



Liquid Mirror Telescope

Why in News

- Recently, Dipankar Banerjee, scientist of **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (AIRES)**, told that soon Asia's largest Liquid Mirror Telescope, also known as **Devasthali Optical Telescope (DOT)** will be at Devasthal near Nainital in Uttarakhand. , will be installed.

Key Points

- Dipankar Banerjee said that the telescope could have been installed earlier, but it got delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the state. He said that the construction work of the telescope has been completed and it will be installed and inaugurated soon.
- A liquid mirror telescope coated with mercury is much cheaper than a normal telescope and can only see objects in space that come into its view, as it cannot be moved in different directions.
- It will be used to study celestial bodies such as stars, space debris and satellites that will pass through its focus.
- Currently, the largest such telescope in Asia has a diameter of 3.6 meters, while the telescope will measure four meters in diameter, making it the third largest telescope in the world after installation.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Belgian counterpart Charles Michel launched the telescope in March 2016. It has been built with the joint collaboration of Canada and Belgium at a cost of Rs 10 crore.