TODAY'S TOP STORIES: CM unveils ₹411-crore projects at Bithoor on Valmiki Jayanti; UP GCC Innovation Summit eyes 500+ GCCs by 2031; ₹29,000-crore link expressways planned

Note: Today (26 Oct) is a UP public holiday (Valmiki Jayanti), so fresh UP news is limited: Section A carries today's items; Sections B-C add key developments of recent days, clearly dated.

AT A GLANCE

1. CM unveils **48 projects worth ₹411 crore** at **Bithoor** (Kanpur Nagar) on Valmiki Jayanti, a state holiday.
2. **UP GCC Innovation Summit 2026** in Lucknow: **15 MoUs** expected; target **500+ GCCs by 2031**.
3. Eastern UP paddy procurement from **1 Nov**; MSP **₹2,441/quintal** (common).
4. PM in Varanasi: women-led garment unit; IAF's **94th-anniversary** show 'Wings over Ganges' with **~100 aircraft**.
5. **Four link expressways** worth **~₹29,000 crore** planned — Jewar, Farrukhabad (91 km), Jhansi, Purvanchal.
6. **OTS scheme** across **762 urban bodies** gives **₹116.43 crore** relief on property-linked taxes.
7. **10th Ayodhya Deepotsav** on **5–7 Nov** with **33 lakh diyas**.
8. Cabinet-approved **SAF Policy-2026**: farm-residue jet fuel, **UPNEDA** nodal, 10-year electricity-duty waiver.
9. Mann Ki Baat (139th): Khadi-village industries turnover **>₹1.87 lakh crore**.
10. RBI's **₹169-crore** backup data centre & cyber training institute opened in **Khordha, Odisha**.

SECTION A — TODAY IN UP (26 OCTOBER 2026)

UP-CULTURE

1. Valmiki Jayanti: CM unveils 48 projects worth ₹411 crore at Bithoor, Kanpur Nagar

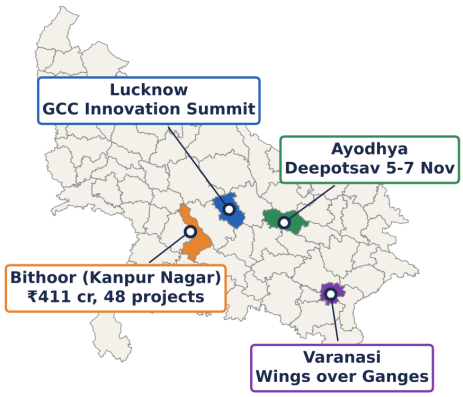
On 26 October (Ashwin Purnima), the CM marked Valmiki Jayanti at Bithoor, revered as Maharishi Valmiki's tapobhumi, with a development package for the area.

- **48 projects** worth over **₹411 crore** in the **Bilhaur and Bithoor** Assembly constituencies of **Kanpur Nagar** — a mix of inaugurations and foundation stones; certificates given to welfare-scheme beneficiaries.
- **Bithoor** (on the Ganga) is traditionally regarded as **Valmiki's ashram**, where Sita is believed to have lived and Luv-Kush were born.
- UP declared **26 October a public holiday** for Valmiki Jayanti — schools and government offices closed, banks open.
- The holiday was among **15 public holidays cancelled in 2017** and was later restored after demands from the Valmiki community.

Why it matters: Links cultural-heritage outreach with grassroots infrastructure; Bithoor is a high-yield static topic — Valmiki's ashram and the seat of Nana Saheb in the 1857 revolt.

Concept: Maharishi Valmiki is called the **Adi Kavi**; his Sanskrit Ramayana has about **24,000 shlokas in 7 kandas**.
Syllabus: GS-I: Indian culture & heritage | GS-V: UP's culture, literature and development schemes

Uttar Pradesh in Today's News



Schematic; not to scale. Highlighted: today's districts

UP-ECONOMY

2. UP GCC Innovation Summit 2026 opens in Lucknow; state targets 500+ GCCs by 2031

The CM inaugurated the summit on 26 October, organised by the IIT Kanpur Alumni Association with Invest UP and a leading IT company, to draw Global Capability Centres beyond NCR.

- About **15 MoUs** and **5 Letters of Comfort** for investors expected; around **13 academic MoUs** with IIT Kanpur, IIT (BHU) and IIIT Lucknow.
- UP already hosts **200+ GCCs** (BFSI, semiconductors, engineering, healthcare); target **500+ by 2031**.
- Main hubs **Noida–Greater Noida**; expansion planned to **Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi**.
- **UP GCC Policy 2024**: capital subsidy up to **25%**, land subsidy **30–50%**, operational subsidy **20%**, interest subsidy **5%**, plus payroll and R&D support.

Why it matters: GCCs bring high-skill jobs and services exports; spreading them to Tier-2 cities supports UP's $1 trillion economy goal and checks regional imbalance.

Concept: A **Global Capability Centre (GCC)** is an offshore unit of a multinational that runs its technology, R&D, analytics and finance functions in-house.
Syllabus: GS-III: Investment models, industrial policy | GS-VI: UP economy, industrial & IT policies

UP GCC Innovation Summit 2026 — Key Numbers

200+ GCCs operating in UP today	**500+** Target by 2031	**15** MoUs expected at summit
5 Letters of Comfort	**13** Academic MoUs (IITs, IIIT)	**25%** Max capital subsidy (2024)

DATA POINT — UP GCC target: **500+ by 2031** (up from **200+** GCCs operating today)

SECTION B — KEY UP DEVELOPMENTS

UP-AGRI

3. Paddy procurement in eastern UP from 1 November at MSP ₹2,441 per quintal

Kharif Marketing Season 2026-27 runs in two phases; western UP opened on 12 October.

- **Western UP**: 12 Oct 2026 – 15 Feb 2027; **Eastern UP**: **1 Nov 2026 – 28 Feb 2027**.
- MSP: **Common ₹2,441/quintal**, **Grade-A ₹2,461/quintal**.
- Phased timing reflects later harvest in the eastern (Purvanchal) belt.

Why it matters: Timely procurement prevents distress sales below MSP in Purvanchal, where small holdings dominate.

Concept: MSP is recommended by the **CACP** and approved by the **CCEA**, at least **1.5× the A2+FL cost**.
Syllabus: GS-III: MSP, procurement, food security | GS-VI: UP agriculture

UP-INFRA

4. PM in Varanasi (25 Oct): women-led garment unit and IAF's 'Wings over Ganges' at Namo Ghat

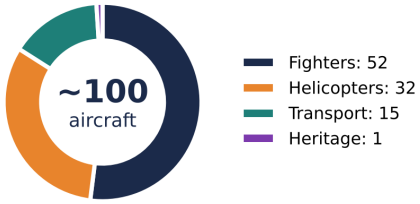
The PM inaugurated a new garment manufacturing facility and was Chief Guest at the IAF's aerial display over the Ganga.

- New **garment facility** described as predominantly **women-led**, serving a global customer base.
- **'Wings over Ganges'** marked the **IAF's 94th anniversary** (IAF founded **8 Oct 1932**); organised by **Central Air Command, HQ Prayagraj (Bamrauli)**.
- About **100 aircraft** — **52 fighters, 32 helicopters, 15 transport, 1 heritage** — from 12 bases, incl. Rafale, Su-30MKI, Tejas and LCH Prachand.
- **Surya Kiran** (9 Hawk Mk 132) and **Sarang** (ALH Dhruv) teams performed; meat/fish sale barred within **30 km** to cut bird-strike risk.

Why it matters: Showcasing air power in the heartland aids outreach and recruitment, while women-led manufacturing advances jobs in Purvanchal.

Concept: IAF has **7 commands** — 5 operational (Western, South Western, Central, Eastern, Southern) plus Training and Maintenance.
Syllabus: GS-III: Security forces; textiles & employment | GS-V/VI: UP current events, industry

'Wings over Ganges' (IAF 94th) — Aircraft Mix



Namo Ghat, Varanasi | 25 Oct 2026 | from 12 air bases

UP-INFRA

5. Four link expressways worth ~₹29,000 crore planned to connect Jewar airport and industrial hubs

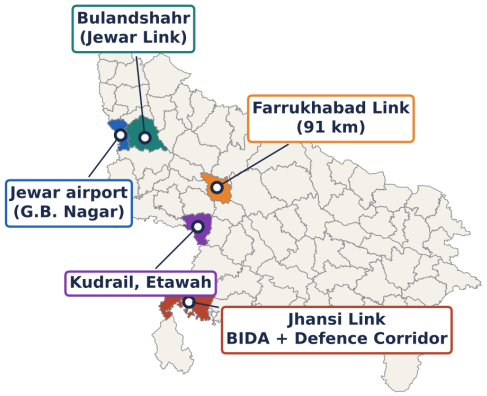
Reported on 23 October: UPEIDA has begun appointing independent engineers and invited bids for four link expressways, to be built in 2–3 years.

- **Jewar Link**: Noida International Airport (Jewar) ↔ **Ganga Expressway** via Bulandshahr.
- **Farrukhabad Link**: **91 km**, joining Ganga and Agra–Lucknow Expressways via the Kannauj Expressway near Kudrail (**Etawah**).
- **Jhansi Link**: serves **Bundelkhand** — the **BIDA** area and the **UP Defence Industrial Corridor**.
- **Purvanchal Link**: connects the **Agra–Lucknow** and **Purvanchal** Expressways; total outlay **~₹29,000 crore**.

Why it matters: Turns separate expressways into a connected grid, cutting freight time and linking the new airport and Bundelkhand's industrial nodes to markets.

Concept: **UP Defence Industrial Corridor** has 6 nodes: **Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow**. BIDA = Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority.
Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure — roads, logistics | GS-VI: UP infrastructure & expressways

Planned Link Expressways: Districts Named



Schematic; not to scale. Routes not drawn

UP-GOVERNANCE

6. OTS scheme in all 762 urban bodies gives ₹116.43 crore relief on house, water and sewer tax

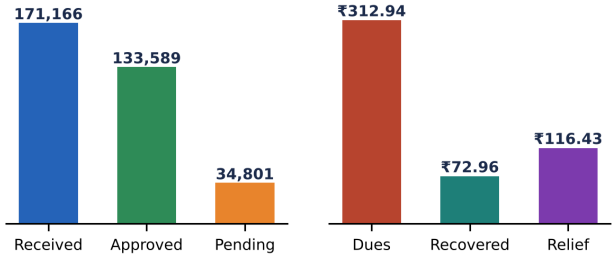
Status update (23 Oct) on the One-Time Settlement scheme running since 15 August 2026; applications open till 15 December 2026.

- Covers **762 ULBs**: **17 municipal corporations, 200 municipal councils, 545 nagar panchayats**.
- **1,71,166 applications**; **1,33,589 approved**, 34,801 under process.
- Dues of **₹312.94 crore**; **₹72.96 crore recovered**; relief of **₹116.43 crore** (avg. ~₹8,715 each).
- Dues payable in up to **3 instalments**; residential applications dominate (1,42,274).

Why it matters: Improves own-source revenue of ULBs — the weakest link of urban governance — while easing citizens' legacy dues.

Concept: ULBs got constitutional status via the **74th Amendment (1992)**, Part IXA, with **12th Schedule** (18 subjects).
Syllabus: GS-II: Local self-government, municipal finance | GS-V: UP urban local bodies

OTS Scheme in 762 Urban Bodies (status 23 Oct)



UP-CULTURE

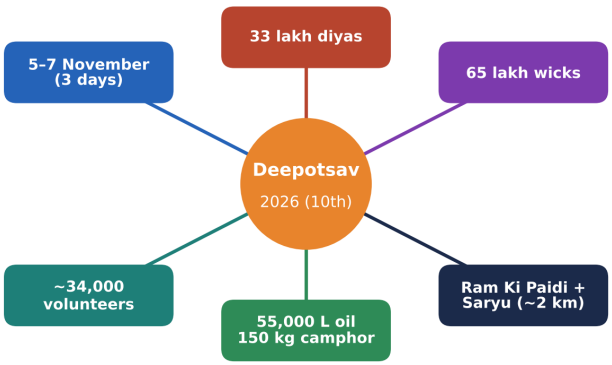
7. 10th Ayodhya Deepotsav on 5–7 November: 33 lakh diyas along Ram Ki Paidi and Saryu riverfront

Preparations announced this month for the three-day festival of lights across a ~2 km riverfront stretch.

- **10th edition**, **5–7 November 2026**, at **Ram Ki Paidi** and the **Saryu** riverfront.
- **33 lakh diyas**, **65 lakh wicks**, **55,000 litres** of oil and **150 kg** camphor.
- About **34,000 volunteers** (largely students) for lighting and crowd management.

Why it matters: Flagship of UP's religious-tourism push; boosts local potters, hospitality and Ayodhya's brand as a global pilgrimage city.

Concept: State-level Deepotsav began in **2017**; Ayodhya lies on the **Saryu** (Ghaghara).
Syllabus: GS-I: Fairs & festivals | GS-V: UP culture & tourism



UP-SCHEME

8. UP Cabinet clears Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Manufacturing Policy-2026

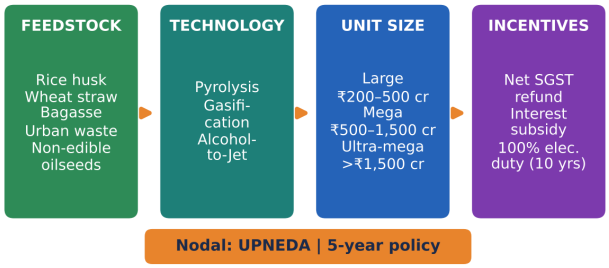
Approved by the state Cabinet on 9 October to decarbonise aviation and turn farm residue into green-fuel value chains.

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

Why it matters: Uses UP's sugar-ethanol base to cut stubble burning, raise farm incomes and create green jobs.

Concept: **SAF** is a drop-in jet fuel from bio/waste sources that can cut lifecycle CO2 sharply versus fossil jet fuel.
Syllabus: GS-III: Energy, environment, biofuels | GS-VI: UP industrial & energy policy

UP SAF Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026



SECTION C — NATIONAL NEWS RELEVANT FOR UPPSC

NATIONAL

9. Mann Ki Baat (139th episode): Khadi & village industries turnover crosses ₹1.87 lakh crore

In the 25 October broadcast, the PM urged citizens to buy local products this festive season.

- KVI turnover **>₹1.87 lakh crore (2025-26)**; employment **>2.04 crore** people.
- Sales **>₹28 crore on Gandhi Jayanti** alone; KVIC target **₹2.51 lakh crore**.
- Linked to **Vocal for Local** — relevant to UP's **ODOP** products.

Why it matters: Rural non-farm jobs at scale; UP, with its ODOP clusters, gains directly from festive-season local buying.

Concept: **KVIC** is a statutory body under the **KVIC Act, 1956**, under the Ministry of MSME.
Syllabus: GS-III: MSMEs, rural industries, employment

ECONOMY

10. PM opens RBI's ₹169-crore Greenfield Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute near Bhubaneswar

Inaugurated on 25 October; the PM called cyber threats to banking a national-security concern.

- Located at **Info Valley-II, Khordha (Odisha)**; **18.55-acre** campus; cost **₹169 crore**.
- Acts as **critical backup** to RBI's primary data centre at **Kharghar, Navi Mumbai**.
- Site chosen away from seismic fault lines and border zones; foundation laid **22 March 2023**.

Why it matters: Geographic redundancy protects payment and currency systems from disasters and cyber attacks.

Concept: **CERT-In** (under MeitY) is India's nodal agency for cyber-incident response under the IT Act, 2000.
Syllabus: GS-III: Banking, cyber security, critical infrastructure

SECTION D — UP RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Fact	Topic	Fact
AYUSH stipend	Doubled **₹7,500 → ₹15,000**/month for **1,714** BAMS/BUMS/BHMS interns (Cabinet, 9 Oct)	**Ex-Agniveers**	**20% reservation** in police, forest, prison & transport recruitment; upper age **25 → 28**
E-buses	**1,725 AC e-buses** for **18 cities** on gross-cost contract (12 yrs); 743 already run in 15 corporations	**Valmiki Jayanti**	Ashwin Purnima; UP public holiday on **26 Oct** (restored after 2017 cancellation)
IAF Day	**8 October** (founded 1932); 2026 = **94th** anniversary; Central Air Command HQ: **Prayagraj**	**RBI data centres**	Primary: **Kharghar (Navi Mumbai)**; new backup: **Khordha, Odisha**

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Bithoor, recently in news, consider the following statements: 1. It lies on the bank of the Ganga in Kanpur Nagar district. 2. It is traditionally associated with the ashram of Maharishi Valmiki. 3. It was a centre of Nana Saheb during the Revolt of 1857. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (d) — All three are correct: Bithoor (Kanpur Nagar, on the Ganga) is revered as **Valmiki's tapobhumi** and was the seat of **Nana Saheb Peshwa** in 1857.

Q2. Consider the following statements about urban local bodies in Uttar Pradesh: 1. The state has 17 municipal corporations. 2. Nagar panchayats are the most numerous category of urban local bodies. 3. Urban local bodies derive constitutional status from the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. 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) — UP has **17 municipal corporations, 200 municipal councils and 545 nagar panchayats** (762 in all). ULBs got constitutional status from the **74th**, not the 73rd, Amendment.

Mains Practice: Global Capability Centres can drive Uttar Pradesh's shift towards a services-led $1 trillion economy. Discuss the opportunities and challenges with reference to the UP GCC Policy 2024. (GS-VI, 125 words)
Hint: 200+ GCCs now, 500+ by 2031. Opportunities: high-skill jobs, IIT/IIIT talent, Tier-2 spread, subsidies (25% capital, 30–50% land). Challenges: NCR concentration, skill gaps, urban infra. Way forward: industry-academia MoUs, single-window clearances.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Bithoor (Kanpur Nagar) = Valmiki's tapobhumi | GCCs: **200+ → 500+ by 2031** | 4 link expressways **~₹29,000 cr** | Deepotsav **5–7 Nov, 33 lakh diyas** | Eastern UP paddy from **1 Nov @ ₹2,441/q**

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team | ▶ YouTube: @Study_ForGS | ➤ Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies