



Cabinet Approves Railway Projects | Madhya Pradesh | 26 Nov 2024

Why in News?

- Recently, The [Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs](#) has approved three projects of the Ministry of Railways with a total cost of approximately Rs 7,927 crore.
- The projects include **Jalgaon-Manmad fourth line (160 km)**, **Bhusawal-Khandwa third and fourth lines (131 km)** and **Prayagraj (Iradatganj)-Manikpur third line (84 km)**.

Key Points

- The proposed multi-tracking projects **aim to ease railway operations and reduce congestion**, addressing critical infrastructural needs on the high-traffic Mumbai-Prayagraj route.
- **Project Coverage and Network Expansion:**
 - The projects span seven districts across **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh**, expanding the Indian Railways network by approximately 639 km.
 - Connectivity will be enhanced to **two aspirational districts, Khandwa and Chitrakoot, benefiting 1,319 villages and a population of around 38 lakh.**
 - These routes are **vital for transporting agricultural products, fertilizers, coal, steel, cement, and containers.**
 - Improved connectivity on the Mumbai-Prayagraj-Varanasi route will facilitate additional passenger trains, **benefiting pilgrims visiting major religious sites** such as **Nashik (Trimbakeshwar), Khandwa (Omkareshwar), Varanasi (Kashi Vishwanath), Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Gaya, and Shirdi.**
- **Tourism Promotion:**
 - The projects will boost tourism by enhancing access to prominent attractions, including **Khajuraho, Ajanta & Ellora Caves, Devgiri Fort, Asirgarh Fort, Rewa Fort, Yawal Wildlife Sanctuary, Keoti Falls, and Purwa Falls.**

Yawal Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:**
 - It is located in the **Jalgaon district of Maharashtra**, on the **banks of the Anner and Manjar rivers**, and near the border of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Size:**
 - It **covers an area of about 176 square kilometers.**
- **Protection status:**
 - It was officially recognized as a **protected area in 1969.**
- **Wildlife:**
 - It is home to a variety of wildlife, including **sambhar, leopards, wild boars, barking deer, porcupines, and serpents.**
- **Flora:**
 - It includes **ain, bamboo, dhawda, lendia, tiwas, salai, teak, sterculia, and kusum.**