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1. World's largest safari park to be developed in Gurugram (Oct. 1, 2022)

A statement released by the state government on 29 September stated that **Haryana will** create the largest jungle safari park in the world in the Aravalli range.

Important facts

- The 10,000-acre safari park will cover Gurugram and Nuh districts of Haryana.
- This project will be the largest such project in the world.
- Currently, **Sharjah** is home to the largest curated safari park.
- Opened in February 2022, Sharjah Safari Park is spread over an area of about 2,000 acres.
- The proposed Aravalli Park will be five times the size of Sharjah's Safari Park and will include a large herpetarium (a zoological exhibition space for reptiles and amphibians).
- The Safari Project of Haryana will be a joint project of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Government of Haryana.
- Under the project, the central government will also provide funds to Haryana for the project.

About Safari Park

- A safari park is an area or parkland in which animals are kept where they can roam freely.
- Bird Park in Gurugram Safari Park, four areas for big cats, one large area for herbivores, one area for exotic animal birds, visitor sites, tourist areas, botanical gardens, biomes, equatorial, tropical, coastal, desert, etc. will be included.

About Aravalli range

- It is a hill chain in northern India that runs **350 miles (560 kilometres)** northeast across Rajasthan state.
- Isolated rocky outcroppings can still be seen to the south of Delhi.
- Natural resources (including minerals) are abundant here and it acts as a barrier to the expansion of the Western Desert.

2. SBI to finance the Adani Enterprise Ganga Expressway Project (Sept. 30, 2022)

Corporate Address: A102, A Block, Sector 58, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301

The State Bank India has agreed to provide a loan of **Rs 10,238 Crore** to the Adani Enterprises Limited for its Ganga Expressway project .The 594 Km long Ganga expressway will connect Meerut with Prayagraj.

However the Adani Company will construct only 464 km out of the 594 long Ganga expressway. It will construct part of the expressway which connects Budaun **to Prayagraj.**

Adani Enterprises has set up three subsidiaries, Budaun Hardoi Road Private Ltd (BHRPL), Hardoi Unnao Road Private Ltd (HURPL) and Unnao Prayagraj Road Private Ltd (UPRPL) to implement the project.

SBI will provide a loan of Rs 10,238 Crore to these three companies combined.

Ganga Expressway

- The Ganga Expressway is a Uttar Pradesh government project which will start from Meerut, National Highway (NH) 334 and end at NH 2 bypass in Prayagraj District.
- It will be a six lane access controlled Highway.
- It is the **largest Greenfield expressway** which is being built on the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer ("DBFOT") model.
- It means the designing and construction of the road will be done by the Adani Company and it will have the right to collect tolls for the next 30 years. After 30 years it will transfer the expressway to the government.
- **Greenfield** means that it will be a totally new road project and there are no roads where it is being built.

Operational Expressway in Uttar Pradesh

- Yamuna Expressway -- 165 km from NOIDA to Agra
- Noida-Greater Noida Expressway -- 25 km. It connects Noida to Greater Noida.
- Agra-Lucknow Expressway -- 302 km
- Delhi-Meerut Expressway -- 96 km
- Purvanchal Expressway -- 341 km. It starts from Chand Saray village, Lucknow district and ends at Haydaria village, NH-31, Ghazipur district. It is the largest expressway in India..
- **Bundelkhand Expressway** -- 296 km. It connects Gonda village on NH-35 in Chitrakoot district with Kudrail village on Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Etawah district

Total operational expressways - 1,225 km

3. World's largest Wind Solar Hybrid Power Plant commissioned by Adani Green (Sept. 30, 2022)

<u>Gautam Adani</u> owned Adani Green Energy has commissioned the world's largest 750 MW Wind-Solar hybrid power plant at **Jaisalmer Rajasthan.** Both the wind and the solar power plant are located at the same location.

The **Solar power plant** has an installed capacity of **600 MW** and the Wind power plants has an installed capacity of **150 MW**.

The company has entered into Power Purchase Agreements with the Government of India's owned Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). Under the agreement the power generated at the plant will be bought by SECI at Rs 2.69 Kwh for the next 25 years.

4. PM inaugurates world's first CNG terminal in Gujarat's Bhavnagar (Sept. 30, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the "world's first CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) terminal at Bhavnagar in Gujarat on 29 September.

Important facts

- It will be "world's first CNG terminal along with the world's fourth largest lock gate system.
- It is being constructed by a consortium of the Mumbai-based **Padmanabhan Mafatlal Group and the UK's Foresight Group.**
- The CNG project is a part of an ambitious mega project of brownfield expansion of Bhavnagar port.
- There are plans for a proposed development of a brownfield port terminal in the northern part of the existing Bhavnagar port in Gujarat.
- The primary objective of the CNG terminal is to develop CNG receiving infrastructure for India through the Gujarat coast.
- The port will also have a container terminal, multi-purpose terminal and liquid terminal, which will be connected to the northern regions of the country by the existing road and railway network.

What is CNG?

- CNG, also known as compressed natural gas, is an eco-friendly alternative to gasoline.
- It is a fuel gas mainly composed of methane (CH4).
- CNG fuel is safer than gasoline and diesel because it is non-toxic and does not contaminate groundwater.
- The use of CNG fuel is becoming more popular in both commercial and non-commercial vehicles.

5. PM Modi flags off Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharta Express Train in Gujarat (Sept. 30, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 September flagged off the newly upgraded Vande Bharat Express, a semi high-speed train that will connect Gandhinagar and Mumbai.

Important facts

- This is the **third train** of its kind.
- It is equipped with 'Kavach' technology (Train Collision Avoidance System), an automatic safety system that prevents two trains from colliding.
- Passengers travelling from Mumbai to Ahmedabad in executive chair car will be charged Rs 2,505 as fare, while the chair car fare will be Rs 1,385.
- It will operate six days a week except Sundays.
- PM also inaugurated the first phase of the ambitious **Ahmedabad metro project.**

About Vande Bharat Express Train

- It is a **16 coach** self propelled train.
- The train reaches 160 kmph speed in just **140 seconds**.
- The train is equipped with touch-free facilities with bio-vacuum toilets and special toilets for differently-abled passengers on-board facilities.
- The first Vande Bharat was manufactured by the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)**, **Chennai**, as part of the 'Make in India' programme, at a cost of about Rs 100 crore.
- The first such train runs on the **New Delhi-Varanasi route**, while the second one runs on the **New Delhi-Vaishno Devi Katra** route.
- In the **Union Budget for 2022-2023**, the Finance Minister has proposed the development and construction of **400 new Vande Bharat trains** over the next three years.

6. Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated Atal Super Specialty Medical Institute (Sept. 29, 2022)

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on 28 September inaugurated Atal Super Specialty Medical Institute at Chamiyana near Shimla constructed at a cost of Rs 262 crore under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana-III.

Important facts

- He also laid the foundation stone of **Critical Care Block** to be constructed at a cost of Rs 25 crore and Advance Diagnostic Center to be constructed at a cost of Rs 42 crore to further strengthen the health facilities in the state.
- This hospital will provide world class specialized health care facilities to the people of the state.
- The CM said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate **AIIMS in Bilaspur** to the general public on October 5.

- He said that the satellite centre of PGI is also being set up at **Una** at a cost of Rs 450 or crore.
- He said that now Himachal Pradesh has a total of **six medical colleges** in the government sector and **one medical college in the private sector.**

About Himachal Pradesh

- It was made the eighteenth state of India on **25 January 1971** under the Himachal Pradesh State Act, 1971.
- Himachal Pradesh is also called the Land of Gods.
- Himachal Pradesh is part of the Shivalik range of the Himalaya Mountains.
- Major rivers and dams- Sutlej (Bhakra Dam, Gobind Sagar Reservoir, Koldam Dam), Vyas (Pandoh Dam, Maharana Pratap Sagar Reservoir), Ravi (Chamera Dam), Parvati
- **Major Lakes-** Renuka, Revalsar, Khajjiar, Dal, Beas Kund, Dasaur, Brighu, Parashar, Mani Mahesh, Chander Tal, Suraj Tal, Kareri, Sarolsar, Govind Sagar, Nako Lake
- National Parks- Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Khirganga, Inderkilla and Simbalbara National Parks
- Capital- Shimla
- Governor- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- Chief Minister- Jai Ram Thakur
- Legislative Assembly seats- 68
- Raiva Sabha seats- 3
- Lok Sabha seats 4

7. The UP Government has approved the proposal regarding the establishment of 'Ranipur Tiger Reserve' (Sept. 28, 2022)

The proposal regarding the establishment of 'Ranipur Tiger Reserve' was approved in the cabinet meeting held on September 27 under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Important facts

- Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary at **Chitrakoot** will be the first tiger reserve of Bundelkhand and the **fourth tiger reserve of the state**.
- The tiger reserve will span across 53,000 hectares of land, including 30,000 hectares of buffer area and 23,000 hectares of core area which was already notified as Ranipur wildlife sanctuary in Chitrakoot district of the state.

- Once the Ranipur Tiger Reserve is notified, it will become a part of **Project Tiger of**
- * the Government of India.
- After coming to the submerged area due to the formation of this Tiger Reserve, tigers will come here from Panna Tiger Reserve. They can be rehabilitated safely.
- The cabinet has also decided to set up the **Ranipur Tiger Conservation Foundation.**

About Ranipur Tiger Reserve

- Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the **UP-MP border in Chitrakoot** and about 150 km from Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
- Covered with northern tropical dry deciduous forests, this area is home to tigers, leopards, bears, spotted deer, sambar, chinkara and other mammals.
- Established in **1977**, it is one of the main attractions of Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh.

Other tiger reserves in Uttar Pradesh

• At present there are three tiger reserves in the state. These include **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**, **Amangarh Tiger Reserve and Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**.

8. Supreme Court orders to stop all commercial activities within 500-metre of iconic Taj Mahal (Sept. 27, 2022)

The Supreme Court has directed the Agra Development Authority, Uttar Pradesh to immediately stop all commercial activities within a 500-metre radius from the peripheral wall of the Taj Mahal.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and AS Oka told the Agra Development Authority to ensure the compliance with its order delivered on 27 September 2022.

The Apex Court was hearing an application seeking direction to the authorities to prohibit commercial activities within the 500-metre radius of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The 500m-radius of the 17th-century white marble mausoleum is a no-construction zone. Besides, there are also strict regulations on vehicular movement around the monument. There is also a ban on burning of wood near the monument, and municipal solid waste and agriculture waste in the entire area.

The top court is hearing the matter since it was filed in 1984 related to the protection and preservation of the Taj Mahal and its surroundings.

The Taj Mahal was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal in 1631.

9. President Murmu unveils foundation stone for ICMR-National Institute of Virology, South Zone at Bengaluru (Sept. 27, 2022)

President **Droupadi Murmu** unveiled the foundation stone for ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune, South Zone at **Bengaluru** in virtual mode, in presence of Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar on 27 September 2022.

The setting up of the zonal campus of the National Institute of Virology, Pune is part of the **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM))** of the central government.

Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM))

- The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission
- was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh on **25 October 2021**.
- The total outlay on the scheme is **Rs 64,180 Crore** and the duration of the scheme is from **2021-22 to 25-26**.
- The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country.
- Its objective is to fill gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care facilities and primary care in both urban and rural areas.
- It will provide support for 17,788 rural health and wellness centers in 10 high-focus states.
- Further, 11,024 urban health and wellness centers will be established in all the States.
- Under the scheme, a national institution for one health(set up in Nagpur), four new regional centers of the national institutes for virology, a regional research platform for WHO South East Asia Region, nine biosafety level-III laboratories, and five new regional national centre for disease control will be set up.
- For the first time in Asia, two container-based hospitals with comprehensive medical facilities will be kept ready at all times, which can be rapidly deployed via rail or air to deal with any disaster or calamity in the country.

National Institute of Virology (NIV)

The National Institute of Virology is one of the major Institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

It was established at **Pune**, Maharashtra State in 1952 as Virus Research Centre (VRC) under the auspices of the ICMR and the Rockefeller Foundation (RF), USA. Now it is fully funded by ICMR.

NIV is also the National Centre for Hepatitis and Influenza.

NIV has been designated as one of the collaborating laboratories of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Chairman: **Dr Priya Abraham**

10. Uttar Pradesh gets Ayushman Utkrishta award 2022 for adding maximum various Health facilities (Sept. 26, 2022)

Uttar Pradesh has been awarded <u>Ayushman Utkrishta award 2022 f</u>or adding various health facilities to the health facility register.

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The State was conferred this award by the Chief Executive officer (CEO) of the National Health Authority **R.S Sharma** at the closing ceremony of the <u>Aarogya Manthan</u> organised by the National Health Authority in New Delhi on 26 September 2022.

Achievements of the state

Uttar Pradesh is the best performing state in the country with 28728 Health facilities added to the **National health facility register** of the National Health Authority.

Also the state is the **second best State** in creating **Ayushman Bharat health account** (**ABHA**) with almost 2 crores Accounts.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

- The Prime Minister launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) via video conferencing on **27th September 2021.**
- It aims to provide a health ID (now called as ABHA) to every citizen that will also work as their health account, to which personal health records can be linked and viewed with the help of a mobile application.