

Astro tourism is growing rapidly in India with respect to dark sky reserve in Ladakh. Under the prospects of Astro tourism.

Dept of Science & Tech announced setting up of India's first dark sky reserve at Hanle in Ladakh.

Dark sky reserve refers to a place that has policies in place to ensure that a tract of land or region has minimal artificial light interference.

International dark sky association, us based non profit organisation designates places as international dark sky places.

Astro tourism growth in India:

- 1) to promote astrotourism, village around Hanle will be encouraged to promote homestays equipped with telescopes that visitors can use to view the night sky.
- 2) villagers & residents will also be trained to help visitors with astronomical observation.
- 3) Binal village in Chamoli dist of Uttarakhand is turned into an astro village.
- 4) Astro park is in the woods in Mandla MP and in Paipuri. The state dept of art & culture

4) The Ladakh administration, in association with Indian Institute of Astrophysics plans to promote astro tourism in Hanle tourism

5) StarScapes is also expanding its footprint by setting up observatories in Jaipur, Coorg & Ooty.

So far StarScapes has had more than 40,000 tickets have been purchased by people!

prospects of Astro tourism in Ladakh:

1) Ladakh is a cold desert with sparse population and with cloudless clear skies and low atmospheric water vapour make it one of the best sites in the world for optical, infrared wavelengths.

2) MOU for setting up dark reserve by union territory administration - Ladakh autonomous hill development council, IIT and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics uses & maintains telescopes for launching the dark space reserves.

Conclusion:

With the help of astro tourism it will help in boosting local tourism and the economy through science & technology. Hence more investment must be done in this area.