

"There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind."

—Mister Rogers

Inking the Truth

Historic welcome awaits Sonam Wangchuk in Kargil today; KDA calls for massive public turnout

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: In what is expected to be a major public mobilisation, the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) has announced a grand welcome rally in honour of noted innovator and educationist Sonam Wangchuk, who is scheduled to arrive in Kargil on Sunday following his release from detention last month.

According to the announcement, a large public gathering will be held at Gandhi Park, where people from across the district are expected to assemble in large numbers to accord Wangchuk a warm and historic welcome. The alliance has issued a strong appeal to the public, particularly youth, civil society members, and conscious citizens, to participate enthusiastically and make the event a show of unity and collective resolve. The rally in Kargil comes close on the heels of a similar massive welcome pro-



gramme held in Leh, which was organised by the Apex Body Leh to honor Wangchuk after his release. The Leh event witnessed significant public turnout and was seen as a reflection of growing solidarity among the people of Ladakh on key issues concerning the region.

Sonam Wangchuk's recent detention and subse-

quent release had drawn widespread attention, with many across Ladakh and beyond expressing support for his advocacy on environmental protection, sustainable development, and constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory. His visit to Kargil is therefore being viewed not just as a personal homecoming in Kargil in recent times.

for the people of the region.

The Kargil Democratic Alliance, in its message, emphasized the importance of unity and peaceful participation, urging people to gather in large numbers and demonstrate their support in a dignified manner. The alliance believes that such public participation sends a strong message about the aspirations and collective voice of Ladakh's residents.

MP Ladakh Mohd Haneefa Jan also urged the people of Kargil to participate in tomorrow's public gathering at Indira Park, Baroo Kargil as Sonam Wangchuk will address the gathering for the first time after his release from six month long detention under NSA. With preparations underway and enthusiasm building, the upcoming rally at Gandhi Park is expected to witness an overwhelming turnout, making it one of the most significant public events in Kargil in recent times.

5 Held for blast outside BJP hqrs

CHANDIGARH: Five individuals have been arrested in connection with the blast incident that occurred outside the Punjab BJP headquarters in Chandigarh, said Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav on Saturday.

The Counter-Intelligence wing of Punjab Police, in a joint operation with Chandigarh Police, solved the Chandigarh grenade attack case, DCP Yadav. "Five persons involved in the incident have been arrested, and the two perpetrators involved in the attack have been identified," Yadav said on X.

One grenade and another cache have been recovered so far, he further said. Police teams are conducting operations to nab the absconding accused, the DGP added.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the module was backed by Pakistan's spy agency- ISI. Foreign-based handlers in Portugal and Germany have been identified. ▶P11

Big Boost to Irrigation: LG Saxena's vision takes shape with Chuchot Water Project

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a major push towards sustainable water management in the Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has announced the commencement of work on a new water body in Chuchot village of Leh district. The development follows his recent visit to the area on March 26, 2026, during which he had issued on-the-spot directions to address the region's water needs.

Sharing the update on social media, the LG expressed satisfaction that the project is now progressing "in full steam," marking a swift administrative response to local concerns. The initiative forms part of a broader and ambitious water conservation drive being implemented across the Union Territory of Ladakh, aimed at tackling the growing challenges of water scarcity in the high-altitude region.

According to the LG, the upcoming water body in Chuchot village will play a crucial role in harvesting and storing glacial meltwater—



an essential and increasingly variable resource in Ladakh's fragile ecosystem. Once completed, the reservoir is expected to significantly enhance irrigation facilities for local farmers, thereby supporting agricultural activities and improving livelihoods in the area.

In addition to meeting irrigation demands, the stored water will also be utilized for maintaining roadside plantations across the Union Territory, aligning with the administration's parallel efforts to promote greenery and ecological balance in the cold

desert landscape. Highlighting the importance of community participation, Saxena emphasized that the project is being implemented with the active involvement and support of local residents. He expressed confidence that such people-centric initiatives would not only ensure the success of the project but also foster a sense of ownership among the community.

The initiative underscores the administration's commitment to long-term water security and climate resilience in Ladakh. ▶P11

7th Indian LPG tanker crosses Strait of Hormuz

NEW DELHI: As a seventh India-flagged LPG tanker, Green Sanvi, crossed the Strait of Hormuz amid the war on Friday, Iran posted a special message for New Delhi. In a post on X, the Iranian consulate in Mumbai said India, and Gujarat in particular, held a "cherished place" in "our shared history". The Consulate General was responding to a post by Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, who hailed the passage of the LPG tanker as a "victory for Indian diplomacy".

"India, and Gujarat in particular, hold a cherished place in our shared history; having graciously welcomed those from our land centuries ago," the Iranian Consulate General said. It is likely a reference to the ancient port of Lothal in Gujarat, which con-

nected the Indus Valley cities to the Persian coast around 4,000 years ago.

"Building on this enduring civilizational bond, we remain committed to further strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation," Iran said.

The remarks were in response to Sanghavi's post as the Green Sanvi, carrying 46,650 metric tonnes of LPG, headed home after crossing the key shipping chokepoint, which has been effectively closed by Iran since the war began. "One more ship. One more victory for Indian diplomacy," the Gujarat Deputy CM tweeted.

So far, six vessels carrying LPG have reached Indian ports after crossing Hormuz, which accounts for the supply of a fifth of the world's total oil needs. Around 17 ▶P11

CS Kundra chairs 3rd UT-Level coordination committee meet on exposition of sacred relics

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Chief Secretary of the UT-Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, chaired the 3rd Coordination Committee meeting for the forthcoming Holy Exposition of the sacred relics of Tathagata Buddha at the Dharma Centre, Choglamsar.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the timeline of the relics' arrival, the main exposition event, the closing ceremony, and a series of proposed secondary and parallel events. Discussions also focused on organising the grand exposition across designated venues, including cultural performances, exhibitions, stalls, and activities such as health camps, yoga sessions, and a peace march.



The Chief Secretary reviewed arrangements for receiving the Holy Relics in Leh and overseeing the ceremonial procession from Delhi. He emphasised coordination with heads of monastic sects, along with ensuring ade-

quate logistical support, security arrangements, and deployment of volunteers at all venues.

Special attention was given to the grand procession upon the arrival of the relics, key logistical planning, and

the implementation of a staggered veneration schedule to facilitate smooth public participation. The meeting also discussed invitations to prominent leaders from Buddhist communities and preparations for the expected arrival of national and international guests and delegations.

The Chief Secretary urged the Ladakh Gumpa Association to actively coordinate religious ceremonies and prayers by the monastic community throughout the exposition.

In addition, discussions were held regarding the planned public veneration of the Holy Relics in Zanskar. The Chief Secretary directed concerned communities to ensure ▶P11

1093 appear in Technical Paper for KPO/DEO posts

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board (LSSSSB) today successfully conducted the Technical Paper (Paper-II) examination for the posts of Key Punch Operator/Data Entry Operator at designated examination centres in Leh and Kargil districts.

According to the Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board, in Leh district, the examination was held at Government Eliezer Joldan Memorial College, Leh. Out of a total of 662 candidates, 543 candidates appeared in the examination, while 119 candidates remained absent.

In Kargil district, the examination was conducted at two centres. At Government Degree College, Kargil (New

Block), out of 649 candidates, 550 candidates appeared, while 99 candidates remained absent. Similarly, at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kargil (Old Block), out of 43 candidates, 35 candidates appeared, while 08 candidates remained absent.

The examination was conducted smoothly, transparently, and in a well-coordinated manner at all centres, strictly adhering to the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the LSSSSB. All necessary arrangements were put in place to ensure the orderly and secure conduct of the examination.

The Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board expressed satisfaction over the successful conduct of the examination. ▶P11

ISRO launches mission in Ladakh to assess astronauts' mental, physical endurance



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the launch of a mission in Ladakh to exam-

ine the physiological, psychological and operational dynamics of "gaganyatris (astronauts)" and ground teams functioning in a high-altitude environment.

The scientific data generated on crew performance and human factors will contribute directly to the Gaganyaan programme and future long-duration missions.

Known as the Mission MITRA (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment), the study will be conducted until April 9 at an altitude of approximately 3,500 metres in Leh, simulating the environmental conditions of hypoxia, low temperature and isolation as a natural analog for spaceflight operations. "This study is ▶P11

Tourism stakeholders, civil society unite to strengthen Ladakh's tourism sector; call for mandatory Resident Certificate



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a significant development for the tourism sector, the Ladakh Travel Trade Alliance (LTTA) held a crucial and "highly positive" meeting

with civil society representatives, religious heads, and stakeholders from various organizations to discuss the future roadmap of tourism in the region.

The alliance, which serves as a

parent body representing five key stakeholders—including hotel associations, tour operators, taxi unions, and other tourism-linked groups—convened the meeting with a broad spectrum of participants. Invitations were extended to civil society leaders, religious representatives, and members from different groups to ensure inclusive deliberations.

During the meeting, participants underscored that tourism remains the primary industry in Ladakh and plays a critical role in employment generation, particularly for the youth. Discussions focused on strategies to strengthen and expand the sector, ensure sustainability, and safeguard the interests of local businesses and establishments. ▶P11

Nyoma Contractors flag delays, seek faster clearances in Changthang dev works

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Contractors in Ladakh's Changthang region have drawn attention to persistent delays in development works, attributing them to a combination of administrative bottlenecks, logistical constraints and the region's narrow working season shaped by extreme weather conditions.

At a review meeting of the Contractors Association, Nyoma Sub-Division, participants outlined how the short summer window—often the only viable period for construction activity—continues

to be undermined by delays in approvals, fund disbursement and tendering processes. The resulting compression of timelines, they said, affects both the pace and quality of infrastructure projects in remote border areas.

Members flagged the urgent need for timely administrative and technical clearances, stressing that any lag at the start of the season has a cascading effect on project execution. They also called for the early release of funds and faster processing of bills to ease financial pressures on local contractors tasked with executing public works under

challenging conditions.

Transport-related constraints remain another major concern. With several villages located in difficult terrain and lacking reliable connectivity, the movement of construction materials and labour continues to face disruptions, further delaying project completion and escalating costs.

Beyond immediate execution issues, the meeting also focused on broader developmental priorities for Changthang. Participants emphasised the need to promote sustainable tourism, strengthen local markets and ▶P11

MD SIDCO reviews progress on ongoing initiatives and projects

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Managing Director of Sindh Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO), Bhupesh Chaudhary, chaired a review meeting to assess the preparations regarding the forthcoming Buddha Relics Ceremony and to review the progress of various decisions taken during the previous Board of Directors meetings. The meeting focused on evaluating the status of implementation of key decisions and ensuring timely coordination.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review was undertaken regarding the progress of different initiatives and projects being implemented by SIDCO. The Managing Director emphasized the need

for timely execution of all approved decisions and also reviewed the preparedness related to the Buddha Relics Ceremony. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the movement of files and ensure that all pending matters are processed without unnecessary delay.

A detailed discussion was held on the transport sector. The meeting reviewed the proposal to transform the existing transport system into a more structured and organized Ladakh Transport system.

Various aspects including the overall concept, operational framework, and design elements were deliberated upon. The design and planning components related to the proposed transport ▶P11

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