



Proposal to Change Location of TMT

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Why in News

India, a partner in the construction of **Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)**, has requested that the project be moved out of the proposed site at **Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano in Hawaii, USA.**

Key Points

- **India's Proposal for Changing the Location:**
 - The TMT has been a litigious site since 2014. The project has not made any progress because of regular obstructions.
 - The proposed site is **considered sacred to indigenous Hawaiians**, and already has too many observatories in the region.
- **Alternate Site:**

The proposed alternate site to locate the telescope is the **Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos (ORM)** on La Palma in the **Canary Islands, Spain.**
- **Reasons for Choosing Mauna Kea Initially:**
 - Mauna Kea in Hawaii is considered a **superior site for telescope establishment** because it offers best imaging possibilities, stable weather.
 - Additionally, it also has the necessary infrastructure to manage telescopes as it already hosts several telescopes.
- **India's Role in TMT:**
 - India has committed \$200 million, which is about a tenth of the proposed cost.
 - The telescope needs 492 precisely polished mirrors and India is to contribute 83 of them.
 - India, in 2020 stands to get 10% of the available slots. As the level of contribution determines the amount of viewing time, or slots, that the member-countries' scientists get on the machine.

Thirty Metre Telescope

- The Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) will enable scientists to study fainter objects in the universe, which gives information about early stages of evolution of the universe.
- It will also allow to see deeper into space and observe cosmic objects with unprecedented sensitivity.
- With its 30 m prime mirror diameter, TMT will be three times as wide, with nine times more area than the largest currently existing visible-light telescope in the world.
- The Thirty Metre Telescope is a joint venture (JV) involving following countries namely, USA, Japan, China, India and Canada.

Source:TH