Note: Today is a Monday: the day's UP news (Gonda projects, Deepotsav review) is placed first; key decisions from 27–31 October are included because they are this week's most exam-relevant UP developments.

SECTION A — TODAY IN UP

UP-GOVERNANCE

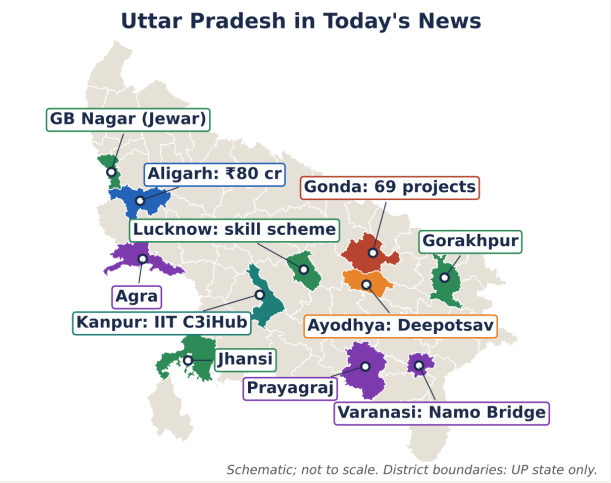
1. Gonda: CM launches 69 projects worth over ₹520 crore in Mankapur and Gaura

On 2 November the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development works in Gonda district and distributed scheme benefits.

- **69 projects** worth **over ₹520 crore** — inaugurations and foundation stones.
- Spread over the **Mankapur** and **Gaura** Assembly constituencies of **Gonda** district.
- Approval letters and cheques handed to beneficiaries of state welfare schemes at the same event.
- CM linked the upcoming **Ayodhya Deepotsav** to livelihoods for potters, farmers, labourers and small traders.

Why it matters: District-level project bundles in eastern UP (Devipatan division) show the state's push to spread public assets beyond big cities — a ready example for Mains answers on balanced regional development.

Syllabus: GS-II Welfare schemes & delivery | GS-V UP: district-level development, Devipatan division | **Static:** Gonda is part of the Devipatan division along with Bahraich, Balrampur and Shrawasti; the region lies in the Terai-adjoining north-eastern plains of UP.



UP-CULTURE

2. Ayodhya: CM reviews preparations for the 10th Deepotsav (main lighting on 7 November)

The Chief Minister visited Ayodhya on 2 November to inspect Ram ki Paidi, the Saryu Aarti site and Ram Katha Park ahead of the festival.

- **10th edition** of Deepotsav (first held in **2017**); main diya lighting on **7 November 2026**, eve of Diwali.
- Earthen lamps along the **Saryu** ghats including **Ram ki Paidi**; target reported at **over 26 lakh diyas**.
- **1 lakh diyas** inside the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra complex, lit by about **1,000 workers** in **5 zones**.
- **2025 edition: 26,17,215 diyas** and **two Guinness World Records** (largest oil-lamp display; most people doing diya aarti together).

Why it matters: Deepotsav has become a template of 'culture-led economy': it drives demand for local potters and artisans, hotels and transport — a strong case study for UP's religious-tourism circuit (Ayodhya–Varanasi–Prayagraj).

Syllabus: GS-I Indian culture, fairs & festivals | GS-VI UP: cultural heritage, religious tourism economy | **Static:** Ayodhya lies on the right bank of the Saryu (Ghaghara); Faizabad district was renamed Ayodhya in 2018.

SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS

UP-INFRA

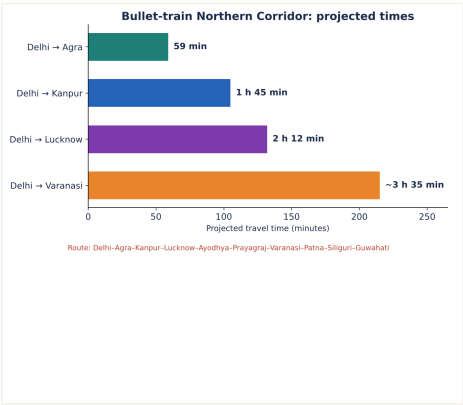
3. Bullet train 'Northern Corridor' approved: Delhi–Agra–Kanpur–Lucknow–Ayodhya–Varanasi; Namo Bridge for Varanasi

The Union Railway Minister announced in Varanasi on 31 October that the Prime Minister has approved the Northern Corridor of the bullet-train network.

- Route: **Delhi–Agra–Kanpur–Lucknow–Ayodhya–Prayagraj–Varanasi**, onward to **Patna, Siliguri and Guwahati**.
- Projected times: Delhi–Agra **59 min**, Delhi–Lucknow **2 h 12 min**, Delhi–Varanasi **about 3.5 h**; Lucknow–Varanasi about **1 h 21 min**.
- **Namo Bridge**, Varanasi: **2.5 km** double-decker over the Ganga — **6-lane road** above, **4 rail lines** below; cost **₹2,657 crore**, target **2029**.
- First bullet-train corridor to pass through UP; fares indicated to be lower than air travel.

Why it matters: High-speed rail would knit UP's six largest cultural-economic nodes into one corridor, cutting travel time by two-thirds and boosting tourism, services and real estate along the route; land acquisition and financing are the key challenges.

Syllabus: GS-III Infrastructure — railways, high-speed rail | GS-VI UP: transport connectivity & urban growth | **Static:** India's first high-speed rail project is the 508 km Mumbai–Ahmedabad corridor, built by NHSRCL with Japanese Shinkansen technology.



UP-INFRA

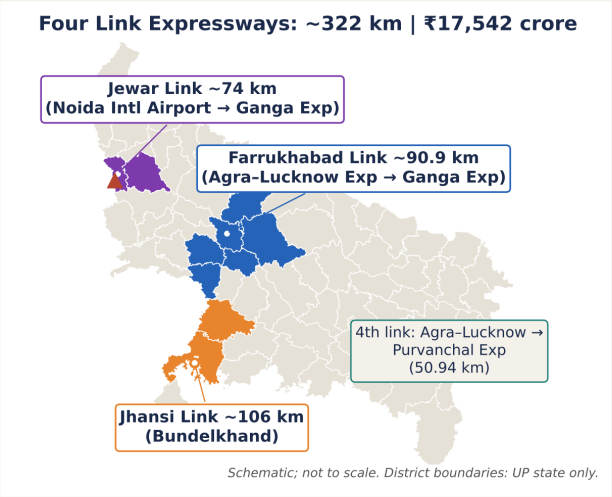
4. Cabinet clears four link expressways — about 322 km for ₹17,542 crore

The state Cabinet on 27 October approved 22 proposals, the largest being four link expressways to stitch together UP's existing expressway grid.

- **Farrukhabad Link (~90.9 km)**: Agra–Lucknow Expressway to **Ganga Expressway** (Etawah, Kannauj, Mainpuri, Farrukhabad, Hardoi, Shahjahanpur).
- **Agra–Lucknow to Purvanchal Expressway Link (50.94 km)**; **Jhansi Link (~106 km)** for **Bundelkhand**.
- **Jewar Link (~74 km)**: **Noida International Airport** to Ganga Expressway via Bulandshahr.
- Total **₹17,542.06 crore**, fully state-funded; built by **UPEIDA** on **EPC** model in **3 years** + **5 years** maintenance.

Why it matters: Links convert separate expressways into a network, so freight from Bundelkhand or the Jewar airport hub can move across the state without city bottlenecks — vital for UP's industrial corridors and the $1-trillion economy goal.

Syllabus: GS-III Infrastructure — roads, PPP/EPC models | GS-VI UP: expressway network, Bundelkhand & western UP | **Static:** UPEIDA (UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority) builds the state's expressways; the Ganga Expressway (Meerut–Prayagraj, 594 km) is UP's longest.



UP-SCHEME

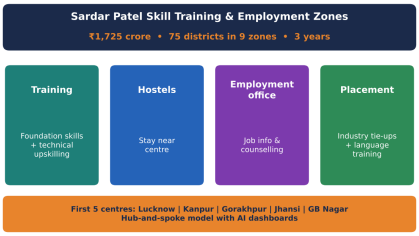
5. ₹1,725-crore Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training and Employment Zone scheme launched

The Chief Minister launched the scheme in Lucknow on 31 October, the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Patel (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas).

- Outlay **₹1,725 crore**, to be implemented over **3 years**.
- All **75 districts** grouped into **9 zones**; first **5 centres**: **Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Gautam Buddha Nagar**.
- **Hub-and-spoke** centres with training, hostels, employment offices and placement support.
- Foundation skills for arts/commerce students, upskilling for ITI-polytechnic-engineering youth, **language training** for jobs abroad; **AI-based dashboards** to track outcomes.

Why it matters: Linking training to placement and hostels addresses UP's core problem — a large young workforce with low employability; outcome tracking will decide whether it goes beyond certificates.

Syllabus: GS-III Employment & skill development | GS-V UP: state welfare and employment schemes | **Static:** Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (31 October) has been observed since 2014 to mark Sardar Patel's birth anniversary; he integrated over 560 princely states.



UP-GOVERNANCE

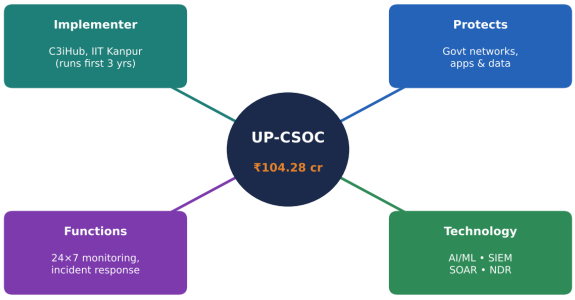
6. UP Cyber Security Operations Centre (UP-CSOC) approved at ₹104.28 crore with IIT Kanpur's C3iHub

The 27 October Cabinet approved a state-level centre to guard government networks, applications and data.

- Cost **₹104.28 crore**; implemented and run for the first **3 years** by **C3iHub, IIT Kanpur**.
- **24×7 monitoring**, threat detection, incident response, vulnerability management and post-incident analysis.
- Tech stack: **AI/ML, SIEM, SOAR** and **Network Detection & Response (NDR)**.
- C3iHub earlier set up SOCs for **SAIL (Bhilai Steel Plant), NHAI** and the **Indian Ports Association**.

Why it matters: As more services move online, a dedicated state SOC protects citizen data and critical systems; using a home-grown IIT hub also builds local cyber capacity.

Syllabus: GS-III Internal security — cyber security | GS-V UP: e-governance & digital infrastructure | **Static:** C3iHub is a Technology Innovation Hub under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS); CERT-In is the national nodal agency under Section 70B of the IT Act, 2000.



UP-ECONOMY

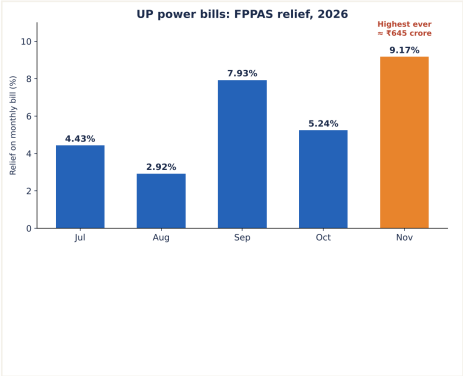
7. Power bills: record 9.17% relief in November under fuel-cost adjustment, saving consumers about ₹645 crore

The state power corporation will cut November 2026 bills through the Fuel and Power Purchase Adjustment Surcharge (FPPAS).

- Relief of **9.17%** on **November 2026** bills — the **highest so far** under FPPAS.
- Total saving for consumers about **₹645 crore**; applies to domestic, commercial and other categories.
- **Fifth straight month** of relief: Jul **4.43%**, Aug **2.92%**, Sep **7.93%**, Oct **5.24%**.
- Mechanism: when actual fuel/power-purchase cost falls below the cost built into the tariff, the gap is passed back to consumers.

Why it matters: Automatic pass-through makes tariffs more transparent and cost-reflective in both directions — consumers gain when costs fall, while DISCOMs avoid accumulating unrecovered costs when they rise.

Syllabus: GS-III Infrastructure — energy, power tariffs | GS-VI UP: power sector & DISCOM finances | **Static:** Power tariffs in UP are set by the UP Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC), constituted under the Electricity Act, 2003.



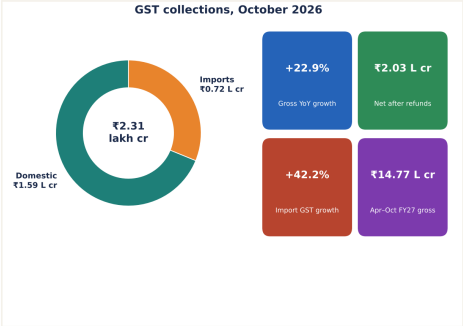
SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS RELEVANT FOR UPPSC

NATIONAL

8. October GST collections jump 22.9% to ₹2.31 lakh crore; import GST up 42.2%

Provisional data released on 1 November show the strongest year-on-year growth in gross GST this fiscal.

- Gross GST **₹2.31 lakh crore** (+**22.9%** YoY); net after refunds **₹2.03 lakh crore** (+**25.6%**).
- Domestic GST **₹1.59 lakh crore** (+15.8%); import GST **₹72,246 crore** (+**42.2%**).
- Refunds **₹27,934 crore** (+6.5%).
- April–October FY27: gross **₹14.77 lakh crore** (+13.2%).



Why it matters: Buoyant GST strengthens both Union and state budgets (SGST share) — important for a large state like UP that relies on devolution and its own GST to fund capex.

Syllabus: GS-III Fiscal policy, indirect taxation, Centre–State finances | **Static:** GST came via the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016 and was rolled out on 1 July 2017; the GST Council is set up under Article 279A.

NATIONAL

9. PM opens Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam (2–5 November); UP among 13 showcase states

The four-day summit, successor to RE-INVEST, opens in New Delhi on 2 November under the theme 'Invest. Innovate. Inspire.'

- **130+ countries**, **40+ ministers**; **9 country partners** incl. Australia, Denmark, EU, France, Germany, UK.
- **13 states/UTs** showcase potential, **including Uttar Pradesh**.
- Co-located: **9th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen**.
- Expo with **400+ exhibitors** — solar, wind, green hydrogen, storage.

Why it matters: A platform for UP to pitch its solar parks (Bundelkhand) and green-hydrogen policy to global investors, while India pushes towards its 500 GW non-fossil capacity goal for 2030.

Syllabus: GS-III Renewable energy, climate change | GS-II International groupings (ISA) | **Static:** The ISA was launched by India and France at COP21, Paris (2015); its headquarters is in Gurugram.

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
Govt jobs rule	Character-verification rules tightened: candidates involved in **violent activities aimed at changing the government** barred from direct-recruitment posts; an FIR alone is not enough to disqualify.
PM MITRA Park	Master developer selection approved for the **PM MITRA Mega Textile Park** on **1,000 acres** in **Lucknow-Hardoi**.
Sainik School	**9.524 hectares** of land transferred free for the **Sainik School, Mainpuri**.
Aligarh	**₹80 crore** for **Talanagri Industrial Area** (est. 1992) under the **Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission** — ~1,300 plots, 40 km drains, 15 km roads.
Cashless care	Cashless medical treatment extended to **Basic Education Department** staff and **non-teaching staff of secondary & Sanskrit schools**, with dependents.
GI tags	UP holds **77 GI tags**, the **most of any state** (e.g., Banarasi saree, Kannauj attar, Lucknow chikankari).

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training and Employment Zone Development Scheme of Uttar Pradesh, consider the following statements: 1. Its outlay is ₹1,725 crore. 2. Jhansi and Gorakhpur are among the first five centres. 3. It is to be implemented over five years. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (b) — Outlay is ₹1,725 crore and the first five centres are Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Gautam Buddha Nagar; the scheme runs over 3 years, not 5.

Q2. The proposed Uttar Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Centre (UP-CSOC) will be implemented by C3iHub, which is located at:
(a) IIT (BHU) Varanasi (b) IIT Kanpur (c) IIIT Allahabad (d) MNNIT Prayagraj
Answer: (b) — C3iHub is the Technology Innovation Hub for cyber security at IIT Kanpur under NM-ICPS; it will run UP-CSOC (₹104.28 crore) for the first 3 years.

Mains Practice: "Expressways and high-speed rail are redrawing Uttar Pradesh's economic geography." Examine this statement in the light of the new link expressways and the bullet-train Northern Corridor, and suggest how the benefits can reach Bundelkhand and Purvanchal. (UPPSC GS-VI, 200 words)
Hint: Intro: UP's expressway grid + 322 km links + HSR corridor. Body: logistics cost, industrial corridors, airport hub (Jewar), tourism (Ayodhya–Varanasi); risks — land acquisition, regional imbalance, debt. Way forward: nodes/industrial clusters along routes, skill zones, district-level ODOP links. Conclude with $1-trillion goal.

⚡ **One-line revision:** Gonda 69 projects ₹520 cr | Deepotsav 10th, 7 Nov | Bullet train Delhi–Varanasi ~3.5 h | Link expressways ~322 km, ₹17,542 cr | Skill zones ₹1,725 cr, 9 zones | UP-CSOC ₹104.28 cr, IIT Kanpur | Power relief 9.17% | GST ₹2.31 lakh cr (+22.9%)

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team | ▶ **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** | ➤ **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**