Om Prakash Singh is Uttar Pradesh's new DGP

Om Prakash Singh will be the new Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh.

Om Prakash Singh will succeed incumbent Sulkhan Singh, whose tenure ended recently.
Gudamba police station among best three in country: IB survey

Shattering the general perception about UP police force, Gudamba, a police station located across Kursi road, has been picked up as one of the best three police stations in the country by intelligence bureau.

During all police DGs conference last year, home minister Rajnath Singh had come up with an idea to identify top-10 police stations in the country.

Subsequently IB constituted a committee to come up with parameters to evaluate the performance of close to 15,600 police stations across the country.
A total of 80 parameters were laid out which ranged from citizen and police interface, redressal of public grievance, condition of police station, rate of conviction, use of technology in crime prevention and detection, feedback of local residents, among other factors.

Names of other two police stations were not known to UP police officials at present.
World Bank commits USD 40 mn to Uttar Pradesh tourism development project

the World Bank on committed USD 40 million (about Rs 260 crore) for the development of tourism facilities in Uttar Pradesh.

An agreement for IBRD credit of USD 40 million from the World Bank for the UP Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project was signed today.

The five-year programme is worth approximately USD 57.14 million, of which USD 40 million will be financed by the bank, and the remaining amount will be funded out of state Budget, it said.

The programme is aimed at increase tourism-related benefits for local communities in targeted destinations,
It is expected to have far-reaching social, economic and environmental benefits by targeting local communities and entrepreneurs near some of the main tourist and pilgrimage attractions in Uttar Pradesh, namely, Agra as well as Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana and Govardhan in the Braj region.
The Uttar Pradesh government today invited companies to invest in the aerospace and defence sectors, which are key to its industrial development.

Speaking at a CII event 'Uttar Pradesh investors' summit', Mumbai roadshow, Adityanath said that his government has recently received permission from the centre to set up an international airport at Jewar near Greater Noida and it help in providing good connectively with the state.

He also assured that the state will follow a zero tolerance policy towards crime, which will support better investments.
The state offers several advantages such as infrastructure for Delhi-Mumbai and Amritsar-Kolkata industrial corridors, a UP government official said.

Adityanath met a host of bankers and industrialists in the run up to the UP Investors' Summit to be held in Lucknow on February 21-22
Uttar Pradesh moves to get all milk plants running by 2018-end

The Uttar Pradesh government is pushing ahead with a plan to put all the milk plants of the state in the running mode by 2018-end.

An ultra modern dairy unit with a capacity of 3 lakh litres daily is coming up in Mathura with an investment of Rs 200 crore.

Ten new plants, including in Kannauj, Kanpur, Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Varanasi, are being set up with an investment of Rs 1,200 crore, and four existing ones are being renovated at a cost of Rs 240 crore.

The minister expects the Kannauj plant to be functional from January and the Kanpur one from March 2018.
Uttar Pradesh to set up 24X7 phone helpline for tourists

The Uttar Pradesh government will set up a 24X7 phone helpline that will seek to ensure a "better experience" for foreign as well as domestic tourists visiting the state, a plan document prepared for the purpose said.

The **objective** of the helpline is to create a round the clock presence and support for all tourists.

The helpline will also cater to tourism-related information on cultural tourism, youth tourism, pilgrimage tourism, eco tourism, cultural heritage tourism and medical tourism, and help in any online bookings.
Uttar Pradesh govt. scraps free pilgrimage scheme for elderly

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has scrapped the Shravan Yatra, a scheme under which elderly citizens could go on pilgrimage trips free of cost.

The Shravan Yatra was started in 2015 under the name of "Samajwadi Shravan Yatra"

Under the scheme, the government bore the entire boarding and lodging expenses for pilgrimage trips undertaken by senior citizens.

The name of the yatra was inspired by the story of Shravan Kumar, who had carried his blind parents on his shoulders for a pilgrimage.
This year, a shadow was cast over the yatra after the trips scheduled for October, November and December were cancelled as the IRCTC, which organises the travel, did not receive the necessary funds from the Religious Affairs Ministry even though Rs 14 crore was allocated for it.

Also, while six trains were running under the scheme last year, under the new government the number had fallen to two.

Pilgrimage trips were scheduled for Somnath, Dwarka, Madurai, Puri and Konark this year.
Uttar Pradesh introduces power scheme to mark Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday

Uttar Pradesh has launched a free household power connection scheme for the poor in the state to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary.

"To begin with Lohban and Gausana, the two villages of Mathura district have been covered for 100 per cent electrification on the birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee," said Srikant Sharma, Uttar Pradesh Power Minister.

The government has a target of covering 16 million by 2018-end, driven by Yogi Adityanath government's motto 'Prakash hai to vikas hai' (the barometer of development is light)
As against the target of 4 crore under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Saubhagy scheme, the state so far has provided 25 lakh household connections.

The government has also introduced Kisan Uday Yojana, a novel scheme for farmers, adding that existing 5 HP/7.5 HP submersible and coupling sets of farmers will be replaced free of cost.

The scheme, which would cover **10 lakh farmers by 2022**, would lead to 35 per cent saving on power consumption.

BPL card holders, those without a roof or having less than Rs 35,000 as income a year are eligible. They can get connection by paying Rs 550 only as against the earlier Rs 10,000.

The initial payment under the scheme would be only Rs 50 while the rest is payable in 10 instalments of Rs 50 each.
Uttar Pradesh First State To Endorse Centre's "Triple Talaq" Draft Bill

The Yogi Adityanath government has endorsed the centre's draft bill that makes the practice of instant "triple talaq" a criminal offence, making the BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh the first state in the country to approve the centre's draft bill.

The draft bill proposes three-year jail with no scope for bail for the controversial Islamic practice that allows men to leave their wives immediately by saying "talaq" or divorce three times.
Uttar Pradesh to seek farmers’ feedback on Rs 36,000-crore loan waiver

How well did Uttar Pradesh implement the mega Rs 36,000 crore farm loan waiver? The Yogi Adityanath government has started an exercise to assess this by sending its teams to the ground from this month to get feedback from farmers on whether they are satisfied.

The government will conduct a survey till March, with teams of officials visiting each district and asking farmers about the implementation of the loan waiver and the quality of resolution to their complaints regarding the programme.
The feedback will be compiled in a report and involve the officials of the state's agriculture department, institutional finance department and cooperative department, along with the banks.

The loan waiver has faced severe criticism, with reports of cheques of Rs 1-10 being handed out to certain farmers even as the government had promised to waive loans of up to Rs 1 lakh of all small and marginal farmers.

The waiver exercise is presently in its fourth phase of implementation and many other BJP-ruled states including Rajasthan are studying the UP model before deciding whether to go ahead.
Uttar Pradesh to get metro rail projects in Varanasi and Gorakhpur

The camaraderie shared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of the Delhi Metro’s Magenta line in Noida will extend to their home turf in Uttar Pradesh.

The twin towns of Varanasi and Gorakhpur — Modi’s parliamentary constituency and Yogi’s traditional pocket — are having their metro rail detailed project report (DPR) being prepared in right earnest.

The Yogi government has proposed to gift the two towns Mini Metro Rail projects, confirming the New Metro Rail Policy.
Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) and RITES are preparing the metro rail DPR for Varanasi and Gorakhpur, and this is expected to be submitted to the State government.

DPR for Kanpur is also being revised in light of the new provisions mentioned in the new policy, which was approved by the Centre on August 16, 2017.

three UP towns have operational metro rail services, including Noida, Lucknow and Ghaziabad.
LMRC had launched its commercial metro rail services on September 6, a day after Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Yogi flagged off the maiden commercial run on the ‘priority’ section of 8.5 km stretching from Lucknow Airport to Charbagh Railway Station of North-South (N-S) Corridor.

It was built at a cost of about Rs 2,0000 crore.

French multinational Alstom is supplying the coaches of Lucknow Metro. In September 2015, LRMC had collaborated with Alstom to supply metro cars for train sets.
Uttar Pradesh polls fourth among top global Google election searches

Two Indian elections made it to the top 10 searched terms globally under the category ‘elections’ for trending Google searches in 2017.

The search term ‘Uttar Pradesh election’ made it to the fourth position after ‘French election’, ‘German federal election’ and ‘UK election’.

‘BMC election’ was the eighth top searched term under the category ‘election’.

Google released ‘2017 Year in Search results’. The top trending lists are based on search terms that had high spike in traffic in 2017 as compared to 2016.
‘Baahubali 2: The Conclusion’ was the seventh most searched movie globally under the category ‘movies’.

It topped the ‘top trending queries overall’ in India.

Apart from ‘Baahubali 2’, some other terms such as ‘Indian Premier League’, ‘live cricket score’ and ‘Dangal’ figured under the category.

Top featured

The craze for ‘bitcoin’ both in India and globally was evident in searches also. ‘Bitcoin’ was the second most searched term under the category ‘global news’.

How to buy a bitcoin in India’ was in the third position in India under the category ‘How to.’
Other queries in this category were, ‘how to link aadhaar with PAN card’, ‘how to book Jio phone’, ‘how to file GST returns’, ‘how to invest in mutual funds’, ‘how to mine bitcoin’, and ‘how to buy ethereum in India’.

Top news moments such as ‘CBSE results’, ‘Goods and Services Tax (GST)’, and ‘Union Budget’ also featured among the trending news events that witnessed huge interest among Indian users.

Some of the top Indian ‘What is’ queries in 2017 were, ‘what is GST’, ‘what is bitcoin’, ‘what is Jallikattu’, and ‘what is ransomware’.

Top trending searches for ‘near me’ in the country included ‘post office near me’, ‘movie timings near me’, ‘coffee shops near me’, ‘courier service near me’, ‘ATM near me’, and ‘pharmacy near me’. The top trending songs in India in 2017 included ‘Hawa Hawa’ from the Arjun Kapoor starrer Mubarakan. It was followed by Mere Rashke Qamar.
UPCOCA bill to combat organised crime introduced in Uttar Pradesh assembly

The Uttar Pradesh government introduced in the state Assembly a bill to enact a stringent law on the lines of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) to combat land mafia, mining mafia and organised crimes in the state.

The proposed legislation seeks to check organised and white-collar crime and mafias, adding that there were 28 provisions in the bill which are not present in the existing Gangsters Act.

A committee was set up to examine the draft of the bill which took into account a similar act in Maharashtra.

The committee was headed by the home department's secretary with the additional director general of police for crime and special secretary law as its members.
"Kidnapping for ransom, illegal mining, manufacturing illicit liquor and its sale, acquiring contracts on the basis of muscle power, organised exploitation of forest produce, trade in wildlife, fake medicines, grabbing of government and private properties, and 'rangdari' (extortion) will come under the ambit of the new law."
Telcos to be roped in for smart meter connectivity in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana

Leading telecom players Airtel, Vodafone, Idea and BSNL are being roped in for providing connectivity as part of the government tender for 5 million smart meters to be deployed across Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Interestingly, Mukesh Ambani-backed Reliance Jio is out of the picture.

A smart meter is a new kind of electricity meter that can automatically send meter readings to the power supplier for billing and help consumers better understand their energy usage.

The smart meters tender floated by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is divided into two parts — meter procurement and system integration.
System integrators will take care of meter installation, data storage on Cloud, and preparing dashboards, among other things. They had the choice to rope in telecom operators to provide data connectivity and charge for the service in return.

The system integrators bid is presently through the technical stage, and companies like Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Keonics, China-based IESLAB have evinced interest in the same.

EESL is looking at a GPRS-based model for smart meters, which is basically placing a SIM card in the meter for communication.

The biggest gainers will be these data networks. 50 lakh data points will be connected (in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh), which they are getting paid every month.
Uttar Pradesh government sets up Cow Protection Committees to ensure gaushalas run efficiently.

The Uttar Pradesh government said it had set up Cow Protection Committees in all districts of the state to ensure that cow sheds run efficiently.

These committees will ensure efficient management and functioning of gaushalas and make them self-sufficient.

The committees will sell cow-related products such as soaps, incense sticks, mosquito repellant coils, biogas, compost and phenyl made from cow urine to make them self-reliant.
Uttar Pradesh tops crime list in India: National Crime Records Bureau report

UP, the country’s largest state, reported the highest number of cases of murder – 4,889 – accounting for 16.1 per cent followed by Bihar where 2,581 (8.4 per cent) murders took place last year.

UP registered 14.5 per cent (49,262 cases) of total cases of crime against women followed by West Bengal 9.6 per cent (32,513 cases) during 2016.

Rape cases recorded an increase of 12.4 per cent from 34,651 cases in the country in 2015 to 38,947 in 2016.

Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh reported the highest incidence of rape with 4,882 cases (12.5 per cent) and 4,816 (12.4 per cent) followed by Maharashtra 4,189 (10.7 per cent) last year, the NCRB data said.
UP recorded 9.5 per cent of the total IPC crime reporter in the country followed by Madhya Pradesh (8.9 per cent), Maharashtra (8.8 per cent) and Kerala (8.7 per cent).
60 pc posts of specialist doctors lying vacant in UP: Govt

Of the total sanctioned posts of specialist doctors in Uttar Pradesh government hospitals, 60 per cent are lying vacant,

In Uttar Pradesh, 7,300 specialist doctors are needed against which there are 2,970 doctors posted at present.

The retirement age of doctors has been raised from 60 to 62 years.

Online recruitment has been started and doctors are applying and walk-in interview are also being held to meet the shortage. Besides 2,800 doctors will be posted in PHCs
Uttar Pradesh government signs MoU with South Korea to enhance tourism cooperation

The Uttar Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.

A delegation from Gimhae city of South Korea met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

On the occasion, an MoU was signed for giving a new dimension to cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming, which will provide more employment opportunities and development.
An agreement was signed in 2000 to develop Ayodhya and Gimhae as sister cities, following which a memorial was constructed in Ayodhya which is visited by a large number of tourists from South Korea every year.

People in South Korea believe that 2,000 years ago, an Ayodhya princess had married Korean King Kim Suro. At present, their descendants are members of the 'Crock Clan'.

Uttar Pradesh Police to launch a new Twitter handle to counter users who post fake news

The Uttar Pradesh Police is planning to soon launch an account on Twitter that will be used to name people who are found posting false news that show police personnel in a bad light.
Finish Society to help treat Uttar Pradesh's human waste

Recently awarded the international 'Sarphati Sanitation Award' of 25,000 euros at Netherlands, Indian organisation, Finish (Financial Inclusion Improves Sanitation and Health) Society, will soon be developing fecal sludge management plant in Uttar Pradesh (UP) in collaboration with the Dutch government.

Not just finding techniques to manage our waste to convert it into manure, the society has also taken up a survey on use and incentive for public toilets in association with the Lucknow and Kanpur municipal corporations and Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) London.

Basic aim is first to create an awareness among the masses about the need for sanitation and its connection with our health. The second work is to extend capacity building and skill expertise from our end to masons, carpenters and other such workers who are involved in creating functionality of a septic tank or a toilet or sludge treatment plant,
Bill to set up Prayagraj Mela Authority passed in Uttar Pradesh Assembly

Days after the UNESCO declared the Kumbh a world heritage, the Uttar Pradesh Assembly today passed a bill to set up Prayagraj Mela Authority for the Kumbh Mela scheduled to be held in Allahabad in January 2019.

The UP Prayagraj Mela Authority, Allahabad, Bill 2017, was passed amid a walkout by the members of the Samajwadi Party and the Congress party.
The UNESCO recently recognised the Kumbh Mela as an "intangible cultural heritage of humanity" and held it as the world's largest peaceful gathering of pilgrims.

The Kumbh Mela is believed to be the largest religious gathering on earth and is held every 12 years on the banks of the 'Sangam' - the confluence of the holy rivers Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati - in Allahabad.

The Mela alternates between Nasik, Allahabad, Ujjain and Haridwar every three years. The one celebrated at the Sangam is the largest and holiest of them.
Commercial courts to be set up in Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up commercial courts in the state with an aim of providing quick redressal to commercial disputes.

In the first phase, these courts will be set up in 13 districts under the provision of the commercial courts, commercial division and commercial appellate division of High Courts Act 2015.

The Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited has been nominated the agency for setting up the hub that is to be made on the lines of the Centre's social media hub at Soochna Bhawan in New Delhi.

The government has also approved a proposal to set up a Black Buck conservation reserve in over 125 hectares land in Meja forest range of Allahabad. It was done under the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1972.
Uttar Pradesh speeds up work on Kushinagar and Jewar airports

The Yogi Adityanath government has put on fast-track the plan to build international airports at the east and west ends of Uttar Pradesh by inviting bids to appoint a consultant for the greenfield airport at Jewar near Noida in western UP and releasing the entire budget of nearly Rs 200 cr for the Kushinagar airport near Gorakhpur in the east.

This comes days after the government increased the air connectivity to the two existing international airports at Varanasi and Lucknow.

The government also released the entire budget of nearly Rs 200 crore for making operational the Kushinagar airport by mid-2018.
Kushinagar, where Lord Buddha is believed to have delivered his last sermon, is a big attraction for Buddhist pilgrims and the airport here is expected to see flights from Singapore, Thailand, South Korea and Japan. At present, the nearest airport is Varanasi
Nestle India, distributors fined in Uttar Pradesh

The Shahjahanpur Administration in Uttar Pradesh has imposed a fine of ₹45 lakh on Nestle India after it found samples of Maggi Noodles to be sub-standard. The samples were collected by the administration in 2015.
Samsung to set up 20 smart healthcare centres in Uttar Pradesh

Samsung India, a subsidiary of the South Korea-based electronics major, has partnered with the Uttar Pradesh government to set-up 20 new smart healthcare centres across the state to provide healthcare equipments.

The smart healthcare programme aims to offer affordable and quality healthcare to patients from the economically and socially weaker sections of society.

Since 2015, Samsung has collaborated with 18 government hospitals across the country for the programme and over three lakh patients from the economically and socially deprived sections of society have benefitted from this.
The company had 18 healthcare centres across the country, including one in Lucknow.

Now, with the additional 20 centres in UP, the total number goes to 38 across the country.

The company will provide advanced equipments such as ultrasound and digital radiology (x-ray) machines manufactured by it along with a LED TV, air conditioner and refrigerator to selected government hospitals across the state.
HCL Tech to invest Rs 1500 crore in Uttar Pradesh over 2-3 years

HCL Technologies is going to invest Rs 1,500 crore in Uttar Pradesh over the next two to three years, including its rural development initiative Samuday.

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath extended support to Samuday, which has an investment outlay of Rs 110 crore, and is an initiative to create model villages.

It has impacted around 6 lakh people in 90,000 households across 720 villages through various interventions in the fields of education, agriculture, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, infrastructure and livelihood.

HCL Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of HCL Technologies, launched Samuday in 2015. Currently the project is being implemented in three blocks of Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh.
The main aim of the initiative is to create sustainable and model villages and job creation.

Samuday, has set up over 380 information and communication technology-based classrooms and enrolled 1865 people for adult literacy programme.

It has also engaged 5,000 farmers under various interventions and has constructed 5,500 toilets, which are currently under usage.

In addition, 49 mini solar grids are being set up across 63 villages. Through various preventive, promotive and curative health services we have been able to support 2000 pregnant females and 7000 severely acute malnourished children.

There has been a marked improvement in the nutrition intake of the village communities through the concept of Nutrition Garden in every third household of the village.
Fully committed to sustainable development around TTZ: Uttar Pradesh to Supreme Court

The Uttar Pradesh government told the Supreme Court that it was "fully committed" to protect the environment and ensure sustainable development in and around the iconic Taj Mahal and Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ).

TTZ is an area of about 10,400 sq km spread over the districts of Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah in Uttar Pradesh and Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.

provisions for protection and preservation of Taj Mahal have been included in the 2021 master plan of Agra.
The affidavit, filed by the Deputy Director of UP Tourism Department, also said the state has approached the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to prepare a policy document to ensure a comprehensive and sustained environmental strategy for future activity in TTZ.

The state government also said the construction of the multi-level parking near the Taj Mahal was approved by TTZ Authority and was in conformity with NEERI's recommendations.

"The said developmental activity has been undertaken to avoid vehicular movement in the vicinity of the Taj Mahal even beyond the prohibitory limit of 500 meters."
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath calls for action plan to develop most backward villages

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed officials to prepare an action plan to ensure development in some of the most backward villages of the State.

Under the project, the government would look to provide basic facilities in villages with substantial populations of disadvantaged sections.

The villages identified under the project would be provided with the benefits of 23 schemes run by the State, covering needs such as housing, drinking water, roads, electricity, common property resources and skill development.

Across the State, 1,500 such villages have been identified for the project.
Among the villages hand-picked for the project are five forest-dwelling or ‘Vantangiya’ villages in Gorakhpur, the CM’s constituency.

These five settlements — Tikonia numver-3, Rajhi Chilbila, Aam Bagh, Rambagh and Sarkar — as revenue villages, which opened up the scope for administrative efforts to develop the area and provide inhabitants a wider range of employment and utilisation of resources previously prohibited by the Forest Act.

Revenue villages are small administrative units with well-defined borders. The Vantangiyas community comprises people brought from Myanmar during the colonial rule to plant trees for afforestation.
The government has also selected 30 villages in Maharajganj, which adjoins Gorakhpur; some villages in Bundelkhand; 76 villages in Saharanpur along the Uttarakhand border; and 80 villages in Noida.

The villages that share a border with other States or Nepal will be included in the first phase of the scheme.
Uttar Pradesh plans to procure 10 million prepaid meters under Saubhagya

The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to procure 10 million prepaid meters under a Saubhagya scheme that aims to provide electricity connections to over 4 crore families in rural and urban areas by December 2018.

International companies, including L&T, HPL, Landis and Gyr, Secure Meters, China-based Shenzhen Inhemeter, and Genus Power, have expressed their interest.

The scheme has an outlay of Rs 16,320 crores including budgetary allocation of Rs 12,320 crore.
What are prepaid meters?

Prepaid meters allow consumers to recharge their electricity in advance even before the electricity bill arrives. It is similar to recharging our mobile network plans.

The customers can recharge electricity for an amount as small as Rs 50.
An explosion at an Indian power plant killed 20 people and injured up to 100 in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

More than 20 survivors suffered severe burns in the blast in the coal-fired plant operated by state-run NTPC (NTPC.NS).

The 1,550-megawatt (MW) plant in the town of Unchahar supplies electricity to nine states.

The company said the blast hit a 500-MW unit that had been operating since April. Three other units with a combined capacity of 630 MW were continuing to operate.

Uttar Pradesh NTPC blast: 20 killed, 100 injured.
Pollution levels in several cities of the north western state of Uttar Pradesh were recently declared 'dangerously polluted'. Varanasi was declared the most polluted city in the country.

A report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has found that the air quality of holy city Varanasi is most polluted among the 42 cities monitored recently.

Following this, the Director of IIT Kanpur, Manindra Agarwal told the media that the state government has asked the civil aviation ministry for its approval regarding artificial rains since the area where artificial rains are required need cloud cover.

IIT Kanpur was given a grant of Rs 15 lakh from the state government to experiment on the option of artificial rains. The scientists have finished their experiments and are ready to execute
IIT-K has even agreed to modify its six-seater Cessna aircraft to load it with salt for being dropped on the high altitude 'supercooled' clouds.

**What is cloud seeding?**

Cloud seeding or weather modification is an artificial way to induce moisture in the clouds so as to cause a rainfall. In this process, either silver iodide or dry ice is dumped onto the clouds by using an aircraft or an artillery gun which leads to a rain shower.
Where has it been used?

China frequently uses weather modification system to create rainfall during droughts. In July this year, China allocated 199 million yuan ($29.76 million) to spend on its cloud seeding program to prevent drought.

In June this year, a team of scientists from Beijing offered China's cloud seeding technology to India to fight droughts in Maharashtra's Marathwada region.

During 2008 Beijing Olympics, Chinese organisers fired a barrage of rockets in the air ensuring clear skies for the opening ceremony.
In 2009, Chinese scientists fired Beijing skies with iodide sticks hoping to end a long spell of drought, the seeding however caused an early snowfall which disrupted air and road traffic.

In United States, cloud seeding is occasionally used by ski resorts to induce snowfall. Cloud seeding is being used to recharge the ground water in arid UAE
Bill Gates to help Uttar Pradesh fight encephalitis

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has promised to help the Uttar Pradesh government fight encephalitis.

Encephalitis is one of the biggest health challenges faced by Uttar Pradesh. In 2017, encephalitis affected 4,772 children; 588 of them died.

The crisis was made worse on August 10 and 11, when 72 children died at Gorakhpur’s Baba Raghav Das Medical College hospital, after there was a disruption of oxygen supply. Many of these children had acute encephalitis syndrome, a general term for inflammation of the brain.
Power tariff hiked in Uttar Pradesh

UP Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) announced hike in power tariff.

The average hike for domestic consumers, to be implemented soon, is 12%.

The electricity tariff for urban domestic electricity consumers has been raised by 9%.

For the metered rural domestic consumers, the tariff has been hiked to Rs3 per unit for first 100 units and Rs4.50 per unit beyond that.
The power rates of other states it was found that rural (domestic) consumers in the state were paying only 42% of the power supply cost while in Madhya Pradesh they were paying 86%, Rajasthan 100%, Haryana 53% and Punjab 80%. Even with the new rates, the consumers in this category will be charged only 52%

Besides, a 15% exemption has been given to the industrial units which run in one shift and are mostly small and medium industries between 5am to 1pm in the afternoon in summers.
India’s first Blackbuck conservation reserve to come up in UP.

The Uttar Pradesh State Cabinet has approved Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in trans-Yamuna belt near Allahabad.

It will be first of its kind conservation reserves in India exclusively dedicated to blackbuck. In this regard, state government has evoked Section 36 A (1) and (2) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to declare the conservation reserve.

The wildlife conservation reserve will come up on over 126 hectares in Meja forest division known for its rocky, undulating and arid terrain.

A herd of around 350 blackbucks is estimated to be inhabiting the region.
Blackbuck

Indian Blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*) is an antelope and is the only living species of the genus Antilope.

It is considered to be the fastest animal in the world next to Cheetah.

Hunting of blackbuck is prohibited under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. It has been categorised least concerned in IUCN Red Data Book.

The Bishnoi community of Rajasthan is known worldwide for their conservation efforts to blackbuck and Chinkara.
Kisan Uday Yojana to Provide Pump Sets to Farmers Launched by UP Govt.

Under this scheme, the state govt. is going to provide 10 lakh pumps to the farmers till the financial year 2022.

This scheme is going to reduce the dependence of farmers on the conventional power pumps which utilizes 35% more energy.

Moreover, farmers can turn the pump on or off through their cell phones. In addition to this, the farmers will also get free of cost maintenance for the upcoming 5 years.

UP state govt. has launched this scheme in Baghpat for farmers.
Govt. will provide energy efficient pump sets in 2 variants according to their capacity – 5.0 Horse Power (HP) and 7.5 Horse Power (HP).

Subsequently, UP govt. will also provide smart kit which will enable farmers to switch On / Off these pumps from their phones.
Implementation of Kisan Uday Yojana

UP state govt. launches this scheme on the birth anniversary of former PM, Chaudhary Charan Singh (23-Dec-2017). Subsequently, the state govt. will implement this scheme in phases to achieve distribution of 10 lakh pumps till 2022.

Govt. will cover the following districts in 1st phase:-

a) Ghazipur  
b) Gorakhpur  
c) Varanasi  
d) Ambedkarnagar  
e) Mathura  
f) Aligarh
Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – Saubhagya Scheme Launched in Uttar Pradesh

Power for All’ Scheme will provide electricity connection to every poor family across the state till December 2018.

Under this scheme, govt. will select the beneficiaries from those whose name appears in the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC)-2011

this scheme will provide free electricity connections to the BPL families as per SECC 2011 data while other families have to pay Rs 500 in 10 equal monthly installments.
UP Govt. has identified 153.7 lakh families in rural areas and 3.02 lakh families in urban areas (total 157 lakh families) which does not possess an electricity connection.

This accounts to around 40% of the total 4 crore households in the country not having any power connection.

UP Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) will spend Rs. 7,100 crore on this project.

Furthermore, Central govt. and State govt. contribution ratio is 60:40.
BPL families whose name appears in the SECC-2011 list will get free metered connections.

However, other families can get connections for Rs. 500 in 10 installments with their electricity bills.

This scheme is launched simultaneously at 2,300 power distribution substations across the state.

Moreover, Yogi govt. also provides 1 lakh connections at the launch of this scheme.
Central government launches Saubhagya Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana earlier in the month of September.

This scheme aims at providing electricity connections to every household in the country till December 2018.

For this scheme, Central govt. has allotted a budget of Rs. 16,320 crore which also includes the Gross budgetary support of Rs. 12,320 crore.
The primary objective of Saubhagya Scheme is to achieve 24X7 power for all families rural and urban areas.

All the states and Union Territories will achieve complete electrification till March 2019.

Central govt. has appointed REC as the nodal agency to provide coordination in the successful implementation of this scheme.
UP Draft for Fees Regulation Act 2017 of Private Schools

Dinesh Sharma, Deputy CM of Uttar Pradesh has prepared a draft for Fees Regulation Act 2017 of Private Schools. Subsequently, all the private schools in the state of UP cannot take desirable fees from the parents of the school students.

**Highlights of this draft**

This act prohibits the private schools to take arbitrary fees from the students.

In addition to this, private schools cannot increase the school fees as per their requirement.

Under this act, the private schools can only take the admission fees once.

Subsequently, students will not have to pay admission fees every year.
Moreover, Private schools also cannot force students to purchase Uniforms and Books from certain special shops.

Most important feature of this draft is that all the private schools will have to put the information about the fees on the official website as well as on the notice board of the school.

All the private schools not obeying the conditions (found guilty) will get punishment as per the provisions specified in the draft.

If schools disobeys the conditions (found guilty) for the first time, then state govt. will impose a fine of Rs 1 lakh on that school.

Subsequently, if the school is found guilty for the second time, then state govt. will impose a fine of Rs 5 lakh on that particular school.
Furthermore, if the school does not follow the rules and is found guilty for the third time also, then the state govt. will end the recognition / membership of that private school.
Contract Farming Scheme in Uttar Pradesh for Doubling Farmers Income by 2022

UP state govt. is going to launch Contract Farming Scheme for farmers. Subsequently, this scheme will help in achieving the Center’s objective of Doubling Farmers Income by 2022.

Accordingly in this scheme, private agro processing & agro processing will make agreement (contract) with the farmers for purchase of their agri-commodities in specified quantities on the basis of mutual agreement of terms.

UP state govt. is going to amend APMC Act as per the lines of Model Act.
The important features and highlights of this farming scheme are as follows:-

Contract farming Scheme is a key driver in doubling income of farmers.

Subsequently, the state govt. will provide an assured market and better prices to farmers.

Through this scheme consumers will get goods at relatively low price.

UP govt. will bring the contract farming law to protect farmers from changing prices of perishable items.
This law will ensure better price of agricultural and horticulture products to the farmers.

Accordingly, farmers will get advance agreements and ensured supply for companies to increase investment.

Henceforth, Agricultural Produce Marketing Commodities (APMC) Act will allow privatization, opening and access to private mandis and beginning of e-trading to increase farmer’s income.

As per the data of NITI Aayog (2011-12), approx. 23.2% of the total families of farmers in UP are below the poverty line.
Uttar Pradesh Portal for Online Property

UP CM Yogi Adityanath has started the Online Property Registration facility at the official portal of Department of Stamps and Registration.

Subsequently, this facility will help the citizens to get their property registry in a simplified manner.

In addition to this, the requirement of any third party for property registration will get eliminated which will result in transparency and minimizing corruption.

Candidates can make online property registration through the official website igrsup.gov.in
This e-service is created on the lines of online process which is adopted by the passport office.

Moreover, candidates can use this e-service for both residential and commercial properties.

This e-service will perform most of the registry work online which includes purchasing of stamp papers

National Information Center has designed this e-service which the Uttar Pradesh govt. will implement effectively:

**Initial Phase** – In the first phase, the state govt. will start this scheme in 5 cities of UP – Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Kasganj, Barabanki.
Extension – The state govt. is going to extend this scheme to other cities as well.

For this purpose, UP govt. is taking several measures as follows:- Revenue Department, UP is giving training to the officials to make them understand the process of online property registration and to handle queries which are related to e-registration.

Moreover, the state government has started pilot projects in 11 districts.
Union Government planning to club two phases of Ken-Betwa River linking project

The Union Government is planning to club phase I and phase II of its ambitious Ken-Betwa interlinking river (ILR) project.

The phases will be clubbed after Madhya Pradesh, one of the two beneficiary states (Uttar Pradesh in another), demanded so.

The Centre's ambitious project, which has got almost all major environmental clearances, hit a roadblock earlier this year when the Madhya Pradesh government allegedly objected to it.

The state government had allegedly warned that the first phase of the project would not be allowed to take off if it was not reworked to incorporate three other smaller projects - Lower Orr dam, Bina complex and Kotha barrage projects - in the initial phase.
The three projects were to be implemented in the second phase, according to the original plan for the Rs 18,000-crore project, which aims to connect the rivers Ken in Madhya Pradesh and Betwa in Uttar Pradesh.

The issues raised by Madhya Pradesh have nearly been sorted out. These works will be carried out in one phase. The cost will accordingly have to be revised.

The project may be executed based on a 90:10 funding pattern between the Centre and the states respectively.