

World's largest solar telescope NLST to be set up in Ladakh

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JAMMU: Chief Secretary Madhav Lal on Friday 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 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 Professor Tushar P. Prabhu from Indian Institute of Astrophysics Department of Science and Technology



Chief Secretary Madhav Lal discussing the modalities for setting up the solar telescope at a meeting in Jammu on Friday.

(GOI), 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 the site, selected for setting up the of world's largest solar telescope fitted with a 2m reflector will permit scientists to carry out cut-

ting 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 minimise 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, A.K Singh Chief Wild Life Warden J and K, Lal Chand Chairman Pollution Control Board.