

12-09-2022

India's First 'Night Sky Sanctuary'

Why in Newspapers?

The Department of Science and Technology of the Central Government is going to launch a new scheme to build India's first Night Sky Sanctuary in Ladakh. The project will be completed in the next three months.

Quick Issue?

- The proposed sanctuary will be built at Hanle in Ladakh and will be part of Chungthang Sanctuary. A tripartite agreement has been signed with the Ladakh Administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics for the Night Sky vacation.

Other Key Facts?

Central Leather Research Institute

- The central government is also planning to set up a regional branch of the Central Leather Research Institute in Ladakh, headquartered in Chennai. The government believes that the rich biodiversity of Ladakh can contribute to leather research including the famous Pashmina goats.

Historical Background?

- Night Sky Sanctuary is such protected areas, which are kept away from artificial light pollution. Actually, just as noise pollution, air pollution and water pollution are happening, in the same way light pollution is also a problem.
- There is a need to protect the nocturnal from unwanted light pollution and illumination posing serious threat to scientific observation and natural celestial condition, that is why such unique measures are being taken.
- After the establishment of the countries first such sanctuary, all the stakeholders will work together towards the protection of Nishakash.
- Talking about its benefits, such activities will benefit the economy from local tourism and studies in the field of science and technology. Since this region of Ladakh is one of the highest places in the world.
- In such a situation, there will be a thrill in seeing the constellations with optical, infrared and gamma binoculars in these areas, that is, it will increase astronomical tourism in India.
- Henley in Ladakh is the most suitable location for this project, as it is located in the cold desert region of Ladakh with clear skies and dry weather conditions throughout the year and without human disturbance.
- Apart from this, after the formation of this sanctuary, tourist traffic will increase here, which will also benefit the local economy.



Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. With reference to cyber-attacks, consider the following statements:

1. A botnet attack is a large-scale cyber-attack carried out by malware infected devices that are controlled remotely.
2. In a man-in-the-middle attack, the attacker secretly intercepts and relays messages between two parties that believe they are communicating directly with each other.
3. In distributed denial-of-service (DDoS), the attacker floods a server with Internet traffic to prevent users from accessing connected online services and sites.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 | (b) 1 and 3 |
| (c) 2 and 3 | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Answer—(d) 1, 2 and 3

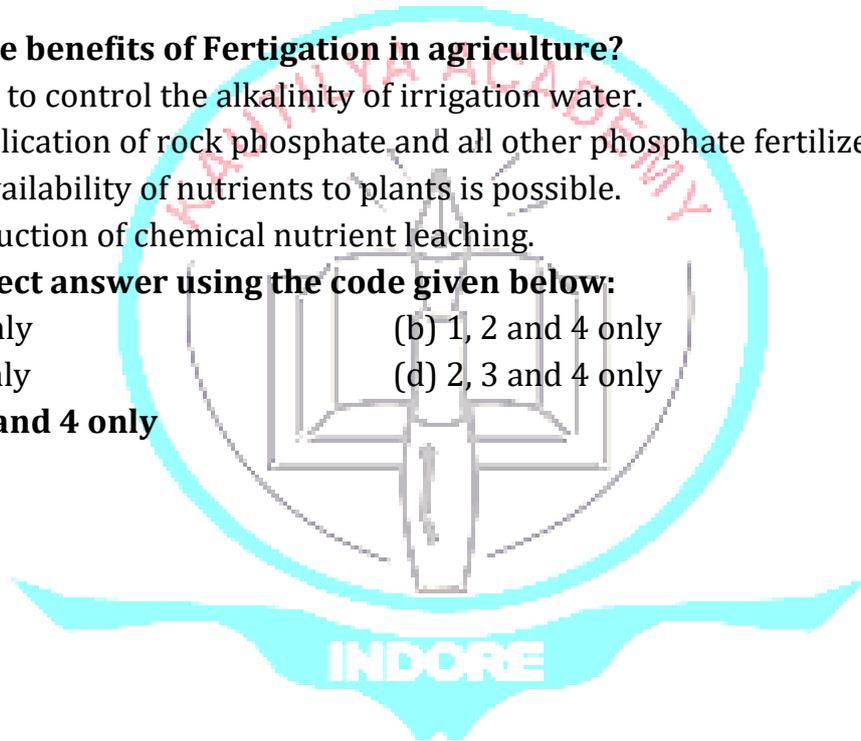
Que. What are the benefits of Fertigation in agriculture?

1. It is possible to control the alkalinity of irrigation water.
2. Efficient application of rock phosphate and all other phosphate fertilizers is possible.
3. Increased availability of nutrients to plants is possible.
4. Possible reduction of chemical nutrient leaching.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 1, 2 and 3 only | (b) 1, 2 and 4 only |
| (c) 1, 3 and 4 only | (d) 2, 3 and 4 only |

Answer—(c) 1, 3 and 4 only



Prime Minister TB Free India Campaign

Why in Newspapers?

Recently, the President launched the Prime Minister's TB Free India Campaign to accelerate the country's fight against Tuberculosis (TB) and achieve the goal set by the Prime Minister to eliminate the disease by the year 2025.

Quick Issue?

- TB or Tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium called 'Mycobacterium tuberculosis'.
- It usually affects the lungs, but can affect other parts of the body as well. It is a treatable and curable disease.
- A total of 1.5 million people died of TB in the year 2020 and an estimated 10 million people became ill with tuberculosis (TB) worldwide.
- India has the world's highest burden of tuberculosis, with an estimated 26 lakh people suffering from the disease and about 4 lakh people dying from the disease each year.

Historical Background?

- **Transmission:** TB disease spreads from person to person through the air. When someone with 'pulmonary TB' coughs, sneezes or spits, they spread the TB germs into the air.
- **Symptoms:** Common symptoms of 'Pulmonary TB' include coughing up mucus, sometimes coughing up blood and chest pain, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.
- **Vaccine:** Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) is a vaccine for TB disease.
- **Major challenges to control TB in India** include poor primary health care infrastructure in rural areas of many states.
- **Widespread irrational use of first-line and second-line anti-TB drugs** due to unregulated private healthcare.
- **Poverty:-**Lack of political will and in addition, corrupt administration.

Other Key Facts?

India's Efforts

- India's National TB Eradication Program has been set to end the TB epidemic in the country by the year 2025, five years ahead of the 2030 period set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis Elimination (Years 2017-2025), NIKSHA Ecosystem (National TB Information System), Nikshay Poshan Yojana – Financial Assistance, TB Harega Desh Jeetega Abhiyan** etc.
- Currently two vaccines for TB have been developed and identified Vaccine Project Management (VPM) 1002 and Mycobacterium indicus pranii which are undergoing Phase III of clinical trials.
- **Nikshay Poshan Yojana:** It provides assistance of Rs.500 to the patients through Direct Benefit Transfer.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission:** The government has also focused on using technology and creating digital health identity cards for TB patients under Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment.



- Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan:- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to accelerate the country's progress towards eradicating TB by the year 2025.
- Providing additional patient support to improve treatment outcomes for TB patients.
- Increase community participation in meeting India's commitment to end TB by 2025.
- Taking advantage of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.
- Nikshay Mitra Initiative: It ensures additional diagnosis, nutrition and professional support for TB treatment
- Nikshay Mitras (Donors) assist at the Block/Urban Wards/Districts/State level for health facilities (for individual donors), to accelerate response against TB to complement government efforts.
- Nikshay Digital Portal: It will provide a platform for community support for persons suffering from TB.
- Global Effort: The World Health Organization (WHO) has collaborated with the Global Fund and Stop TB Partnership for a "Find. Treat. All. #EndTB" joint initiative has been launched. WHO also releases the Global Tuberculosis Report.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. The mission 'Indradhanush' launched by the Government of India is related to?

- (a) Vaccination of children and pregnant women
- (b) Building smart cities across the country
- (c) India's discovery in the context of Earth-like planets in outer space
- (d) New Education Policy

Answer: (a) Vaccination of children and pregnant women

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