

UPSC

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Only write question number in this margin

1. Astro tourism is growing rapidly in India. With respect to Dark Sky Reserve in Ladakh discuss the prospects of Astro tourism.

Astro tourism as name suggest ~~Astro tourism~~

Astronomy + tourism → Star gazing in free unpolluted light free area.

Dark Sky Reserve

Components



- High altitude
- cloud free sky
- NO light pollution

Ladakh - Hankle - meets all these requirements

Hence Ladakh government + IIA + Scientific ministries

are making ground work to list it as reserve

ie. International Dark Sky Reserve by US non-profit

International Dark Sky association.

Prospects of Astro-tourism

1. Light pollution free - high altitude area.

2. Hankle already a wild life sanctuary.

Incorporating tourism will boost Astro tourism.

इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।
Only write question number in this margin

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नही लिखना चाहिए।
Candidates must not write on this margin.

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3. Other areas in India

- i) Benital village of uttarakhand chamoli - 1st Astro-village in India
- ii) Astro peaks in Manda, [M.P] and Jaipur, Raj.

Challenges

- 1. Ladakh - new UT - GoE - to promote economic opportunities. , promised - 2yrs of electricity.
↓
But Improve homestays
- 2. Indian Army border Infrastructure - Lighting may seep into the observatory
- 3. currently electricity only from Solar diesel. - only between 7 - 11pm. Need of community support over lighting issues

Measures

- 1. Local community is being taught with elementary astrophysics to guide astro tourism.
- 2. Local government + IISA talk on Constellation.

Positive (Way forward)

Local community - happy to conspire on electricity. But Immediate issue is lighting from Army Infrastructure. Need of Innovative ways to Prevent light seepage