



India's Dark Sky Policy and Sustainability Symposium 2025.

Date : 01/03/2025

Hosted : Virtually (Youtube live and Zoom meeting)

Organizer: AstronEra (astronera.org)

1. Introduction:

AstronEra - a pioneering organization dedicated to popularizing astronomy, aims to make the wonders of the universe accessible to all. It also focuses on local socio economic development to earn sustainable livelihoods through astronomy while advocating for dark sky conservation.

The night sky is not just a source of wonder and scientific exploration—it is a crucial part of our natural environment, cultural heritage, and human well-being. However, light pollution is rapidly erasing the stars, impacting wildlife, disrupting ecosystems, affecting human health, and hindering astronomical research.

Recognizing the urgent need to address light pollution and the gap between awareness and policy frameworks to preserve dark skies in India, AstronEra took the initiative to drive meaningful change through impactful projects and collaborations.

One such initiative was the *AstroTribe project*, which empowered tribal students by teaching them the concepts in astronomy and providing them hands-on training to become astro-guides. The project aimed to not only support their socio-economic development through astrotourism but also help preserve their rich cultural heritage and reduce superstitions.

Building on this momentum, AstronEra hosted the International [Dark Sky Preservation & Astrotourism Conference](#) in November 2023—a landmark event that brought together enthusiasts, experts, and policymakers to initiate crucial discussions on protecting India's night skies.



INDIA'S DARK SKY POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM 2025

Taking this mission forward with the *Virtual Symposium, 'India Dark Sky Policy & Sustainability 2025'* AstronEra aimed to bridge the gap between awareness and policy frameworks for *preserving dark skies in India, with a focus on Maharashtra*. This symposium brought together policymakers, bureaucrats, and leaders from international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector and marked the beginning of a structured movement towards a national dark sky policy, addressing light pollution and its impact on astronomy, ecosystems, human health, and sustainable tourism.

2. Objectives :

It is crucial to take proactive steps toward awareness, policy development, and resource efficiency. Our initiative is centered around the following three key objectives:

1. **Raising Awareness** – Educating people about the *adverse effects of light pollution, including its impact on biodiversity, human well-being, and astronomical research*. By fostering a deeper understanding, we aim to inspire individuals and communities to take action in preserving dark skies.
2. **Encouraging Policy Discussions** – Initiating and facilitating *conversations on policy frameworks* that address light pollution mitigation, sustainable urban planning, and the establishment of *dark sky reserves*. Engaging with *researchers, policymakers, and local communities* is essential to drive effective, long-term solutions.
3. **Highlighting Energy and Cost Wastage** – Demonstrating how excessive and inefficient lighting contributes to *significant energy loss and financial burden*. Through data-driven insights, we advocate for *sustainable lighting solutions* that not only reduce light pollution but also promote *energy efficiency and cost savings*.

3. Agenda:

1. Welcome Address
2. Inauguration by Shweta Kulkarni
3. Session 1: Dan Oakley Director, Darkscape Consulting – Understanding the impacts of light pollution and global efforts to preserve dark skies.



- 4.Session 2:Yana Yakushina Policy analyst, and Advocate – Growing trends on Regulating Light Pollution.
- 5.Session 3:Nalayini Brito-Davies President, Dark Sky International – Exploring dark sky policies and lessons from New Zealand's adaptation.
- 6.Panel Discussion & Q&A – An interactive session with all our esteemed speakers.
- 7.Closing Session and vote of thanks .

4.Symposium :

4.1 Director's Address : A Call to Action for Sustainable Development and Dark Sky Conservation

Speaker 1 : Shweta Kulkarni is a passionate science communicator and astropreneur dedicated to making astronomy accessible in India. She has led nationally and internationally funded projects like *Astro Tribe*, *Dark Sky Preservation*, and the *Astrotourism Conference*, driving awareness and action in these critical areas.

Her pioneering efforts in dark sky advocacy earned her the ***Dark Sky Defender Award 2024 from DarkSky International***. Committed to bridging science and society, Shweta continues to shape the future of astronomy outreach and sustainable astrotourism.



Shweta, Founder and Director of AstronEra, emphasized that the session was not solely about astronomy but rather a broader conversation on strategic sustainable development and energy efficiency, both of

which directly impact India's economy and quality of life. She underscored the importance of expert insights, which could empower attendees to shape policies that deliver both environmental and fiscal benefits.

Highlighting the Economic and Environmental Cost of Light Pollution



She explained that light pollution—the excessive, misdirected, and inefficient use of artificial light—extends far beyond obscuring the stars. It disrupts ecosystems, wastes energy, and negatively affects public health. She cited staggering statistics, stating that globally, ***inefficient lighting results in a financial waste of nearly forty trillion rupees every year***. To put this into perspective, this amount could power India for two months, fund the national education budget for over two years, or provide free electricity to every rural household for five years. These figures, she noted, were not meant to advocate for turning off all lights, but rather to highlight the urgent need for adopting smarter lighting solutions.

She also stressed that development should not be equated with excessive, ornamental lighting. Instead, smart lighting solutions could reduce energy consumption by up to 30% while simultaneously preserving the night sky and fostering economic growth.

Drawing from her personal experiences, She recounted her visit to Exmoor National Park in the UK, an international dark sky reserve, at the age of sixteen. Describing the awe and wonder on the faces of international students as they witnessed a sky bursting with countless stars, a sight that stood in stark contrast to the increasingly light-polluted night skies she had once enjoyed in India.

She further reflected on her time at Lake Tekapo in New Zealand, within the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, where she observed firsthand how astro-tourism combined with smart conservation practices can drive sustainable development. She urged attendees to imagine the **potential of regions like Ladakh**, which boasts exceptionally dark skies, if they were promoted as destinations for sustainable astro-tourism. Additionally, she highlighted the significance of initiatives like AstronEra's 'AstroTribe' project, which is empowering tribal youth in Maharashtra by utilizing their pristine night skies to create new, sustainable livelihoods.



The Constitutional Responsibility to Protect Dark Skies

Shweta linked the cause of dark sky preservation and responsible lighting to India's constitutional duties. She *cited Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India*, which calls upon citizens to protect and improve the natural environment and show compassion for all living creatures. She further referenced *Article 51A(h)*, which urges citizens to develop a scientific temper, humanism, and a spirit of reform and inquiry.

For policymakers and administrators, she asserted, these constitutional duties serve as a clear call to action. The implementation of efficient, smart lighting and dark sky conservation measures is not just beneficial—it is a national responsibility.

A Call to Action for Policymakers and Stakeholders

Shweta urged attendees to engage deeply with the expert discussions throughout the symposium, as these insights would contribute to pioneering an adaptable framework tailored to the diverse needs of India. This framework, she emphasized, must preserve dark skies, reduce light



pollution, and promote sustainable development in a way that harmonizes economic progress with environmental stewardship.

She concluded by stating that the symposium served as a launchpad for transformative change. This change, she expressed, must align economic growth with responsible environmental policies, ensuring a future that remains illuminated—naturally and sustainably.

With this, she expressed her gratitude to the attendees and looked forward to a collaborative journey toward a brighter, yet naturally illuminated, future.

4.2 Inaugurating TARA the Firefly – A Symbol of Responsible Lighting

During her address, Shweta also introduced TARA the Firefly, the emblematic mascot for India's dark sky conservation movement. She explained that fireflies serve as natural indicators of a healthy environment, yet their populations are declining due to excessive artificial lighting, which disturbs nocturnal ecosystems. TARA serves as a reminder that the goal is not to eliminate light but to use it responsibly, ensuring that development does not come at the cost of environmental degradation.



Followed by the Address by Shweta kulkarni we had 3 international experts talks to enlighten the audience about the various aspects of Dark Sky Preservation and Sustainable Development.

4.3 Expert Sessions :

Session 1: Dan Okaley – Dan Oakley previously worked at BAE-Systems on a number of areas including Torpedo analysis, systems engineering, and radiation safety. After a rather liberating experience at the Glastonbury Festival, he changed careers and now works for the South Downs National Park Authority and has done for the last 15 years. Starting from a conservation volunteer, he is lead ranger for the Wealden





Heaths and the dark skies officer for the park. At the Park, he was instrumental in developing and submitting [Moore's Reserve Dark Sky Places application](#) in May 2016.

Topic : Understanding the Impacts of Light Pollution and Global Efforts to Preserve Dark Skies

Summary :Dan Oakley emphasized the significant rise in light pollution due to rapid urbanization and outlined practical solutions through responsible outdoor lighting.

He introduced five key principles for effective light management: ensuring all lights serve a clear purpose, directing lights downward, avoiding excessive brightness, using timers and motion sensors, and opting for warm-colored lighting over blue-white LEDs.

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5: Is the light warm colored?				
1	2	3	4	5
USEFUL ALL LIGHT SHOULD HAVE A CLEAR PURPOSE Before installing or replacing a light, determine if light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.	TARGETED LIGHT SHOULD BE DIRECTED ONLY TO WHERE NEEDED Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.	LOW LIGHT LEVELS LIGHT SHOULD BE NO BRIGHTER THAN NECESSARY Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.	CONTROLLED LIGHT SHOULD BE USED ONLY WHEN IT IS USEFUL Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.	COLOR USE WARMER COLOR LIGHTS WHERE POSSIBLE Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

Then we should be able to get good quality lighting. And

He highlighted the economic and environmental costs of inefficient lighting, stressing that poor lighting choices waste billions annually while harming ecosystems, human health, and astronomical research. He also discussed the role of dark sky places in conservation efforts worldwide, demonstrating how well-managed lighting policies can balance sustainability with modern infrastructure needs.



Session 2: Yana Yakushina – Yana is an experienced legal researcher, policy analyst, and advocate for the protection of the nocturnal environment and the advancement of space law. Her expertise lies in conducting comprehensive analyses of legal and policy instruments, interpreting obtained data, and delivering clear, valuable conclusions. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Ghent (Belgium) as part of the Horizon EU PLAN-B project she is working on the development of the legal and policy framework for recognising light pollution as an environmental concern. As a scientific coordinator of the PLAN-B project, she led the project's efforts towards a better understanding of light and noise pollution impacts and the development of the most effective solutions for their mitigation.

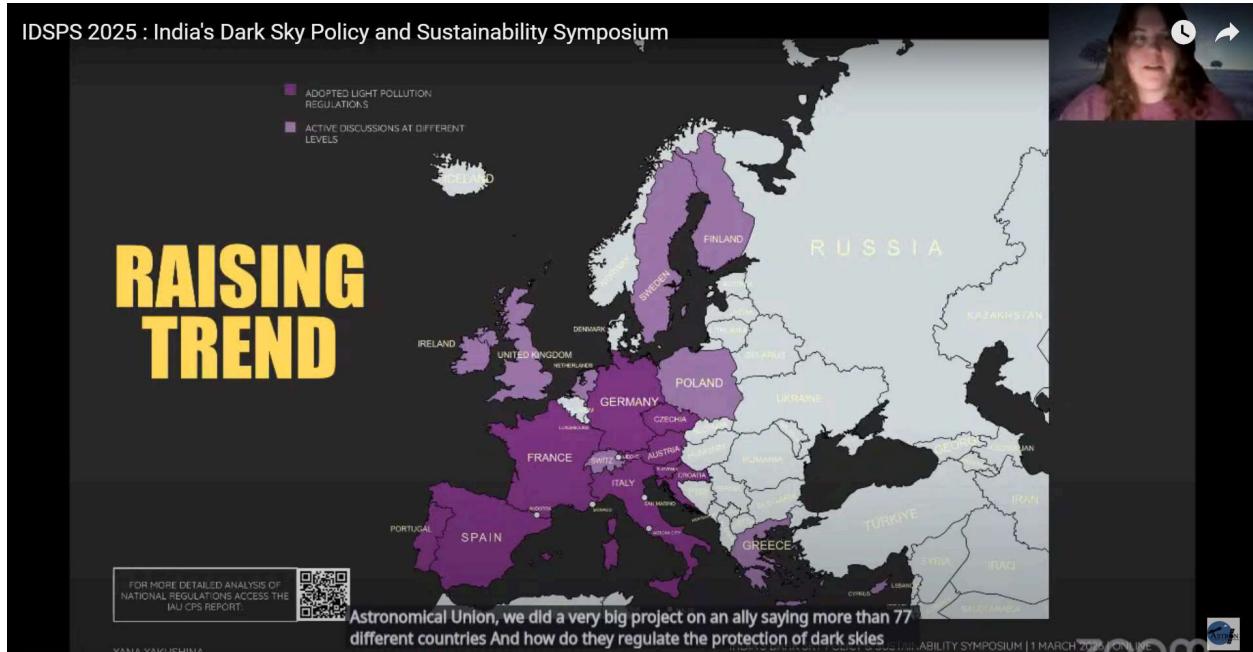
Topic : Growing Trends in Regulating Light Pollution.

Summary : Yana Yakushina provided a global perspective on light pollution trends, highlighting the urgent need for policy-driven interventions. She discussed various regulatory approaches, including energy efficiency policies, urban zoning laws, and environmental protection measures that address artificial light pollution. She pointed out that France and Germany have already classified light pollution as an environmental pollutant, while Croatia has successfully implemented zoning laws to limit excessive artificial lighting. Turning to India, she noted that while legal precedents like the **Bombay Police Act** address light nuisances, there is currently no dedicated national policy on light pollution. She emphasized the importance of implementing a mandatory lighting code to ensure sustainable urban development, wildlife protection, and energy efficiency, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas like turtle nesting sites, which are





already recognized under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).



Session 3:Nalayini Bitro-Davies – Nalayini was instrumental in successfully establishing [Aotea / Great Barrier Island](#) as a certified [Dark Sky Sanctuary](#). She also co-leads the promotion of New Zealand’s journey to become a dark sky nation and has spoken at Dark Sky conferences and workshops around the world. She is currently the immediate past president and Fellow of the [Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand](#) (RASNZ) and is a co-founder of the [Aotearoa Astrotourism Academy](#), a non-profit that promotes dark skies and the education of astronomy (integrating indigenous astronomy) through the provision of nationwide immersion training courses for those seeking a solid foundation of knowledge and practical skills to pursue astronomy and astrotourism.





Topic : Dark Sky Policies and the learnings from the adaptation in New Zealand.

Summary: Nalayini Davies shared New Zealand's journey toward becoming a dark sky nation, illustrating how grassroots initiatives have driven national policy change.

She explained how community-led conservation efforts initially gained momentum at the local level and eventually garnered governmental support due to their cultural, astronomical, and economic benefits. She highlighted the growing trend of astronomical tourism, referencing how Condé Nast Traveler ranked astro-tourism as the No.1 travel trend for 2024. With dark sky parks and astro-tourism sites significantly boosting local economies, she underscored how New Zealand has integrated dark sky preservation into its long-term sustainable development plans. She also spoke about **New Zealand's progress in dark sky legislation, mentioning an active parliamentary petition for a national dark sky law and a Private Member's Bill in progress.** Her advice for India focused on starting at the grassroots level, engaging policymakers early, and **ensuring dark sky policies are embedded into tourism and urban planning frameworks** to maximize environmental and economic benefits.

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Dark Skies Still Abundant in NZ and Accessible

Milky Way Visibility – 96.5% of Land Area &
16.6% of Population

Pristine Night Skies - 53.1% of Land Area &
2.8% of Population

Land area where light pollution was low:

- 74% of the North Island
- 93% of the South Island

(Source: Stats NZ/Falchi et al. 2016)



The New World Atlas. (Falchi et al. 2016)

but under Threat
We got loads of dark skies. And most importantly. They are very accessible for people. So awareness of dark skies what it offers



4.4 Polls



A poll was hosted before expert session 1 and *economic growth & development and lack of awareness emerged as the top concerns raised by the audience* when discussing barriers to reducing light pollution.

Biggest Concern

What is your biggest concern when it comes to reducing light pollution? Single choice

Safety & security - Will darker streets make places unsafe?

Economic growth & development - Does less light mean less progress?

Aesthetic preferences - I like bright, well-lit spaces.

Lack of awareness - Many people don't even know it's a problem.

Resistance to change - Governments, businesses, and people may not prioritize it.

None! I fully support reducing light pollution.

+ Add choice

Required

ecosystems, human health, and energy consumption.

That said, each of the other concerns raised also plays a crucial role in the discussion on light pollution mitigation:

- Safety & Security: Many worry that reducing outdoor lighting could make streets unsafe, but studies show that well-designed, targeted lighting can improve visibility while reducing glare and dark spots where criminals hide.
- Aesthetic Preferences: Some individuals enjoy bright, well-lit spaces, but proper lighting design can create visually appealing environments while preventing unnecessary skyglow and energy wastage.
- Resistance to Change: Governments, businesses, and communities may not prioritize dark sky initiatives due to competing interests, making policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement essential for driving meaningful action.
- None! I fully support reducing light pollution: This response reflects the growing support for dark sky conservation, showing that many are ready to embrace responsible lighting practices and advocate for policy changes that balance development with sustainability.



These insights reinforce the need for collaborative action, balancing safety, aesthetics, and economic concerns while promoting public awareness and policy-driven solutions to protect India's night skies.

Another poll was hosted after the expert session 1 and *the audience highlighted wasted energy*

& higher electricity costs and disrupting wildlife & ecosystems as the biggest unseen impacts of excessive artificial lighting. These concerns are well-founded—inefficient lighting wastes billions in energy costs annually, straining both economic resources and power grids. Additionally, light pollution disrupts natural ecosystems, affecting nocturnal wildlife, altering migratory patterns, and endangering species like birds, insects, and

sea turtles that rely on natural light cues for survival.

However, the other impacts of excessive artificial lighting are equally critical:

- Damage to Human Health: Exposure to artificial light at night—especially blue-rich LED lighting—disrupts sleep cycles, suppresses melatonin production, and has been linked to chronic health issues such as insomnia, obesity, and increased risks of certain cancers.
- Loss of Cultural and Scientific Connection to the Night Sky: For centuries, the night sky has inspired mythology, scientific discovery, and cultural traditions. However, light pollution is rapidly erasing our ability to see the stars, disconnecting people from their heritage, limiting astronomical research, and diminishing public engagement with space sciences.

These responses highlight the far-reaching consequences of excessive artificial lighting, emphasizing the urgent need for sustainable lighting solutions that reduce energy waste, protect ecosystems, and preserve the human connection to the cosmos.

IMPACT

What do you think is the biggest unseen impact of excessive artificial lighting? Multiple choice

Wasted energy and higher electricity costs
 Damage to human health (sleep disorders, hormonal imbalance)
 Disrupting wildlife and ecosystems
 Loss of cultural and scientific connection to the night sky

+ Add choice Required ...



The last poll was hosted before the expert session 2 and ***the audience highlighted government bodies and lighting companies & industries as the primary entities responsible for reducing light pollution.*** These choices reflect a practical understanding of how policies and industry

innovations drive large-scale change. Government bodies play a crucial role in setting and enforcing policies, ensuring that responsible lighting guidelines are implemented at national and regional levels. Meanwhile, lighting companies and industries are responsible for designing and producing eco-friendly, smart lighting solutions that reduce energy consumption, minimize skyglow, and support sustainable urban development.

Responsibilities

Who should be primarily responsible for reducing light pollution? Multiple choice

Government bodies – They set policies and regulations.
 Bureaucrats & city planners – They implement lighting guidelines.
 Climate & environment specialists – They advocate and research sustainable solutions.
 Lighting companies & industries – They design and produce eco-friendly lighting.
 Common people – Small changes in individual choices can make a big difference.
 All of the above – It's a collective responsibility!

+ Add choice ...

Required

However, each of the other stakeholders also plays a vital role in tackling light pollution:

- **Bureaucrats & City Planners:** Even with strong policies in place, city planners and local authorities must ensure that lighting guidelines are properly implemented, ensuring that urban spaces are well-lit without unnecessary glare or wastage.
- **Climate & Environment Specialists:** Researchers and advocates study the ecological, health, and economic impacts of light pollution, pushing for better policies and raising public awareness about sustainable lighting solutions.
- **Common People:** While large-scale policies are essential, individual choices also make a big difference—whether it's using warm-colored LED bulbs, shielding outdoor lights, or advocating for dark sky initiatives in local communities.
- **All of the Above – A Collective Responsibility:** Addressing light pollution requires a collaborative approach where governments regulate, industries innovate, planners implement, scientists research, and individuals adopt responsible lighting habits.

The audience's response highlights the necessity of policy enforcement and industry innovation, but real change will come only when all stakeholders work together to protect our night skies.



4.5 Pledge :

Followed by the polls , and combine panel session astronera had aimed to rake the pledge but time constraints could not , But the drafted pledge is as follows.

I pledge to protect India's night skies—not just as a symbol of our heritage, but as a necessity for our future. Light pollution threatens our environment, wildlife, human health, energy security, and scientific progress. A truly developed India is one that shines with wisdom, not waste.

As a proud Indian, I uphold Article 51A (g) of our Constitution, vowing to protect and improve the natural environment, including our skies. I also embrace Article 51A (h), committing to develop a scientific temper and make informed, responsible choices about lighting.

In my role—whether as a policymaker, administrator, industry leader, or citizen—I will:

1. Advocate for policies that reduce light pollution while ensuring safety and progress.
2. Implement responsible lighting that is efficient, well-directed, and minimizes waste.
3. Inspire collective action to safeguard our dark skies for scientific, ecological, and cultural benefits.

For the pride of our nation, for the well-being of our people, and for the future of generations to come—I pledge to illuminate India wisely and keep our skies dark and full of stars.

5.Summary:

The symposium provided attendees with a unique opportunity to:

1. Understand the ecological, health, and cultural impacts of light pollution.

Artificial light at night disrupts natural ecosystems, particularly affecting nocturnal wildlife such as birds, insects, and marine species. Migratory patterns, reproduction cycles, and predator-prey interactions are significantly altered by excessive lighting.

From a human health perspective, excessive exposure to artificial light at night is linked to sleep disorders, hormonal imbalances, and increased risks of chronic illnesses such as obesity, depression, and certain cancers due to the disruption of the circadian rhythm.

Culturally, dark skies have been central to human history, influencing mythology, navigation, and scientific discoveries. The loss of visible stars affects our ancestral connection to the cosmos, impacting traditional practices such as tribal star lore, celestial



navigation, and religious festivals based on astronomical cycles.

2. Learn from global experts on successful dark sky conservation initiatives.

The symposium featured insights from leading international advocates who have successfully implemented dark sky conservation efforts in their respective countries.

Case studies from New Zealand, European Union, and the UK provided a roadmap for integrating policies, community engagement, and lighting regulations to preserve natural nightscapes while ensuring responsible urban development.

Learning from existing dark sky places, lighting technologies, and policy implementations helped shape potential solutions tailored to India's diverse landscape and cultural needs.

3. Collaborate with policymakers and industries to create sustainable solutions.

Light pollution is a cross-sectoral issue requiring collaboration between government agencies, urban planners, lighting manufacturers, environmental groups, astronomers, and tourism professionals.

The symposium encouraged multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop smart lighting solutions, adopt energy-efficient policies, and implement dark sky-friendly tourism models that benefit both local economies and conservation efforts.

Industry leaders were urged to innovate eco-friendly lighting solutions and support regulations on responsible outdoor lighting in urban, rural, and ecologically sensitive areas.

4. Be a part of drafting policies and frameworks for dark sky preservation in India.

One of the key outcomes of the symposium was the initiation of discussions on India's first structured dark sky policy framework.

Public participation, scientific research, and regulatory action were highlighted as crucial elements in shaping India's future in dark sky conservation, setting the stage for upcoming policy dialogues, pilot projects, and nationwide awareness campaigns.

By engaging with experts, policymakers, and community leaders, this laid the groundwork for a comprehensive, action-driven approach to protecting India's night skies—not just for astronomical research, but for the well-being of ecosystems, human health, and cultural



heritage. The symposium had a diverse audience, including policymakers, IAS officers, urban development officers, UNICEF representatives, and space and astronomy enthusiasts who were eager to learn and drive change.

6. Way forward:

AstronEra was excited to continue the journey toward establishing a policy framework for protecting dark skies and reducing light pollution.

During the symposium Ms. Yana Yakushina, in her talk, vibrantly highlighted a survey conducted in India, which revealed that over 50% of people were unaware of the term **light pollution**. Her presentation also made it evident that there is a significant lack of research on **light pollution and dark sky conservation** in India.

Recognizing this research gap and the urgent need for action, we are working on developing an **adaptable framework** that focuses on **tribal and reserved areas**, with the aim of converting them into **dark sky protected areas**. This initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with **Dark Sky International** to promote awareness, conservation, and sustainable development.

To bring this policy framework to fruition, we are also establishing a **working group** comprising **experts, enthusiasts, and researchers** who will contribute their knowledge and efforts toward making dark sky conservation a recognized and actionable priority in India.

To dive deeper into actionable strategies and policy development, the dates and tentative plan for the next steps was proposed. The next virtual symposium will be hosted on 21st June 2025, which will pave the way for an in-person conference in November 2025. These events will bring together experts, policymakers, and advocates to drive real change in dark sky conservation and policy framework.

A feedback form was shared with the participants to know insights to shape our future discussions.

7. Closing :

The host expressed her deepest gratitude to the esteemed speakers for sharing their invaluable



knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. Highlighting that their insights have truly enriched our understanding and ignited meaningful conversations around astronomy, dark sky preservation, and astrotourism.

A huge appreciation was extended to all the in-person attendees because their enthusiasm and engagement had made this gathering truly special. As the symposium was streamed as YouTube Live viewers were thanked for joining virtually from different parts of the world. Your support and interaction make these discussions more inclusive and far-reaching, helping us spread awareness and build a stronger global community.

A special appreciation was extended to Mr. Ruturaj Gole, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure a seamless experience for all —managing the backend, coordinating the YouTube stream, and making sure everything runs smoothly.

8. Conclusion:

The India Dark Sky Policy and Sustainability Symposium 2025 was a landmark event that set the stage for India's dark sky conservation movement. The insights shared by global experts highlighted the economic, environmental, and cultural significance of protecting natural nightscapes.

With rising urbanization and increasing artificial light pollution, India must act urgently to integrate dark sky policies into sustainable development frameworks. The symposium paved the way for future collaborations, ensuring India's night skies remain a cherished natural resource for future generations.

Thank you, and see you at our next event!

9. Acknowledgments: AstronEra extends heartfelt thanks to:

- Our esteemed speakers: Dan Oakley, Yana Yakushina, and Nalayini Davies.
- Our attendees and panelists for their engaging discussions.
- Dark Sky International for their support and applause.
- The organizing team for making this event a success.



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