



Hisar Airport to be Operational by April 2024 | Haryana | 23 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Maharaja Agrasen Airport in Hisar, Haryana will be open for **commercial operations from April 2024**.

Key Points

- The state government held talks with **Alliance Air** to start flights from Hisar to cities like **Chandigarh, Jaipur and Ahmedabad** and that the carrier has already obtained **necessary licences** from **DGCA (Director General of Civil Aviation)** for the operations from the airport.
- According to the sources, it will be a **greenfield airport conceived in an area over 7,000 acres** which will be implemented in three different phases. **Phase 1 was already implemented a few years ago.**
 - **Under phase 2, a runway of 10,000 feet, a terminal building with an annual capacity of 2.1 million passengers** and all the **related facilities for cargo and MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul)** of the aviation ecosystem were in place.
- In addition to the Hisar airport, the state government has **developed five airstrips** in Haryana.

Sariska Tiger Roaming in Haryana | Haryana | 23 Jan 2024

Why in News?

A male **tiger** believed to have strayed from [Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan](#) has been spotted in a village near **Masani barrage in Rewari, Haryana**.

- The tiger is identified as **ST-2302**.

Key Points

- [Forest and wildlife](#) teams from Haryana and Rajasthan are **collaboratively tracking the three-year-old tiger**.
 - While monitoring the situation, **authorities are taking precautions to prevent any untoward incidents** in case the tiger ventures into human-inhabited areas.

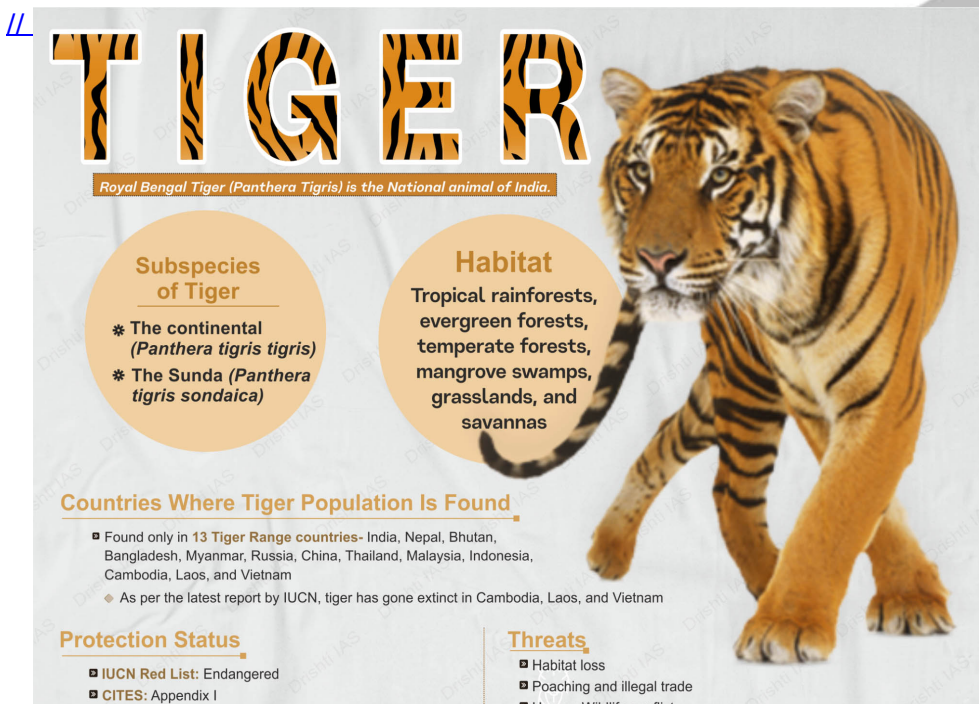
Sariska Tiger Reserve

- It is **located in Aravali hills** and forms a part of the Alwar District of Rajasthan.
- Sariska was **declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was declared the tiger reserve later in 1978**, making it a part of India's [Project Tiger](#).

- **Kankarwadi fort is located in the centre of the Reserve** and it is said that Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh at this fort in struggle for succession to the throne.

Note

- **Kalesar National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary:**
 - It is located on the Siwalik foothills. It is contiguous to Rajaji National Park (Uttarakhand) and Simbalbara National Park (Himachal Pradesh).
- **Sultanpur National Park:**
 - It is a **Ramsar Site** located 15 km from Gurugram.
 - The park is famous for migratory birds.
- **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary:**
 - It is a human-made freshwater wetland.
- **Other Wildlife Sanctuaries of Haryana:**
 - Morni Hills (Khol-Hi-Raitan) Wildlife Sanctuary & Bir Shikargarh Wildlife Sanctuary located in the Shivalik hills.
 - Chhilchhila Lake Wildlife Sanctuary (Seonthi Reserve Forest) in Kurukshetra district.
 - Khaparwas Wildlife Sanctuary in Jhajjar district.



Uttarakhand CM Initiates First Phase of Scholarship Scheme | Uttarakhand | 23 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister provided an **amount of Rs 33 lakh 52 thousand** through [Direct Benefit Transfer \(DBT\)](#) to the account of **241 students** in the **first phase of the Chief Minister's**

Higher Education Promotion Scholarship Scheme.

Key Points

- This amount was provided to the students entering their **first year of graduation** at the **university campuses and government colleges in the state.**
- The students having a **minimum of 80% of the faculty-wise merit list** prepared at the college level, **monthly scholarships of Rs 3000, 2000 and Rs 1500** will be provided to the **first, second and third** respectively.
- **Scholarships distributed** for other classes will be done **after verification on the [Samarth Portal](#)** from the concerned institute level.
- The **main objective** of starting this scheme is **to bring forward the talents of students from ordinary families.**

Chief Minister's Higher Education Promotion Scholarship Scheme

- It was **announced on 31st May 2023** by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.
- The main objective behind launching the Scheme is **to encourage students to pursue higher education** by providing them monthly financial assistance.
- Only **Graduate and Post Graduate Students are eligible** for scholarship.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

- It is an initiative **launched by the Government of India on January 1st, 2013**, with the aim of reforming the government delivery system.
- It is **designed to streamline and expedite the transfer of information and funds to beneficiaries** while also reducing fraudulent practices within the system.
- DBT **enables the direct transfer** of government subsidies, benefits, and assistance to the intended recipients, ensuring a more efficient and transparent delivery mechanism.

Uttarakhand Renames Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve | Uttarakhand | 23 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Ahead of the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ayodhya temple, the 5,800-hectare **Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve in Ramnagar forest division**, is renamed as **Sitabani Conservation Reserve.**

Key Points

- According to the officials, there is an **ancient temple dedicated to Mother Sita and the Maharishi Valmiki Ashram inside the reserve**, where she is **said to have stayed with her sons Luv and Kush after she left Ayodhya.**
 - Both the structures are being maintained by the [Archaeological Survey of India](#).

Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve (PCR)

- It is **located in the Nainital District of the hill state of Uttarakhand.** It was designated as a

Conservation Reserve in December, 2012.

- The total area of PCR is 58.25 sq. km which lies in the beautiful, vast and rich forests of Ramnagar Forest Division, Ramnagar.
- The **reserve is home to more than 33 species of mammals, 365 species of birds and more than 400 species of flora.**

Note

- In 2021, Union minister of state for forest, during his visit to [Corbett National Park](#) had written in the visitor's book that the national park's name should be changed to Ramganga National Park after **he learnt from forest officials that Corbett had different names in the past, one being Ramganga.**
 - The reserve **came into existence in 1936** and was **named Hailey National Park after the first Lieutenant Governor Governor of the United Provinces.**
 - It got notified as a reserve in December 2012.

Uttarakhand Airports Soon to be International | Uttarakhand | 23 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Chief Minister announced that the **airports in Dehradun and Pantnagar would soon attain international status.**

Key Points

- **Jolly Grant in Dehradun and Pantnagar in Udham Singh Nagar** are pivotal airports for the state.
 - Jolly Grant being the primary airport and the nearest gateway to the picturesque town of Mussoorie.
 - Pantnagar serves as the closest airport to the serene Nainital.
- This move is expected to **enhance connectivity and boost [tourism](#)**, opening up new avenues for economic growth in the state.
- In addition to this, the CM also revealed an ambitious vision for the development of a **new township near Dehradun.**
 - The **township is set to be established in Haripur**, near Kalsi in the Dehradun district, **equipped with modern facilities to cater to the needs of the residents.**
- This development aligns with the government's broader **agenda of creating sustainable urban infrastructure to support the state's growing population.**

Uttarakhand CM Releases Calendar | Uttarakhand | 23 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released **the annual calendar "Strong Leadership, Prosperous Uttarakhand"** of the Information and Public Relations Department, Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- Through this annual calendar, **major religious and tourist places, local products, natural beauty, mythological places of all 13 districts of Uttarakhand** were shown through pictures.
- **Efforts were made to attract people's attention towards** the state's tourism policy, solar energy policy, empowered women-rich state, sensitivity towards youth and the work done by the government for investment-employment-prosperity.
- The CM gave instructions the officials in a high-level meeting:
 - Continuous **efforts should be made towards** [water conservation](#) and **awareness** campaigns should also be conducted for this.
 - To make people aware of [digital transactions](#) and to run **cleanliness campaigns** regularly.
 - [Vocal for Local](#) should be promoted rapidly in the state.
 - To continuously work on **promoting tourism** more rapidly and **promoting** [natural farming](#) in the state.
 - To run **awareness campaigns** from time to time to include food and sports in their daily routine and **to stay away from** [drugs and addiction](#).

