



Kashi to Emerge as a Big Centre of Healthcare

Why in News?

Recently, during his visit to Varanasi, the Prime Minister **inaugurated the RJ Sankara Eye Hospital.**

- Kashi, traditionally known as a hub of religion and spirituality, **is now also emerging as a significant healthcare center.** The hospital's establishment represents a fusion of modern healthcare and spiritual heritage.

Key Points

- The newly inaugurated hospital will conduct **30,000 free eye surgeries annually for patients from economically disadvantaged backgrounds**, following a cross-subsidization model where 75% of surgeries will be free and funded through the revenue generated from paying patients who constitute 25% of the beneficiaries.
- The facility will cater to the eye care needs of elderly individuals, children, and people **from 20 districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh**, as well as residents of nearby states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.
- **Other Launched Projects:**
 - PM's visit to Varanasi included **launching several development initiatives valued at over ₹6,700 crore**, including multiple airport projects.
 - At the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, he **laid the foundation for the expansion of the runway, a new terminal building**, and associated infrastructure at an estimated cost of ₹2,870 crore.

Note

- [Kashi Vishvanath Temple](#) is **one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.**
 - Varanasi city is also **called Kashi**, and hence the temple is popularly called Kashi Vishvanath Temple.
- The temple **stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga**, and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva temples.
- The **main deity is known by the name Vishvanatha or Vishveshvara** meaning **“Ruler of The Universe”**.