



Cabinet Approves Railway Projects

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**.

