

UP Cabinet's mega welfare push and Chitrakoot Link Expressway lead the day, as Yogi govt hands 818 appointment letters and fast-tracks 25,000 ha for expressway industrial clusters

Uttar Pradesh dominated the day's exam-relevant news. In Lucknow the CM distributed 818 appointment letters through UPPSC/UPSSSC, while the recent Cabinet's 24 decisions — the Chitrakoot Link Expressway, a mega welfare package for women, youth and commuters, ex-Agniveer reservation and an NSG centre in Ayodhya — continued to shape governance. On the economy, the state fast-tracked 25,000 hectares for expressway industrial clusters ahead of a proposed ₹8-lakh-crore investment ceremony, and lined up the UP International Trade Show. Nationally, the Janaushadhi scheme's expansion and a US Fed rate hike were the key add-ons.

AT A GLANCE — TODAY'S TOP 10

- ✓ CM distributes **818 appointment letters** in Lucknow via **UPPSC/UPSSSC** (Ayush 404, X-Ray tech 357).
- ✓ UP Cabinet clears **Chitrakoot Link Expressway** — **15.17 km**, six-lane, **₹1,008.67 cr**.
- ✓ **Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yojana**: free UPSRTC travel for **1 crore+ women aged 60+**.
- ✓ **25 lakh free tablets** for youth under **Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana** (₹2,374.60 cr).
- ✓ UP fast-tracks **25,000 hectares** near expressways for **27 IMLCs**; **GBC 5.0** eyes **₹8 lakh crore**.
- ✓ **Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana 2.0** mela in Lucknow launches Margin Money Loan Portal.
- ✓ **Kishau Multipurpose Project**: 6-state pact (UP included) — 232.6 m dam, 97,000 ha irrigation.
- ✓ **Ganga Expressway** extended to **Haridwar**; **ex-Agniveers** get **20% horizontal** reservation.
- ✓ **PM Janaushadhi**: **20,000+** Kendras, est. citizen savings **₹37,200 cr**.
- ✓ **US Federal Reserve** hikes rate **25 bps** to **3.75-4.00%** — first hike in three years.

25,000 hectares

UP expressway industrial land targeted

for 27 IMLCs; ~4,250 ha already acquired ahead of the proposed GBC 5.0 (₹8 lakh crore).

SECTION A — Today in Uttar Pradesh

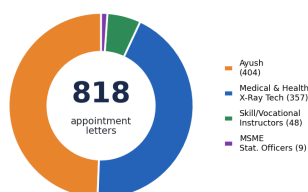
UP-GOVERNANCE UTTAR PRADESH

1. CM hands 818 UPPSC/UPSSSC appointment letters in Lucknow

On 19 September 2026 the Chief Minister distributed appointment letters at Lok Bhawan, Lucknow, to candidates selected through the state's recruitment commissions.

- **818 appointment letters** given across four departments through **UPPSC** and **UPSSSC**.
- **Ayush: 404** posts (teachers, Ayurveda/Unani/Homeopathy, pharmacists); **Medical & Health: 357** X-Ray Technicians.
- **Skill/Vocational Education: 48** instructors; **MSME: 9** Assistant Statistical Officers.
- Selections stressed as **transparent and merit-based** through the recruitment commissions.

Govt Jobs Handed Out — 19 Sep 2026 (UPPSC / UPSSSC)



Why it matters: Regular, commission-driven recruitment is central to public-service delivery and youth employment — a recurring UPPSC theme on state governance and the role of UPPSC/UPSSSC.

Syllabus: GS-II: Government recruitment, transparency in appointments; UP GS-V: State public service commissions.

Concept: UPPSC recruits Group A/B posts; UPSSSC handles Group C. Both are state recruitment bodies distinct from the UPSC.

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance); UP-special GS-V (State polity & recruitment)

SECTION B — Key UP Developments

UP-GOVERNANCE UP-INFRA

2. UP Cabinet clears Chitrakoot Link Expressway among 24 decisions

The recent State Cabinet (15 September 2026) approved 24 proposals spanning infrastructure, jobs, farming, education and welfare that frame current UP governance.

- **Chitrakoot Link Expressway: 15.172 km**, six-lane access-controlled greenfield road, **₹1,008.67 cr**, linking Bundelkhand to Chitrakoot Dham.
- **Ex-Agniveers: 20% horizontal reservation** in Enforcement Constable (Transport) and Jail Warder posts, with age relaxation.
- **NSG Regional Centre: 65 acres** allotted free in **Milkpur tehsil, Ayodhya**.
- **Mukhyamantri Krishak Samridhi Yojana**: loans up to **₹6 lakh at 6%** for small/marginal farmers; **120 KLPD ethanol plant** at Chhata, Mathura; new **Toy Manufacturing Policy-2025**.

UP Cabinet Decisions — 15 September 2026 (24 proposals cleared)

Chitrakoot Link Expressway	Expressway Project Cost	Ex-Agniveer Reservation	NSG Regional Centre, Ayodhya	Krishak Samridhi farm loans	Ethanol Plant Mathura (Chhata)
15.17 km	₹1,008.67 cr	20%	65 acres	₹6 lakh	120 KLPD
6-lane greenfield	Bundelkhand link	horizontal quota	Milkpur tehsil	at 6% interest	capacity

Why it matters: These decisions bundle connectivity, welfare and defence-preparedness — high-yield for both factual Prelims and Mains answers on cooperative, delivery-focused state governance.

Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure & industrial policy; GS-II: Reservation policy; UP GS-VI: State-specific economy.

Concept: 'Horizontal' reservation cuts across all vertical categories (SC/ST/OBC/General), unlike 'vertical' quotas that are category-specific.

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II & GS-III; UP-special GS-V/GS-VI (State infrastructure & economy)

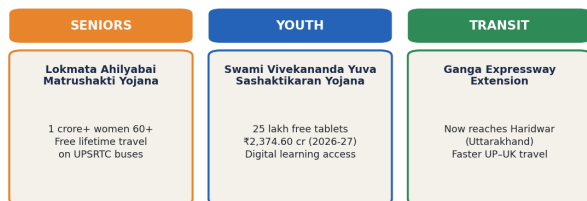
UP-SCHEME UP-SCHEME

3. Mega welfare push: free bus travel for elderly women, tablets for youth

Alongside the Cabinet's infrastructure agenda, three demographic-focused schemes anchor the welfare push for women, youth and commuters.

- **Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yojana**: free lifetime travel on all UPSRTC buses for **1 crore+ women aged 60+**.
- **Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana**: **25 lakh free tablets**, budget ~₹2,374.60 cr for 2026-27, five-year rollout.
- **Ganga Expressway** extended to **Haridwar (Uttarakhand)**, easing UP-Uttarakhand travel and pilgrimage.
- Package deliberately spans **social security + digital empowerment + transit connectivity**.

UP Cabinet's Mega Welfare Push — Three Pillars



Why it matters: Naming a scheme after Ahilyabai Holkar links welfare with cultural memory — Mains-relevant on scheme design; the digital tablet push connects to bridging the state's digital divide.

Syllabus: GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; GS-II: e-Governance & digital access; UP GS-V.

Concept: 'Horizontal' welfare targeting by age/gender complements income-based targeting — a recurring theme in scheme design questions.

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Welfare schemes); UP-special GS-V (Social sector)

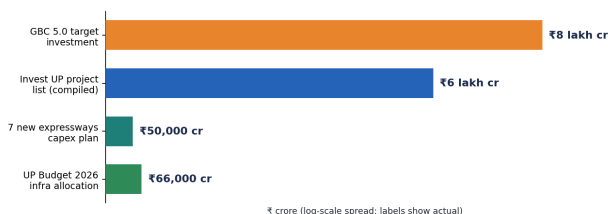
UP-INFRA UP-INFRA

4. UP fast-tracks 25,000 hectares for expressway industrial clusters

The state is acquiring land along its expressway network to build industrial clusters ahead of a proposed mega investment ceremony (GBC 5.0).

- **25,000 hectares** targeted for **27 Industrial Manufacturing & Logistics Clusters (IMLCs)**; ~4,250 ha already acquired.
- Corridors: **Purvanchal, Bundelkhand, Ganga, Gorakhpur Link and Agra-Lucknow** expressways.
- **GBC 5.0** targets private investment near **₹8 lakh crore**; Invest UP has compiled a project list of ~**₹6 lakh crore**.
- IMLCs offer plug-and-play plots, multimodal connectivity and **flatted factories** for land efficiency.

UP Investment & Infrastructure Pipeline — 2026



Why it matters: Expressway-led industrialisation is UP's flagship growth model toward a \$1-trillion economy — a strong Mains case study on infrastructure-driven regional development.

Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure, industrial corridors, investment; UP GS-VI: State economic development.

Concept: Ground Breaking Ceremony (GBC) converts investment MoUs from investor summits into actual project launches on the ground.

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Industrial growth); UP-special GS-VI (State economy)

UP-SCHEME UP-SCHEME

5. Vishwakarma Shram Samman mela drives 'Atmanirbhar UP' artisan push

Marking Vishwakarma Jayanti, the state held a Vishwakarma Swarojgar and Swadeshi Mela in Lucknow to boost artisans and self-employment.

- Held under **Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana 2.0** on Vishwakarma Jayanti at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow.
- Launch of a **Margin Money Loan Portal** plus distribution of **toolkits and cheques** to beneficiaries.
- Links traditional trades to modern technology, credit and markets under **Vocal for Local / Atmanirbhar UP**.

- Complements **ODOP (One District One Product)** and the upcoming **UP International Trade Show 2026** (25-29 Sep, Greater Noida).

Theme: Self-Reliant Uttar Pradesh — Artisans, MSMEs & Exports



Why it matters: Craft-based self-employment underpins UP's export and MSME strategy — a ready Mains link between cultural heritage, skilling and inclusive growth.

Syllabus: GS-III: MSMEs, employment, Vocal for Local; UP GS-VI: ODOP, traditional crafts, exports.

Concept: ODOP promotes one signature product per district for branding, credit and market linkage — a model later echoed nationally.

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (MSME, skilling); UP-special GS-VI (ODOP & crafts)

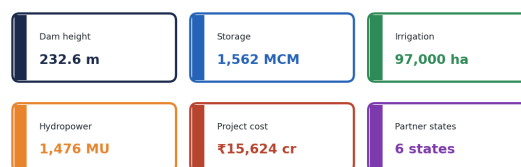
UP-INFRA UP-INFRA

6. Six states, including UP, sign Kishau multipurpose project pact

A six-state agreement (15 September 2026) revived the long-pending Kishau dam on the Tons river, with UP among the beneficiary states.

- Signatories: **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana**.
- On the **Tons river** (largest tributary of the Yamuna); dam height **232.6 m** — among India's tallest.
- Storage **1,562 MCM**, irrigation **97,000 ha**, hydropower **1,476 MU**; cost ~**₹15,624 cr**.
- **25% environmental flow** earmarked for **Yamuna rejuvenation**; environmental & forest clearances still pending.

Kishau Multipurpose Project — 6-State Pact (UP among signatories)



On Tons River (Yamuna's largest tributary); 25% flow reserved for Yamuna rejuvenation

Why it matters: Inter-state water cooperation with an ecological-flow clause is a model answer for water-federalism and river-rejuvenation questions in Mains.

Syllabus: GS-I: Rivers & drainage; GS-III: Water resources, inter-state cooperation, hydropower; UP GS-VI.

Concept: The Tons is the largest tributary of the Yamuna; multipurpose projects combine irrigation, hydropower and drinking-water supply.

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I & GS-III (Geography, water resources); UP-special GS-VI

SECTION C — National News for UPPSC

NATIONAL NATIONAL

7. PM Janaushadhi scheme widens basket beyond medicines

The affordable-medicines scheme is expanding into surgicals and devices, deepening its reach as a national health-access instrument relevant to UP too.

- **20,000+ Jan Aushadhi Kendras** operating nationwide; basket now **2,110 medicines + 315 devices**.
- Cumulative sales (2021-26) **₹7,873.85 cr**; estimated citizen savings **₹37,200 cr**.

- New sub-baskets **Janaushadhi Bachpan** (infants) and **Jan Aushadhi Swabhiman** (adult care).
- Administered by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** (PMBJP).

PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana — National Reach



Why it matters: A recurring Prelims-fact scheme; the surgicals expansion supports Mains arguments on out-of-pocket health spending and generic-medicine penetration.

Syllabus: GS-II: Health-sector schemes, affordable medicines, welfare delivery.

Concept: *Generic medicines have the same composition as branded drugs but cost far less; Jan Aushadhi lowers out-of-pocket health expenditure.*

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Health, government schemes)

NATIONAL ECONOMY

8. US Fed hikes rate 25 bps to 3.75-4.00% — first rise in three years

The US Federal Reserve's rate move affects the rupee, capital flows and borrowing costs — a standard economy linkage for Indian aspirants.

- Rate raised by **25 basis points** to a **3.75-4.00%** range — the **first hike in three years**.
- Higher US rates can spur **rupee depreciation** and **capital outflows** from emerging markets.
- Widens pressure on the **RBI's** own rate calculus and on external borrowing costs.
- US inflation not expected to reach the **2% target before 2029**.

Why it matters: Understand the transmission chain — Fed rate to rupee to imported inflation to RBI response — a frequent Mains and interview linkage.

Syllabus: GS-III: Monetary policy, exchange rate, capital flows, external sector impact on India.

Concept: *A basis point is 0.01%; higher US yields make dollar assets attractive, pulling capital away from emerging markets like India.*

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy, monetary policy, external sector)

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

9. FAO 'Forests for Food' report flags wild-food and deforestation trends

The FAO report (15 September 2026) links forest biodiversity to food and nutrition security, with clear Indian policy hooks.

- Over **50,000 wild species** are used globally for food and medicine.
- Global deforestation stands at **10.9 million hectares annually** (2015-25 decade).
- Wild foods are linked to **lower child stunting**; forest foods can supply up to **80% of protein** in some communities.
- India's tools: **Forest Rights Act (2006)**, **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras**, **National Agroforestry Policy (2014)**.

Why it matters: Bridges environment and nutrition — useful for Mains answers connecting biodiversity conservation with tribal livelihoods and food security.

Syllabus: GS-III: Environment, biodiversity, food & nutrition security, forest governance.

Concept: *FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) is a UN specialised agency headquartered in Rome, promoting food security worldwide.*

Exam → UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Environment, food security, forestry)

SECTION D — UP Rapid-Fire

- **India's Oscar entry (99th Academy Awards)** 'Gondhal' (Marathi), dir. Santosh Davakhar
- **New NSG Regional Centre site** Milkipur tehsil, Ayodhya (UP) — 65 acres
- **120 KLPD ethanol plant approved at** Chhata Sugar Co., Mathura (UP)
- **Ganga Expressway now extended to** Haridwar, Uttarakhand
- **New 6-day luxury cultural circuit** Varanasi-Prayagraj-Ayodhya
- **Ex-Agniveer reservation in UP posts** 20% horizontal (Transport Constable, Jail Warder)

SECTION E — Practice Corner

Q1. With reference to the recently approved Chitrakoot Link Expressway in Uttar Pradesh, consider the following:

1. It is a six-lane access-controlled greenfield expressway.
2. It connects the Bundelkhand region to Chitrakoot Dham.
3. Its approved length is about 150 km.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a) The Chitrakoot Link Expressway is a 15.172-km (not 150 km) six-lane access-controlled greenfield expressway costing ₹1,008.67 crore, linking Bundelkhand to Chitrakoot Dham. Statements 1 and 2 are correct; 3 is wrong on length.

Q2. The Kishau Multipurpose Project, for which a six-state agreement was recently signed, is located on which river?

- (a) Tons (tributary of the Yamuna)
- (b) Betwa
- (c) Ken
- (d) Gandak

Ans: (a) Kishau is on the Tons river, the largest tributary of the Yamuna. The pact involves Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana, with a 232.6 m dam and 25% flow reserved for Yamuna rejuvenation.

Mains Practice: "Expressway-led industrialisation has become the cornerstone of Uttar Pradesh's growth strategy." In light of the state's Industrial Manufacturing & Logistics Clusters (IMLCs) along expressway corridors, examine how this model can transform the state economy, and the challenges it must overcome. (250 words)

Hint → Structure: (i) expressway network + IMLC/land-bank model and ₹8-lakh-cr GBC 5.0 ambition; (ii) gains — jobs, logistics cost, investment, balanced regional growth (Bundelkhand/Purvanchal); (iii) challenges — land acquisition, environmental clearances, skilled labour, last-mile connectivity; conclude with sustainable, inclusive industrial corridors.

★ QUICK REVISION: Today's must-revise: Chitrakoot Link Expressway (15.17 km, ₹1,008.67 cr) • Matrushakti Yojana (1 cr+ women 60+ free UPSRTC travel) • 25,000 ha for 27 IMLCs • Kishau dam on Tons (6 states) • Jan Aushadhi ₹37,200 cr savings.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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