UPPSC Daily Digest — 19 October 2026 · **Top stories:** UP doubles Farmers' Scholarship seats; Mainpuri's Sauj Jheel becomes UP's 14th Ramsar site; HC orders panchayat polls in 3 months

Note: Today (19 Oct) is a Maha Navami public holiday in UP, so fresh state news is thin. Today's/yesterday's items come first; key UP developments from this week (14–18 Oct) are added for completeness.

SECTION A — TODAY IN UP

UP-GOVERNANCE 1. Navratri push: "Sashakt Nari, Samridh Uttar Pradesh" — women-empowerment scorecard

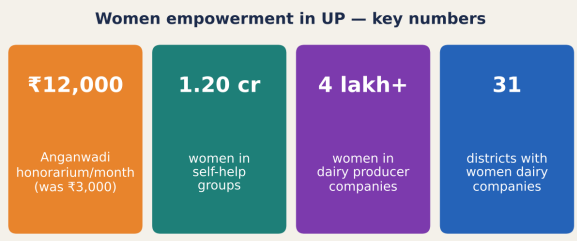
On Maha Ashtami (18 Oct) the CM listed state measures on women's safety, nutrition and income; 19 Oct was declared a Maha Navami public holiday.

- Anganwadi workers' monthly honorarium raised from **₹3,000 to ₹12,000** (four-fold), with health insurance cover.
- More than **1.20 crore** women are linked to self-help groups (SHGs) in UP.
- **4 lakh+** women in **31 districts** are members of women-led dairy producer companies — **Balinee, Samarthya, Kashi, Baba Gorakhnath, Srijani**.
- Take-home ration (THR) production handed to SHG women; **BC Sakhi** brings banking to gram panchayats; **Lakhpati Didi** targets sustainable incomes.

Concept: Women-led development: moving from women as beneficiaries to women as drivers of growth via collectives and financial inclusion.

Why it matters: Women's collectives (SHGs, dairy companies, BC Sakhi) are UP's main lever for rural income and nutrition delivery — useful data for Mains answers on women-led development.

Syllabus: GS-II: welfare schemes for vulnerable sections, SHGs | GS-VI: UP social-sector schemes | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-VI)



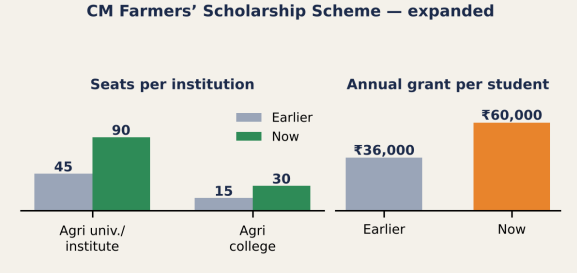
UP-SCHEME 2. CM Farmers' Scholarship Scheme: seats doubled, grant raised to ₹60,000

Announced on 18 Oct; the scheme is run by the State Agricultural Produce Market Board (Mandi Parishad) for farmers' children in agri courses.

- Seats per agricultural university/institute: **45 → 90**; per agricultural college: **15 → 30**.
- Annual grant per student raised from **₹36,000 to ₹60,000**.
- Covers UG & PG courses in agriculture, home science, horticulture, forestry and animal husbandry.
- Coverage: **11** agri universities/institutes and **61** agri colleges; about **₹22.90 crore** paid to **6,454** students (2017-18 to 2025-26).

Why it matters: Building a pipeline of trained agri-professionals from farm families supports diversification into horticulture, dairy and agri-tech — key to raising farm incomes in UP.

Syllabus: GS-III: agricultural education & extension | GS-VI: UP agriculture schemes | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)



SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS (THIS WEEK)

UP-ENVIRONMENT 3. Sauj Jheel (Mainpuri) declared Ramsar site — India 103, UP 14

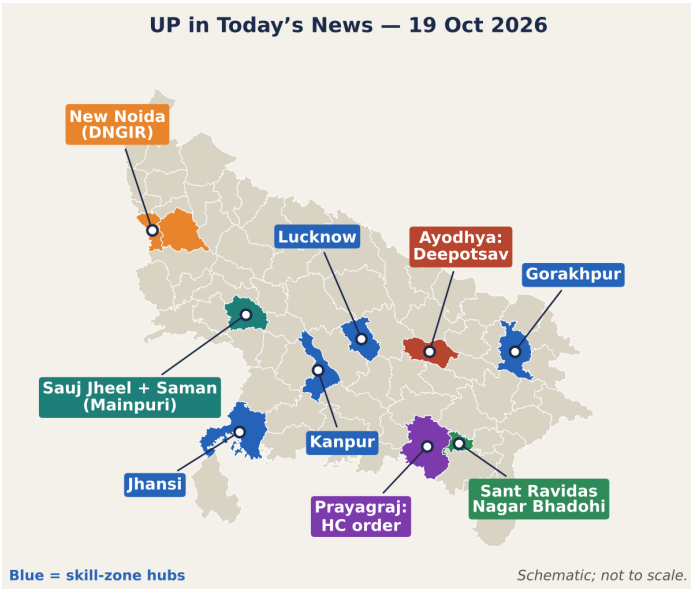
Announced on 15 Oct together with Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh); India's Ramsar count rose to 103.

- **Sauj Jheel**: shallow lake in the **Ganga floodplain**, **Mainpuri** district; Ramsar Site No. **2603**.
- Part of a wetland network with nearby **Saman Bird Sanctuary** — Mainpuri is now the **only UP district with two Ramsar sites**.
- UP's tally rises to **14**, second only to **Tamil Nadu**.
- Supports waterbirds, sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) and wild sugarcane (*Saccharum spontaneum*).
- Ramsar Convention: signed **2 Feb 1971** at Ramsar (Iran), in force 1975; World Wetlands Day = 2 Feb.

Concept: Ramsar 'wise use' principle: conservation plus sustainable use of wetlands for people and nature.

Why it matters: Ramsar tag brings international recognition and a management-plan obligation; floodplain lakes in UP face farm encroachment and siltation, so community-led conservation is vital.

Syllabus: GS-III: environment & biodiversity conservation | GS-VI: UP geography, wetlands | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)



UP-POLITY 4. Allahabad HC: hold panchayat polls within 3 months on existing 27% OBC quota

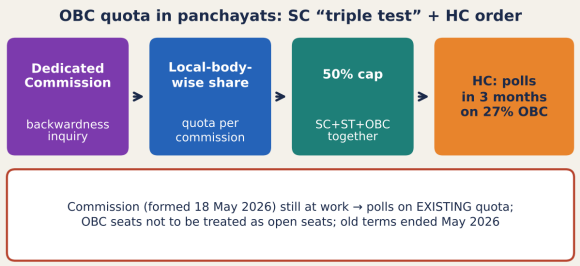
In Dashrath Yadav vs State of UP (reported 15 Oct), a Division Bench directed the State and State Election Commission (SEC) to complete panchayat elections within 3 months.

- Polls to be held under the **existing reservation**, including **27% OBC**; cannot wait for the **Dedicated Backward Classes Commission** (formed **18 May 2026**).
- OBC-reserved seats must **not be treated as open seats** merely because the inquiry is pending.
- Terms of earlier bodies ended **May 2026**; the **25 May 2026** order making outgoing pradhans **Administrators** was upheld.
- Challenge to Sections 12(3-A) and 12-BB(3) of the **UP Panchayat Raj Act, 1947** under **Article 243-E** rejected.
- State must give the SEC staff, funds and security.

Concept: SC 'triple test' (Vikas Kishanrao Gawali, 2021): dedicated commission, local-body-wise proportion, 50% overall cap.

Why it matters: The order prioritises the constitutional mandate of timely elections (Art. 243-E: 5-year term) over delays, while leaving the SC's 'triple test' for future quota revision.

Syllabus: GS-II: local self-government (73rd Amendment), reservation | GS-V: UP Panchayati Raj | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V)



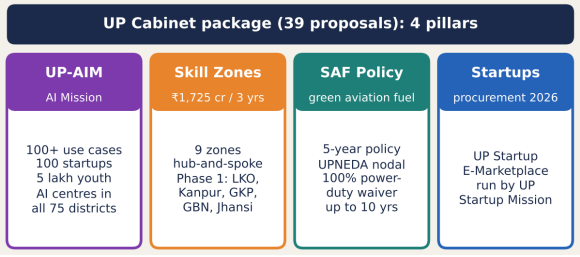
UP-ECONOMY 5. UP Cabinet's 39-proposal package: AI Mission, ₹1,725-cr skill zones, SAF policy

Cabinet chaired by CM Yogi Adityanath (reported 10 Oct) cleared 39 proposals aimed at the new economy.

- **UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM)**: society under IT & Electronics Dept; **100+** AI use cases, **100** AI startups, **5 lakh** youth trained, AI centres in all **75 districts**.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zone scheme**: **₹1,725 crore** over 3 years; **9 zones** (hub-and-spoke); phase 1 at **Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Jhansi**.
- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Policy-2026**: 5 years; nodal agency **UPNEDA**; 100% electricity-duty exemption up to 10 years.
- **UP Startup Procurement Scheme-2026** creates a **UP Startup E-Marketplace**; interest-waiver scheme on old tax dues; **Model Building Regulations, 2026** approved.

Why it matters: Linking AI, skilling and green fuels to district hubs is UP's bid to turn its demographic size into a USD 1-trillion-economy workforce.

Syllabus: GS-III: IT, skilling, energy, startups | GS-VI: UP industrial & IT policies | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)



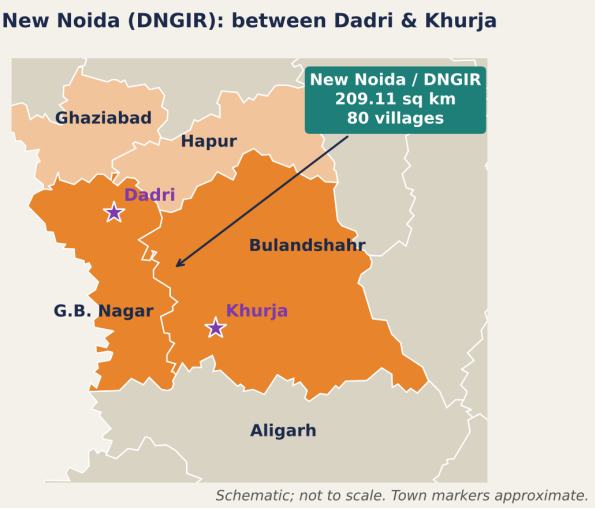
UP-INFRA 6. New Noida (DNGIR) sets up 3 circles to develop 80 villages

The Dadri–Noida–Ghaziabad Investment Region (New Noida) created administrative circles 11, 12 and 14 for land acquisition and development (14 Oct).

- Area **209.11 sq km** across **80 villages** between **Dadri (Gautam Buddha Nagar)** and **Khurja (Bulandshahr)**.
- Master Plan **2041**; planned population about **6 lakh**.
- Four phases: 2023-27, 2027-32, 2032-37, 2037-41.
- Compensation: phases 1–2 on Greater Noida model (**6%** abadi plot); phases 3–4 on YEIDA model (**7%**).

Why it matters: A planned industrial city beside the Jewar airport–DFC belt can decongest Noida, but fair compensation and farmer consent will decide its pace.

Syllabus: GS-I/III: urbanisation, industrial corridors, land acquisition | GS-VI: UP infrastructure | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI)



UP-CULTURE 7. 10th Ayodhya Deepotsav (5–7 Nov) to light 33 lakh diyas

Preparations are under way for the tenth edition of Deepotsav on the Saryu riverfront.

- **33 lakh** earthen lamps along ~**2 km** of the **Saryu** riverfront incl. **Ram Ki Paidi**; dates **5–7 Nov 2026**.
- About **65 lakh** wicks and **55,000 litres** of oil; ~**34,000** volunteers.
- Cultural programmes on a special stage at Ram Ki Paidi; focus on security, traffic and cleanliness.

Why it matters: Deepotsav is a flagship of UP's religious-tourism economy (Ayodhya–Kashi–Prayagraj circuit), supporting potters, ODOP crafts and the hospitality sector.

Syllabus: GS-I: Indian culture, festivals | GS-VI: UP tourism & heritage | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (UP-special GS-VI)

SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS RELEVANT FOR UPPSC

NATIONAL · ECONOMY 8. Ethanol 2026-27: zero sugar diversion — sugar-based feedstocks excluded

Oil marketing companies' tender (16–17 Oct) for ~11 billion litres for the supply year starting November excludes cane juice, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses.

- Procurement shifts to **maize, damaged foodgrains, surplus FCI rice and C-heavy molasses**.
- Reasons: record retail sugar prices, weak cane yields in Maharashtra/Karnataka, festive buffer stocks.
- India has already achieved **E20** blending; capacity ~**2,000 crore litres**; E25/E27 and flex-fuel under study.
- UP angle: India's top cane state loses the juice/B-heavy route — distilleries must pivot to grain and C-heavy molasses.

Why it matters: Balancing food (sugar) security with fuel security needs a diversified feedstock basket and timely cane-price payments to UP farmers.

Syllabus: GS-III: energy security, agriculture–industry linkages (UP sugar belt) | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III

NATIONAL · POLITY 9. Supreme Court: children have a fundamental right to access the Internet

A Bench led by Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Vinod K. Chandran opposed blanket social-media bans for children.

- Right flows from **Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a)**; builds on **Anuradha Bhasin (2020)**.
- Suggested **parental consent**, age-appropriate safeguards and a '**child mode**' for social-media accounts.

Why it matters: Regulate, don't ban: safety-by-design protects children while keeping digital education open — relevant for UP's tablet/smartphone schemes for students.

Syllabus: GS-II: fundamental rights, child protection, digital governance | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II

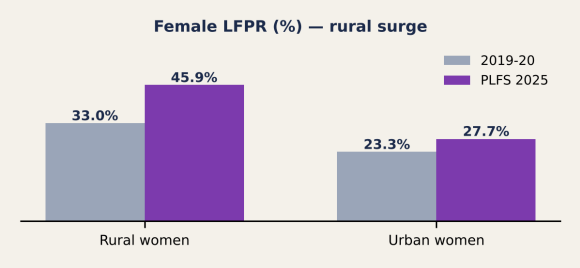
NATIONAL · ECONOMY 10. PLFS 2025: rural female labour-force participation jumps to 45.9%

Periodic Labour Force Survey data compare female LFPR with 2019-20.

- Rural female LFPR **33% → 45.9%**; urban **23.3% → 27.7%**.
- Biggest gains: **Arunachal Pradesh** (+8.28 rural, +5.24 urban); **Lakshadweep** declined.
- Rise is largely self-employment/unpaid family work — quality of jobs remains a concern.

Why it matters: Converting participation into paid, formal work (SHG enterprises, dairy, care economy) is the next step — ties directly to UP's women-collective model above.

Syllabus: GS-I: role of women | GS-III: employment, inclusive growth | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I/III



SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
Renaming	**Bhadohi** district renamed **Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi** (Cabinet, Oct 2026)
Rajya Sabha	All **10** UP seats filled unopposed: **BJP 8, SP 2**; BSP left with no UP member; outgoing terms end **25 Nov**
Award	UP **1st** in **PMAY-U** Beneficiary-Led Construction; **3rd** in PMAY-U 2.0 grounding (5 Oct)
Urban rules	**Model Building Regulations, 2026**: no FAR cap on roads **>45 m**; **deemed approval** in 60 days; high-rise audit every **5 years**
Sports	**Major Dhyan Chand Sports University**, **Meerut**; "Medal Lao, Naukri Pao" = govt jobs for medallists
Festival	**19 Oct**: Maha Navami public holiday in UP; CM performed Kanya Pujan at **Gorakhnath Temple**, Gorakhpur

Data point — Ramsar sites: **India 103 | UP 14** — Sauj Jheel (Mainpuri) is Ramsar Site No. 2603; UP is second only to Tamil Nadu.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Sauj Jheel, which took India's Ramsar tally to 103 in October 2026, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh — the only UP district that now has two Ramsar sites?
(a) Etawah (b) Mainpuri (c) Unnao (d) Hardoi
Answer: (b) — Sauj Jheel lies in the Ganga floodplain of **Mainpuri**, which already had **Saman Bird Sanctuary**; UP now has **14** Ramsar sites.

Q2. Which of the following is NOT a part of the Supreme Court's 'triple test' for OBC reservation in local bodies?
(a) A dedicated commission to inquire into backwardness (b) Specifying quota proportion local-body-wise (c) Total SC/ST/OBC reservation not exceeding 50% (d) Approval of the quota by the State Legislature by two-thirds majority
Answer: (d) — The triple test (Vikas Kishanrao Gawali, 2021) = **dedicated commission + local-body-wise proportion + 50% cap**; no legislative two-thirds approval is required.

Mains: "Women's collectives are becoming the backbone of rural transformation in Uttar Pradesh." Examine with reference to SHGs, women-led dairy companies and BC Sakhi. (125 words)
Hint: Intro: 1.20 crore SHG women, 4 lakh+ in dairy cos. (31 districts) → Body: income (Lakhpati Didi), nutrition (THR by SHGs), finance (BC Sakhi), PLFS rural female LFPR 45.9% → Challenges: low-value work, market access, credit → Way forward: FPO/market linkages, digital skilling, care infrastructure.

⚡ **One-line revision:** Sauj Jheel = Mainpuri = UP's 14th Ramsar site (India 103) | Panchayat polls in 3 months on 27% OBC | Farmers' Scholarship ₹60,000 | Deepotsav 5–7 Nov, 33 lakh diyas.

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