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## Noida International Airport | Uttar Pradesh | 14 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government **announced its plans to develop the Noida International Airport** into a world-class civil aviation facility.

- Notably, the Noida International Airport at Jewar is being **developed as the country's first transit hub** with aspirations to develop it into an [Asia-Pacific](#) transit hub, **a first for India**.

### Key Points

- The state government announced that the Noida International Airport is **being developed based on the Zurich Airport model in Switzerland**, with the goal of enhancing passenger and flight handling capabilities to world-class standards.
  - The greenfield airport is being **constructed in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddha Nagar** district in western Uttar Pradesh.
  - It **will be the second international airport in the National Capital Region**, alongside Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- The **government has expedited the processes** for issuing licenses, managing operations, and appointing staff and consultants at the airport **through an e-tendering system**.
- Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) **is dedicated to developing the airport** in accordance with the standards set by the Uttar Pradesh and central governments.
  - YIAPL is entirely owned by **Zurich Airport International AG**, the Swiss firm that secured the concessionaire contract for the [public-private partnership project](#).
- Currently, **construction is ongoing for the first phase of airport development**, covering an area of over 1,300 hectares. The entire airport is planned to be developed across 5,000 hectares **in four phases**.

### Note

Electronic tender, or eTender, is the process of sending and receiving bid tenders using online procurement platforms.

- eTendering **makes a huge difference to the procurement process as it offers improved visibility**, compliance and decision-making across **source-to-pay (S2P) operations**.

### Greenfield Airports

- Airports are usually situated in urban areas, and aviation activities can **significantly impact the natural environment**, contributing to environmental degradation, particularly in urban regions.
  - To tackle this issue, **the Indian government introduced the Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy in 2008**.
  - The primary objective is to divert air traffic from existing urban airports to locations outside city centers, **reducing pollution and environmental strain**.
  - **Greenfield Airport in UP:** Kushinagar (International airport)
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## Madhya Pradesh to Table Bill to Stop Borewell Deaths | Madhya Pradesh | 14 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government is in the **process of drafting a law**, which is believed to be the **first of its kind in India**, aimed at **preventing fatalities resulting from open borewells**.

- In the last seven months, more than nine such incidents have been documented in MP.

### Key Points

- The suggested legislation **will contain specific instructions on preventing such disasters**, how to respond if one occurs, and the process for assigning accountability.
  - The bill **calls for identification of open / dry borewells and heavy penalties on those responsible for not filling** or plugging them and leaving them as an open hazard.
  - If the borewell is on private land, the land owner will be fined. If it's government land, the **department and officer concerned will be penalised**.
    - The second stage **would be registration of a criminal case in case someone falls into an open borewell**. As of now, the accused is booked for negligence. Under the new law, the **accused will be booked under [Indian Penal Code \(IPC\)](#) sections**.
  - Apart from the land owner or government official, responsibility would also be fixed on the agency that drills the borewell.
  - A system would be put in place for **citizens to inform government about open borewells so that preventive action can be taken..**
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## Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary | Uttarakhand | 14 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, four Uttarakhand forest department staffers died and four others were injured **when the team was caught up in a raging forest fire in Almora district's Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary**.

### Key Points

- Uttarakhand **has reported 1,213 [forest fire](#) incidents from November 1, 2023, to June 14, 2024**, compared to 663 incidents reported during the corresponding period in 2023.
  - **Of 1653 hectares of forest land damaged in forest fires this year**, 687 hectares have been damaged in Garhwal region, 833 hectares in Kumaon region and 132 hectares in wildlife administrative regions.
- The **Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Kumaon Himalayas** of Uttarakhand.
  - In 1988, the sanctuary was established with the aim of conserving the rich biodiversity of the region.
  - It boasts a **remarkable variety of flora due to its diverse topography and altitudinal variation**. The sanctuary is primarily covered with dense forest of oak and pine.

- The sanctuary is **also home to an impressive array of wildlife**. The sanctuary **boasts over 200 species of birds**.
    - They **include species such as** the Eurasian jay, koklass pheasant, monal pheasant, and Himalayan woodpecker.
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## Drug Trafficking | Bihar | 14 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **two alleged women smugglers were arrested with over 26 kg of cannabis** near the Tripura-Mizoram inter-state boundary.

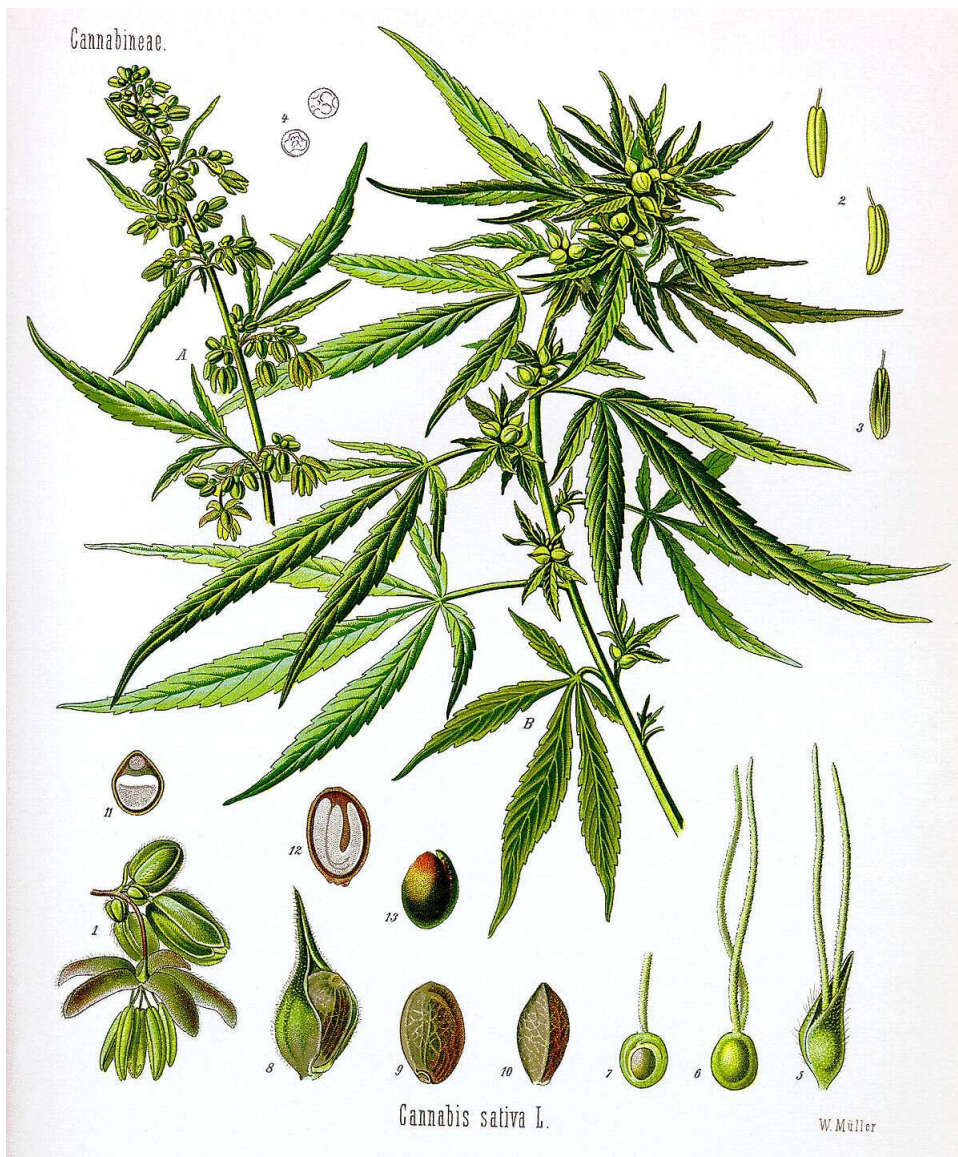
- Both women were booked under the [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances \(NDPS\) Act, 1985](#).

### Key Points

- NDPS Act, 1985 **prohibits a person from producing, possessing, selling, purchasing, transporting, storing, and/or consuming any narcotic drug** or psychotropic substance.
  - The **National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse was also created under a provision of the NDPS Act, 1985**, to meet the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the Act.
- Drug trafficking **refers to the illegal trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of illicit drugs**.
  - It **encompasses a wide range of activities** associated with the illegal drug trade, including the production of drugs such as cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and synthetic drugs, as well as the transportation and distribution of these substances.
  - Drug trafficking **operates within a complex network of criminal organisations** that span across borders, regions, and even continents.

### Cannabis

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- According to the [WHO \(World Health Organization\)](https://www.who.int/), cannabis is a generic term used to denote the several psychoactive preparations of the plant Cannabis sativa.
  - According to the WHO, cannabis is by far the **most widely cultivated, trafficked and abused illicit drug in the world**.
  - Most species of cannabis are dioecious plants that can be identified as either male or female. The unpollinated female plants are called hashish.
- The **major psychoactive constituent in cannabis is Delta9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)**.