

## News from Democracies: India: 24 Feb

February 24, 2023

1. February 24, 2023: Delhi: *First Webinar on Effective Implementation of the Initiatives in Union Budget: Green Energy Potential- GOLDMINE for India*: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that if India is able to exploit its solar and wind energy potential and use bio-sources of energy in a big way, it could enrich India, more than Gold mines could. He enumerated three pillars for Green Growth as follows:

- Increase in production of Renewable Energy,
- Reducing the use of fossil fuel,
- Moving towards a gas-based economy.



*Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the First of 12 Post-budget Webinars*

He invited StartUps and MSMEs in the following fields:

- a) Waste to energy: E20 fuel, ethanol plants and bio-fuels.
- b) Green hydrogen: target of 5 MMT and allocation of Rs 19,000 crores as incentives to the industry: The objective should be to catch up and become a lead player in the field.
- c) Energy storage: India must develop Battery Technologies, which can become a bottleneck for Electric Vehicles. It is required to move fast, since the process of exploitation of 5.9 million tonnes of **Lithium reserves**, discovered in Jammu & Kashmir's Reasi District.
- d) gas-based economic activities
- e) old vehicle scrapping sector.

2. February 22, 2023: **Best Parliamentarian Awards 2023:** Eight MPs from Lok Sabha and five from Rajya Sabha have been nominated for **Sansad Ratna Awards- 2023, for outstanding performance as a Parliamentarian** in 2022. In addition, a veteran and distinguished leader has been nominated for Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Two Department-Related Standing Committees (DRSC) have been nominated for Awards, under the special awards category.

The Jury for the Awards of 2023 was chaired by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal (Hon'ble MoS, Parliamentary Affairs) and Co-Chaired by Shri T S Krishnamurthy (Former Chief Election Commissioner of India).

Such Awards recognize excellent parliamentarians and help raise the working of Parliamentary institutions to higher levels.



*India's Parliament Building: A New Building is fast coming up*

Sansad Ratna Awards were instituted on the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam (*who was President of India from July 25, 2002 to July 25, 2007*) to honour top performing Parliamentarians, based on parameters like raising questions, participation in debates and introduction of private members bills, attendance and MPLad funds, etc.

Dr Kalam himself inaugurated the first edition of the award ceremony in 2010 in Chennai. So far, 90 top performing parliamentarians have been honoured and all of them have received the award individually.

*Readers of DiGiNews360.com may like to read the news in Gujarat at <https://gujaratguardian.com/these-13-mps-of-the-country-will-get-parliament-ratna-award-5-mps-of-rajya-sabha-and-8-mps-of-lok-sabh/>*



Sansad Ratna Awards are given by Prime Point Foundation, with the support of IIT Madras, for the past seven years. The Foundation is a non-profit Trust (Reg: December 1999). It has the objective of creating Communication awareness among all the people. K Srinivasan (Communication Strategist) is the Founder and Chairman the Trust. The Foundation offers Training, workshop on all Communication related subjects, including Image (Perception) Audit. (Reference:<https://www.primepointfoundation.in/2023/02/13th-edition-of-sansad-ratna-awards.html> )

3. February 22, 2023: **Hanle Night Sky Sanctuary in Ladakh, India:** India's first Night-sky sanctuary is ready to receive visitors, who want to observe celestial villages and to collect scientific data about the universe, with MINIMUM distortion by the earth's environment. It is located at an elevation of 4500 meters above sea level in a cluster of six hamlets of Hanle village inside the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in southwestern Ladakh. Indian Institute of Astrophysics has set up the Astronomical Observatory, spread over 1073 square kilometers.



Dome of Himalayan Chandra Telescope at dawn break (<https://www.iiap.res.in/>)

*Readers of DiGiNews360.com may also like to read the TOI Report at <https://tinyurl.com/6z2wws47>.*

An International Dark Sky Reserve is a public or private land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and nocturnal



environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural, heritage and/or public enjoyment. Reserves consist of a core area meeting minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness, and a peripheral area that supports dark sky preservation in the core.

Thirty six Reserves, which have been certified by the International Dark-Sky Association are all in the west, except for one at NamibRand Nature Reserve in Namibia.

Ref: <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/reserves/>



*Night Observatory in the Pyrenees, France (<https://picdumidi.com/>)*

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