



Gelephu Smart City Project

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Why In News?

Recently, Bhutan's King has announced plans to build a massive **"international city"** in an area of over **1,000 sq. km.** on its **[border with Assam.](#)** This project is known as the **[Gelephu Project.](#)**



What are the Key Highlights of the Gelephu Smart City Project?

- The project is expected to be an **"economic corridor connecting [South Asia](#) with [Southeast Asia](#) via [India's northeastern States](#)"**.
- The city is expected to follow **environmental standards** and **sustainability** as a **goal**, and will aim to attract **"quality investment"** from **"specially screened"** international companies.

- The project is expected to include **“zero emission”** industries, a **“mindfulness city”** that plays to **Bhutan’s strength** in tourism and wellness, as well as infrastructure companies.
- The project is expected to be a **“Special Administrative Region”** that would be run under different laws to facilitate more international investment.
- The project is expected to be a **“point of inflection”** and **“transformation”** for **Bhutan and South Asia.**
- The Government of India agrees to construct the first **India-Bhutan railway line to Gelephu.**
 - The railway will also connect with **roadways** and **border trading points** into **Assam** and **West Bengal**, eventually providing **Bhutan** access to **Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore.**

What are the Key Facts Related to Bhutan?

- **About:**
 - Bhutan is nestled between **India and Tibet**, an **autonomous region of China.**
 - and is a **landlocked country.**
 - **Thimphu** is the Capital City of Butan.
 - Bhutan became a democratic country in 2008 after the first democratic elections were held in the country. The **King of Bhutan** is the **Head of State.**
- **River:**
 - The main rivers from west to east are the Torsa (Amo), Wong (Raidak), Sankosh (Mo), and Manas. All the rivers flow southward from the Great Himalayas and join the Brahmaputra River in India.
 - The longest river in Bhutan is the **Manas River.**
 - The **Manas River** is a **transboundary river** in the Himalayan foothills between **southern Bhutan and India.**
- **Government:**
 - Constitutional monarchy.

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