Today's headline: Paddy procurement opens in western UP, pension hike to ₹1,500 proposed for 1.21 crore; UP AI Mission and SAF Policy-2026 approved

SECTION A — TODAY IN UP

UP-AGRI

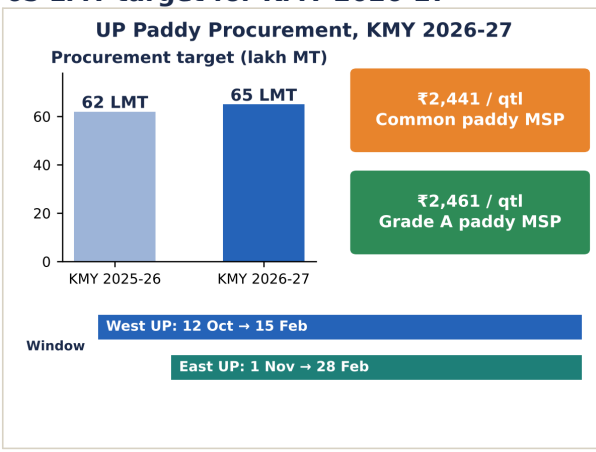
1. Paddy procurement begins in western UP today; 65 LMT target for KMY 2026-27

Under the paddy procurement policy for Kharif Marketing Year (KMY) 2026-27 cleared by the UP Cabinet on 9 October, government purchase opens in western UP from today.

- Procurement window: **western UP 12 Oct 2026 – 15 Feb 2027**; **eastern UP 1 Nov 2026 – 28 Feb 2027**.
- MSP: **₹2,441 per quintal (common)** and **₹2,461 per quintal (Grade A)** paddy.
- State target raised to **65 lakh metric tonnes (LMT)** from 62 LMT last season.
- Online farmer registration is mandatory to sell at government purchase centres.

Why it matters: Timely procurement prevents distress sales below MSP during the harvest glut, and the split West/East calendar matches UP's different harvesting cycles.

Syllabus: GS-III: MSP, food security, agricultural marketing | GS-VI: UP agriculture & procurement
Concept: MSP is announced by the Union Government on the recommendation of the CACP for 22 mandated crops; states procure paddy for the central pool under centralised or decentralised procurement.



UP-WELFARE

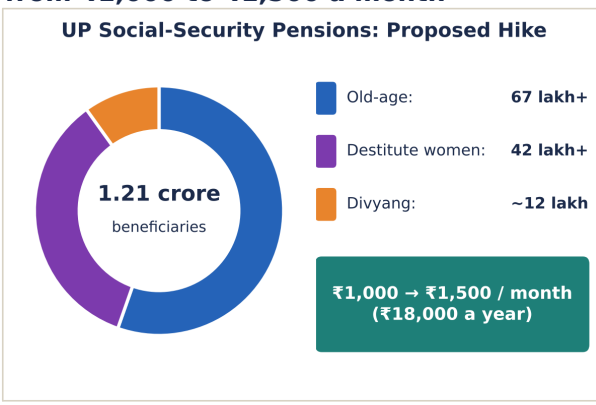
2. State moves to raise social-security pensions from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 a month

The proposal has in-principle approval and now awaits Cabinet clearance; funds may come through the second supplementary budget expected in December.

- Monthly pension to rise **₹1,000 → ₹1,500** (₹12,000 → **₹18,000 a year**).
- Covers about **1.21 crore** people: **67 lakh+ old-age**, **42 lakh+ destitute women** and **~12 lakh divyang** pensioners.
- Last revision was in **2017** (₹500 → ₹1,000).
- If approved, the higher amount could start from the third quarter of FY 2026-27.

Why it matters: A 50% hike for 1.21 crore people is among the state's largest direct-transfer expansions; at full coverage the extra outgo is an estimated ₹7,000 crore+ a year — a welfare-versus-fiscal trade-off useful for Mains.

Syllabus: GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections | GS-V: UP social-sector schemes
Concept: Article 41 (DPSP) directs the State to provide public assistance in old age, sickness and disablement; the Centre's National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is topped up by states.



UP-DISASTER

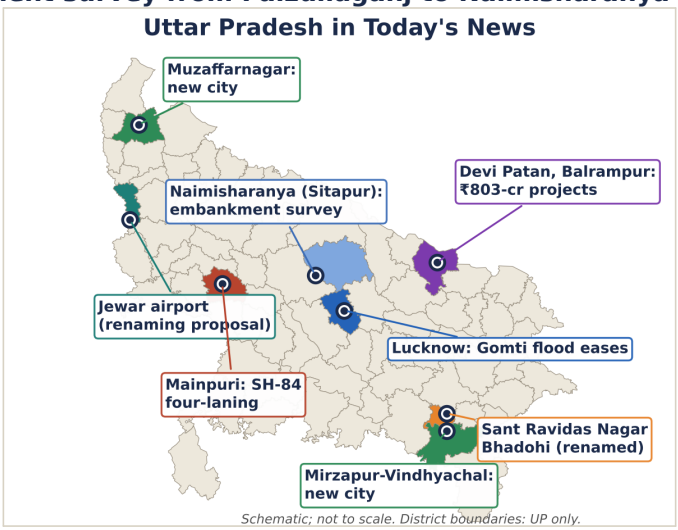
3. Gomti flood eases in Lucknow; embankment survey from Faizullaganj to Naimisharanya

After flood-like conditions in low-lying Lucknow localities, the Gomti fell by up to 13 cm in a day, officials said on 12 October.

- Barrage gates to stay open until the river falls below **105.60 m**.
- Irrigation department to survey a proposed embankment from **Faizullaganj (Lucknow) to Naimisharanya (Sitapur)**.
- **52 boats** and a relief camp at Hayat Nagar were deployed earlier in the week; upstream gauges at Neemsar (Sitapur) were already falling.
- The Gomti, a **groundwater-fed tributary of the Ganga**, rises at Gomat Taal near **Pilibhit** and joins the Ganga near Kaithi (Ghazipur).

Why it matters: Floodplain encroachment and drainage bottlenecks turn a modest river rise into an urban disaster — a classic Mains case for flood-plain zoning and drainage planning in UP cities.

Syllabus: GS-III: Disaster management, urban flooding | GS-VI: UP rivers, floods & urban planning
Concept: Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the UP State Disaster Management Authority (chaired by the Chief Minister) prepares the state disaster management plan.



UP-GOVERNANCE

4. Way cleared to re-engage 25,000+ outsourced power workers; service age raised to 60

UP Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL) agreed with employee unions on 12 October to reopen service for outsourced staff removed over the past two years.

- More than **25,000** outsourced electricity workers removed earlier can be re-engaged (of ~85,000 employed two years ago).
- Outer age limit for outsourced service raised from **55 to 60 years**.
- Workers above 55 need a fitness certificate from a registered medical practitioner and an affidavit of willingness.
- Contracts with outsourcing agencies will be amended to extend service periods.

Why it matters: Restores field manpower in distribution networks before the festive peak-demand season and spotlights the wider issue of contractualisation in public utilities.

Syllabus: GS-III: Energy sector, labour issues | GS-V: UP public sector undertakings

SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS (CABINET, 9 OCT)

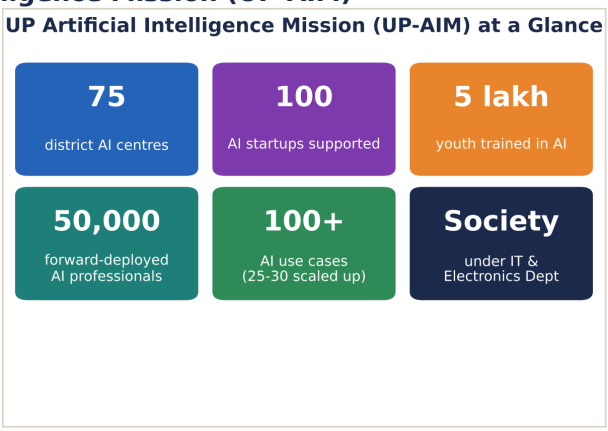
UP-SCHEME 5. Cabinet approves Uttar Pradesh Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM)

Among 39 proposals cleared on 9 October, UP-AIM will work as an independent society under the IT & Electronics Department.

- **AI centres in all 75 districts** for training, innovation, jobs and entrepreneurship.
- Support for at least **100 AI startups**; **5 lakh youth** to be trained in AI skills.
- **50,000 forward-deployed AI professionals**; **100+ AI use cases**, of which 25-30 will be scaled up.
- Same meeting cleared the **UP Startup Procurement Scheme-2026** — a UP Startup E-Marketplace for government buying from registered startups.

Why it matters: Aligns UP with the national IndiaAI Mission, can bring AI into district-level governance and builds employable digital skills for the state's large youth population.

Syllabus: GS-III: Science & technology, IT, employment | GS-VI: UP IT & startup policy
Concept: IndiaAI Mission (2024): ₹10,371.92 crore national programme with pillars such as AI compute capacity, datasets platform (AIKosh), innovation centres and startup financing.



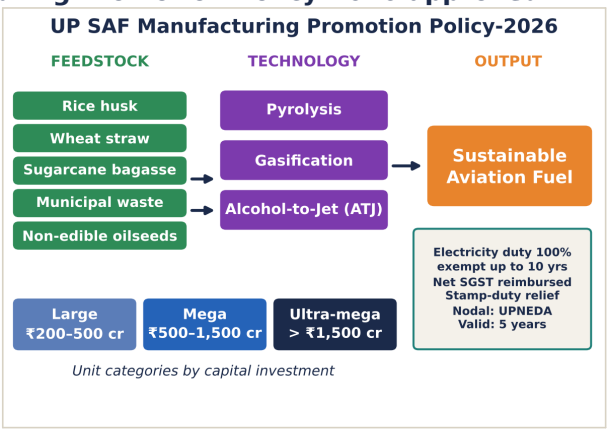
UP-ECONOMY 6. UP Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026 approved

The policy seeks to make UP a SAF manufacturing hub by using its farm-residue, sugarcane and ethanol base.

- Feedstock: **rice husk, wheat straw, sugarcane bagasse**, municipal waste and non-edible oilseeds.
- Technologies: pyrolysis, gasification and **Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ)**.
- Unit categories: **Large ₹200–500 crore**, **Mega ₹500–1,500 crore**, **Ultra-mega above ₹1,500 crore**.
- **100% electricity-duty exemption for up to 10 years**, net SGST reimbursement, stamp-duty relief; **UPNEDA** is nodal agency; policy valid **5 years**.

Why it matters: Turns stubble and bagasse into a high-value fuel — cutting crop-residue burning, supporting sugar mills and helping India meet its SAF blending goals.

Syllabus: GS-III: Energy, environment, investment | GS-VI: UP industrial & energy policy
Concept: India's indicative SAF blending targets for international flights: 1% by 2027 and 2% by 2028.



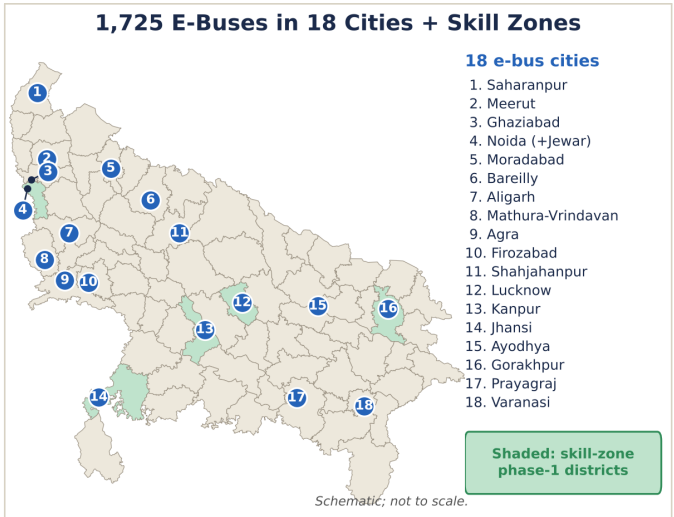
UP-INFRA 7. 1,725 AC electric buses for 18 cities; integrated bus terminal for Lucknow

The Cabinet approved e-bus services on a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model with private operators for 12 years.

- **1,725 air-conditioned e-buses** across **18 cities**, including Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur and Noida (with Jewar).
- Operators buy buses and chargers and handle staff and maintenance; **fares fixed by the state**; depot land given free by civic bodies/Noida Authority.
- At present **743 e-buses** run in 15 municipal corporations.
- Integrated bus terminal at Vrindavan Vihar Yojana, Lucknow on PPP, estimated at **₹265 crore**.

Why it matters: GCC shifts capital risk to operators and pays them per km — the model used under PM e-Bus Sewa — helping cleaner air in NCR and other big UP cities.

Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure, urban transport, clean energy | GS-VI: UP urban development
Concept: Gross Cost Contract: the authority keeps fare revenue and pays the operator a fixed rate per km, unlike the net-cost model where the operator keeps the fares.



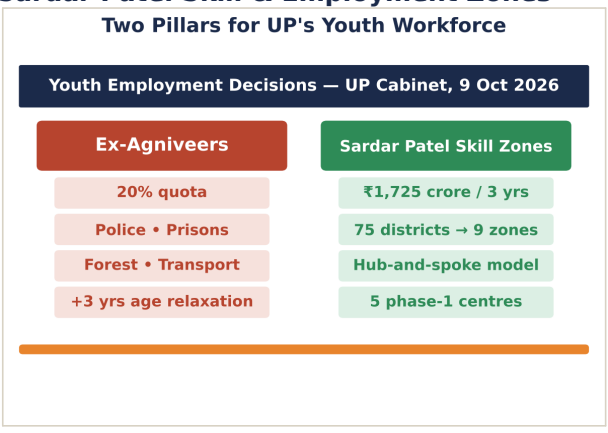
UP-GOVERNANCE 8. 20% quota for ex-Agniveers; ₹1,725-crore Sardar Patel Skill & Employment Zones

Two youth-employment decisions from the 9 October Cabinet meeting.

- Former Agniveers get **20% reservation** in **police, prisons, forest and transport** department posts.
- **3-year upper age relaxation**; they keep the benefit of their original reservation category.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training and Employment Zone** scheme: **₹1,725 crore over 3 years**; 75 districts in **9 zones** (hub-and-spoke).
- Phase-1 centres: **Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Jhansi**, with hostels and placement cells.

Why it matters: Gives Agnipath's four-year soldiers a second career in uniformed services, while the zone model ties skilling to placement — both aimed at UP's huge youth workforce.

Syllabus: GS-II: Government policies, recruitment | GS-III: Skilling & employment | GS-V: UP governance
Concept: Agnipath scheme (2022): recruitment to the armed forces for 4 years; up to 25% of each batch can be retained as regular cadre.



SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS RELEVANT FOR UPPSC

POLITY 9. NHRC marks 33rd Foundation Day; CJI says right to water means safe, reliable supply

At Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 12 October, the Chief Justice of India addressed the Commission's national conference on the right to water.

- CJI **Surya Kant**: under **Article 21**, water must be safe, reliable and accessible — a mere tap connection is not access to water.
- NHRC was set up on **12 October 1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**; chairperson **Justice V. Ramasubramanian**.
- Over **24 lakh** cases registered in 33 years with disposal above **98%**; **NHRC India mobile app** launched.
- UN General Assembly recognised safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right in **2010**.

Why it matters: Links a statutory body's work with the expanding reading of Article 21 — useful for questions on NHRC's powers and on water as a human right.

Syllabus: GS-II: Statutory bodies, human rights, Article 21
Concept: NHRC is a statutory (not constitutional) body; its chairperson — a former CJI or former Supreme Court judge — is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Prime Minister.

NATIONAL 10. Navy commissions INS Mangrol, its third anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft

Commissioned in Mumbai on 12 October, the vessel strengthens coastal anti-submarine defence.

- Built by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd**; the **third** Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) from the yard.
- Over **80% indigenous content**.
- Role: hunt submarines in coastal waters, working with maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters and other warships.
- Named after **Mangrol**, a fishing harbour town in Gujarat's **Junagadh** district.

Why it matters: Shallow-water ASW craft close a gap in coastal defence against submarine threats in the Indian Ocean and showcase Aatmanirbhar shipbuilding.

Syllabus: GS-III: Maritime security, defence indigenisation
Concept: The Navy ordered 16 ASW-SWCs: 8 from GRSE (Arnala class) and 8 from Cochin Shipyard (Mahe class).

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Area	Quick fact
Renaming	Noida International Airport (Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar) → proposed **Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar** (needs Centre's approval).
Renaming	Bhadohi district → **Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi**; known for GI-tagged hand-made carpets.
Culture	CM at **Devi Patan, Tulsipur (Balrampur)** — a Shaktipeeth — launched **78 projects worth ₹803 crore** on Navratri day 1 (11 Oct).
Welfare	**Ujjwala** beneficiaries to get **two free LPG refills** in FY 2026-27 (Diwali & Holi); outlay **₹2,142.78 crore**.
Health	**AYUSH interns'** monthly stipend doubled: ₹7,500 → **₹15,000**.
Urban	New City Promotion Scheme: **₹115 crore** first instalment to Mirzapur-Vindhyachal & Muzaffarnagar authorities (FY27 provision ₹3,500 crore).

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Uttar Pradesh Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026: 1. UPNEDA is the nodal agency for the policy. 2. Units with capital investment above ₹1,500 crore are classified as 'Ultra-mega'. 3. It offers 100% electricity-duty exemption for up to 20 years. Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (c) — UPNEDA is the nodal agency and ultra-mega units are those above ₹1,500 crore. The electricity-duty exemption is for up to **10 years**, not 20.

Q2. With reference to the Gomti river, consider the following statements: 1. It originates from Gomat Taal near Pilibhit. 2. It is a tributary of the Ghaghara. 3. Lucknow and Jaunpur are located on its banks. Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (b) — The Gomti rises at Gomat Taal near Pilibhit and flows past Lucknow, Sultanpur and Jaunpur to join the **Ganga** (not the Ghaghara) near Kaithi in Ghazipur district.

Mains practice (GS-II/GS-V): Social-security pensions and procurement at MSP are two key instruments of inclusive growth in Uttar Pradesh. Critically examine their welfare and fiscal implications in the light of recent decisions. (125 words)
Hint: Intro: pension hike proposal (₹1,000 → ₹1,500 for 1.21 crore) and 65 LMT paddy target. Body: welfare gains (income floor for elderly, widows, divyang; no distress sales), fiscal cost (~₹7,000 crore+ a year, supplementary budget), delivery issues (DBT, registration, timely payment, leakages). Way forward: index pensions to inflation, strengthen decentralised procurement, social audits.

One-line revision: Paddy buying opens in western UP (65 LMT, MSP ₹2,441) • Pension ₹1,000 → ₹1,500 proposed for 1.21 crore • UP-AIM: AI centres in 75 districts • SAF Policy-2026 (UPNEDA) • 1,725 e-buses in 18 cities • 20% ex-Agniveer quota • NHRC Day: water under Article 21.

DATA POINT **Social-security pensioners in UP:** **1.21 crore** — Proposed monthly pension ₹1,500 (from ₹1,000); last raised in 2017

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