Today's Top UP Stories: ₹1,500 cr Diwali LPG refill for 1.89 crore Ujjwala families; 10th Ayodhya Deepotsav on 7 Nov with 26 lakh+ diyas; 200-acre bio-pharma park for Pilibhit

The UP government transferred **₹1,500 crore** for free Diwali LPG refills to **1.89 crore** Ujjwala families and put the state on festive high alert with leaves cancelled. Ayodhya prepares for the **10th Deepotsav** on **7 November**, while UPIDA plans a **200-acre bio-pharma park** in Pilibhit and the culture department readies statues of historical figures in **12 districts**. This week's Cabinet cleared **four link expressways (₹17,542.06 crore)** and the **PRAGATI Robotics Park** in Greater Noida.

Note: Today's UP coverage is festival-heavy, so Sections B and C supplement it with major items from this week (27 Oct – 3 Nov); today's items appear first in Section A.

SECTION A — TODAY IN UTTAR PRADESH

[UP-GOVERNANCE] 1. CM orders festive high alert: leaves cancelled ahead of Diwali, Chhath and Dev Deepawali

At a review meeting in Lucknow on 4 November, CM Yogi Adityanath issued state-wide directions for the festive season.

- Leave of officials and employees **cancelled**; granted only in special circumstances.
- **24-hour** police watch on markets and **24-hour social-media monitoring** — **zero tolerance** for rumours and inflammatory posts.
- Firecracker sales only at open, safe sites; fire services on **high alert**; uninterrupted power and water supply.
- Farm-side orders: stop **fertiliser black-marketing**, no laxity in **paddy procurement**, action on **short-weighing** of ration.
- Honorarium of **outsourced staff and anganwadi workers** to be paid **before the festivals**.

Why it matters: Shows the convergence of law-and-order, disaster preparedness (fire), digital policing and welfare delivery — a ready case study for Mains answers on district administration and crowd management during mass festivals.

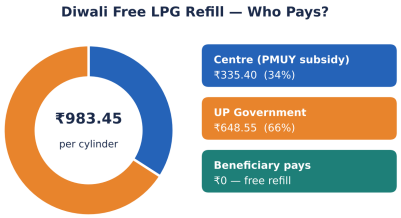
Static concept: 'Police' and 'Public order' are State List subjects (Entries 1 and 2, List II, Seventh Schedule).

Syllabus: GS-II: Governance, law & order administration | GS-V: UP administrative system and public service delivery | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V)*

[UP-SCHEME] 2. ₹1,500 crore transferred for free Diwali LPG refill to 1.89 crore Ujjwala families

At an event in Lucknow on 3 November, the CM released the festive LPG subsidy by DBT and announced coming packages for farmers and women.

- **₹1,500 crore** to **1.89 crore+** PM Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) families; refill becomes **free** for beneficiaries.
- Cylinder cost **₹983.45**: Centre bears **₹335.40**, UP pays the remaining **₹648.55** (paid directly to gas companies).
- Part of the Cabinet decision (Oct 2026) giving **two free refills in FY 2026-27** — around **Holi and Diwali**.
- CM promised a **special economic package** for **3 crore** farmer families and a package for women's self-reliance.
- **Annapurna Bhojanalayas** (low-cost meals) at mandis and labour hubs; ration shops to become model '**Annapurna Bhawans**'.



Why it matters: Free refills tackle the 'refill gap' — connections without regular use — which decides whether PMUY actually cuts indoor air pollution and women's health burden; fiscal sustainability of such transfers is a Mains angle.

Static concept: PMUY was launched from Ballia (UP) on 1 May 2016 to give deposit-free LPG connections to women of poor households.

Syllabus: GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections | GS-VI: UP welfare & public finance | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II, GS-VI (UP economy)*

[UP-CULTURE] 3. Ayodhya Deepotsav-2026 (10th edition) on 7 November — 26 lakh+ diyas and global Ramlila troupes

On 4 November the CM called the Deepotsav a 'cultural bridge between India and the world' as preparations entered the final stage.

- Main event on **7 November 2026** at **Ram ki Paidi** and the **Saryu** ghats — the **10th** Deepotsav.
- **More than 26 lakh diyas** planned; students of **Avadh University** assist as volunteers.
- Ramayana staged by troupes from **Sri Lanka, South Africa, Indonesia and Thailand**; **100+** Indian folk and classical artists.
- UP Tourism adds multimedia projection and **laser show**; Deepotsav 2025 set **two Guinness World Records** (**26,17,215** diyas).



Why it matters: Festival-led tourism is central to UP's 'Ramayana circuit' and soft-power diplomacy with South-East Asia; balancing scale with ghat ecology and crowd safety is the governance test.

Static concept: Ramayana traditions abroad: Ramakien (Thailand), Kakawin Ramayana (Indonesia) — evidence of India's cultural links with South-East Asia.

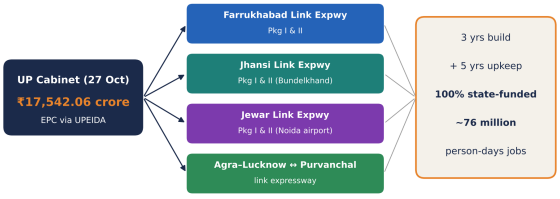
Syllabus: GS-I: Indian culture, fairs & festivals | GS-V: UP culture, tourism & heritage | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (UP-special GS-V: culture)*

SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS

[UP-INFRA] 4. UP Cabinet clears four link expressways worth ₹17,542.06 crore

The Cabinet chaired by CM Yogi Adityanath (27 October) approved developer selection for UPEIDA's link expressway packages.

- **Farrukhabad, Jhansi** and **Jewar** link expressways (Package I & II each) + **Agra–Lucknow ↔ Purvanchal** link.
- Built by **UPEIDA** on the **EPC model**; **3 years** construction + **5 years** maintenance.
- **100% state-funded** — no central funding; ~**76 million person-days** of employment.
- Aim: tie western, central and eastern UP to Lucknow and **NCR**; Jewar link feeds the **Noida International Airport**.



Why it matters: Link roads convert stand-alone expressways into a grid, letting Bundelkhand and Purvanchal plug into industrial corridors — the real test is land acquisition speed and toll-revenue viability.

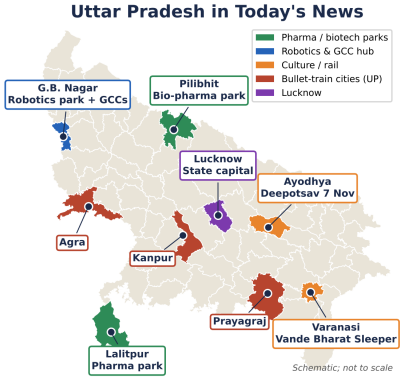
Static concept: EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction): government funds the project and bears traffic risk; contractor only builds — unlike BOT/HAM.

Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure — roads, investment models | GS-VI: UP infrastructure & expressway network | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)*

[UP-ECONOMY] 5. 200-acre bio-pharma park planned in Pilibhit to make the Terai district a biotech hub

The state announced on 3 November that UPIDA's new industrial area in Pilibhit will host a dedicated bio-pharma park.

- UPIDA is developing a **951.79-acre** industrial area at **Bhara Pachpeda, Amaria tehsil**, Pilibhit.
- **200 acres** of it earmarked for the **bio-pharma park** — aimed at cutting imports of **fermentation-based products**.
- A **biotech institute wing** for R&D, skilling and incubation; ~**400** pharmacy/biotech students to benefit.
- Part of a cluster strategy: **Lalitpur Pharma Park** (bulk drugs/APIs, Bundelkhand) and **Meditech Park (350 acres)** near Jewar airport.



Why it matters: Taking pharma to Pilibhit (Terai) and Lalitpur (Bundelkhand) spreads industry beyond the NCR belt and supports India's API self-reliance push after supply-chain shocks.

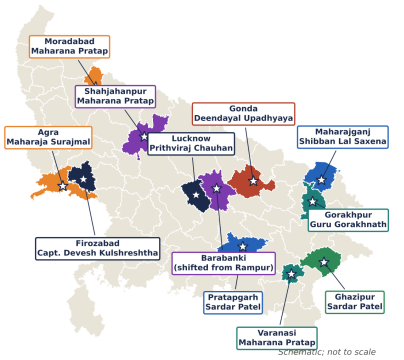
Static concept: Pilibhit lies in the Terai belt; it is home to Pilibhit Tiger Reserve and the source of the Gomti river (Gomat Taal).

Syllabus: GS-III: Industrial policy, biotechnology | GS-VI: UP industrial development & regional balance | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)*

[UP-CULTURE] 6. Statues of historical figures and leaders to be installed in 12 districts

Tourism & Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said on 3 November that pedestals are being prepared with district magistrates.

- **Lucknow**: 12.5-ft equestrian bronze of **Prithviraj Chauhan**; **Agra**: **Maharaja Surajmal**.
- **Gorakhpur**: 12.5-ft bronze of **Guru Gorakhnath** near the airport; **Maharana Pratap** in **Shahjahanpur, Moradabad, Varanasi**.
- **Sardar Patel** in **Pratapgarh** and **Ghazipur**; **Deendayal Upadhyaya** (6 ft) in **Gonda**.
- **Shibban Lal Saxena** (white marble) at Maharajganj; bust of **Capt. Devesh Kumar Kulshreshtha** in Firozabad; one statue shifted from Rampur to **Barabanki**.



Why it matters: Commemorative heritage builds civic memory, but Mains answers should weigh it against priorities like museum upkeep and protection of existing monuments.

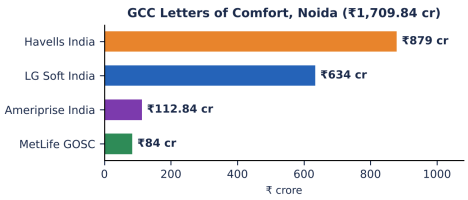
Static concept: Maharaja Surajmal (Bharatpur, 18th c.) consolidated the Jat state; Guru Gorakhnath is founder-figure of the Nath tradition — Gorakhnath Math is in Gorakhpur.

Syllabus: GS-I: Medieval & modern Indian history, personalities | GS-V: UP history and freedom struggle | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (UP-special GS-V: history)*

[UP-ECONOMY] 7. PRAGATI Robotics & AI Park in Greater Noida; ₹1,709.84 crore GCC letters of comfort

The same Cabinet (27 October) cleared a deep-tech park and incentives under the UP Global Capability Centre Policy, 2024.

- **PRAGATI Robotics Park** on **69.52 acres**, Greater Noida — for robotics firms, startups and research bodies.
- Target: **1 lakh+** direct/indirect jobs and ~**₹2,000 crore** annual **GVA** at full development.
- Greater Noida Authority equity **₹21.1 crore** (Zone-I) + state **interest-free loan ₹126.2 crore** over **30 years**.
- **GCC letters of comfort ₹1,709.84 crore** — Havells ₹879 cr, LG Soft ₹634 cr, Ameriprise ₹112.84 cr, MetLife ₹84 cr — all in **Noida**.



Why it matters: GCCs and robotics shift UP from low-wage manufacturing toward high-skill services — vital for the state's USD 1-trillion economy goal, but needs a matching skilling pipeline.

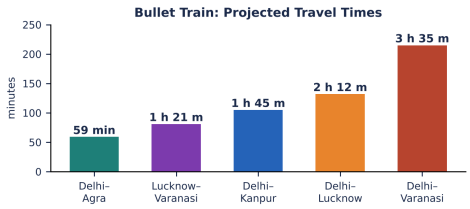
Static concept: Global Capability Centres are offshore units of multinationals handling IT, R&D, analytics and operations for the parent firm.

Syllabus: GS-III: Science & technology, industrial policy | GS-VI: UP industrial policies & employment | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI: S&T)*

[UP-INFRA] 8. Varanasi–New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper flagged off; Northern Bullet Train Corridor through six UP cities approved

On 31 October in Varanasi, the CM and the Union Railway Minister flagged off the overnight sleeper service; the minister announced PM's approval of the north bullet-train corridor.

- **Vande Bharat Sleeper**: Varanasi 8:50 pm → New Delhi 6:10 am; halts **Prayagraj, Kanpur Central, Aligarh, Ghaziabad**; 6 days a week.
- **Northern Bullet Train Corridor**: Delhi–Agra–Kanpur–Lucknow–Ayodhya–Varanasi–Prayagraj–Patna–Siliguri–**Guwahati**.
- **Six UP cities** on route: Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj; to be fully '**Make in India**'.
- Projected: Delhi–Agra **59 min**, Delhi–Lucknow **2 h 12 m**, Delhi–Varanasi **3 h 35 m**.



Why it matters: High-speed rail can knit UP's pilgrimage-tourism cities (Ayodhya–Kashi–Prayagraj) into one economic belt; cost, land and fare affordability will decide its success.

Static concept: India's first high-speed rail is the Mumbai–Ahmedabad corridor (~508 km), built with Japanese Shinkansen technology.
Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure — railways, high-speed rail | GS-VI: UP transport network | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)*

SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS RELEVANT FOR UPPSC

[ECONOMY] 9. SEBI eases KYC review for foreign portfolio investors — cycle of 2 to 8 years from 1 December

A SEBI circular of 30 October rationalised periodic KYC for FPIs to cut repetitive compliance.

- Review period moves from **1–3 years** to **2–8 years**, by investor category and jurisdiction risk; effective **1 December 2026**.
- Category I FPIs in **non-high-risk** jurisdictions: **8-year** cycle; high-risk ones mostly **2 years**.
- Separate **'no-change' confirmations** dropped; **SWAGAT-FI** keeps a **10-year** cycle.

Why it matters: Lower compliance costs make Indian markets more attractive to long-term foreign capital while risk-based scrutiny stays tight for high-risk jurisdictions.

Static concept: FPI = holding below 10% of a listed company's equity; 10% or more is treated as FDI.
Syllabus: GS-III: Capital markets, foreign investment, regulators | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III*

[NATIONAL] 10. CCS clears eight Next-Generation Corvettes worth over ₹40,000 crore

The Cabinet Committee on Security chaired by the PM approved the warship project this week.

- **8 Next-Generation Corvettes** (~**2,000 t**, ~**30 knots**) to be built by **GRSE (Kolkata)** and **Goa Shipyard**.
- In-house **Indian Navy stealth design**; first ship targeted by **2030**.
- Framed under **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and the **SAGAR** vision for the Indian Ocean Region.

Why it matters: Multi-role corvettes fill the gap between patrol vessels and frigates, boosting India's 'net security provider' role; UP's Defence Industrial Corridor can feed such programmes with sub-systems.

Static concept: SAGAR = Security And Growth for All in the Region (2015); UP Defence Corridor nodes: Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi, Chitrakoot.
Syllabus: GS-III: Defence technology, indigenisation | GS-II: India's maritime strategy | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (security)*

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

● Dev Deepawali 2026 in Varanasi: **24 November** (Kartik Purnima) — **11 lakh+** diyas, ~**1 lakh** made of cow dung.	● Guru Gorakhnath statue: **12.5-ft** standing bronze near **Gorakhpur airport**.
● Shibban Lal Saxena: **6-ft white marble** statue at Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial PG College, **Maharajganj**.	● PM Ujjwala Yojana was launched from **Ballia** on **1 May 2016**.
● Ayodhya Deepotsav 2025 lit **26,17,215** diyas and set **two Guinness World Records**.	● Pilibhit industrial area: **951.79 acres** at **Bhara Pachpeda, Amaria tehsil** (UPIDA).

Data point — State share in free Diwali LPG refill: **₹648.55 of ₹983.45** (Centre pays ₹335.40 via PMUY subsidy; beneficiary pays nothing)

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Consider the following statements about the free Diwali LPG refill in Uttar Pradesh (Nov 2026):
1. The UP government bears a larger share of the cylinder cost than the Centre.
2. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched from Ballia.
3. Around 1.89 crore families are covered.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (d) — All three are correct: UP pays ₹648.55 vs the Centre's ₹335.40 of a ₹983.45 cylinder; PMUY began from Ballia on 1 May 2016; ₹1,500 crore went to 1.89 crore+ families.

Q2. The 'PRAGATI' park approved by the UP Cabinet in October 2026 in Greater Noida is related to which sector?
(a) Medical devices (b) Robotics and AI (c) Bulk drugs (d) Electronics semiconductors
Answer: (b) — PRAGATI Robotics Park (69.52 acres) targets robotics and AI firms, 1 lakh+ jobs and ~₹2,000 crore annual GVA. Bulk drugs: Lalitpur; medical devices: Jewar.

Mains Practice: "Link expressways and sector-specific industrial parks can correct Uttar Pradesh's regional imbalance." Examine with reference to Bundelkhand, Purvanchal and the Terai. (GS-VI, 125 words)
Hint: Intro: NCR-centric growth. Body: Jhansi link + Lalitpur pharma park (Bundelkhand); Agra–Lucknow↔Purvanchal link (east); Pilibhit bio-pharma park (Terai); state-funded EPC model. Limits: land, skills, power, logistics. Conclude: corridors + skilling + local ODOP linkages.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Today: **₹1,500 cr** LPG refill for **1.89 cr** families (UP ₹648.55/cylinder) | **10th Deepotsav, 7 Nov, 26 lakh+ diyas** | **Pilibhit 200-acre bio-pharma park** | **4 link expressways ₹17,542.06 cr** | **PRAGATI robotics park 69.52 acres**.

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