

World's largest solar telescope at Pangong Tso Lake



Chief Secretary, Madhav Lal addressing a meeting to discuss the modalities for setting up solar telescope in Jammu on Friday.

GJ REPORT

JAMMU, JAN 6: Chief Secretary, Madhav Lal today said that the state government will extend full cooperation to the Department of Science and technology GOI in its endeavour to set up India's National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) at Pangong Tso Lake Merak in Ladakh region. He said that the facility will also provide employment opportunities to the local population in the area.

Chairing a meeting here today to

discuss the modalities for setting up the solar telescope Chief Secretary called for following strategies which will ensure that the construction, as well as operational phases of the project can be undertaken with minimal disturbance to the local flora and fauna.

Giving details of the project, Prof Tushar P Prabhu from Indian Institute of Astrophysics Department of Science and Technology (Government of India) said that the site was selected

after carefully studying various scientific and environmental aspects. It emerged from the studies that the Pangong lake site at Merak was very promising and offered longer sunshine hours.

He said that the site selected for setting up the of world's largest solar telescope fitted with a 2 meter reflector will permit scientists to carry out cutting edge research to understand the fundamental processes taking place on the Sun. The solar telescope will help the scientific community to study the long term changes in Earth's climate and environment and also provide useful data to carry out research in order to minimize or remove disruptions to communications network and satellites due to periodic solar winds

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary Forest Shantmanu, Kuldeep Chandar Consultant Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Pankaj Chandan from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India, AK Singh Chief Wild Life Warden Jammu and Kashmir, Lal Chand Chairman Pollution Control Board.