Note: Today's (21 Oct) news flow is thin after the Dussehra holiday, so this edition carries today's items first and supplements them with the most exam-relevant UP decisions of this month (UP Cabinet of 9 Oct).

Section A — Today in UP

UP-JUDICIARY Allahabad HC orders STF verification of documents of all UP basic-school teachers

Hearing a teacher's writ petition, the High Court found that teaching jobs had been obtained on forged or borrowed certificates.

- Order of **16 Oct 2026** by **Justice Vinod Diwakar**; STF found cases where **10 or more people** were employed against one set of documents.
- All teachers of **Classes 1-8** must submit appointment letters and educational documents to the **Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA)** within **one week**.
- BSA forwards papers to the **STF** range office; **ADGP (STF)** supervises verification; officers liable to be held personally accountable for laxity.
- Teachers must file **notarised affidavits** naming relatives who held BSA-level or higher posts; compliance hearing on **4 Nov 2026**.

Why it matters: Recruitment integrity in the state's largest employer of teachers is a recurring Mains theme; expect questions on digital certificate verification (DigiLocker/Aadhaar-linked records) and the High Court's writ jurisdiction under Article 226.

Concept: Article 226: High Courts can issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights 'and for any other purpose' — wider than the Supreme Court's Article 32. The Allahabad HC (est. 1866 at Agra, shifted to Allahabad 1869) has a Lucknow Bench.

Syllabus: GS-II: Role of judiciary, governance & accountability; GS-V: UP education administration | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Judiciary, Education; UP-special GS-V)

UP-POLITY UP Legislative Council biennial polls on 23 Oct for 11 graduate & teacher seats

Campaigning peaks this week; the CM addressed a Lucknow meeting for the teachers' constituency polls.

- **11 seats**: **5 Graduates'** and **6 Teachers'** constituencies; polling on **23 Oct 2026**, 8 am-4 pm.
- UP Vidhan Parishad has **100 members**; members serve **6 years**, with **one-third retiring every 2 years** (hence 'biennial').
- Under **Art. 171**, **1/12** of members are elected by graduates of 3 years' standing and **1/12** by teachers of secondary schools and above.
- Voting uses the **single transferable vote** system of proportional representation.

Why it matters: UP is one of only six states with a bicameral legislature; Prelims often tests the composition of the Council and Art. 169 (creation/abolition by Parliament on an Assembly resolution).

Syllabus: GS-II: State Legislature — Legislative Council (Art. 169, 171) | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity; UP-special GS-V)

UP-CULTURE 'Wings Over Ganges': IAF's first air show over the Ganga at Varanasi's Namo Ghat

The Air Force Day Aerial Display-2026 marks the IAF's 94th anniversary and moves to Kashi this week.

- Venue **Namo Ghat, Varanasi**; latest schedule **22-25 Oct 2026**; marks the **94th anniversary** of the IAF (founded **8 Oct 1932**).
- **Suryakiran** team flies **9 Hawk Mk 132** jets (built by HAL under licence); **Sarang** helicopter display team also performs.
- Line-up includes **Tejas**, **LCH Prachand**, **Rafale**, **Su-30MKI**, **C-295**, IL-76/IL-78 and AN-32.
- Organisers expect **20-30 lakh** visitors, boosting boats, hotels and riverfront tourism.

Why it matters: Showcasing indigenous platforms (Tejas, Prachand) links to Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence, while the event strengthens Varanasi's riverfront-tourism brand alongside the UP Defence Industrial Corridor narrative.

Syllabus: GS-III: Defence & indigenisation; GS-VI: Tourism in UP | UPPSC: Prelims (Defence, UP Tourism; UP-special GS-VI)

Section B — Key UP Developments

UP-SCHEME UP Cabinet sets up the Uttar Pradesh AI Mission (UP-AIM); Lucknow pitched as India's first AI City

Part of the 39 proposals cleared by the Cabinet on 9 Oct; it follows the CM's 6 Oct pledge of 50 world-class AI startups in Lucknow.

- UP-AIM is an **independent society** under the **IT & Electronics Department**.
- Targets: **100+ AI use cases** (25-30 scaled up), **100 AI startups**, **5 lakh** AI-skilled youth and **50,000** forward-deployed AI professionals.
- **AI centres in all 75 districts**; Noida and Lucknow are being built as **Deep Tech hubs** under the startup policy.
- Gautam Buddha Nagar already hosts **12 IT/ITES SEZs**; 7 Software Technology Parks are functional in the state.

Why it matters: The mission dovetails with the IndiaAI Mission and the state's $1 trillion economy goal; AI in governance (grievance, land records, health) is a ready Mains example of technology-led service delivery.

Syllabus: GS-III: IT, AI & e-governance; GS-VI: UP's industrial & digital economy | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (S&T; UP-special GS-VI)

UP AI Mission (UP-AIM) — Targets

100+	100	5 lakh	50,000	75
AI use cases	AI startups	AI-skilled youth	AI professionals	districts with AI centres

UP-SCHEME ₹1,725 crore Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zone scheme approved

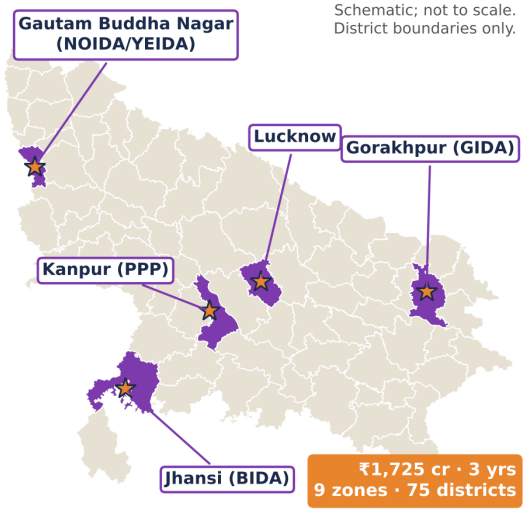
A hub-and-spoke skilling network meant to make UP a 'global hub for skilled manpower'.

- Outlay **₹1,725 crore** over **3 years**; **9 zones** covering **all 75 districts** on a **hub-and-spoke** model.
- Phase-1 centres (10-25 acres, 4-lane connectivity): **Lucknow, Kanpur (PPP), Gorakhpur (GIDA), Gautam Buddha Nagar (NOIDA/YEIDA), Jhansi (BIDA)**.
- Courses: basic skills for non-technical graduates, upgrades for ITI/polytechnic/engineering youth, and **foreign-language training** for overseas jobs.
- AI-driven analytics, digital dashboards, hostels and placement cells at each centre.

Why it matters: Linking skilling to industrial authorities (GIDA, YEIDA, BIDA) targets UP's demographic dividend and the skills-jobs mismatch; Bundelkhand (Jhansi) and Purvanchal (Gorakhpur) hubs aid balanced regional growth.

Syllabus: GS-III: Human resource development & employment; GS-VI: UP schemes | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Employment, Skilling; UP-special GS-VI)

Skill Zones: 5 Phase-1 Hubs



UP-ECONOMY UP Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026 cleared

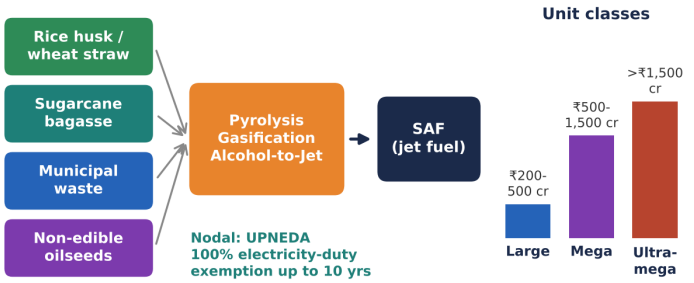
The policy turns farm residue, municipal waste and the sugar-ethanol base into jet fuel feedstock.

- Feedstock: **rice husk, wheat straw, sugarcane bagasse**, municipal waste, non-edible oilseeds; routes incl. pyrolysis, gasification and **Alcohol-to-Jet**.
- Unit classes by investment: **Large ₹200-500 cr**, **Mega ₹500-1,500 cr**, **Ultra-mega above ₹1,500 cr**.
- Incentives: stamp-duty relief, net SGST reimbursement, interest subsidy, **100% electricity-duty exemption for up to 10 years**.
- Nodal agency **UPNEDA**; policy valid for **5 years**.

Why it matters: SAF offers a market for stubble that is otherwise burnt, adds rural income and helps India meet ICAO CORSIA commitments (national SAF blending goals of 1% in 2027, 2% in 2028 for international flights).

Syllabus: GS-III: Energy security, green growth, agri-residue management | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Energy, Environment; UP-special GS-VI)

UP SAF Policy-2026: Waste-to-Wing Chain



UP-GOVERNANCE Bhadohi becomes 'Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi'; Jewar airport to be 'Narendra Modi International Airport'

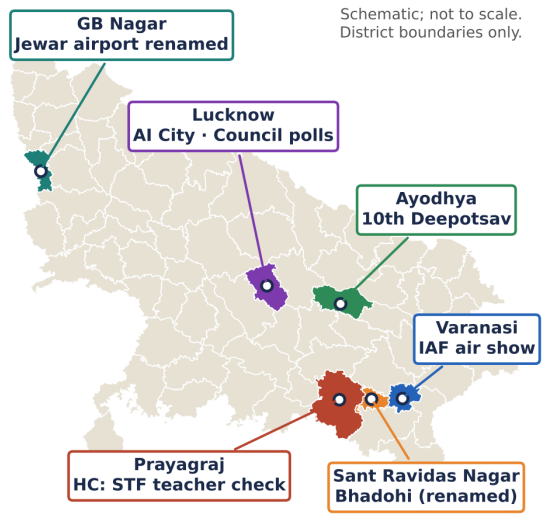
Both renamings were ratified by the Cabinet on 9 Oct; the Bhadohi change was announced by the CM on 4 Oct.

- Bhadohi, carved out of Varanasi, became UP's **65th district on 30 June 1994**; it was renamed back to plain 'Bhadohi' on **6 Dec 2014**.
- Named after **Sant Ravidas** (15th-16th c. Bhakti poet of Kashi; 40 of his verses are in the **Guru Granth Sahib**); his 650th birth-anniversary year is being marked.
- Bhadohi is India's **'Carpet City'** — hand-knotted carpet holds a **GI tag**.
- **Noida International Airport, Jewar** (Gautam Buddha Nagar) to be renamed **Narendra Modi International Airport**.

Why it matters: Renaming of districts lies with the state (by notification); renaming an airport needs a state proposal and Union Cabinet/Civil Aviation Ministry approval — a frequently confused Prelims point.

Syllabus: GS-I/GS-V: UP districts, Bhakti saints; GS-VI: UP infrastructure | UPPSC: Prelims (UP Geography & Culture; UP-special GS-V)

Uttar Pradesh in Today's News



UP-CULTURE 10th Ayodhya Deepotsav (5-7 Nov) to light 33 lakh diyas along Ram Ki Paidi

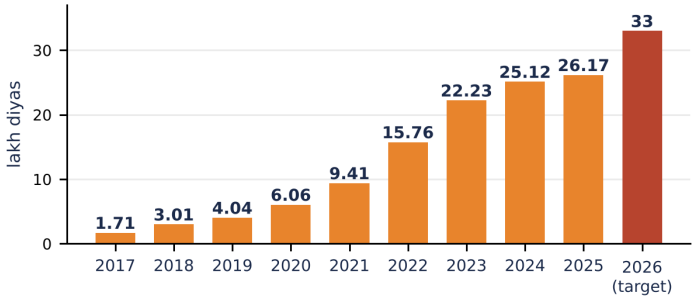
Preparations are under way for the tenth edition, ahead of Diwali on 8 November.

- **10th edition**, **5-7 Nov 2026**; target **33 lakh earthen diyas** over a ~2 km stretch of **Ram Ki Paidi** and the **Saryu** ghats.
- About **34,000 volunteers** plus ~34,000 students; ~**65 lakh wicks**, **55,000 litres** of oil, 150 kg camphor.
- Deepotsav began in **2017** with about 1.71 lakh diyas and has set successive **world records**.
- Ayodhya lies on the right bank of the **Saryu** (Ghaghara); part of the **Ramayana Circuit** under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.

Why it matters: Deepotsav shows festival-led tourism as an economic engine (potters, oil, hospitality); Mains can ask about cultural tourism's role in UP's growth and its environmental/crowd-management challenges.

Syllabus: GS-I: Fairs & festivals; GS-VI: Religious & cultural tourism in UP | UPPSC: Prelims (UP Art & Culture; UP-special GS-V)

Ayodhya Deepotsav: Diyas Lit (lakh, approx.)



Section C — National News for UPPSC

ECONOMY Centre halts sugar-based ethanol procurement for 2026-27 — a key watch for UP's cane belt

With El Niño causing the weakest monsoon in over a decade, the government wants to protect sugar supply and prices.

- PSU oil firms' joint tender for **~11 billion litres** for the supply year from **1 Nov 2026** excludes ethanol from **cane juice, sugar, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses**.
- Allowed: **C-heavy molasses**, damaged food grains, surplus FCI rice, **maize** and other feedstocks under the **National Policy on Biofuels**.
- India hit **E20 (20% blending) in 2025**, five years ahead of the original 2030 target.
- Mills may sell sugar made in Oct 2026 across Oct-Nov over and above monthly quotas.

Why it matters: UP is India's largest sugarcane and ethanol producer, so mills' diversion revenue and timely cane-price payments to farmers are directly affected — a classic food-vs-fuel trade-off for Mains.

Syllabus: GS-III: Food security, biofuels, agricultural pricing | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-III (Economy, Agriculture)

2026-27 Ethanol Tender: Feedstock Rules

EXCLUDED	ALLOWED
✗ Sugarcane juice	✓ C-heavy molasses
✗ Sugar	✓ Damaged food grains
✗ Sugar syrup	✓ Surplus FCI rice
✗ B-heavy molasses	✓ Maize, other NPB inputs

NATIONAL India-New Zealand FTA enters into force; Rubio says India-US trade deal is 'very close'

Two trade tracks moved on 20 October: one pact took effect and another neared closure.

- **India-NZ FTA** in force from **20 Oct 2026**: duty-free access for Indian exports; NZ gains access for wood, wool, sheep meat; **US$20 bn** investment commitment.
- US Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** met EAM **S. Jaishankar** in **Mumbai** on 20 Oct; also held a **US-India-UAE** trilateral.

- Feb 2026 framework had cut US tariffs on most Indian goods to **18% from 50%**.
- Rubio urged India to buy more US and Venezuelan crude and toured the **Jamnagar** refinery (Gujarat).

Why it matters: UP's export clusters (Bhadohi carpets, Moradabad brassware, Kanpur-Agra leather, ODOP products) stand to gain from lower tariffs in the US and duty-free entry into New Zealand.

Syllabus: GS-II: India and its bilateral relations; GS-III: External trade | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (IR) & GS-III (Trade)

SOCIAL Global Hunger Index 2026: India ranked 100th of 122, still in the 'serious' category

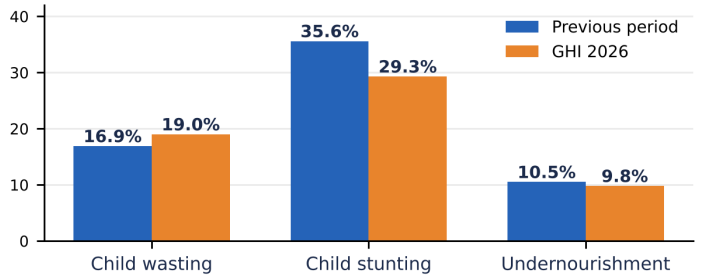
Released around World Food Day (16 Oct), the index shows stunting falling but child wasting rising.

- Score **24.1**; rank **100/122** (last year 102/123); 'serious' band is **20.0-34.9**.
- **Child wasting 19.0%** (up from 16.9%) — highest in South Asia; **child stunting 29.3%** (down from 35.6%).
- **Undernourishment 9.8%** (from 10.5%); **under-5 mortality 2.7%**.
- GHI uses four indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality.

Why it matters: UP carries a large share of India's malnourished children; POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi strengthening and the state's Zero Poverty campaign are the levers to cite in answers.

Syllabus: GS-II: Issues of poverty & hunger; GS-III: Food security | UPPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Social justice, Health)

India in GHI 2026: Rank 100/122, Score 24.1



Section D — UP Rapid-Fire

Topic	Fact
Ujjwala refills	**2 free LPG refills** (Diwali & Holi) in FY27 for PMUY families; cost **₹2,142.78 cr**
e-Buses	**1,725 AC electric buses** for **18 cities** (incl. Noida-Jewar) on a **12-year** operator contract
AYUSH interns	Stipend of Ayurveda, Unani & Homeopathy interns **doubled to ₹15,000**/month
Startups	**Startup Procurement Scheme-2026**: e-marketplace run by **UP Startup Mission** for govt purchases
Tax relief	**Interest Waiver Scheme-2026**: 3-month window to clear old tax dues (up to **31 Dec 2025**) without interest/penalty
Anganwadi	Workers & helpers to get **3 sarees a year** instead of 2 — **3,80,290** beneficiaries

Data point — UP Cabinet, 9 Oct 2026: **39 proposals** — One meeting cleared the AI Mission, ₹1,725 cr skill zones, SAF Policy-2026, two renamings and free LPG refills.

Section E — Practice Corner

Q1. With reference to the recent renaming in Uttar Pradesh, consider the following statements:
1. Bhadohi was created as a separate district out of Varanasi in 1994.
2. Bhadohi's hand-knotted carpet holds a Geographical Indication tag.
3. Sant Ravidas, after whom the district is named, was a disciple of Guru Nanak.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (b) — Bhadohi became UP's 65th district on 30 June 1994 after being carved out of Varanasi, and its hand-knotted carpet is GI-tagged. Statement 3 is wrong: Sant Ravidas is traditionally linked with Ramananda's Bhakti tradition, not as a disciple of Guru Nanak, though his verses are in the Guru Granth Sahib.

Q2. Under Article 171 of the Constitution, what fraction of the members of a State Legislative Council is elected by electorates consisting of teachers?
(a) One-third (b) One-sixth (c) One-twelfth (d) One-fifth
Answer: (c) — Article 171: one-third by local bodies, one-third by MLAs, one-twelfth by graduates, one-twelfth by teachers (secondary level and above) and about one-sixth nominated by the Governor. UP's Council has 100 members.

Mains Practice (GS-V/GS-VI): "Skilling, not just degrees, will decide whether Uttar Pradesh reaps its demographic dividend." Evaluate the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zone scheme and the UP AI Mission in this light. (200 words)
Hint: Intro: UP's young workforce & skills-jobs gap → Body: hub-and-spoke 9 zones, industry-authority linkage (GIDA/YEIDA/BIDA), foreign-language training, AI centres in 75 districts, 5 lakh AI-skilled youth → Challenges: trainer quality, placement tracking, regional balance, women's participation → Way forward: outcome-based funding, apprenticeships, district skill plans.

One-line revision: Revise: HC-STF teacher check (Justice Vinod Diwakar, 4 Nov) | Council polls 23 Oct (5 graduate + 6 teacher) | UP-AIM: 100 startups, 5 lakh youth | Skill zones ₹1,725 cr, 9 zones | SAF nodal UPNEDA | Bhadohi = 65th district (1994) | Deepotsav 10th: 33 lakh diyas | GHI 100/122.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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