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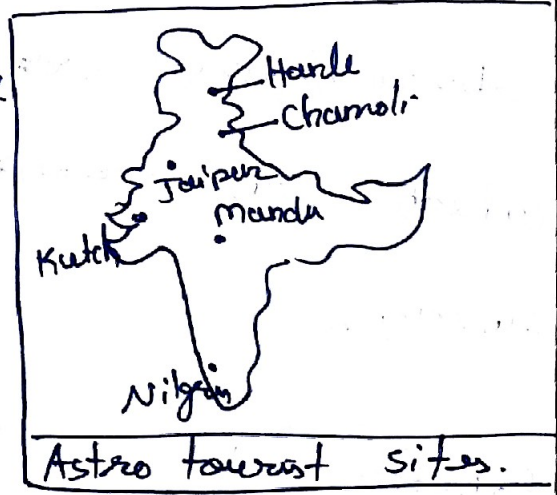
Astro Tourism is growing rapidly in India. Wrt Dark sky reserve in Ladakh discuss the prospects of astro tourism.

Astro tourism is the culmination of astronomy and tourism. It is the activity to encourage people involving in stargazing. It has mythical of benefits for science, economy and people at large.

Astro tourism's boom

The observatories are the main focal point. They are located in regions of clear skies with minimum light pollution.

The ~~near~~ Barital village in Chameli district in Uttara Khand is developed as astro tourist villages.



startups such as stargazing are collaborating with home stays to encourage people to look at the stars.

## Ladakh's Dark Sky Reserve

The Hanle observatory is fit to get the dark sky reserve tag for elite observatory sign. The thin air, cold temperatures are ideal for telescopes at Hanle.

The astro tourism can form as Nature Based tourism of Ministry of Tourism. The Astronomy of Phyang monastary hosted more than 400 tourists to gaze the stars.

The dark sky reserve tag for observatories can route funding to them which can create forward and backward linkages.

## Benefits

The Dezho Alpha-Desh program supports astro tourism. The Global Himalayan Expedition facilitates solar energy projects

to the villagers. The proceeds from the tourism can be used to build infrastructure and build solar water heaters.

The astronomers from the IIA - Indian Institute of Astrophysics are set to train locals and homestay owners, regarding basic astronomy. This can utilize the scientific attraction to the community at large.

The dark-sky reserve can be developed in tandem with the vibrant village program which aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of the border dwelling people.

Challenge The high altitude can cause mountain sickness and the waste generation can increase due to abundant tourism.

with the tourism rising and number  
of tourists entering Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh  
more than 1 lakh, the states tourism holds  
high hopes.