

**31– 12 – 2023**

- News: Gelephu Project
- 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.

## **Gelephu Smart City Project**

- The **Gelephu Smart City 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.