

Karnataka's first exclusive park for specially-abled children

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In news— Governor of Karnataka has recently inaugurated the State's **first disabled-friendly park in Jawaharlal Bal Bhavan (JBB), Cubbon Park, Bangalore**

About the park-

- It has been **built** for children with disabilities **by Mindtree and Bal Bhavan Society**.
- Built at a cost of ₹3 crore under the guidance of health and child development experts, the park **provides a safe, inclusive, and physiotherapeutic place where children with multiple forms of special abilities can play** uninhibited by their mobility aids or the risk of accidents.
- **Designed in the shape of a turtle**, the park consists of different zones for a wide range of physical, mental, therapeutic, and touch and feel activities.
- The park **has a specially designed sand table for children on wheelchairs and a special swing**.
- **Tactile pathways make it easier for visually-challenged children** to navigate their way around the park.
- To mitigate injuries from falls, all playing surfaces are made of a synthetic, non-toxic, and **skid-proof rubber called EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer)**.

India's first sensory park-

- Odisha's Bhubaneswar got **India's first sensory park for differently-abled persons of all age groups** in the Sahidnagar area.
- It is said to be the **first of its kind in India under**

the Smart City Project.

- **Developed by Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL)** at an investment of around Rs 1 crore, the park offers facilities like insulated pathways, playing equipment for children, an open-air gym, and other child-friendly services that comply with the universal access guideline.
- This initiative will benefit physically challenged children especially those with hearing and vision impairment