Top stories: Gram Prahari honorarium hiked to ₹3,500; UP AI Mission & ₹1,725-cr Skill Zones cleared; Noida airport signs eVTOL pact

Section A — Today in UP

i Note: Today's (14 Oct) state coverage is still thin at press time, so Section A leads with the latest 13 Oct items, and Section B carries this week's (9-11 Oct) Cabinet decisions that remain exam-relevant.

UP-GOVERNANCE

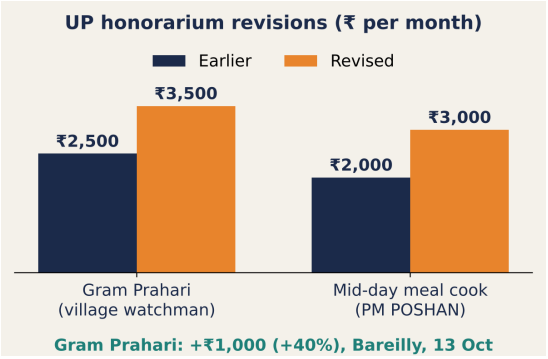
1. Gram Praharis get ₹1,000 hike and ₹5-lakh cashless health cover

On 13 Oct 2026 the CM felicitated village watchmen at Bareilly Police Lines and announced higher pay and health cover.

- Monthly honorarium of about **68,000 Gram Praharis** raised by **₹1,000** — from **₹2,500 to ₹3,500** (about **40%**).
- **Cashless treatment up to ₹5 lakh** for watchmen and their families.
- CM called them the '**CCTV of villages**' — first link of rural crime intelligence for the police.
- Part of a wider honorarium push: **mid-day meal cooks** earlier moved from ₹2,000 to **₹3,000**.

Concept: Community policing: involving local residents (village chowkidars, beat volunteers) in crime prevention and intelligence.

Why it matters: Village watchmen are the cheapest force-multiplier for rural policing; better pay plus health cover improves retention and community policing — a ready example for GS-II/GS-V answers on police reforms.



Syllabus: GS-II: welfare of vulnerable sections, police reforms | GS-V: UP law & order and administration | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V)*

UP-INFRA

2. Noida International Airport (Jewar) inks pact for electric air-taxi (eVTOL) ecosystem

Noida International Airport signed an MoU with The ePlane Company (Chennai start-up) to build Advanced Air Mobility infrastructure.

- Airport to give space for **vertiports, charging stations** and proof-of-concept trials of the **e200X eVTOL**.
- Uses: **airport-to-airport transit, intra-city air taxis, air ambulance** in Delhi-NCR.
- Clearances from **DGCA** (safety) and **BCAS** (security) needed; drone trials precede piloted flights.
- **eVTOL** = electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing aircraft — quiet, zero tail-pipe emission.

Concept: Advanced Air Mobility (AAM): air transport using electric/hybrid VTOL aircraft for short urban and regional trips.

Why it matters: Positions Jewar as a test-bed for next-gen urban air mobility, adding to UP's aviation push and NCR decongestion.

Syllabus: GS-III: infrastructure (airports), S&T | GS-VI: UP infrastructure & industrial development | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)*

UP-CULTURE

3. Ayodhya readies for 10th Deepotsav: 33 lakh diyas on Saryu, 5-7 Nov

Preparations are under way for the three-day 10th edition of Deepotsav along Ram ki Paidi and the Saryu riverfront.

- **10th Deepotsav** on **5-7 Nov 2026**; target **33 lakh earthen diyas** over ~2 km of the Saryu riverfront.
- About **34,000 volunteers**; ~65 lakh wicks and 55,000 litres of oil arranged.
- Deepotsav began in **2017**; organised by the **UP Tourism Department** — earlier editions set Guinness records.

Why it matters: Showcases event-led religious tourism and local livelihoods (potters, oil, wicks) — use as a UP case study on cultural economy in GS-V/GS-VI.

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

Section B — Key UP Developments

UP-SCHEME

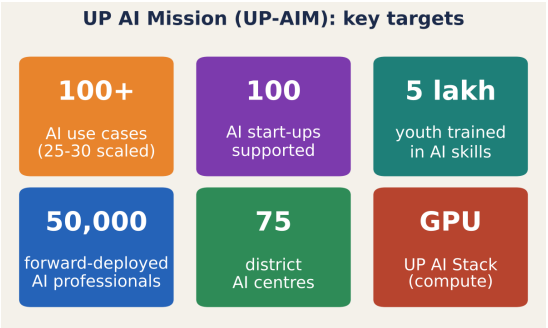
4. UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM) approved

The State Cabinet (9 Oct) cleared a mission to drive AI research, skilling and responsible AI in citizen services.

- Targets: **100+ AI use cases** (25-30 scaled up), support to **100 AI start-ups**, **5 lakh youth** trained.
- **50,000 forward-deployed AI professionals**; **AI centres in all 75 districts**.
- Integrated **UP AI Stack** with GPU compute; an **AI Trust & Assurance Framework** planned.
- Runs as an **independent society** under the **IT & Electronics Department**.

Concept: Forward-deployed engineers: AI specialists placed inside departments to build solutions with users on the ground.

Why it matters: Aligns UP with the national IndiaAI Mission; district AI centres can spread benefits beyond NCR-Lucknow, but data-protection and ethics safeguards must keep pace.



Syllabus: GS-III: S&T, IT, AI and governance | GS-VI: UP science-technology & skilling policy | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)*

UP-SCHEME

5. ₹1,725-crore Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zones

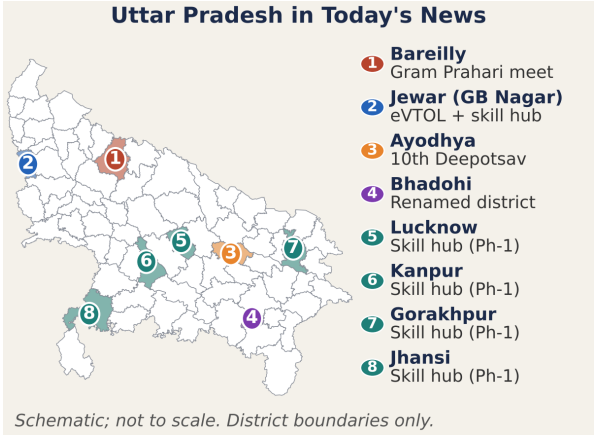
Cabinet approved a 3-year scheme to make UP a hub of skilled manpower across all 75 districts.

- Outlay **₹1,725 crore over 3 years**; **9 zones** on a **hub-and-spoke** model.
- Phase-1 hubs (10-25 acres): **Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur (GIDA), Gautam Buddha Nagar, Jhansi (BIDA)**.
- Basic skills for arts/commerce youth, upskilling for ITI-polytechnic-engineering grads, **foreign-language training** for overseas jobs.
- Hostels, placement cells; **viability gap funding** possible for private developers.

Concept: Hub-and-spoke: a central well-equipped hub serves several smaller spoke centres to cut costs and widen reach.

Why it matters: UP has India's largest youth population; linking skilling to industrial nodes (GIDA, BIDA, YEIDA) converts demographic dividend into jobs and curbs distress migration.

Syllabus: GS-III: employment, skill development | GS-VI: UP human resources & employment schemes | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)*



UP-ECONOMY

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

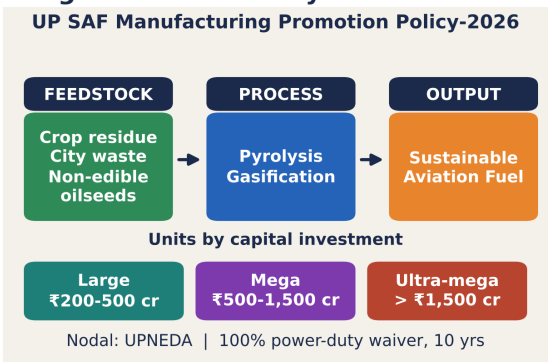
Cabinet approved a policy to make UP a hub for SAF made from farm and urban waste.

- Feedstock: **rice husk, wheat straw, sugarcane bagasse**, municipal waste, non-edible oilseeds; tech: pyrolysis, gasification.
- Unit classes: **Large ₹200-500 cr, Mega ₹500-1,500 cr, Ultra-mega > ₹1,500 cr**.
- Incentives: stamp-duty relief, net SGST reimbursement, interest subsidy, **100% electricity-duty exemption up to 10 years**.
- Nodal agency **UPNEDA**; policy valid **5 years**.

Concept: SAF: drop-in jet fuel from bio/waste sources that can cut lifecycle CO2 emissions substantially versus fossil ATF.

Why it matters: Turns stubble and bagasse into green fuel — cuts air pollution from residue burning, raises farm incomes and supports India's SAF blending goals (1% in 2027 for international flights).

Syllabus: GS-III: energy, environment, agri-residue management | GS-VI: UP industrial & energy policy | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)*



UP-GOVERNANCE

7. 20% reservation for ex-Agniveers in UP Police, Forest, Prison & Transport recruitment

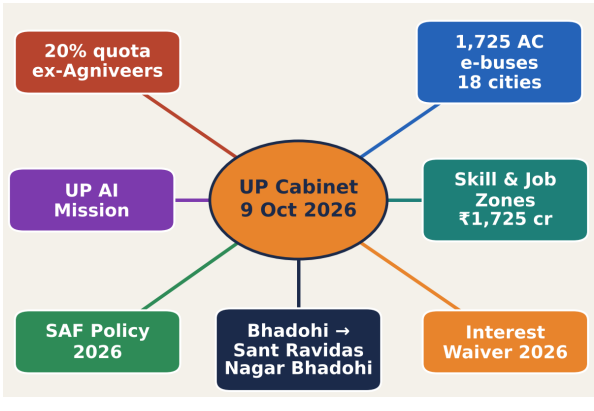
The Cabinet amended recruitment rules to absorb Agniveers completing their 4-year tenure under the 2022 Agnipath scheme.

- **20% of posts** in **Police, Forest, Prison and Transport** recruitments reserved for ex-Agniveers.
- Upper **age limit 25 → 28 years** (3-year relaxation); benefit given within the candidate's **original category** (horizontal).
- Exempted from **written and physical tests** — only a **medical test** required.

Concept: Horizontal reservation cuts across vertical categories (SC/ST/OBC/General) — e.g., women, ex-servicemen, PwD.

Why it matters: Gives trained, disciplined manpower to uniformed services and a post-service career path for Agniveers; horizontal design avoids breaching the 50% vertical ceiling (Indra Sawhney).

Syllabus: GS-II: government policies, reservation | GS-V: UP public services & recruitment | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V)*



UP-INFRA

8. 1,725 AC electric buses for 18 cities under Gross Cost Contract

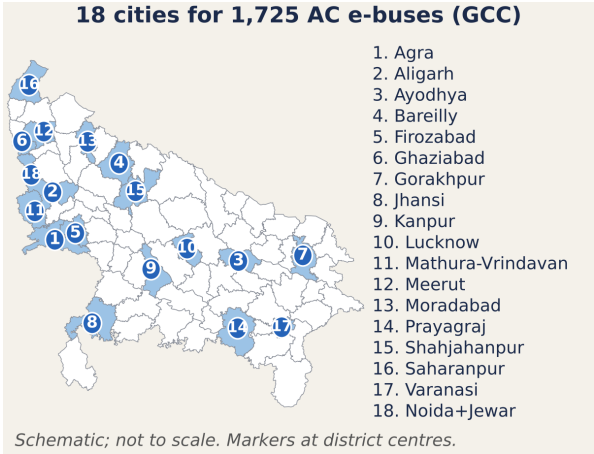
Cabinet cleared private-operated AC e-buses for 18 cities; about 6,650 more buses are planned over four years.

- **1,725 AC e-buses** on **Gross Cost Contract (GCC)** — private operators run them for **12 years**; fares fixed by the State.
- Municipal corporations and **Noida Authority** to give **free land for depots**.
- Currently **743 e-buses** run in **15 municipal corporations**.
- Cities include Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Agra, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur and **Noida (incl. Jewar)**.

Concept: Gross Cost Contract: the authority pays the operator a fixed per-km fee and keeps fare revenue.

Why it matters: GCC shifts ridership risk to the State but lets operators focus on quality; cleaner buses help NCR and Indo-Gangetic cities that top air-pollution charts.

Syllabus: GS-III: urban transport, clean mobility | GS-VI: UP urban development & environment | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)*



UP-CULTURE

9. Bhadohi district to be renamed 'Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi'

Announced by the CM in early October and cleared by the Cabinet on 9 Oct, ahead of Sant Ravidas's 650th birth-anniversary year.

- Bhadohi was carved out of **Varanasi** and became UP's **65th district on 30 June 1994**.
- Name history: **Sant Ravidas Nagar (1997) → Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi (1999) → Bhadohi (2014)** → now restored.
- Bhadohi is India's **'carpet city'** — **Bhadohi hand-made carpet holds a GI tag**.
- **Sant Ravidas** (Raidas): 15th-16th c. **Bhakti saint of Varanasi**; his hymns are included in the **Guru Granth Sahib**.

Why it matters: District renaming is a State executive power (revenue law) — note the frequent flip-flops and their administrative cost versus symbolic value.

Syllabus: GS-I: Bhakti movement | GS-V: UP districts, administration and cultural heritage | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (UP-special GS-V)*

Section C — National News relevant for UPPSC

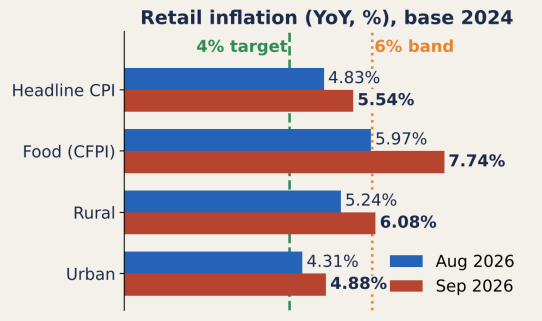
ECONOMY

10. Retail inflation climbs to 5.54% in September; RBI had hiked repo to 5.50%

Official CPI data released on 12 Oct (new 2024 base) show food prices pushing inflation up.

- Headline CPI **5.54%** (Aug **4.83%**); food inflation **7.74%**.
- Rural **6.08%** vs urban **4.88%** — villages hit harder.
- RBI MPC raised **repo by 25 bps to 5.50%** on **7 Oct**; target **4% ± 2%** (flexible inflation targeting).

Concept: CPI is compiled by NSO (MoSPI); the MPC (6 members) sets the repo rate under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act.



Why it matters: Higher rural inflation matters for agrarian UP — real wages and MGNREGA demand are sensitive; supply-side steps (buffer stocks, storage) complement rate hikes.

Syllabus: GS-III: inflation, monetary policy | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III*

NATIONAL

11. PM GatiShakti National Master Plan completes five years (13 Oct)

Launched on 13 Oct 2021, the GIS-based platform integrates infrastructure planning across ministries and States.

- **7 engines**: railways, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport, logistics infrastructure.
- **Network Planning Group (NPG)** appraises big projects on the platform; all States/UTs on board.
- Aim: cut **logistics cost** (13-14% of GDP) toward global benchmarks; UP links it to Jewar airport, **DFC** junctions and expressways.

Why it matters: Integrated planning reduces time and cost overruns; State-level master plans (UP has one) need clean land records and municipal data to work.

Syllabus: GS-III: infrastructure, logistics, planning | *UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III*

Section D — UP Rapid-Fire

Topic	Quick fact
Interest Waiver Scheme-2026	3-month window; waives interest/penalty on old (pre-GST era) tax dues up to **31 Dec 2025** — VAT, Trade Tax, Entry Tax etc.
UP Startup Procurement Scheme-2026	Govt buying from start-ups via a **UP Startup E-Marketplace** run by **UP Startup Mission**
Mission Shakti × Navratri	Women-safety messaging at **26 temples/shrines** during Sharadiya Navratri
Vindhyachal Navratri Mela	**11-26 Oct 2026**, Mirzapur — special rail facilities for pilgrims
UP-Haryana boundary	**Survey of India** fixing the Yamuna border (Saharanpur sector); ~25% done
AYUSH interns	Cabinet raised stipend for **BAMS, BUMS, BHMS** interns in government colleges

Section E — Practice Corner

Q1. With reference to Bhadohi district, consider the following statements: 1. It was carved out of Varanasi district in 1994. 2. It was first named 'Sant Ravidas Nagar' in 1997. 3. It is famous for its brassware industry. 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) — Bhadohi became UP's 65th district on 30 June 1994 (from Varanasi) and was named Sant Ravidas Nagar in 1997. It is famous for hand-made carpets (GI-tagged), not brassware — that is Moradabad.

Q2. Which agency is the nodal agency for the Uttar Pradesh Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026?
(a) UPSIDA (b) UPNEDA (c) Invest UP (d) UPEIDA
Answer: (b) — UP New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) approves and disburses incentives; an evaluation committee under its Director assesses applications.

Mains practice: Uttar Pradesh has India's largest youth population. Critically examine how the UP AI Mission and the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zones can convert this demographic dividend into productive employment. (UPPSC GS-VI, 125 words)
Hint: Intro: youth bulge + low formal jobs. Body: AI skilling (5 lakh youth, 75 district centres), hub-and-spoke zones near GIDA/BIDA/YEIDA, foreign-language training for overseas jobs; challenges — quality of training, industry linkage, digital divide, women's participation. Conclude: outcome-based funding and placement tracking.

One-line revision: Gram Prahari ₹3,500/month | UP-AIM: 5 lakh youth, 100 AI start-ups | Skill Zones ₹1,725 cr, 9 zones | 20% ex-Agniveer quota | 1,725 e-buses, 18 cities | Deepotsav-10: 33 lakh diyas | CPI Sep 5.54%

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