger projects fall under the Ministry of Power).<br>■ Identified potential is **21,134 MW** across **7,133 sites**; about a quarter is harnessed.<br>■ Scheme outlay is **₹2,584.60 crore** with a capacity target of about **1,500 MW**, prioritising hilly, **North-East** and border regions. |
| **Way Fwd** | Small hydro can green remote grids; MP's rivers (**Narmada, Chambal, Betwa**) offer scope. |
| **Concept** | **Hydropower** is renewable and the **MNRE** is the nodal ministry for new & renewable energy; small hydro aids **energy access** and the **net-zero-2070** goal. |




**Markets Snapshot — November 2026**

**₹1,22,265 crore**
FPI equity inflows — November 2026

**₹1,21,778 /10 g**
Gold (MCX futures)

**₹1,47,813 /kg**
Silver (MCX futures)

## SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Tiger State:** MP leads India with **785 tigers** (2022 census).
2. MP has **9 tiger reserves** — the most of any state (latest: **Madhav**).
3. **Bhimbetka** (Raisen) — a UNESCO World Heritage Site since **2003**.
4. The **Simhastha/Kumbh** at Ujjain is held on the **Kshipra** river.
5. **MNRE** defines **small hydro** as projects up to **25 MW**.
6. **FPI** inflows into Indian equities in Nov 2026: **₹1,22,265 crore**.

## SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

**Q1.** With reference to the Bhimbetka rock shelters, consider the following statements:
1. They are located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh.
2. They were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003.
3. Their prehistoric significance was first reported by V. S. Wakankar.
Which of the statements given 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.** All three are correct. Bhimbetka lies in **Raisen district**, became a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003**, and **V. S. Wakankar** first reported its prehistoric rock shelters in **1957**.

**Q2.** Consider the following statements about India's tiger population (2022 census):
1. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers among Indian states.
2. Madhya Pradesh is home to 785 tigers.
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.** Both are correct. **Madhya Pradesh** topped the **2022 tiger census** with **785 tigers**, the highest among all states.

**Mains Practice:** Madhya Pradesh is often called India's 'Tiger State' and a hub of natural and cultural heritage. Discuss the significance of its wildlife reserves and World Heritage Sites, and the challenges in balancing conservation with development. (250 words)

**Hint:** Bring in **785 tigers / 9 reserves** and Project Tiger; **Bhimbetka, Khajuraho, Sanchi** (UNESCO sites) and eco-tourism; then weigh conservation against infrastructure, Simhastha-scale tourism and tribal livelihoods.

★ **ONE-LINE REVISION:** MP = Tiger State (**785 tigers, 9 reserves**) • Simhastha-2028 at Ujjain on the **Kshipra** • Bhimbetka = UNESCO **2003** • COP31 = **Antalya, Türkiye** • Nov FPI inflows = **₹1,22,265 crore**.

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