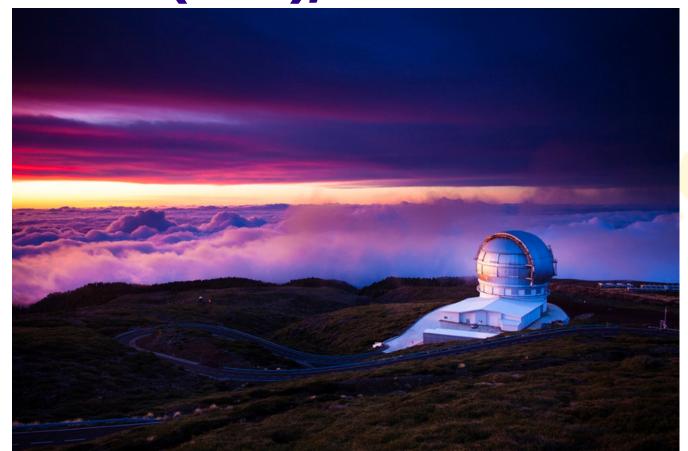


## Earth's brightness dropping because of climate change, finds study



- Warming ocean waters have caused a drop in the brightness of the Earth, according to a new study. Warming oceans cause fewer bright clouds to reflect sunlight into space, admitting even more energy into earth's climate system.
- Once significant additional solar energy is in Earth's atmosphere and oceans, it may contribute to global warming.

## INDIAN ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY (IAO), HANLE



- The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) located at Hanle near Leh in Ladakh is becoming one of the promising observatory sites globally, said a recent study.
- This is due to its advantages of more clear nights, minimal light pollution, background aerosol concentration, extremely dry atmospheric condition, and uninterrupted by monsoon.
- night observations at IAO-Hanle from 2m-Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) are possible throughout the year without any interruption due to monsoons.

- Researchers from India and their collaborators carried out a detailed study of the night time cloud cover fraction over 8 high altitude observatories, including three in India.
- They analysed datasets for the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) in Hanle and Merak (Ladakh), and Devasthal (Nainital) in India.

## **SACRED** portal



- The senior citizens seeking work opportunities will be able to register themselves on a first-of-itskind dedicated employment exchange portal for the elderly.
  - 'Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity (SACRED)' portal is to bring the employment seeker senior citizens (60 years and above) and employment providers on one platform.
- Web portal will be developed through the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- An individual senior citizen will get himself registered on the portal with his relevant education, past experience, skills and the areas of interest.
- The person will also select keywords regarding expected tasks, which will enable the job providers to find them automatically.
- Details can be updated by the Senior.

- Any job provider individual / firm/ company/ partnership/ Voluntary Organisation etc. can also register on the portal.
- Voluntary Organizations will help the senior citizens in applying for these jobs and no user charges will be taken from any of the senior citizens.
- The Employment Exchange Portal will not be a guarantee for getting a job/ employment or selling of the products of the SHGs, or for any other activity.
- It will act as an interactive platform where stakeholders meet each other virtually and decide on the course of action with mutual respect, consent and understanding.
- An amount of Rs. 10 Cr would be provided for funding for the platform development along with maintenance grant of @ Rs. 2 Cr per year for 5 years.