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January 14, 2020.

Topic: Health and Sanitation.

News:- Muktsar adopts robots to clean the manholes.

- Muktsar has become the first district in the state to adopt the Robotic Technology for sanitation.
- It would be utilised for cleaning manhole and septic tanks.
- The water supply and sanitation department of the state has purchased the robot from A Kerala based company for ₹ 90 lakh.
- The company would also provide 5-year maintenance and training to the local staff for 6 months.
- Big machines cannot enter the narrow streets and lanes to clean the manholes.
- Also, due to poisonous gases and unhygienic conditions, many persons have lost lives while cleaning the sewers.

The Robot has several advantages:-

1. It possesses Cameras.
2. Robotic arm with 360° mobility.
3. A small bucket to collect the waste.
4. An operator is also there to navigate.

(Source: The Tribune)

Topic: Agricultural pests management.

News:- Locusts attack mustard and black gram crops in Rajasthan near Punjab border.

- In Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan, Swarms of locusts have attacked the fields.
- Around 1600 hectares have got affected.
- Various traditional and other ways were also adopted by the farmers and the administration to deal with this problem:
 - The beating of utensils by the farmers.
 - Spreading smoke to drive off the locusts.

The Administration resorted to:-

- Spraying Malathion and other Organophosphates to eliminate the worms.
- It has also been said that a swarm of locusts has come

from across the border.

The things to note here are:-


- Locusts attack is witnessed during summers (June to July) and rainy season.
- This attack of locusts has been unprecedented.
- Last major locusts attack took place in Rajasthan in 1983.
- The Agricultural department and The Universities should come up with an action plan and organic pesticides to deal with such menaces.

(Source: The Tribune)

Please visit Regular Quiz Section for Current affairs questions.


Punjab PCS ---> See Last (Regular Quiz)

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