Note: Today (Kartik Purnima / Guru Nanak Jayanti) has limited fresh UP announcements, so today's items come first and are supplemented with this week's major UP developments, including the UP Cabinet meeting of 18 Nov 2026.

Section A — Today in UP

UP-CULTURE Dev Deepawali lights up Kashi with 11 lakh+ diyas

On Kartik Purnima (24 Nov 2026), Varanasi celebrates Dev Deepawali — the 'Diwali of the gods' — on the Ganga ghats.

- **11 lakh+ diyas** on the ghats, the sand bank across the Ganga and **100+ kunds**; some diyas made by women of self-help groups.
- First-ever show of **2,100 indigenous drones** (Shiva, descent of Ganga, Kashi Vishwanath themes); 3D projection and laser show at **Chet Singh Fort**; green fireworks.
- Grand Ganga aarti at **Dashashwamedh Ghat**; Ganga Mahotsav was held **20–23 Nov** at **Namo Ghat**.
- For the first time a **two-way boat lane** with floating jetties between Namo Ghat and Assi Ghat; ghat area divided into **10 zones and 21 sectors**.
- Same day is **Guru Nanak Jayanti**; langar and kirtan arrangements made at gurdwaras.

Why it matters: Shows UP's festival-tourism model — mass-event management, indigenous drone technology and SHG livelihoods in one event; a classic UP-special question on fairs and festivals.

Static link: Dev Deepawali falls on Kartik Purnima and is linked to Lord Shiva's victory over the demon Tripurasura (hence 'Tripurari Purnima').
Syllabus: GS-I Art & Culture · UP-special GS-V: fairs, festivals and tourism of UP

Dev Deepawali, Kashi — 24 Nov 2026 (Kartik Purnima)

11 lakh+	2,100	100+	10 / 21
diyas on ghats & sand bank	indigenous drones (a first)	kunds also lit up	security zones / sectors

UP-INFRA Saryu-Kamala Express: Ayodhya–Janakpur direct train flagged off

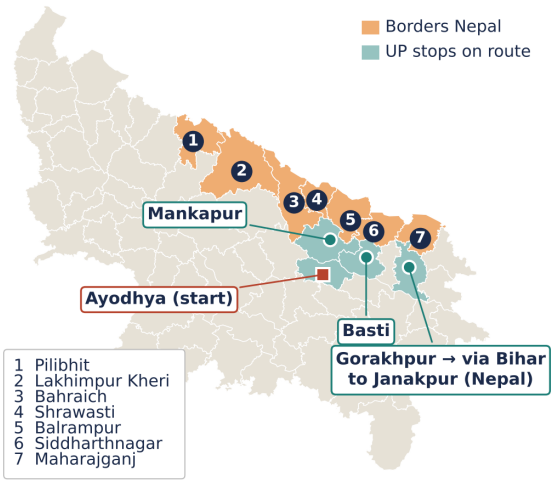
On 23 Nov 2026, PM Modi and Nepal PM Balendra Shah virtually flagged off the first direct passenger train between Ayodhya Dham and Janakpur Dham (Nepal); CM Yogi Adityanath attended at Ayodhya Dham station.

- Route about **604 km**, journey about **19 hours**; runs **once a week** in each direction.
- UP stops: **Mankapur, Basti, Gorakhpur**; then via Bihar (Narkatiaganj, Raxaul, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Jaynagar) to Janakpur.
- Regular weekly service: departs **Janakpur Dham on Saturdays** and returns from **Ayodhya Cantt on Mondays**.
- The name pairs the **Saryu** (Ayodhya) with the **Kamala**, a river of the Mithila region.
- Links Lord Ram's birthplace with **Janakpur, birthplace of Sita** — boosts the Ramayana circuit.

Why it matters: A people-to-people and religious-tourism link for Purvanchal; strengthens Ayodhya as a pilgrimage hub and India's Neighbourhood First policy with Nepal.

Static link: UP shares the India–Nepal border along 7 districts: Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shrawasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar and Maharajganj.
Syllabus: GS-II India and its neighbourhood · UP-special: transport infrastructure and tourism of UP

Nepal-border districts & Saryu-Kamala stops in UP



Schematic; not to scale. Markers only, no rail alignment drawn.

UP-GOVERNANCE UPTET 2026: online registration opens today

The Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission (UPESSC) opens online applications for UPTET 2026 from 24 Nov 2026.

- Conducting body: **UPESSC**; Advertisement No. **10/2026**.
- Last date for fee payment **23 Dec 2026**; corrections till **27 Dec 2026**.
- Exam on **26 and 27 Feb 2027**.
- Paper 1 — Classes **1 to 5** (primary); Paper 2 — Classes **6 to 8** (upper primary).
- **One Time Registration (OTR)** is mandatory before applying.

Why it matters: TET is the entry filter for school-teacher recruitment; a single commission (UPESSC) for teacher selection aims at timely, uniform recruitment and better learning outcomes.

Static link: Under Section 23 of the RTE Act, 2009, minimum teacher qualifications are laid down by the academic authority (NCTE); NCTE made passing a TET mandatory in 2010.
Syllabus: GS-II Education, government policies · UP-special: education in UP

UP-CULTURE International Tribal Participation Festival in Lucknow (23–26 Nov)

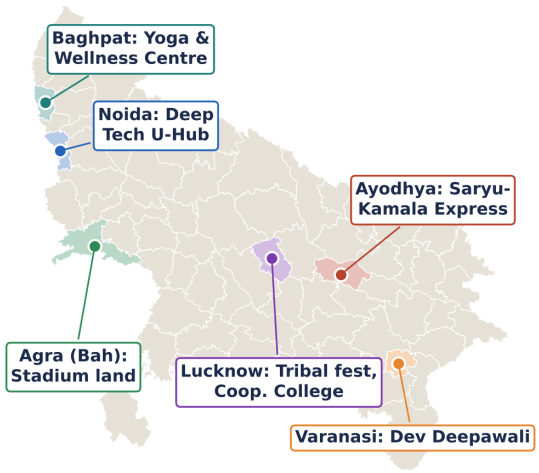
A four-day festival dedicated to Bhagwan Birsa Munda showcases tribal cultures from across India and abroad.

- Venue: **UP Darshan Park, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow**; dates **23–26 Nov**.
- Jharkhand's play **'Dharti Aaba'** on Birsa Munda's life is a highlight.
- Troupes from **10 states** incl. UP (Sonbhadra, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bijnor, Chitrakoot, Pilibhit, Prayagraj) and from **Kazakhstan, Zimbabwe and Maldives**.
- Folk forms include **Karma, Pandwani and Bhagoria**; tribal food corner 'Jevnar' and a daily craft fair.
- Organisers include the **UP Lok evam Janjati Sanskriti Sansthan** and the **Tribal Research Institute, Lucknow**.

Why it matters: Cultural diplomacy plus livelihood support for tribal artisans; also a reminder of UP's own tribal pockets in the Terai and Sonbhadra.

Static link: Birsa Munda's birth anniversary (15 Nov) is observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas; major tribes of UP include the Tharu (Terai) and the Gond, Kharwar and Chero (Sonbhadra region).
Syllabus: GS-I Indian culture, tribal heritage · UP-special GS-V: tribes and folk culture of UP

Uttar Pradesh in Today's News



Schematic; not to scale. District boundaries: UP state only.

Section B — Key UP Developments

UP-SCHEME

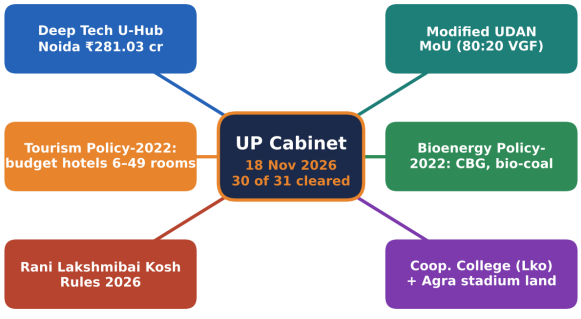
UP Cabinet: ₹281.03 crore Deep Tech U-Hub at IIT Kanpur's Noida campus

The UP Cabinet meeting of 18 Nov 2026, chaired by CM Yogi Adityanath, cleared 30 of 31 proposals; the headline approval is a deep-tech startup hub.

- Building cost **₹281.03 crore**; **EPC mode**; completion target **24 months**.
- **₹100 crore** provided in 2026-27 (₹30 crore capital + ₹70 crore revenue); **no central share**.
- Hub to run as a **Section 8 company** (not-for-profit), giving startups mentorship and technical help.
- Same meeting: **4.51 ha** at Rahman Khera, Lucknow for a **State Cooperative College** (to be affiliated to Tribhuvan Sahkari University, Gujarat); **2.476 ha** at Uganpura (Bah, Agra) for a sports stadium.

Why it matters: Builds a research-to-startup pipeline in the NCR growth belt and supports UP's push for high-skill jobs and a deep-tech ecosystem.

Static link: A Section 8 company (Companies Act, 2013) promotes objects like science, education or charity and cannot pay dividends; Tribhuvan Sahkari University at Anand, Gujarat is India's first national cooperative university.
Syllabus: GS-III Science & technology, innovation · UP-special GS-VI: industrial and startup policy of UP



UP-INFRA

Modified UDAN MoU: Centre 80%, UP 20% viability gap funding

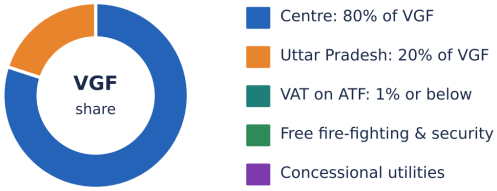
The Cabinet approved a modified tripartite MoU for the regional connectivity scheme UDAN.

- Parties: **Centre, UP government and the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
- Viability Gap Funding (VGF): **Centre 80% : UP 20%**.
- **VAT on ATF at 1% or below** at regional connectivity airports.
- Free fire-fighting and security, concessional utilities from the state; **Director, Civil Aviation** authorised to sign.

Why it matters: Lower operating costs can make small-town routes viable, helping religious and tourist towns of UP get affordable flights.

Static link: UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) is the Regional Connectivity Scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, launched in 2016; VGF covers the gap between operating cost and capped fares.
Syllabus: GS-III Infrastructure — airports · UP-special GS-VI: aviation and connectivity in UP

Modified UDAN tripartite MoU (Centre–UP–AAI)



UP-ECONOMY

Tourism Policy-2022 and Bioenergy Policy-2022 amended

The same Cabinet widened incentives under two state policies.

- **Budget hotel = 6 to 49 rooms** (minimum lowered from 10 to 6) — now eligible for incentives.
- Homestay/B&B approval within **one month** via the UP Tourism portal; domestic power and water tariffs.
- New circuits: **Neem Karoli Baba Circuit** and **Bundelkhand Fort Circuit**; food trails linked to **One District One Cuisine**.
- **Baghpat International Yoga & Wellness Centre**: about **₹300 crore**, **65.815 ha**, about **10,000** practitioners at a time.
- Bioenergy: added support for **compressed biogas (CBG)** from paddy straw and press mud and **bio-coal** from crop residue, aligned to **SASCI** guidelines.

Why it matters: Small hotels and homestays spread tourism income to villages, while CBG from straw cuts stubble burning and gives farmers extra income.

Static link: SASCI = Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (50-year interest-free loans from the Centre); press mud is a by-product of sugar mills — relevant as UP is India's largest sugarcane producer.
Syllabus: GS-III Tourism, renewable energy · UP-special GS-VI: economy and policies of UP

UP-GOVERNANCE

Rani Lakshmibai Mahila evam Bal Samman Kosh Rules, 2026: up to ₹15 lakh aid

The Cabinet approved revised rules for compensation to women and children who survive serious crimes.

- Updates the **2015** framework and aligns it with the **NALSA compensation scheme (2018)**.
- Aid of **₹1 lakh to ₹15 lakh** depending on the category of crime.
- Covers rape and gang rape, **acid attack**, burns, permanent disability and death; child victims of sexual offences; dependants get aid if the victim dies.
- Immediate financial, medical and legal help; a proposed **Centre of Excellence** for treatment and rehabilitation of survivors.

Why it matters: Victim-centric justice: faster, predictable compensation helps survivors rebuild lives and supports reporting of crimes.

Static link: Every state must run a Victim Compensation Scheme — earlier Section 357A CrPC, now Section 396 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.
Syllabus: GS-II Welfare schemes for women and children · UP-special GS-V: social welfare in UP

UP-RURAL

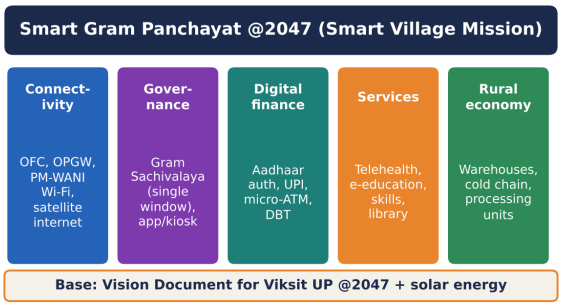
Roadmap: every gram panchayat a digital 'smart' unit by 2047

The state's rural development roadmap (reported 23 Nov 2026) aims to make all gram panchayats digitally connected smart units.

- Part of the **Vision Document for Viksit Uttar Pradesh @2047**, through a proposed **Smart Village Mission**.
- Connectivity: **optical fibre (OFC)** to panchayats, **OPGW** in the power sector, **PM-WANI** Wi-Fi hotspots, satellite internet for remote villages, solar energy.
- **Gram Sachivalaya** as a single-window service centre in every panchayat; grievances via mobile app and kiosks.
- Digital service centres with **Aadhaar authentication, UPI and micro-ATMs**, DBT; telehealth, e-education and digital exam centres.
- Rural corridors with warehouses, **cold chain** and processing units.

Why it matters: Strengthens the third tier of government with digital service delivery and links farm produce to markets — key to bridging the rural–urban digital divide.

Static link: Panchayats got constitutional status by the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 (Part IX); PM-WANI is the Department of Telecommunications' public Wi-Fi framework approved in 2020.
Syllabus: GS-II Panchayati Raj, e-governance · GS-III Rural infrastructure · UP-special GS-VI: rural development of UP



Section C — National News for UPPSC

NATIONAL India–Nepal: 8 MoUs and a $1.62-billion package

Nepal PM Balendra Shah's visit to India produced a development package and several agreements (23 Nov 2026).

- **₹15,000 crore (about US$1.62 billion)** package after Nepal's August floods — grants plus an energy line of credit.
- **8 MoUs**: forensic science, police training, civil-service training, traditional medicine, satellite communication via the **South Asia Satellite**, urban development, health, livestock and fisheries.
- Projects: foundation of **Lower Arun hydro project (669 MW)** and **ICP Banbasa**; **Dharchula–Darchula bridge** inaugurated; **Motihari–Amlekhgunj pipeline Phase II** dedicated; petroleum terminal at **Jhapa**.
- UP link: the **Saryu-Kamala Express** (Ayodhya–Janakpur) was among the projects taken forward.

Why it matters: Energy, connectivity and disaster aid deepen interdependence and counter rival influence in the Himalayan neighbourhood; UP's border districts gain from trade and pilgrim traffic.

Static link: India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950; Nepal borders five Indian states — Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim. Motihari–Amlekhgunj (2019) was South Asia's first cross-border petroleum pipeline.
Syllabus: GS-II India and its neighbourhood — relations

NATIONAL Asia Power Index 2026: India retains 3rd rank

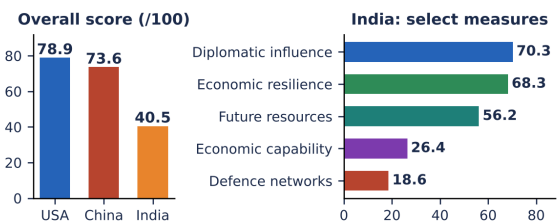
Australia's Lowy Institute released the 2026 edition of its Asia Power Index (23 Nov 2026).

- Covers **27** countries and territories using **131 indicators** across 8 measures.
- Scores: **USA 78.9**, **China 73.6**, **India 40.5** (up 0.5).
- India is the only **'Major Power'** apart from the USA and China.
- India's strongest measure is **diplomatic influence (70.3)**; economic resilience 68.3; weakest is **defence networks (18.6)**, 9th, up two places.
- PM Modi ranked **2nd among regional leaders**, after Xi Jinping.

Why it matters: Shows India's diplomatic weight outpacing its hard-power networks; defence partnerships and economic capability remain the gaps to close.

Static link: The Asia Power Index is published by the Lowy Institute, a think tank based in Sydney, Australia.
Syllabus: GS-II International relations; reports and indices

Asia Power Index 2026 — India 3rd of 27



Section D — UP Rapid-Fire

Area	Fact
Sports	**2.476 ha** at Uganpura (Bah, **Agra**) transferred free of cost to the Sports Department for a stadium.
Aviation	Modified UDAN MoU: **VAT on ATF** at regional connectivity airports capped at **1% or below**.
Festivals	**Dev Deepawali** (Varanasi) and **Guru Nanak Jayanti** both fall on **24 Nov 2026** (Kartik Purnima).
Tourism	New circuits under Tourism Policy-2022: **Neem Karoli Baba Circuit** and **Bundelkhand Fort Circuit**.
Wellness	**Baghpat** (Hariya Kheda, Pura Mahadev area) to get an International Yoga & Wellness Centre for about **10,000** practitioners.
Education	New State Cooperative College at **Rahman Khera, Lucknow**, to be affiliated to **Tribhuvan Sahkari University** (Anand, Gujarat).

Data point — Asia Power Index 2026: India's score **40.5** — 3rd of 27; behind the USA (78.9) and China (73.6).

Section E — Practice Corner

Q1. Which of the following districts of Uttar Pradesh share a border with Nepal? 1. Pilibhit 2. Shrawasti 3. Kushinagar 4. Siddharthnagar

(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) — Pilibhit, Shrawasti and Siddharthnagar are among UP's 7 Nepal-border districts (with Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Balrampur and Maharajganj). Kushinagar borders Bihar, not Nepal — Maharajganj lies between it and Nepal.

Q2. With reference to the modified UDAN tripartite MoU approved by the UP Cabinet, consider the following statements: 1. The Centre bears 80% and the state 20% of the viability gap funding. 2. VAT on ATF at regional connectivity airports will be 1% or below. 3. The Airports Authority of India is not a party to the MoU. 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) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: the MoU is tripartite — between the Centre, the UP government and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Mains practice (UP-special GS-V): Religious and cultural tourism can become an engine of Uttar Pradesh's economy. Discuss with reference to recent initiatives such as Dev Deepawali, the Saryu-Kamala Express and the amendments to the Tourism Policy-2022. (125 words)

Hint: Intro: UP's heritage base (Kashi, Ayodhya, Prayagraj). Body: event tourism (11 lakh+ diyas, drone show, SHG diyas), connectivity (Ayodhya–Janakpur train, UDAN 80:20 VGF), supply side (6–49 room budget hotels, homestays, new circuits); challenges — crowd safety, carrying capacity, river pollution. Conclude: sustainable, community-linked tourism.

One-line revision: Kashi 11 lakh+ diyas & 2,100 drones | Ayodhya–Janakpur 604 km weekly | UPTET exam 26–27 Feb 2027 | U-Hub ₹281.03 cr | UDAN VGF 80:20 | Kosh aid ₹1–15 lakh | Asia Power Index: India 3rd (40.5)

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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