UPPSC Daily Digest — 16 November 2026

Census 2027 Phase-II self-enumeration opens in UP; tablet drive phase-2 launched; gallantry award benefits doubled

AT A GLANCE

- **Census 2027 Phase-II**: UP self-enumeration **16–30 Nov**, reference date **5 Jan 2027**.
- **'Yogi Ki Paati'** crossed **50 weeks**; 9.5 lakh+ govt jobs claimed in ~9.5 years.
- **Tablet scheme phase-2**: target **25 lakh** tablets, budget **₹2,374.60 crore** (FY27).
- **Gallantry awards**: one-time cash and annuity **doubled**; stamp-duty relief **₹50 lakh**.
- **Swachh Survekshan 2025-26**: **Lucknow 3rd** (million-plus), **Varanasi 3rd** (riverfront).
- **Chhath**: CM offered arghya on the **Gomti** bank; greetings in **Bhojpuri**.
- **WHO TB Report 2026**: India's TB deaths **–38%** (2015–2025); **94%** treatment success.
- **Exports** Apr–Oct FY27: **USD 568.84 bn, +16.66%**.
- **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**: Birsa Munda born **15 Nov 1875**, Ulihatu.

DATA POINT

₹2,374.60 crore

Tablet scheme budget (FY27)

Provision for a target of 25 lakh tablets in 2026-27 (about ₹17,000 per tablet).

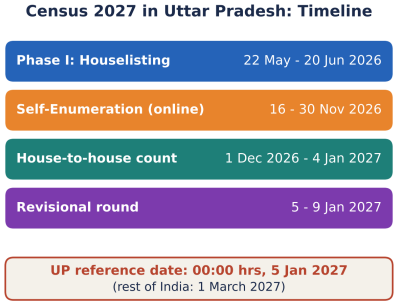
SECTION A — TODAY IN UP (16 November)

UP-GOVERNANCE

1. Census 2027 Phase-II: Self-Enumeration Opens in UP Today

UP is one of four poll-bound states where Phase-II (Population Enumeration) of Census 2027 has been advanced; the online self-enumeration window opened today and the CM launched the drive.

- **Self-enumeration: 16–30 November 2026** on the official portal in **16 languages**; each household gets a **Self-Enumeration (SE) ID** to show the enumerator.
- **House-to-house enumeration: 1 Dec 2026 – 4 Jan 2027**; revisional round **5–9 Jan 2027**.
- **UP reference date: 00:00 hrs, 5 January 2027** (rest of India: **1 March 2027**) — UP, Punjab, Goa and non-snow-bound Uttarakhand advanced by notification of **5 Sept 2026**.
- India's **first fully digital Census**; **caste enumeration** in Phase-II; the **16th Census** overall and **8th after Independence**.
- UP's Phase-I (Houselisting & Housing Census) ran **22 May – 20 June 2026**.



Why it matters: Census data drives delimitation, Finance Commission devolution and targeting of welfare schemes, so complete self-enumeration matters. Trap: UP's reference date is 5 Jan 2027, NOT 1 March 2027.

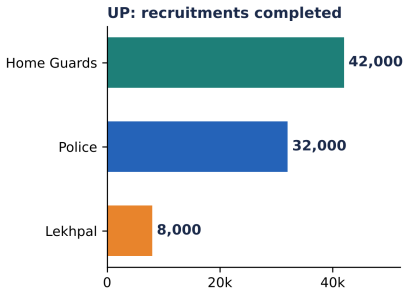
Concept: Census is conducted under the Census Act, 1948 by the Registrar General & Census Commissioner (Ministry of Home Affairs); 'Census' is Entry 69 of the Union List.
Syllabus: GS-II Polity & Governance; GS-I Population; UP-special GS-V (UP demography & administration) | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V)

UP-GOVERNANCE

2. 'Yogi Ki Paati' Completes 50 Weeks; Coffee-Table Book Released

The CM released a coffee-table book on his weekly-letter outreach and virtually inaugurated an exhibition at the 1090 campus, Lucknow.

- 'Yogi Ki Paati' = **weekly letters** from the CM to the **25 crore people** of UP; crossed **50 weeks** on **16 Nov 2026**.
- Exhibition at **1090 campus, Lucknow**; a **seven-day cultural programme** follows, each evening themed on farmers, women, youth, infrastructure and heritage.
- CM stated **9.5 lakh+ youth got government jobs in ~9.5 years**; appointment letters to **1 lakh+ youth by 26 January 2027**.
- Recruitment completed for **42,000 Home Guards, 32,000 police personnel and 8,000 Lekhpals**.



Why it matters: A model of direct, regular government-to-citizen communication — useful as an example in answers on transparency, accountability and participatory governance.

Concept: Citizen-centric governance: regular two-way communication builds trust and improves last-mile delivery of welfare schemes.
Syllabus: GS-II Governance, transparency & citizen outreach; GS-IV public communication; UP-special GS-V | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V)

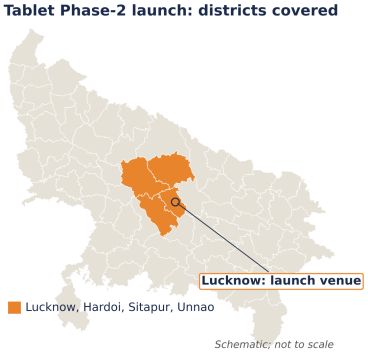
SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS

UP-SCHEME

3. Tablet Scheme Phase-2: 25-Lakh Tablet Drive Launched; CM Urges First-Time Voters to Enrol

On 15 Nov (Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas), the CM launched the second phase of tablet distribution under the Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana at Rashtra Prerna Sthal, Lucknow.

- Launch event: tablets to **50,000+ students & trainees** from about **300 institutions** of **Lucknow, Hardoi, Sitapur and Unnao**.
- Target **25 lakh tablets in 2026-27**; budget provision **₹2,374.60 crore (FY27)**; about **₹17,000 per tablet**; implemented by **UPDESCO** (Dept. of IT & Electronics).
- Scheme launched **25 December 2021**; **60 lakh+ youth** benefited earlier; Cabinet decision of **July 2025** replaced smartphones with **tablets only**.
- Devices carry learning apps with about **18,000 courses** (AI, skilling, career guidance, scheme information).
- CM urged youth turning **18 by 1 January 2027** (qualifying date) to register as voters through **Form 6**.



Why it matters: Device distribution narrows the digital divide, but outcomes depend on content quality, connectivity and links to jobs. Trap: there are now four qualifying dates a year (1 Jan, 1 Apr, 1 Jul, 1 Oct) for voter enrolment.

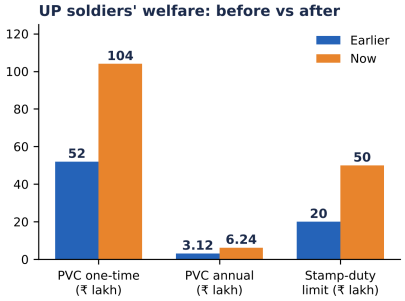
Concept: Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 introduced four qualifying dates in a year for enrolment in electoral rolls (Representation of the People Act, 1950).
Syllabus: GS-II Welfare schemes, education & elections; GS-III Digital India; UP-special GS-V / GS-VI | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V)

UP-WELFARE

4. Gallantry Award Benefits Doubled; Stamp-Duty Relief for Ex-Servicemen Raised to ₹50 Lakh

At the Ex-Servicemen Reunion Ceremony in Meerut (14 Nov), the CM announced three decisions for soldiers, veterans and martyrs' families.

- **One-time cash award and annual allowance (annuity) for all gallantry awardees from UP doubled** — e.g., **Param Vir Chakra: ₹52 lakh one-time and ₹3,12,000 a year**, both now doubled.
- Covers **PVC, MVC, Vir Chakra, Ashoka, Kirti, Shaurya Chakra**, Sena/Vayu Sena Medal and Sarvottam/Uttam/Yudh Seva Medals.
- **Stamp-duty exemption** on residential property for ex-servicemen and martyrs' dependents raised **from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh**.
- One dependent of each martyr to get a **government job in the home or a neighbouring district**.
- Book **'Shauryagatha'** released; **2,085** soldiers from UP have laid down their lives; **₹96.78 crore** given under soldier-welfare schemes since 2017.



Why it matters: Better state support strengthens the bond between society and the armed forces and helps veterans resettle. Trap: Ashoka, Kirti and Shaurya Chakra are PEACETIME awards; PVC, MVC and Vir Chakra are WARTIME awards.

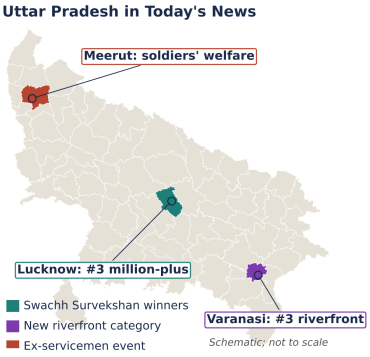
Concept: Wartime gallantry order: Param Vir Chakra > Maha Vir Chakra > Vir Chakra; peacetime: Ashoka Chakra > Kirti Chakra > Shaurya Chakra.
Syllabus: GS-II Welfare of vulnerable sections; GS-III Internal security & defence; UP-special GS-V | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II / GS-III (UP-special GS-V)

UP-URBAN

5. Swachh Survekshan 2025-26: Lucknow 3rd Among Million-Plus Cities, Varanasi 3rd Riverfront Town

Results of the 10th edition were announced on 11 Nov 2026; the President presented the awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- Million-plus Swachh Shehar: **1. GVMC Visakhapatnam, 2. Jabalpur, 3. Lucknow**.
- New **Swachh River Front Town** category: **1. Rewa (MP), 2. Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), 3. Varanasi (UP)**.
- Super Swachh League top three: **Navi Mumbai, Surat, Vijayawada** — Indore lost the top spot after 8 years.
- **4,751 cities** assessed (vs **73** in 2016) across **10 sections**; **2.70 crore** citizens gave feedback; **60** national awards.
- First-time categories: **Clean Himalayan City** (Rudrapur top), **River Front Town** (Rewa top), **Coastal Town** (Puri top).



Why it matters: Varanasi's riverfront rank links urban sanitation with Ganga rejuvenation; Lucknow's repeat top-3 shows sustained waste management. Trap: Super Swachh League is separate from the population-category Swachh Shehar ranking.

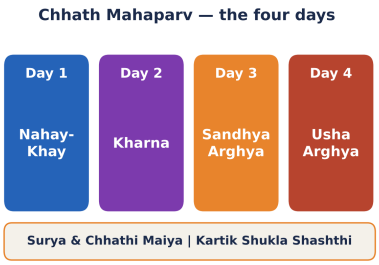
Concept: Swachh Survekshan is run by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs since 2016 under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U 2.0 launched 1 Oct 2021).
Syllabus: GS-II Urban governance; GS-III Environment & sanitation; UP-special GS-VI (urban development of UP) | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II / GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)

UP-CULTURE

6. Chhath Mahaparv: CM Offers Arghya on the Gomti Bank, Lucknow

On 15 Nov the CM took part in Chhath puja on the Gomti bank in Lucknow and issued festival greetings in Bhojpuri.

- Chhath is a **four-day** festival of **Surya (Sun God) and Chhathi Maiya**, centred on **Kartik Shukla Shashthi**.
- Sequence: **Nahay-Khay → Kharna → Sandhya Arghya (setting sun) → Usha Arghya (rising sun)**.
- Widely observed in **Purvanchal (eastern UP)**, Bihar and Jharkhand, on river and pond ghats.
- Greetings issued in **Bhojpuri**, the language of eastern UP and western Bihar.



Why it matters: Chhath is a rare festival worshipping both the setting and the rising sun and stresses ecological purity of water bodies. Trap: Bhojpuri is NOT in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Concept: Eighth Schedule lists 22 languages; Bhojpuri's inclusion remains a long-standing demand.
Syllabus: GS-I Indian culture, festivals; UP-special GS-V (fairs, festivals and languages of UP) | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (UP-special GS-V)

SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS RELEVANT FOR UPPSC

NATIONAL

7. WHO Global TB Report 2026: India's TB Deaths Down 38% Since 2015

The World Health Organization's latest Global Tuberculosis Report shows India's mortality decline outpacing the global average.

- India: **38% decline in TB mortality (2015–2025)** vs global **35%**.
- **94% treatment success rate** for drug-susceptible TB in India.
- World, 2025: **10.6 million** fell ill, **1.13 million** died; data from **187 countries and areas**.
- India still has the largest share — **25%** of global cases (Indonesia 10%, Philippines 6.8%).

Why it matters: Gains reflect better detection and treatment, but nutrition support, drug-resistant TB and private-sector notification remain gaps for a high-burden state like UP.

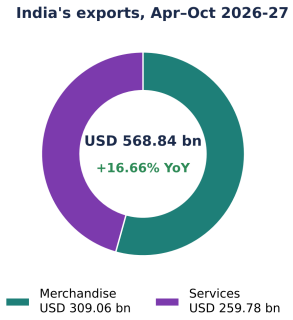
Concept: India set a TB-elimination goal for 2025, five years ahead of the SDG 2030 target; programme run as the National TB Elimination Programme.
Syllabus: GS-II Health; GS-III Science & Technology (disease control) | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Health)

ECONOMY

8. India's Exports Rise 16.66% to USD 568.84 bn in April–October 2026-27

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry released trade estimates for October 2026.

- Total exports (goods + services), Apr–Oct FY27: **USD 568.84 bn, +16.66%** (vs USD 487.59 bn).
- October 2026 alone: **USD 89.99 bn, +29.90% YoY**.
- Merchandise **USD 309.06 bn**; services **USD 259.78 bn**; non-petroleum, non-gems & jewellery **USD 240.73 bn**.



Why it matters: Strong services exports cushion the goods deficit; UP's ODOP clusters (e.g., Meerut sports goods, Bhadohi carpets) can ride this momentum.

Concept: Trade balance = exports − imports; services surplus partly offsets India's merchandise trade deficit in the current account.
Syllabus: GS-III Indian economy, external sector; UP-special GS-VI (ODOP & exports of UP) | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy)

NATIONAL

9. Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Observed on 15 November

The day marks the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda; UP held its tablet phase-2 launch on this occasion.

- Birsa Munda born **15 Nov 1875 at Ulihatu** (present Khunti district, Jharkhand); the day is observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas **since 2021**.
- Janjatiya Gaurav **Pakhwada: 1–15 November 2026**.
- Led the **Ulgulan (Munda rebellion), 1899–1900**; died in Ranchi jail on **9 June 1900**; **Jharkhand** was formed on his birth anniversary in **2000**.

Why it matters: Recognises tribal contributions to the freedom struggle. UP link: Tharu of the Terai are among UP's notified Scheduled Tribes.

Concept: Scheduled Tribes are notified under Article 342; Fifth Schedule covers administration of Scheduled Areas.
Syllabus: GS-I Modern Indian history, tribal movements; GS-II Welfare of STs | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Modern History)

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
UP Bhasha Sansthan	Free IAS/PCS coaching for **50** aspirants; applications till **30 Nov 2026**
Administrative reshuffle	**4 IAS & 55 PCS** officers transferred; **5 development authorities** get new secretaries
WWII veterans' pension	UP gives **₹6,000/month** to Second World War ex-servicemen and their wives
Meerut ODOP	**Sports goods**; state's first sports university named after **Major Dhyan Chand**
Sainik welfare offices	District Sainik Welfare & Rehabilitation Offices inaugurated (Meerut event, 14 Nov)
Census 2027 mascots	**'Pragati'** and **'Vikas'** — symbolising equal participation of women and men

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. For Census 2027 Phase-II (Population Enumeration) in Uttar Pradesh, what is the reference date? [UP-specific]
(a) 00:00 hrs, 1 March 2027 (b) 00:00 hrs, 5 January 2027 (c) 00:00 hrs, 1 October 2026 (d) 00:00 hrs, 1 December 2026
Answer: (b) — UP, Punjab, Goa and non-snow-bound Uttarakhand have the reference date **00:00 hrs, 5 January 2027**; the rest of India uses 1 March 2027.

Q2. In Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, Varanasi was ranked third in which newly introduced category?
(a) Clean Himalayan City (b) Swachh Coastal Town (c) Swachh River Front Town (d) Super Swachh League
Answer: (c) — Swachh River Front Town: **Rewa (1), Bilaspur (2), Varanasi (3)**. Rudrapur topped Clean Himalayan City and Puri topped Coastal Town.

Mains Practice (GS-II / UP-special GS-V): Device-distribution schemes such as Uttar Pradesh's tablet programme can bridge the digital divide only when matched by content, connectivity and employability linkages. Discuss. (125 words)
Hint: *Intro: 25 lakh tablets, ₹2,374.60 cr (FY27), 60 lakh+ earlier beneficiaries. Body: gains (access, ~18,000 courses, skilling) vs gaps (connectivity in rural UP, content in Hindi, usage tracking, job links). Conclude: outcome metrics + industry tie-ups.*

ONE-LINE REVISION: Census SE 16–30 Nov, UP ref. date 5 Jan 2027 | Tablets: 25 lakh, ₹2,374.60 cr | Gallantry cash ×2, stamp duty ₹50 lakh | Lucknow #3, Varanasi #3 riverfront | TB deaths –38%

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