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The area earmarked for night safari is around 200 acres, near the Gautam Buddha University. Once ready, this will be India's first and the world's fourth such safari.

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Developer to be hired for night safari project

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GREATERNOIDA: The Uttar Pradesh government has asked the Greater Noida authority to select a developer for the proposed mega recreational project that includes a night safari, which will be the first of its kind in the country.

On January 9 this year, the state government's industrial and infrastructure development department had discussed the project with Greater Noida authority chief executive officer Narendra Bhooshan in Lucknow. Now, the Greater Noida authority has been told to discuss this project with interested developers and prepare a detailed plan.

"The government is of the view that there should be a tentative plan as to what kind of recreational project can be developed on the land earmarked for it long time back. As per the state government orders, we will ask developers to give presentations on their concept about a recreational project that can be developed," Bhooshan said.

The government wants that the recreational project should be first discussed with the developers. And then it will decide what kind of project is economically viable and suitable for this city, officials said.

The recreational project, which will also have an entertainment theme park like Disneyland, is proposed to spread over 250 acres of land located near

India's first such project

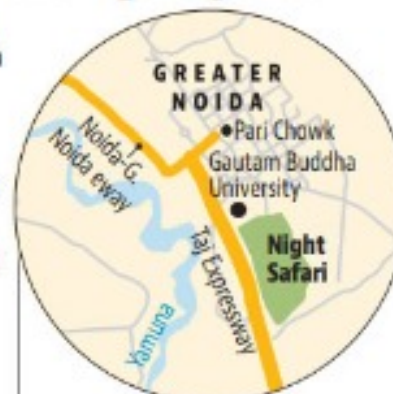
The entire project will be built over 250 acres near Gautam Buddha University along the Yamuna Expressway

Will have a theme entertainment park, modelled on the lines of Disneyland in the US

The project was first mooted in 2005 by then chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav

In 2005, renowned zoologist and natural planner Bernard Harrison's Singapore-based firm, Bernard Harrison & Company, had prepared the plan. Harrison was instrumental in setting up night safaris in Singapore and China

During the Bahujan Samaj Party regime (2007 to 2012), the project remained shelved. Between 2012 and 2017, the state government kept issuing tenders but no developer came forward



to develop it

The Greater Noida authority had sanctioned ₹700 crore for the night safari in 2012. But the project was stalled in 2017 owing to a cash crunch

Now, the Yogi Adityanath government wants to develop it as it will boost local economy, officials said.

Gautam Buddha University along the Yamuna Expressway, the officials said. The area for night safari will be around 200 acres. It is going to be India's first and the world's fourth such site.

Instead of issuing tenders to hire a developer, the authority now wants to first discuss this project with the developers, who have expertise in recreational projects. "We want to focus on recreational project plan because this is important. Night safari will be one of its components because it has many recreational activities, where visitors can use

these facilities. We will soon start discussions with the developers having expertise in such projects," Bhooshan said.

In 2005, the then Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav had envisioned the recreational project, but it could not be developed so far due to fund crisis. The Greater Noida authority had sanctioned ₹700 crore for night safari in 2012. But the project was stalled in 2017 citing fund crisis. Now, the Yogi Adityanath government wants to develop it as it will boost local economy, said the officials.