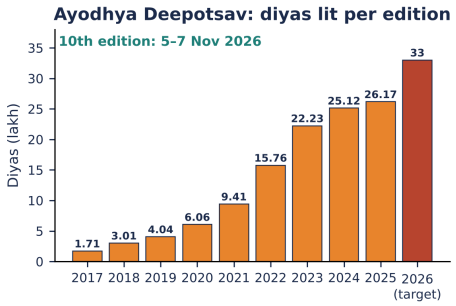
SECTION A — TODAY IN UP

UP-CULTURE 1. Ayodhya's 10th Deepotsav begins today — 33 lakh diyas targeted on the Saryu

The state government's flagship festival of lights opens today in Ayodhya and runs till 7 November, on the eve of Diwali (8 November).

- **10th edition** of Deepotsav: **5–7 November 2026**; started in **2017** with **1.71 lakh** diyas.
- Target: **33 lakh** earthen diyas along a ~2 km stretch of **Ram Ki Paidi** and the Saryu ghats; about **34,000** volunteers.
- Previous edition (2025) set **two Guinness World Records**: **26.17 lakh** diyas and **2,128** people performing the Saryu aarti together.
- Cultural programmes on a special stage at Ram Ki Paidi; temples illuminated, with a focus on crowd, traffic and cleanliness management.
- ◆ **Concept:** Ayodhya lies on the right bank of the Saryu (Ghaghara); Ram Ki Paidi is a series of ghats on the river.



Why it matters: Deepotsav is a textbook case of 'festival-led tourism' — expect questions on its records, the Saryu ghats and UP's religious-tourism circuit (Ayodhya–Prayagraj–Varanasi).

Syllabus: GS-I: Indian culture, fairs & festivals | GS-V: Cultural heritage & tourism of UP | GS-VI: Tourism economy of UP

UP-GOVERNANCE 2. CM hands appointment letters to UPPSC-selected scientific officers for state forensic labs

On 5 November in Lucknow, the Chief Minister distributes appointment letters to a new batch of scientific officers selected through the UPPSC.

- Officers join the state's **Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs)** — linked by the CM to faster, evidence-based investigation.
- UP's forensic labs rose from **4** (before 2017) to **12**, with **6** more under construction (state figures, Nov 2025).
- A **₹72.78 crore** A-class regional FSL building was opened at **Gorakhpur** in November 2025.
- **BNSS, 2023** makes forensic examination mandatory at the crime scene for offences punishable with **7 years** or more.

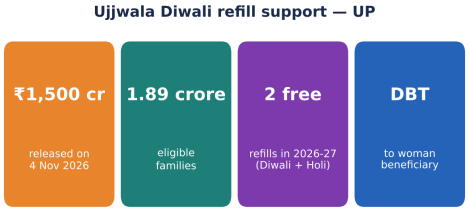
Why it matters: Forensic capacity is the bottleneck for the new criminal laws; more labs and staff mean higher conviction rates and less reliance on confessions.

Syllabus: GS-II: Recruitment & public services | GS-III: Police reforms, criminal justice | GS-V: Law & order administration in UP

UP-SCHEME 3. ₹1,500 crore Ujjwala refill support reaches 1.89 crore UP families before Diwali

At Lok Bhavan, Lucknow (4 November), the CM released refill support under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

- **₹1,500 crore** released for more than **1.89 crore** eligible families.
- **Two free refills in 2026-27** (approved by the state Cabinet on **9 October**) — one around **Diwali**, one around **Holi**.
- Money credited by **DBT** to the registered **woman beneficiary** after she books and buys a cylinder; **e-KYC** required.
- PMUY was launched on **1 May 2016** from **Ballia**, UP.



Why it matters: Refill affordability, not connections, is now the real test of clean-cooking adoption; DBT to women also strengthens household financial agency.

Syllabus: GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections, DBT | GS-VI: Social sector & women empowerment in UP

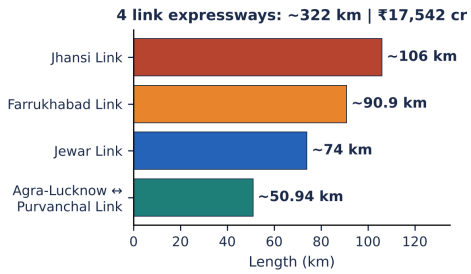
SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS

Note: Today's UP news flow is festival-heavy, so this section consolidates the key state decisions of the past few weeks (Cabinet meetings of 9 and 27 October, the 31 October scheme launch and approvals reported on 1 November) for revision. Today's items appear first in Section A.

UP-INFRA 4. Four link expressways (~322 km, ₹17,542 crore) to tie Bundelkhand and Jewar into UP's e-way grid

The UP Cabinet cleared developers for four greenfield link expressways, announced by the Finance & Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

- **Jhansi Link (~106 km)**, **Farrukhabad Link (~90.9 km)**, **Jewar Link (~74 km)** and **Agra-Lucknow–Purvanchal Link (50.94 km)**.
- Total **~322 km** at **₹17,542.06 crore**, fully **state-funded**; executed by **UPEIDA**.
- **EPC** mode; contractors maintain each road for **5 years**; completion target **3 years**.
- Jewar Link serves the **Noida International Airport** area; Jhansi Link boosts **Bundelkhand** connectivity.
- ◆ **Concept:** EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction): the government finances the project; the contractor designs and builds it — no toll or traffic risk for the contractor.



Why it matters: Link roads convert stand-alone expressways into a network — the precondition for nodes, logistics parks and industrial corridors in lagging regions.

Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure — roads | GS-VI: Expressways & industrial corridors of UP, regional balance

UP-SCHEME 5. ₹1,725 crore Sardar Patel Skill Training & Employment Zone scheme — 9 zones for all 75 districts

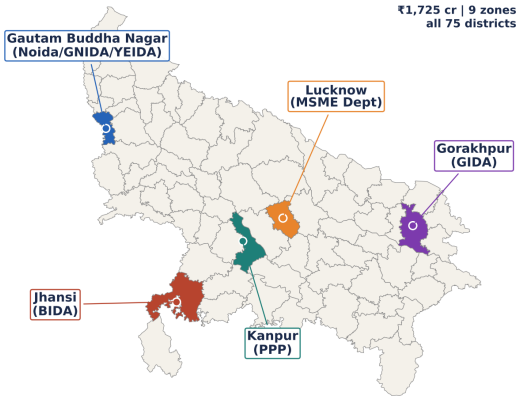
Approved by the Cabinet on 9 October and launched on 31 October (Sardar Patel's 151st birth anniversary, National Unity Day) at Lok Bhavan.

- Outlay **₹1,725 crore** over **3 years**; **9 zones** on a **hub-and-spoke** model covering **all 75 districts**.
- Phase-1 centres: **Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Jhansi** (foundation stones laid; portal live).
- Courses in **AI, robotics, data science** and Indian/foreign languages; campuses of **10–25 acres** planned at **18** divisional HQs.
- Delivery via **DBFOT** or government institutions; **viability gap funding** for private partners.
- ◆ **Concept:** DBFOT = Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer, a PPP model where the private partner finances and runs the asset before handing it back.

Why it matters: UP has India's largest youth population; linking skilling to placement cells and industry clusters is key to converting the demographic dividend into jobs.

Syllabus: GS-III: Human resource development, employment | GS-VI: Skill development & youth employment in UP

Sardar Patel Skill Zones — Phase-1 centres



Schematic; not to scale. State-level district boundaries only.

UP-GOVERNANCE 6. UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM) and a Startup E-Marketplace for government buying

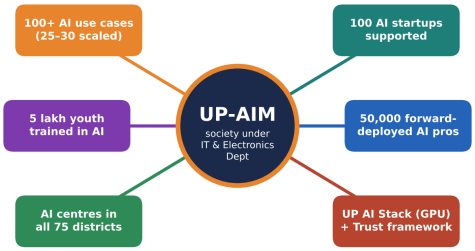
A recent Cabinet package (39 proposals) set up UP-AIM and the Uttar Pradesh Startup Procurement Scheme-2026.

- **UP-AIM** is an independent **society** under the **IT & Electronics Department**.
- Targets: **100+ AI use cases** (25–30 scaled), support to **100 AI startups**, **5 lakh** youth trained, **50,000** forward-deployed AI professionals.
- **AI centres in all 75 districts**, a GPU-backed **UP AI Stack** and an **AI Trust & Assurance Framework**.
- **Startup Procurement Scheme-2026**: a **UP Startup E-Marketplace**, run by the **UP Startup Mission**, lets departments buy from state-registered startups.

Why it matters: Government as 'first buyer' solves the startups' market-access problem, while district AI centres try to spread digital gains beyond NCR and Lucknow.

Syllabus: GS-III: IT, AI & emerging technologies, startups | GS-VI: IT policy & innovation ecosystem of UP

UP AI Mission (UP-AIM) — targets



UP-ECONOMY 7. Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy-2026, tax Interest Waiver Scheme and Model Building Regulations

The same Cabinet package added green-fuel, tax-arrears and ease-of-building reforms.

- **UP SAF Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026**: stamp-duty and net **SGST** reimbursement, interest subsidy, **100%** electricity-duty exemption for up to **10 years**.
- Nodal agency **UPNEDA**; policy valid for **5 years** (or until replaced).
- **Interest Waiver Scheme-2026**: a **3-month** window waiving interest/penalty on dues up to **31 December 2025** under legacy laws (Sales Tax Act, 1948 to **VAT Act, 2008**).
- **Model Building Regulations, 2026** simplify map and plot approvals in industrial development authority areas.
- ◆ **Concept:** SAF is jet fuel made from biomass, waste oils or captured carbon; India's indicative blending targets are 1% (2027) and 2% (2028) for international flights.

Why it matters: With a large agri-residue base, UP can turn crop waste into jet fuel — cutting stubble burning while tapping a new green-manufacturing market.

Syllabus: GS-III: Renewable energy, investment models | GS-VI: Industrial & fiscal policy of UP

UP-GOVERNANCE 8. Cabinet clears 22 proposals: PM MITRA park developer, IIT-K cyber SOC, Mainpuri Sainik School land

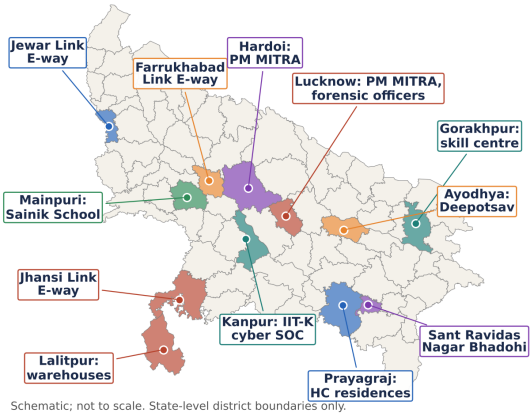
The 27 October Cabinet spread projects across districts — the map shows where today's UP stories are located.

- Master developer to be chosen for the **PM MITRA Mega Textile Park** on **1,000 acres** across **Lucknow and Hardoi**.
- A **cyber security operations centre** through **IIT Kanpur's C3iHub**; a **PRAGATI Robotics Park** approved.
- **9.524 ha** of land free for a **Sainik School** in **Mainpuri**; **cashless treatment** for non-teaching staff of secondary, Sanskrit and basic schools.
- **845 residences** for High Court officers in **Prayagraj**; free land for warehouses in **Jhansi and Lalitpur**; **UP Inland Waterways Vessel Rules-2026**.
- ◆ **Concept:** PM MITRA: 7 mega textile parks announced in 2023 — in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow–Hardoi).

Why it matters: PM MITRA's 'farm-to-fibre-to-fashion' cluster can revive UP's handloom-textile belt; the cyber SOC answers rising digital-fraud cases.

Syllabus: GS-II: State executive decisions | GS-III: Textiles, cyber security | GS-VI: Industry & infrastructure in UP districts

Uttar Pradesh in Today's News



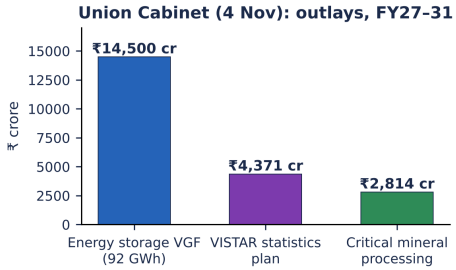
Schematic; not to scale. State-level district boundaries only.

SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS RELEVANT FOR UPPSC

NATIONAL 9. Union Cabinet: ₹14,500 crore for 92 GWh energy storage, ₹4,371 crore VISTAR statistics plan

On 4 November the Union Cabinet approved a cluster of schemes for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.

- **Viability gap funding** of **₹14,500 crore** for **92 GWh** of grid-scale energy storage.
- **VISTAR** (₹4,371.10 crore): **59** surveys in the 16th Finance Commission cycle (vs 43), new services and unincorporated-sector indices, and the **8th Economic Census** down to gram panchayat/ward level.
- **₹2,814 crore** capex support for **lithium and nickel** processing.
- **850** fast-track special courts for rape and child-abuse cases continued **till 2031**.



Why it matters: Storage makes solar power usable after sunset; district-level data under VISTAR will help states like UP plan by district rather than by guesswork.

Syllabus: GS-III: Energy security, critical minerals, statistical system | GS-II: Justice delivery

NATIONAL 10. Agnipath revamp: 2-year extension option for the 75% Agniveers not regularised

The Union Cabinet (4 November) approved a second engagement period for Agniveers; the UP CM welcomed the decision.

- Initial **4-year** engagement continues; **25%** selected on merit for regular service.
- Remaining **75%** may opt for **2 additional years** of voluntary service.
- Second engagement brings **higher pay**, an enhanced **Seva Nidhi** package and cumulative seniority; after **6 years**, Agniveers can apply for regular enrolment.

Why it matters: UP sends one of the largest contingents of recruits; longer tenure improves training return and post-service employability.

Syllabus: GS-III: Security forces & their mandate | GS-II: Government policies

POLITY 11. Supreme Court: two-child norm for local polls outdated; 2003 ruling referred to larger bench

In a case on local-body elections, the Court said falling fertility has made penal two-child laws outdated.

- The **2003** verdict (**Javed v. State of Haryana**) that upheld the norm is referred to a **larger bench**.
- Several states bar people with more than **two children** from panchayat/municipal polls.
- India's TFR is **2.0** (NFHS-5) — below replacement level of **2.1**; UP's TFR is **2.4**, among the highest.
- UP's **Population Policy 2021–30** relies on incentives rather than electoral bars.

Why it matters: The case tests whether population goals can justify limits on the right to contest — a live debate for UP's coming panchayat polls.

Syllabus: GS-II: Panchayati Raj, fundamental rights | GS-I: Population | GS-V: UP population policy

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
Renaming	**Bhadohi** district renamed **Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi** (UP Cabinet, October 2026).
Sports	**Suhas L.Y.** (IAS; Secretary, UP Sports Dept) won **bronze** in men's singles **SL4** para-badminton at the **Asian Para Games 2026**.
Elections	Booth rationalisation approved for all **403** assembly seats — voting at **1,73,730** polling booths.
Rules	**UP Inland Waterways Vessel Rules-2026** promulgated to regulate river vessels.
Tradition	Varanasi's **326-year-old** Dhanteras tradition at **Dhanvantari Niwas** to be observed this week.
Policy	**Interest Waiver Scheme-2026**: **3-month** window for legacy tax dues up to **31 December 2025**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Which one of the following link expressways recently approved by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet is the longest?
(a) Farrukhabad Link Expressway **(b)** Jhansi Link Expressway **(c)** Jewar Link Expressway **(d)** Agra-Lucknow–Purvanchal Link Expressway
Answer: (b) — Jhansi Link is ~106 km, followed by Farrukhabad (~90.9 km), Jewar (~74 km) and the Agra-Lucknow–Purvanchal link (50.94 km); total ~322 km at ₹17,542.06 crore.

Q2. With reference to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training and Employment Zone scheme of Uttar Pradesh, consider: 1. Its outlay is ₹1,725 crore over three years. 2. It covers all 75 districts through nine zones. 3. Jhansi is among the first-phase centres. 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
Answer: (d) — All three are correct: ₹1,725 crore for 3 years, 9 hub-and-spoke zones for 75 districts, and phase-1 centres at Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Jhansi.

Mains practice: "Expressways and skill zones can make Uttar Pradesh a trillion-dollar economy only if growth reaches Bundelkhand and Purvanchal." Discuss with reference to recent state initiatives. (200 words, GS-VI)
Hint: Intro: regional disparity in UP. Body: link expressways (Jhansi, Agra-Lucknow–Purvanchal), skill zones at Jhansi and Gorakhpur, PM MITRA park, warehouses in Bundelkhand; gaps — land, water, skilled labour, last-mile industry. Conclude: corridor + cluster + skilling approach.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Deepotsav 10th edition: **33 lakh** diyas target | 4 link e-ways **~322 km, ₹17,542 cr** | Skill zones **₹1,725 cr, 9 zones** | UP-AIM: **5 lakh** AI-trained | Ujjwala **₹1,500 cr → 1.89 cr** families

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