UPPSC DAILY DIGEST · 19 NOVEMBER 2026 (THURSDAY)

UP Cabinet defers panchayat polls by 6 months & clears ₹281 cr Deep Tech U-Hub; foundation of UP's first Forestry University in Gorakhpur

▸ Gorakhpur: foundation of **UP's first Forestry & Horticulture University** (₹491 cr, 50 ha, Campierganj).
▸ UP holiday calendar 2027: **26 public + 27 restricted**; DMs can declare **3 local holidays**.
▸ **7-VC task force** (convener UPUMS Saifai) to draft a student mental-health screening SOP.
▸ Panchayat polls deferred **6 months**; administrators continue in **57,694 gram panchayats**.
▸ **₹281.03 cr** Deep Tech U-Hub at IIT Kanpur's **Noida** campus; 24 months, EPC mode.
▸ Modified UDAN: **ATF VAT ≤1%**, free fire/security, **20% VGF** share by UP.
▸ Victim relief rules 2026: **₹1–15 lakh** under Rani Lakshmibai Mahila evam Bal Samman Kosh.
▸ Meerut **GI scissors** cluster: units **300+ → ~100**; imports doubled, **~90% from China**.
▸ **7th Quad summit** (Manila): India to host first **Quad Business Leaders' Forum** in 2027.
▸ **Black mass** export banned (DGFT, 10 Nov) to retain lithium, cobalt, nickel.

DATA POINT

57,694

Gram panchayats under administrators

Administrators' term extended by 6 months through an ordinance approved on 18 Nov 2026.

Note: Cabinet items were briefed late on 18 Nov and lead today's UP coverage; all other items are of 19 Nov or this week.

SECTION A — TODAY IN UP

UP-EDUCATION 1. Foundation laid for UP's first Forestry & Horticulture University in Gorakhpur

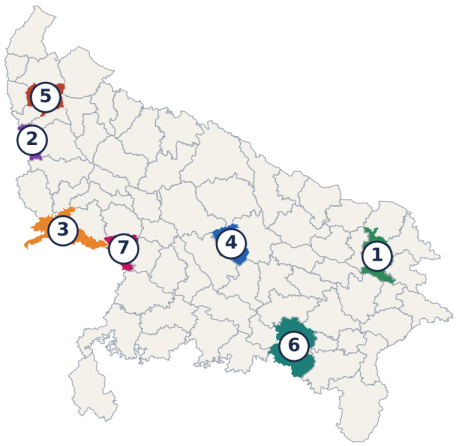
On 19 Nov 2026 the Chief Minister lays the foundation stone of the Uttar Pradesh Forestry and Horticulture University at Bhariwaisi, Campierganj tehsil, Gorakhpur.

- **UP's first** and **India's second** Forestry & Horticulture University; site at **Bhariwaisi, Campierganj (Gorakhpur)**.
- Area **~50 ha (123.55 acres)**; estimated cost **₹491 crore**; hostels for **895 students** and **401** residential units.
- Courses: BSc, MSc, PhD & diplomas in forestry, horticulture, **wildlife conservation, climate change, agroforestry**.
- Proposed **horizontal reservation** for its graduates in UP State Forest Service and **Regional Forest Officer** posts.
- Same event: **55 projects worth ₹792 crore** — 16 foundations (₹621.05 cr) + 39 inaugurations (₹171.13 cr); Gorakhpur gets its **5th university**.

Why it matters: Builds a trained cadre for UP's forest, agroforestry and horticulture economy in the Terai belt; a likely one-liner for Prelims ('UP's first forestry university — Gorakhpur').

Static link: Gorakhpur already hosts DDU Gorakhpur University, MMM University of Technology, Mahayogi Gorakhnath University and UP's first Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI) — GS-VI: UP — agriculture, forestry & environment; GS-III: conservation, education infrastructure

Uttar Pradesh in Today's News



Schematic; not to scale. UP district boundaries.

1 Gorakhpur: Forestry & Horticulture Univ. (₹491 cr)
2 Noida: IIT-K Deep Tech U-Hub (₹281.03 cr)
3 Agra (Bah): Uganpura stadium land
4 Lucknow: State Coop. College (Rahmankheda)
5 Meerut: GI scissors cluster in distress
6 Prayagraj: Indira Marathon (19 Nov)
7 Saifai (Etawah): UPUMS VC leads student task force

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UP-GOVERNANCE 2. UP notifies 2027 holiday calendar: 26 public, 27 restricted holidays

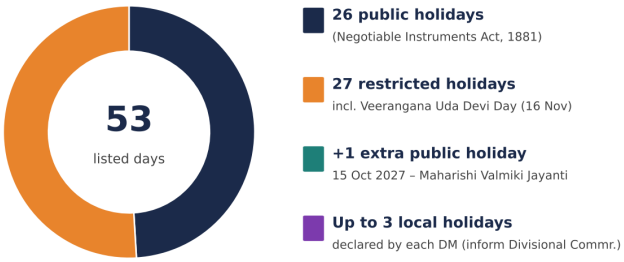
The General Administration Department issued the 2027 calendar on 17 Nov 2026; it was in focus on 18–19 Nov.

- **26 public holidays** declared under the **Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881**; plus **27 restricted holidays**.
- **15 Oct 2027 (Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti)** added as an extra public holiday.
- **Veerangana Uda Devi Martyrdom Day (16 Nov)** figures in the restricted list.
- Each **DM may declare up to 3 local holidays** a year, informing the Divisional Commissioner in advance; no compensatory leave if a festival falls on a holiday.

Why it matters: Uda Devi (Pasi community heroine of 1857, Sikandar Bagh, Lucknow) is a favourite UP-history question — the calendar keeps her in the news.

Static link: Holidays under the NI Act, 1881 (Sec. 25 Explanation) also close banks and treasuries; restricted holidays are optional for employees.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims (UP-special GS-V) — GS-V: UP administration; UP history & culture (Veerangana Uda Devi)

UP Holiday Calendar 2027 — at a glance



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UP-SOCIAL 3. Task force of 7 VCs to frame student mental-health screening SOP for UP universities

A government order (18 Nov) set up a 7-member task force of vice-chancellors to recommend a screening-and-care system for students.

- Convener: VC of **UP University of Medical Sciences (UPUMS), Saifai, Etawah**; members include VCs of CSJM Kanpur, MGKVP Varanasi, VBSP Jaunpur, RML Avadh (Ayodhya) and others.
- Model: **AIIMS Delhi's 'Never Alone'** initiative — screening, timely intervention and treatment.
- An **AI-based app** (nearly ready) will flag at-risk students for counselling/psychotherapy; recommendations due **within a week**, then a state **SOP**.
- Observation cited: **35–40%** of young students show some level of mental-health concern.

Why it matters: Moves campus well-being from ad-hoc counselling cells to a uniform, tech-enabled state protocol — useful Mains example for 'student mental health'.

Static link: Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 makes access to mental healthcare a right; national Tele-MANAS helpline supports it.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V) — GS-II: health & education, vulnerable sections; GS-V: UP social sector governance

SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS

UP-POLITY 4. Cabinet defers panchayat polls by 6 months; ordinance extends administrators' term

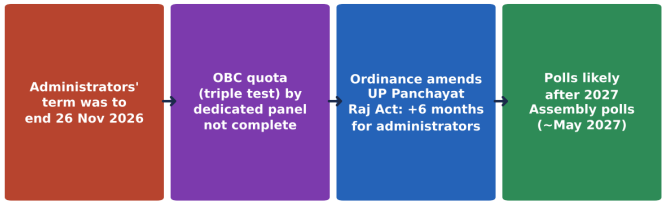
The UP Cabinet on 18 Nov approved an ordinance to amend the UP Panchayat Raj Act and keep administrators in place for six more months.

- Outgoing pradhans are administrators in **57,694 gram panchayats**; their term was to end **26 Nov 2026** — now extended by **6 months**.
- Reason: **OBC reservation** exercise incomplete; term of the **dedicated Backward Classes Commission** also extended.
- Polls now likely **after the 2027 Assembly election (~May 2027)**, despite a **High Court direction** to hold them within 3 months.
- Tool used: **ordinance** (Art. 213) by the Governor, as the legislature is not in session.

Why it matters: Tension between the Art. 243E five-year mandate and the Supreme Court's 'triple test' for OBC quota — a ready Mains debate on delayed local-body elections.

Static link: Art. 243E: panchayat term 5 years; fresh polls before expiry or within 6 months of dissolution. Art. 243K: State Election Commission conducts polls. Triple test (2021): dedicated commission, local-body-wise quota, 50% ceiling.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V) — GS-II: Part IX (Panchayats), local self-government, reservation; GS-V: Panchayati Raj in UP

Why UP's panchayat polls slipped — the chain



57,694 gram panchayats under outgoing pradhans as administrators | HC had sought polls in 3 months

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UP-S&T 5. ₹281.03 crore Deep Tech U-Hub at IIT Kanpur's Noida campus approved

Cabinet (18 Nov) cleared construction of the Deep Technology U-Hub building at IIT Kanpur's Noida campus.

- Cost **₹281.03 crore**; **₹100 crore** provisioned in **FY 2026-27**.
- Built in **EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction)** mode; target **24 months**.
- Fully state-funded — **no central financial share**.
- Aim: deep-tech innovation, **start-ups** and jobs in the NCR (Gautam Buddha Nagar) cluster.

Why it matters: Anchors UP's push to be a 'deep-tech-ready' state on the road to a $1 trillion economy; links academia with Noida's electronics & semiconductor belt.

Static link: Deep tech = frontier R&D-led areas (AI, quantum, semiconductors, space, biotech) with long gestation and high entry barriers.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI) — GS-III: S&T, start-up ecosystem, innovation; GS-VI: industrial development of UP

IIT Kanpur Deep Tech U-Hub, Noida campus



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UP-INFRA 6. UP joins next phase of Modified UDAN via tripartite MoU

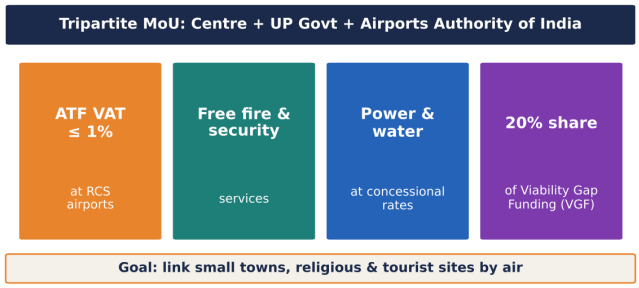
Cabinet approved UP's participation in the next phase of the Centre's Regional Connectivity Scheme (Modified UDAN).

- **Tripartite MoU**: Centre + UP Govt + **Airports Authority of India**.
- **VAT on ATF ≤ 1%** at RCS airports; **free fire & security services**; power & water at concessional rates.
- State bears **20% of Viability Gap Funding (VGF)**.
- Target: air links for **small towns, religious and tourist sites**.

Why it matters: Cheaper operations at small airports can sustain routes to Ayodhya, Kushinagar, Chitrakoot-type destinations — boosting tourism-led growth.

Static link: UDAN ('Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik') — RCS under National Civil Aviation Policy 2016; VGF bridges the gap between cost and capped fares.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI) — GS-III: infrastructure — civil aviation, regional connectivity; GS-VI: UP tourism & infrastructure

Modified UDAN in UP — what the State offers



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UP-SCHEME 7. Rani Lakshmibai Mahila evam Bal Samman Kosh Rules-2026: victim relief up to ₹15 lakh

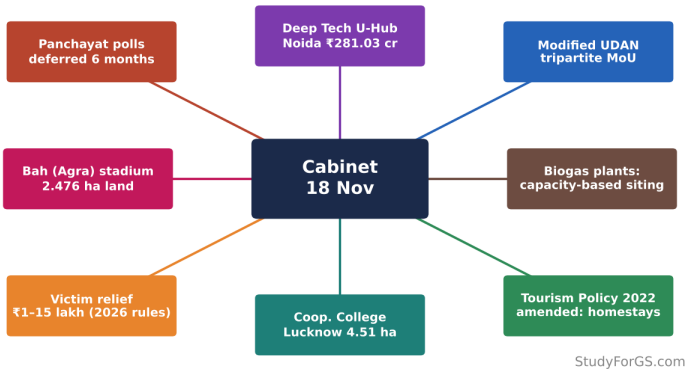
Cabinet replaced the 2015 rules of the Kosh with new 2026 rules aligned to the national legal-services compensation scheme; the same meeting cleared 30 of 31 proposals.

- Compensation of **₹1 lakh to ₹15 lakh** by crime category for women & child victims — **sexual offences, acid attack, grievous bodily harm**.
- Aligned with the **NALSA** victim-compensation scheme; replaces **2015** rules.
- Other cabinet decisions: **State Cooperative College at Rahmankheda, Lucknow (4.51 ha)** with AI courses; **2.476 ha** at Uganpura, **Bah (Agra)** for a stadium.
- **Tourism Policy 2022 amended** to promote homestays, farm stays and B&B; **biogas plants** to be sited by production capacity instead of one-per-tehsil.

Why it matters: Uniform, NALSA-linked slabs make relief faster and less discretionary — an example of victim-centric justice for Mains.

Static link: Victim compensation: Sec. 396 BNSS, 2023 (earlier Sec. 357A CrPC) obliges every State to run a victim compensation scheme via legal services authorities.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (UP-special GS-V) — GS-II: welfare schemes for women & children, criminal justice; GS-V: UP welfare schemes

UP Cabinet, 18 Nov 2026 — 30 of 31 proposals cleared



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UP-ECONOMY 8. Meerut's GI-tagged scissors cluster shrinks under cheap Chinese imports

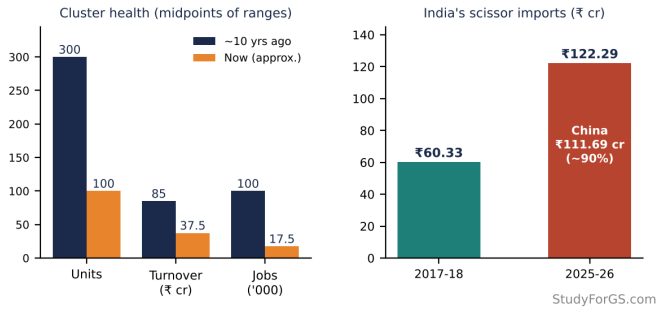
Industry accounts (18–19 Nov) show the ~350-year-old Meerut scissors industry losing ground to imports and costlier raw material.

- **Meerut scissors** — handmade from recycled metal; **GI tag in 2013**, India's **first GI-tagged scissors**.
- Units: **300+ a decade ago → ~100 now** (only 25–30 running well); turnover **₹80–90 cr → ₹35–40 cr**; jobs **~1 lakh → 15–20 thousand**.
- India's scissor imports: **₹60.33 cr (2017-18) → ₹122.29 cr (2025-26)**; **China ~90%** (₹111.69 cr).
- Brass and iron prices up sharply; makers seek **curbs on Chinese imports**.

Why it matters: Shows that a GI tag alone cannot protect a craft cluster — modernisation, credit, branding and trade remedies must go with it.

Static link: GI is granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999; registry at Chennai; protection valid 10 years, renewable.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (UP-special GS-VI) — GS-III: MSMEs, trade & import competition; GS-VI: traditional industries & GI products of UP

Meerut scissors (GI 2013): a shrinking cluster



SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS FOR UPPSC

NATIONAL 9. 7th Quad Leaders' Summit in Manila: five outcomes, India to host Business Leaders' Forum

Leaders of India, the US, Japan and Australia met in Manila on 17 Nov 2026.

- **7th Quad Leaders' Summit**, **Manila (Philippines)** — where Quad officials first met in **2007**.
- Outcomes cover **maritime surveillance, undersea cable resilience, cyber cooperation** and more.
- India announced the inaugural **Quad Business Leaders' Forum** (early 2027) and pushed a **Quad Sea Lanes Safety Initiative** for seafarers.
- Existing mechanism highlighted: **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)** — real-time data on illegal fishing.

Why it matters: Shifts Quad from security talk to commercial and public-goods delivery — India's preferred 'constructive, trusted partnership' framing.

Static link: Quad: India, US, Japan, Australia; born after the 2004 tsunami core group; revived 2017; first leaders' summit (virtual) 2021.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II — GS-II: bilateral, regional & global groupings involving India; Indo-Pacific

NATIONAL 10. India bans export of lithium-ion battery 'black mass' to retain critical minerals

A notification of 10 Nov 2026 moved black mass from 'Free' to 'Prohibited' for export; the policy is under wide discussion this week.

- **DGFT Notification No. 49/2026-27 (10 Nov 2026)**; ITC(HS) **85491400** → **'Prohibited'**.
- **Black mass** = powder from shredded spent Li-ion batteries containing **lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese**.
- Complements the **National Critical Mineral Mission** and the **₹1,500 crore** recycling incentive scheme (approved Sept 2025).
- Goal: feedstock for domestic **hydrometallurgical recyclers**; circular battery economy.

Why it matters: Keeps scarce minerals at home, but success depends on building domestic refining and cathode-material capacity.

Static link: DGFT (under Commerce Ministry) notifies changes in export-import policy under the Foreign Trade Policy 2023.
Syllabus: UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III — GS-III: critical minerals, circular economy, EV ecosystem, trade policy

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Indira Marathon	Held in **Prayagraj** every **19 Nov** (Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary); full **42.195 km**, starts near Anand Bhawan.
Two-wheeler market	**UP tops** India in two- and three-wheeler sales (Q2 FY27 state data); Maharashtra leads cars.
Cooperative College	**State Cooperative College** at **Rahmankheda, Lucknow** on **4.51 ha**; AI courses, hostels, 1,000-seat hall.
Rural stadium	**2.476 ha** at **Uganpura, Bah (Agra)** transferred free to the Sports Department for a stadium.
Tourism Policy 2022	Amended to promote **homestays, farm stays and B&B** in both rural and urban UP.
Gorakhpur projects	**55 projects, ₹792 crore** — 16 foundation stones (₹621.05 cr) + 39 inaugurations (₹171.13 cr).

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. UP's first Forestry and Horticulture University, whose foundation stone was laid on 19 November 2026, is being set up in which district?
(a) Lakhimpur Kheri
(b) Gorakhpur
(c) Bahraich
(d) Sonbhadra
Answer: (b) — It is coming up at **Bhariwaisi, Campierganj tehsil, Gorakhpur** on ~50 ha at **₹491 crore** — UP's first and India's second such university.

Q2. Consider the following statements: 1. Article 243E fixes the term of a panchayat at five years. 2. The 'triple test' for OBC reservation in local bodies was laid down by the Supreme Court. 3. Panchayat elections are conducted by the Election Commission of India. Which of the above are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (b) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Panchayat polls are conducted by the **State Election Commission (Art. 243K)**, not the ECI.

Mains Practice (GS-II / GS-V): Repeated postponement of panchayat elections pending OBC reservation exercises raises questions about the constitutional mandate of Article 243E. Examine with reference to Uttar Pradesh. (125 words)

Hint: Intro: 57,694 GPs under administrators, ordinance of Nov 2026. Body: Art. 243E/243K mandate; SC triple test (2021) and why it takes time; costs of administrators (accountability, funds, grassroots democracy). Way out: permanent BC commission, time-bound data, SEC autonomy. Conclude: social justice and democratic continuity must go together.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Gorakhpur = UP's 1st Forestry & Horticulture Univ. (₹491 cr, 50 ha) | Noida = IIT-K Deep Tech U-Hub (₹281.03 cr) | Panchayat polls deferred 6 months (57,694 GPs) | Victim relief ₹1–15 lakh | Meerut scissors GI 2013

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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