TODAY'S HEADLINE: Uttar Pradesh has proposed **32 projects worth about ₹5,000 crore** across the seven-district **Kashi-Vindhya City Economic Region**, while RERA data show **₹52,866 crore** invested in 249 realty projects in the first nine months of 2026. At the **Swachh Survekshan 2025-26** awards, **Lucknow** placed 3rd among million-plus cities and **Varanasi** 3rd among river-front towns; nationally, **CPI inflation rose to 6.09%** in October, breaching the RBI's upper tolerance band.

Note: This edition leads with news reported on 12–13 November 2026. Two Section-B items (farmer relief package of 6 Nov and the voter re-enrolment directive of 10 Nov) are from earlier this week and are included for their high exam value.

SECTION A — TODAY IN UP

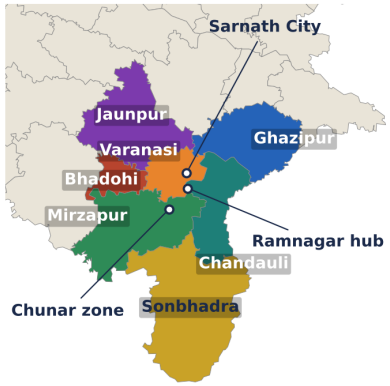
UP-INFRA 1. Kashi-Vindhya City Economic Region: 32 projects worth ~₹5,000 crore proposed

The state government has proposed a project basket for the seven-district Kashi-Vindhya City Economic Region in eastern UP.

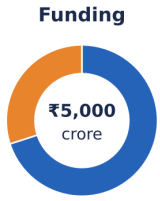
- **7 districts**: Varanasi, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Sonbhadra; **32 projects**, ~**₹5,000 crore**.
- Proposed funding: **70% World Bank** and **30% Central Government**.
- Varanasi has the most projects (**7**): Ganga-side tourism city (**1,000 acres**), Kashi-themed tourism city (400 acres), Sarnath City (260 acres), multi-modal logistics hub at **Ramnagar** (100 acres).
- Mirzapur: integrated industrial area near **Chunar** (1,000 acres); Sonbhadra: **11-GW power plant**, cement-clinker plant and a downstream **aluminium park**.
- The region was constituted by the state cabinet in Dec 2025 on the lines of the **State Capital Region (SCR)**, covering about **23,815 sq km**.

Concept: City Economic Region: a planning approach that treats a cluster of districts around an anchor city as one economic unit with a common master plan and authority.

Kashi-Vindhya Economic Region — 7 districts



Schematic; not to scale. UP district boundaries only.



32 projects

Varanasi: 7

Sonbhadra: 11 GW

Why it matters: Purvanchal has lagged western UP; a regional-economy model that blends religious tourism (Kashi, Vindhyachal, Sarnath) with power, cement and aluminium in the mineral belt of Sonbhadra can spread growth eastward.

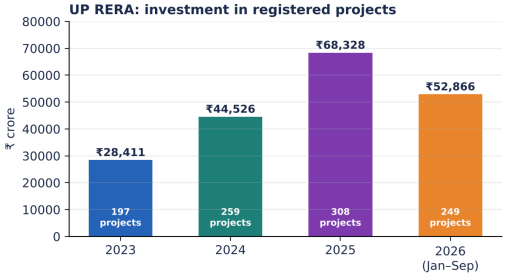
Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure, regional planning, investment models | GS-VI: Regional development of Purvanchal | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III; UP-special GS-VI (UP economy & infrastructure)

UP-ECONOMY 2. UP real estate: ₹52,866 crore invested in 249 RERA projects in Jan–Sep 2026

Data of the UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA) show sustained growth in registered project investment.

- **₹52,866 crore** across **249** RERA-registered projects in the first nine months of 2026, covering **73,400+** housing and commercial units.
- Calendar-year investment: **₹28,411 cr (2023)**, **₹44,526 cr (2024)**, **₹68,328 cr (2025)**.
- Registrations: 197 (2023) → 259 (2024) → **308 (2025)**; around **400** expected in 2026.
- Growth spreading beyond NCR: Lucknow, Mathura, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj; township land norm cut from **25 to 12.5 acres**.
- UP RERA Chairman: **Sanjay R. Bhoosreddy**.

Concept: RERA Act, 2016: every real-estate project above the threshold must register with the state RERA before advertising or selling; 70% of buyer money goes into a separate escrow account.



Why it matters: Realty investment is a proxy for urban demand and confidence; its spread to religious-tourism cities shows how infrastructure (expressways, airports) and policy reform reshape the state's urban geography.

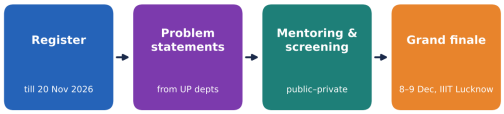
Syllabus: GS-III: Urbanisation, housing, regulatory institutions | GS-VI: Investment trends in UP | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III; UP-special GS-VI (UP economy)

UP-GOVERNANCE 3. AI Kaushal Hackathon 2026 launched; finals at IIIT Lucknow on 8–9 December

The UP IT & Electronics Department, with an industry technology partner, launched a state-wide AI hackathon under the AI Kaushal programme.

- Open to **UP-based** students, startups, accelerators and professionals; registrations till **20 November 2026**.
- Finals: **8–9 December 2026** at **IIIT Lucknow** (academic partner).
- Teams solve real public–private problem statements given by state departments.
- Part of UP's push to become an **AI and digital-economy hub** (AI cities, data centres, semiconductor units).

AI Kaushal Hackathon 2026 — how it runs



Open to UP-based students, startups, accelerators & professionals

Why it matters: Hackathons turn governance problems into innovation challenges and build a local talent pipeline, linking skilling with the state's trillion-dollar economy goal.

Syllabus: GS-III: Science & technology, skill development | GS-VI: IT & electronics initiatives of UP | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (S&T); UP-special GS-VI

SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS

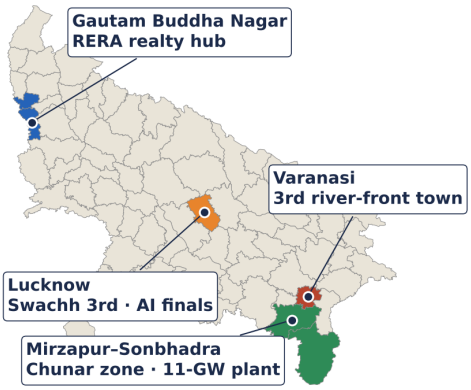
UP-GOVERNANCE 4. Swachh Survekshan 2025-26: Lucknow 3rd among million-plus cities, Varanasi 3rd river-front town

President Droupadi Murmu presented the 10th edition awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 11 November 2026.

- Million-plus category: **1. Visakhapatnam, 2. Jabalpur, 3. Lucknow**.
- New **Swachh River Front Town** category: **1. Rewa (MP), 2. Bilaspur (CG), 3. Varanasi (UP)**.
- Scale: **4,751 cities**, **2.70 crore** citizen responses, **43 indicators** in **10 domains**, **60** national awards.
- Organised by **MoHUA**; survey launched in **2016** with just 73 cities.
- New 'Swachh Shehar Jodi' award pairs a mentor city with a mentee city (70 mentors, 191 mentees).

Concept: Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban launched on 2 October 2014; SBM-U 2.0 launched on 1 October 2021 with the goal of 'Garbage-Free Cities'.

Uttar Pradesh in Today's News



Schematic; not to scale. UP district boundaries only.

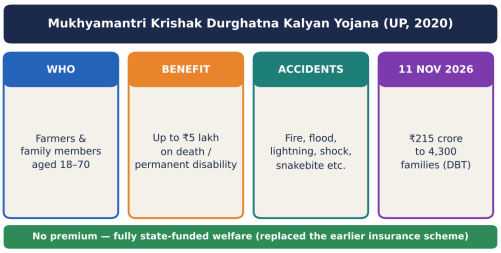
Why it matters: Lucknow's consistent podium finish (it also topped Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2026) and Varanasi's river-front award reward Ganga-ghat sanitation and solid-waste reforms in UP's municipal bodies.

Syllabus: GS-II: Urban local bodies, government schemes (SBM-U) | GS-V: Urban governance in UP | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II; UP-special GS-V (urban governance)

UP-SCHEME 5. Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana: ₹215 crore released to 4,300 farmer families

On 11 November 2026 CM Yogi Adityanath released accident-relief money and handed appointment letters to new Revenue Department staff in Lucknow.

- **₹215 crore** transferred by DBT to **4,300** beneficiary farming families.
- Scheme gives up to **₹5 lakh** on **accidental death or permanent disability** of a farmer; covers ages **18–70**.
- Approved by the UP cabinet in **January 2020**, replacing the earlier Krishak Durghatna **Bima** Yojana (no premium charged).
- Covered accidents include fire, flood, lightning, electric shock, snakebite and similar mishaps.
- Same event: **1,146 Junior Assistants** selected through **UPSSSC** got appointment letters in the Revenue Department.



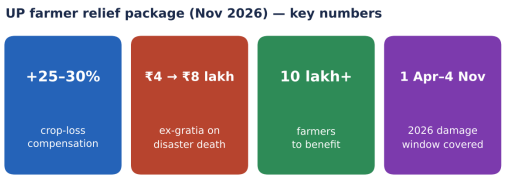
Why it matters: Moving from an insurance model to a direct state-funded welfare model removes claim-rejection hurdles and gives the farm family a social-security floor against sudden shocks.

Syllabus: GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections | GS-VI: Agricultural welfare schemes of UP | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II/GS-III; UP-special GS-VI (agriculture & welfare)

UP-SCHEME 6. Farmer relief package: crop-loss compensation up 25–30%, disaster ex-gratia doubled to ₹8 lakh

Ahead of Diwali (6 Nov) the state revised relief norms for farmers hit by rain, floods and drought in 2026.

- Crop-loss compensation raised by **25–30%**.
- Ex-gratia for death in natural disasters doubled from **₹4 lakh to ₹8 lakh**.
- Covers crop damage between **1 April and 4 November 2026**; over **10 lakh farmers** to benefit.
- Also announced: **₹1,500 crore** LPG refill subsidy for **Ujjwala** beneficiaries (free refills on Diwali and Holi) and **Annapurna Bhojanalayas** at mandis and labour hubs.



Concept: SDRF is constituted under Section 48 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005; the Centre funds 75% (90% for NE/Himalayan states).

Why it matters: Higher state top-ups over the SDRF norms show how states use their own budgets to cushion climate-linked farm losses; exams often ask about the SDRF/NDRF framework behind such relief.

Syllabus: GS-III: Disaster management, farm distress | GS-VI: Agriculture & relief in UP | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (disaster management); UP-special GS-VI

POLITY 7. Post-SIR voter rolls: missing UP voters can re-enrol through Form-6 without penal action

Ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, UP's Chief Electoral Officer issued a directive on 10 November on voters dropped after the 2026 Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

- Voters on the roll **before SIR 2026** but missing now may file **Form-6** to re-enrol.
- No action under **Section 31 of the RP Act, 1950** (false declaration) for such applicants.
- Directive by UP CEO **Navdeep Rinwa**; all District Election Officers told to publicise it.
- Remember forms: **Form-6** new enrolment, **Form-7** objection/deletion, **Form-8** correction/shifting.

Concept: RP Act, 1950 deals with preparation of electoral rolls and delimitation; RP Act, 1951 deals with conduct of elections and disqualifications.

Why it matters: Clean rolls and inclusive rolls must go together; this directive protects the right to vote (Article 326) while keeping the revision exercise credible.

Syllabus: GS-II: Representation of the People Acts, Election Commission | GS-V: Electoral process in UP | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (elections); UP-special GS-V

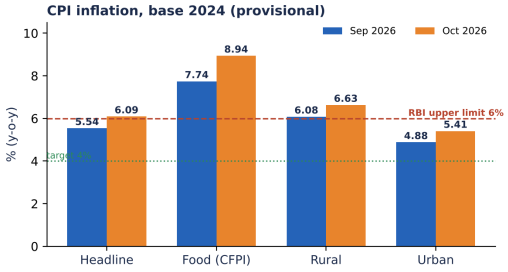
SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS FOR UPPSC

ECONOMY 8. CPI inflation rises to 6.09% in October 2026, above RBI's upper tolerance limit

MoSPI released provisional CPI data (new base year 2024) on 12 November 2026.

- Headline CPI **6.09%** (Sep: 5.54%) — a two-year high; food (CFPI) **8.94%** (Sep: 7.74%).
- Rural **6.63%** vs urban **5.41%**; rural food inflation 9.09%.
- Highest-inflation items: **onion** (~116%), garlic, silver jewellery, ginger, lemon.
- RBI target: **4% ± 2%** (band 2–6%) under the flexible inflation-targeting framework.
- November CPI due on **14 December 2026**.

Concept: Monetary Policy Committee (Section 45ZB, RBI Act): 6 members; RBI must report to the government if inflation stays outside the band for three consecutive quarters.



Why it matters: Food-led, rural-heavy inflation hits a farm state like UP hardest; it narrows room for rate cuts and strengthens the case for supply-side steps (buffer stocks, storage, onion price stabilisation).

Syllabus: GS-III: Inflation, monetary policy, food prices | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (economy)

NATIONAL 9. Booker Prize 2026: M. John Harrison becomes oldest winner, for 'The End of Everything'

The winner was announced in London on 9 November 2026 (10 November in India).

- British writer **M. John Harrison**, aged **81** — the **oldest** Booker winner ever.
- 'The End of Everything' is the **first science-fiction** novel to win the Booker.
- Booker Prize established **1969**; open to novels in English published in the UK/Ireland.
- 2025 winner: **David Szalay** for 'Flesh'.

Concept: International Booker Prize (separate award) is for fiction translated into English; Geetanjali Shree's 'Tomb of Sand' won it in 2022.

Why it matters: Award questions are common in UPPSC Prelims; link 'firsts' and 'oldest/youngest' records, which are the usual MCQ hooks.

Syllabus: Current events of national & international importance: awards | **Exam:** UPPSC: Prelims (awards & books)

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Fact
Swachh Survekshan	**Lucknow** — 3rd cleanest **million-plus** city, Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 (also No. 1 in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2026).
River-front award	**Varanasi** — 3rd in the new **Swachh River Front Town** category (Rewa 1st).
Kashi-Vindhya	**Sonbhadra** — proposed **11-GW** power plant and aluminium park under the Kashi-Vindhya plan.
AI Kaushal	**IIIT Lucknow** — venue of AI Kaushal Hackathon finals, **8–9 December 2026**.
Culture / History	**Uttarakhand Mahotsav 2026** held in **Lucknow**; recall UP's first CM **Govind Ballabh Pant** was from present-day Uttarakhand.
Weather	**Weather** — temperatures in UP forecast to fall **3–5°C** between **13–26 November**; colder nights in Terai, western plains and Vindhya.

⚠ **TRAP: Swachh Survekshan (sanitation, MoHUA) ≠ Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan (air quality under NCAP, MoEFCC). Lucknow is 3rd in the first but 1st in the second. Also RP Act 1950 = rolls; RP Act 1951 = conduct of elections.**

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Which of the following districts is NOT part of the Kashi-Vindhya City Economic Region of Uttar Pradesh?
(a) Bhadohi (b) Sonbhadra (c) Prayagraj (d) Ghazipur
Answer: (c) — The region covers **7 districts**: Varanasi, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Sonbhadra. **Prayagraj** is not included (a separate Prayagraj-Chitrakoot authority exists).

Q2. Consider the following about Swachh Survekshan 2025-26: 1. Lucknow ranked 3rd in the million-plus population category. 2. Varanasi ranked 1st in the Swachh River Front Town category. 3. The survey is conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. 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: (a) — Only 1 is correct. **Varanasi was 3rd** (Rewa 1st, Bilaspur 2nd) and the survey is run by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, not Jal Shakti.

Mains Q. Regional economic zones such as the Kashi-Vindhya City Economic Region can correct intra-state imbalances in Uttar Pradesh. Discuss with reference to Purvanchal. (125 words)
Hint: Intro: east–west gap in UP. Body: tourism (Kashi, Sarnath, Vindhyachal), mineral & power belt of Sonbhadra, logistics at Ramnagar, external funding (70:30). Challenges: land, displacement, environment of Vindhya/Kaimur, coordination. Conclude with SCR model and Viksit UP goal.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Kashi-Vindhya = **7 districts, 32 projects, ₹5,000 cr, 70:30** | RERA **₹52,866 cr** | Lucknow **3rd**, Varanasi **3rd** | Krishak Durghatna **₹5 lakh** | CPI **6.09%**

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