

Hanle Dark Sky Reserve

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Hanle Dark Sky Reserve Latest News

Recently, a rare blood-red auroral activity was captured by the all-sky camera at the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Ladakh's Hanle Dark Sky Reserve.

About Hanle Dark Sky Reserve

- **Location:** It is located at 4,500 metres altitude, in the remote **Changthang region of Ladakh**.
- It is part of the **Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary**, offering **Bortle-1 dark skies** (the darkest category).
- It was notified in December 2022 by the Government of Ladakh.
- It is **India's first International Dark Sky Reserve**, centred around the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle.
- It is managed by the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology
- The reserve aims to **curb light pollution** and promote astro-tourism benefiting local communities.
- The reserve is a science-driven socio-economic development project, built on two pillars:

- Curtailing light pollution in the region
- **Promoting astro-tourism** for local livelihood generation
- The UT Ladakh administration supports the project by **funding astro-tourism initiatives** and light management plans.
- **Significance of Hanle:** Hanle's **pristine dark skies** and **transparent atmosphere** allow observing and photographing faint celestial objects that are often impossible from other locations in India.

Source: ET

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/hanle-dark-sky-reserve/>

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