Note: Light UP news day (MLC poll week): Section A = items of 14–16 Oct; Section B = this week's key Cabinet decisions (9 Oct).

SECTION A — TODAY IN UTTAR PRADESH

UP-INFRA

UPSIDA's 52nd board eases industrial plot allotment; Lalitpur pharma park on PPP

The UP State Industrial Development Authority's 52nd board meeting (16 Oct), chaired by ACS (Infrastructure & Industrial Development) Alok Kumar, cleared a package to speed up land use for industry.

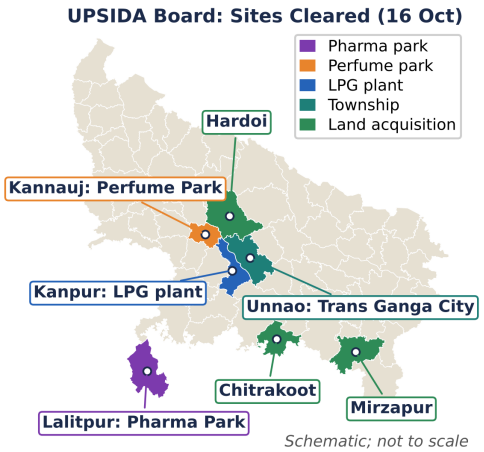
- Minimum evaluation score for allotment of plots **above 500 sq m** cut from **60 to 50 points**.
- **Pharmaceutical park in Lalitpur** (Bundelkhand) to be developed on **PPP** mode.
- Land acquisition cleared for industrial areas in **Hardoi, Chitrakoot and Mirzapur**; land in **Kanpur Nagar** for a **BPCL LPG bottling plant** and terminal.
- Layout plan of **Kannauj Perfume Park** approved; revised layout of **Trans Ganga City, Unnao** cleared.

Concept: UPSIDA (formerly UPSIDC) is the State's nodal body for industrial areas outside the Noida, Greater Noida and YEIDA authority zones.

Why it matters: Lower entry thresholds and cleared layouts help convert investment MoUs into ground-breakings — and sites in Bundelkhand (Lalitpur, Chitrakoot) and Vindhya (Mirzapur) spread industry beyond western UP.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-III: Industry & infrastructure | GS-VI: UP industrial policy, regional development

UPSIDA Board: Sites Cleared (16 Oct)



Schematic; not to scale

UP-CULTURE

Ayodhya Ram temple earns FSSAI's top 'Ati Vishisht' food-safety rating

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra received the highest grade under FSSAI's Eat Right Place of Worship (BHOG) initiative; the certificate was presented in Ayodhya on 11 Oct 2026.

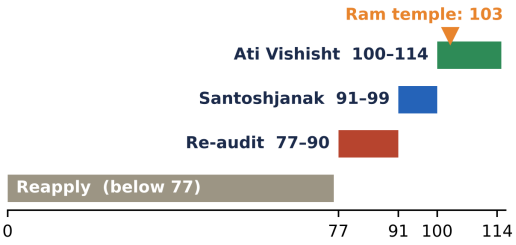
- Score **103/114** on a **47-parameter** checklist — kitchen hygiene, storage, serving areas, food handling.
- Valid **2 years** (11 Oct 2026 – 10 Oct 2028); the trust will hold **fortnightly** internal compliance reviews.
- **BHOG** = Blissful Hygienic Offering to God — FSSAI initiative under **Eat Right India** for safe prasad and langar.
- Bands: **Ati Vishisht 100–114**, Santoshjanak 91–99, 77–90 re-audit, below 77 reapply; Hanumangarhi, Kanak Bhawan and Devkali temple also certified.

Concept: FSSAI is a statutory body under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), headquartered in New Delhi.

Why it matters: Rising pilgrim footfall has turned temple kitchens into mass food operations; certification links religious tourism with public-health standards — vital before Deepotsav crowds.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-II: Health & regulatory bodies | GS-V: UP culture, pilgrimage tourism

FSSAI 'Eat Right' Place of Worship bands



UP-POLITY

UP Legislative Council: Graduate & Teacher constituency polls on 23 October

CM Yogi Adityanath addressed graduate–teacher voter conferences in Agra and Ghaziabad (16 Oct) ahead of the biennial Vidhan Parishad polls.

- **11 seats** of graduate and teacher constituencies — incl. Varanasi, Meerut, Agra, Allahabad-Jhansi, Gorakhpur-Faizabad.
- **152 candidates**, **14.81 lakh+ voters**, **2,697 booths**; polling **23 Oct**, counting **27 Oct**.
- **Art. 171(3)**: **1/12** of members elected by graduates of 3 years' standing and **1/12** by teachers (secondary level and above, 3 years).
- UP Vidhan Parishad has **100 members**; a member's term is **6 years**, with one-third retiring every 2 years.

Concept: Art. 169: Parliament can create or abolish a State Legislative Council by law, on a resolution of the Assembly passed by special majority; such a law is not a constitutional amendment under Art. 368.

Why it matters: UP is one of only six States with a bicameral legislature; the special graduate and teacher constituencies give educated voters a direct voice — a classic Prelims area.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-II: State Legislature (Arts. 169, 171) | GS-V: UP polity

SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS (Cabinet, Schemes, Infra)

UP-SCHEME

UP-AIM: State AI Mission approved, with a ₹1,725-crore skill-zone scheme

The Cabinet (9 Oct) approved the Uttar Pradesh Artificial Intelligence Mission as an independent society under the IT & Electronics Department.

- Targets: **100+ AI use cases** (25–30 scaled up), support for **100 AI startups**, **5 lakh youth** trained, **50,000** forward-deployed AI professionals.
- **AI centres in all 75 districts** and an integrated **UP AI Stack** with GPU-based computing.
- Twin decision: **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zone** scheme — **₹1,725 crore over 3 years**, **9 zones**, hub-and-spoke.
- First-phase centres: **Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Jhansi**.

Concept: IndiaAI Mission (2024, outlay ₹10,372 crore): compute capacity, datasets, foundation models, AI skilling and startup financing.

Why it matters: Pairing state AI infrastructure with mass skilling is central to UP's trillion-dollar economy goal and dovetails with the national IndiaAI Mission.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-III: Science & technology, employment | GS-VI: UP schemes

UP-AIM + Skill-Zone Scheme: Targets

100+ AI use cases	**100** AI startups backed	**5 lakh** youth AI-trained
50,000 AI professionals	**75** district AI centres	**₹1,725 cr** skill zones, 3 yrs

UP-ECONOMY Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026

UP has become an early mover with a dedicated SAF manufacturing policy, approved by the Cabinet on 9 Oct.

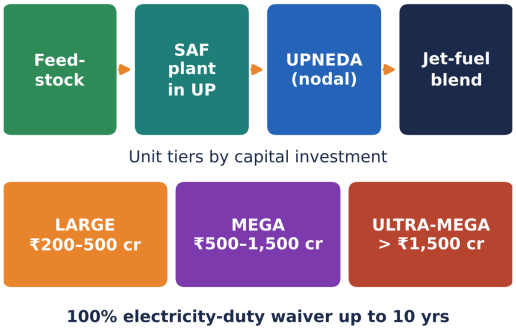
- Unit tiers by capital investment: **Large ₹200–500 cr**, **Mega ₹500–1,500 cr**, **Ultra-mega above ₹1,500 cr**.
- **100% electricity-duty exemption for up to 10 years**, plus stamp-duty relief, net SGST reimbursement, interest and skill subsidies, patent-fee reimbursement.
- Nodal agency: **UPNEDA**, with an evaluation committee under its Director; policy life **5 years**.
- India's indicative SAF blending targets for international flights: **1% by 2027, 2% by 2028**.

Concept: SAF is a 'drop-in' jet fuel made from bio or waste feedstocks; it is central to ICAO's CORSIA scheme for carbon-neutral growth of international aviation.

Why it matters: SAF can turn crop residue, used cooking oil and cane ethanol into jet fuel — cutting stubble burning, raising farm incomes and building green jobs around the new Jewar aviation hub.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-III: Energy, environment, investment models | GS-VI: UP industrial & energy policy

UP SAF Policy-2026: How it Works



UP-INFRA 1,725 AC electric buses for 18 cities on a 12-year GCC model

The Cabinet cleared air-conditioned e-buses for 18 cities under a Gross Cost Contract, the largest single expansion of UP's electric city-bus fleet.

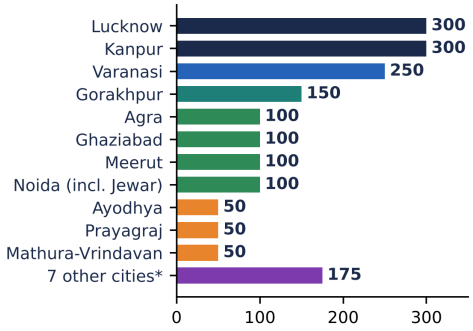
- Allocation: **Lucknow & Kanpur 300 each**, **Varanasi 250**, **Gorakhpur 150**; Agra, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Noida (incl. Jewar) 100 each.
- **GCC model for 12 years**: private operators buy and run buses and build charging depots; **the State fixes fares**.
- Subsidy **₹40 lakh per 12-m bus** and **₹35 lakh per 9-m bus**; free depot land from municipal corporations and Noida Authority.
- At present **743 e-buses** run in **15 municipal corporations**.

Concept: Gross Cost Contract: the operator is paid a fixed rate per km run, while fare revenue (and ridership risk) stays with the public authority.

Why it matters: Cleaner public transport targets cities that struggle with PM2.5 pollution, while GCC shifts operating risk to private operators and keeps fares in public control.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-III: Urban infrastructure, pollution | GS-VI: UP urban development

1,725 AC e-buses for 18 cities



*Aligarh, Firozabad, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Jhansi: 25 each

UP-CULTURE Two renamings: Jewar airport proposal and Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi

The Cabinet proposed renaming Noida International Airport and approved restoring the name 'Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi' for the carpet district.

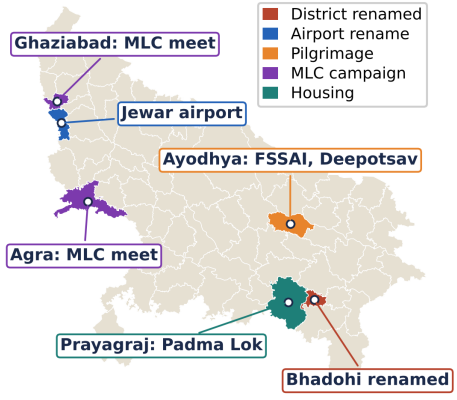
- Noida International Airport, Jewar (**Gautam Buddha Nagar**) → proposed '**Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar**'; the **Union Cabinet** decides airport names, followed by Gazette notification.
- Phase 1 inaugurated in **March 2026**; it is Delhi-NCR's **second international airport**.
- Bhadohi was carved out of **Varanasi in 1994**; renamed in 1997, 1999 and 2014 — this is its **fourth major name change**.
- Power to alter district names: **Sec. 6(2), UP Revenue Code, 2006**. Sant Ravidas, a 15th-century Bhakti saint, was born in Varanasi.

Concept: Bhadohi's hand-knotted carpets carry a GI tag; the Bhadohi–Mirzapur belt is India's largest hand-made carpet cluster.

Why it matters: Renaming carries cultural and political symbolism, but the exam angle is procedure: airport names need Union approval, while districts are renamed by the State under its revenue law.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-II: Centre–State procedures | GS-V: UP districts, history & culture

Uttar Pradesh in Today's News



Schematic; not to scale

UP-GOVERNANCE 20% reservation for former Agniveers in four uniformed services

The Cabinet amended service recruitment rules to absorb Agniveers returning after their four-year military tenure.

- **20% of posts reserved** for former Agniveers in **police, forest, prisons and transport** department recruitment.
- Upper age limit relaxed from **25 to 28 years** (3-year relaxation).
- Candidates keep the benefit of their **original reservation category** — a **horizontal** quota.
- Agnipath scheme (**June 2022**): 4-year tenure; up to **25%** retained in regular cadre.

Concept: Vertical reservation (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) vs horizontal reservation (women, ex-servicemen, PwD), which cuts across vertical categories — Indra Sawhney (1992); Saurav Yadav (2020).

Why it matters: Gives a post-service career path to trained youth and strengthens state police and forest forces with disciplined, field-ready personnel.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-II: Reservation, welfare of vulnerable sections | GS-III: Internal security

UP-GOVERNANCE Ease-of-business trio: Model Building Regulations, Startup Procurement & Interest Waiver

Three Cabinet approvals target faster approvals, government market access for startups and clearance of tax arrears.

- **Model Building Regulations-2026** for industrial authorities (Noida, Greater Noida, YEIDA): **FAR cap removed** for plots on roads wider than **45 m**.
- **Deemed approval in 60 days** for plans by licensed experts — residential plots up to **500 sq m**, commercial up to **200 sq m**; high-rises need a **structural audit every 5 years**.
- **Startup Procurement Scheme-2026**: a dedicated **UP Startup E-Marketplace** run by the UP Startup Mission.
- **Interest Waiver Scheme-2026**: a **3-month** window waiving interest and penalty on tax dues up to **31 Dec 2025**.

Concept: FAR (Floor Area Ratio) = total built-up floor area ÷ plot area; a higher FAR allows denser, taller construction.

Why it matters: Deemed approvals and higher FAR curb discretion and delays, but must be matched by strong structural-safety and fire audits to protect residents.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-III: Urbanisation, investment climate | GS-VI: UP governance reforms

SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS FOR UPPSC

NATIONAL

First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting adopts the Delhi Declaration

India hosted the inaugural BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on 13 Oct, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

- Adopted the **Delhi Declaration** for a secure, resilient and prosperous **Bay of Bengal**.
- Priority areas: **counter-terrorism**, organised crime & drugs, **human trafficking**, **cybercrime**, legal cooperation.
- BIMSTEC: founded **6 June 1997** (Bangkok Declaration); **7 members**; Secretariat in **Dhaka**.

BIMSTEC Home Ministers: Priority Areas



Why it matters: Extends India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies into hard security, giving the Bay of Bengal a regional security architecture of its own.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-II: Regional groupings | GS-III: Terrorism, organised crime

ECONOMY

Global Innovation Index 2026: India ranked 38th of 139 economies

WIPO's 19th Global Innovation Index keeps India at 38th, with a strong outputs score.

- India: **38th overall**; **49th** in innovation inputs, **25th** in outputs; **1st** among 36 lower-middle-income economies.
- Top 5: **Switzerland, Sweden, USA, Republic of Korea, Singapore**.
- India **1st in ICT services exports**; clusters — **Bengaluru 25th, Delhi 27th**.

Why it matters: The input–output gap shows India converts limited R&D and institutional inputs into strong outputs; raising R&D spending is the next lever.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-III: Innovation, S&T, indices & reports

NATIONAL

Lakshadweep declared India's first fully literate UT under ULLAS

Administrator Praful Patel announced the milestone on 12 Oct after all identified learners cleared the literacy test.

- All **1,113** identified non-literates passed the **FLNAT** (Foundational Literacy & Numeracy Assessment Test).
- **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** (2022–27) targets non-literates aged **15+**; **95%+** literacy = 'fully literate'.
- **Mizoram** was the first fully literate State (**May 2025**).

Why it matters: A benchmark for UP, whose adult-literacy gap remains large; doorstep assessment shows how last-mile learners can be reached.

UPPSC Syllabus: GS-II: Education, government schemes

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Deepotsav 2026 (10th edition)	Ayodhya, **5–7 Nov** — **33 lakh diyas** at Ram ki Paidi and Saryu ghats.	**Padma Lok Awas Yojana**	about **600 flats** by Prayagraj Development Authority on reclaimed land; foundation stone on 15 Oct.
State Highway-84 (Mainpuri)	to be widened to **four lanes** (Cabinet, 9 Oct).	**Paddy procurement policy**	approved for **Kharif Marketing Season 2026-27**.
70th State-Level School Kabaddi Championship	held at Jubilee Inter College, **Gorakhpur**.	**Anganwadi workers & helpers**	one **additional saree** each sanctioned by the Cabinet.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Uttar Pradesh's Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026, consider the following statements: 1. UPNEDA is the nodal agency for the policy. 2. 'Mega' units are those with capital investment above ₹1,500 crore. 3. Eligible units get 100% electricity-duty exemption for up to 10 years. 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) — Mega units are ₹500–1,500 crore; units above ₹1,500 crore are 'Ultra-mega'. Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q2. Consider the following statements about the State Legislative Council: 1. One-twelfth of its members are elected by graduates of at least three years' standing residing in the State. 2. One-twelfth are elected by teachers of at least three years' standing in institutions not lower than secondary school. 3. A law of Parliament abolishing a Council is a constitutional amendment under Article 368. 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: (a) — Art. 171(3) provides the graduate and teacher quotas. Under Art. 169(3), a law creating or abolishing a Council is not deemed an amendment under Art. 368. UP's graduate–teacher seats go to the polls on 23 Oct.

Mains Practice: Uttar Pradesh is shifting from MoU-led investment promotion to execution-led industrialisation. Discuss with reference to recent policy measures such as UP-AIM, the SAF Policy-2026 and the Model Building Regulations, and the challenge of regional balance. (125 words, 8 marks)
Hint: Intro: trillion-dollar goal and investment MoUs. Body: sector policies (AI, SAF), approval reforms (deemed approval, FAR), land supply (UPSIDA sites in Bundelkhand/Vindhya), skilling (₹1,725-cr zones). Challenges: western UP concentration, land acquisition, safety audits. Conclude with district-level execution and regional equity.

One-line Revision: UP-AIM → AI centres in **75 districts** | SAF policy → **UPNEDA**, 10-yr duty waiver | **1,725 e-buses / 18 cities** | MLC polls **23 Oct** (Art. 171) | Ram temple FSSAI **103/114**

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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