



Conference on Astro-Tourism and Astro-Entrepreneurship in India

Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru
11-12 March 2024

DAY 1: 11 March 2024, Monday

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Session 1: Introduction and Welcome (Chair: Niruj Mohan Ramanujam)	
9:30 - 9:35 AM	Welcome Remarks	Annapurni Subramaniam Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics
9:35 - 9:40 AM	Opening Remarks	Eswar Reddy Dean, Indian Institute of Astrophysics
9:40 - 9:45 AM	Introduction to the Conference	Niruj Mohan Ramanujam Indian Institute of Astrophysics
9:45 - 9:50 AM	Hanle Dark Sky Reserve - a message	Pawan Kotwal Advisor, Govt. of UT Ladakh
9:50 - 10:00 AM	Astro-tourism and UN SDGs	Kevin Govender IAU Office of Astronomy for Development, South Africa
10:00 - 10:05 AM	Conference announcements	Local Organising Committee
10:05 AM - 10:25 AM	Tea Break (Auditorium Lounge)	
10:25 AM - 12:10 PM	Session 2: Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (Chair: D.K. Sahu)	
10:25 - 10:40 AM	Hanle Dark sky Reserve - a brief history and looking into the future	Dorje Angchuk Indian Institute of Astrophysics
10:40 - 10:55 AM	Importance of dark skies in the operation of the MACE Telescope in Hanle	Stanzin Norlha Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
10:55 - 11:10 AM	Unique Images from HDSR	Ajay Talwar Aperture Telescopes
11:10 - 11:25 AM	The HDSR Astro-Ambassador program	Rangdol Dorje, Padma Ishey, and Stanzin Norbu HDSR Astro-Ambassadors, Hanle
11:25 - 11:40 AM	"We don't know anything but...": Remembering the land and the sky with the elders of Hanle	Anmol Tikoo, with Padma Ishey Independent researcher
11:40 - 11:55 PM	An Octogenarian Amateur Astronomer's Experience of Hanle Dark Sky Reserve	S.N. Prasad (online) Regional Institute of Education (Retd.)
11:55 - 12:10 PM	Lessons from HDSR, a science driven development program	Niruj Mohan Ramanujam Indian Institute of Astrophysics
12:10 PM - 12:55 PM	Session 3: Astro-tourism initiatives across India (Chair : B.S. Shylaja)	
12:10 - 12:25 PM	India's First Dark Sky Park at Sillari Pench: Preserving Celestial Beauty, Wildlife, and Catalyzing Economic Growth	Abhishek Pawse Pench Tiger Reserve
12:25 - 12:40 PM	Astrostays: a community centric astro-tourism model	Sonal Asgotra Astrostays
12:40 - 12:55 PM	Stargazing India pioneering Astro-tourism since 2006	Het Ahir (online) Stargazing India
12:55 - 1:00 PM	Group Photo (Building entrance)	
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Lunch Break and Poster Viewing (ICNAPP Lounge)	
02:00 PM - 03:15 PM	Session 3 (contd.) : Astro-tourism initiatives across India (Chair: Sonal Asgotra)	
2:00 - 2:15 PM	Unveiling the Cosmos: Astro Tourism Initiatives by Starscapes Experiences Pvt Ltd	Amitabh Pandey Starscapes Experiences Pvt Ltd
2:15 - 2:30 PM	Fostering Astrotourism-Based Livelihood in Rural Uttarakhand: An Initiative by Students-led PUNARVASHU	Aasheesh Raturi (online) Dolphin PG College of Life Sciences
2:30 - 2:45 PM	From Light Trespass to Dark Skies: A policy blueprint for light pollution mitigation	Sundar M.N. Jain(Deemed-to-be University)
2:45 - 3:00 PM	The Potential of Astro-tourism and Astro-entrepreneurship in Tamil Nadu	Kisore Ganesan Pondicherry University
3:00 - 3:15 PM	Astro-tourism support from governments	Rajendran S.P. International Amateur Wireless Station Operators Society
03:15 PM - 04:05 PM	Session 4: Government Initiatives and Support for Astro-Tourism (Chair: Dorje Angchuk)	
3:15 - 3:25 PM	Astro-tourism strategies and plans of UT Ladakh administration	Dhawan Rawat Wildlife Warden, UT Ladakh

3:25 - 3:35 PM	Astro-tourism strategies of UT Lakshadweep administration	To be confirmed (online) DST, UT Lakshadweep
3:35 - 3:50 PM	Astro-tourism strategies and plans of Himachal Pradesh	Suresh C. Attri & Hum Chand (online) Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology, & Environment; Central University of Himachal Pradesh
3:50 - 4:00 PM	Astro-tourism strategies and plans of Uttarakhand	Sunil Pant (online) Tourism Development Board, Govt of Uttarakhand
4:00 - 4:05 PM	Astro-tourism skills course in collaboration with IIA and University of Ladakh	Sunita Badhwar (online) National Skills Development Corporation
04:05 PM - 04:30 PM	Tea Break (Auditorium Lounge)	
4:30 AM - 4:50 AM	Session 5: International Perspectives on Astro-tourism (Chair: Dorje Angchuk)	
4:30 - 4:50 AM	Starlight Foundation and the promotion of astro-tourism	Antonia Varela Pérez (online) Insitituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Spain
04:50 PM - 06:00 PM	Session 6: Open Discussion on Astro-Tourism in India Moderators: Dorje Angchuk & Niruj Mohan Ramanujam Talking points: Sonal Asgotra, Abhishek Pawse, Amitabh Pandey	
DAY 2: 12 March 2024, Tuesday		
10:00 AM - 10:25 AM	Session 5 (contd.) : International Perspectives on Astro-tourism (Chair: Sarang Shah)	
10:00 - 10:25 AM	The Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve in New Zealand and key factors for a successful astrotourism venture.	John Hearnshaw (online) University of Canterbury, New Zealand
10:25 AM - 10:45 AM	Tea Break (Auditorium Lounge)	
10:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Session 7: Astro-Entrepreneurship Initiatives in India (Chair: Abhishek Pawse)	
10:45 - 11:00 AM	My experience as Astro entrepreneur and the future of astronomy related entrepreneurship in India	Atish Aman Cosmic Trails
11:00 - 11:15 AM	Astro camps at tourist places	Rashmi Sheoran (online) IIT Gandhinagar
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Astronomical and thematic study tours in India: a spotlight on JVP programs	Atharva Pathak Jyotirvdyia Parisanstha
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Contribution of Amateur Astronomers Association of Vadodara in popularizing Astronomy	Atman Desai (online) Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
11:45 - 12:00 PM	Opportunities for Astronomy popularisation and Entrepreneur in India	Mahesh M.B. Independent Science Communicator
12:00 - 12:15 PM	Sky Photo Trip	Ajay Talwar Aperture Telescopes
12:15 - 12:30 PM	Devising Community-driven Astro-tourism Programs: A Case Study from the Bangalore Astronomical Society	Keerthi Kiran and Naveen Nanjundappa Bangalore Astronomical Society
12:30 - 12:45 PM	Large scale public outreach efforts and astro-entrepreneurship	T.V. Venkateswaran (online) IISER Mohali
12:45 PM - 01:15 PM	Viewing of Posters & Displays by Participants (ICNAPP Lounge)	
01:15 PM - 02:20 PM	Lunch Break (ICNAPP Lounge)	
02:20 PM - 03:00 PM	Session 5 (contd.) : International Perspectives on Astro-tourism (Chair: Ravinder Banyal)	
2:20 - 2:40 PM	International Dark Sky Association and the promotion of dark sky reserves	Dan Oakley (online) International Dark Sky Association & Darkscape Consulting
2:40 - 3:00 PM	Astro-tourism: a Flagship Project of IAU OAD	Joyful Mhduli & Samyukta M.N. (online) IAU Office of Astronomy for Development, South Africa
03:00 PM - 03:30 PM	Poster presentation session (audio recording; 2 mins per poster; Auditorium)	
03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Session 8: Open Discussion on Astro-Entrepreneurship Moderators: Ravinder Banyal & Niruj Ramanujam Talking points: Ajay Talwar, Rashmi Sheoran, T.V. Venkateswaran, Geeta Mahashabde	

04:30 PM - 04:45 PM	Closing Session
04:45 PM - 06:00 PM	HIGH TEA (ICNAPP Lounge)