

# Welcome, His Holiness! Cold desert decorated with devotion as HH Dalai Lama arrives in Ladakh today

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

On July 11, two years ago, the air in Ladakh was filled with joy and celebrations as the Tibetan Spiritual leader, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama had arrived in Leh. Exactly two years and a day later, the jubilation and celebration will only double as His Holiness will arrive in Ladakh on Saturday, the July 12, 2025.

The Dalai Lama, is likely to stay for around one-and-a-half-month in Ladakh and during this, he is expected to tour various places of the union territories, besides addressing the gatherings and giving teachings.

The Dalai Lama, who celebrated his 90th birthday last week, would arrive in Leh on Saturday morning, the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) announced and appealed to the people to join in large numbers to welcome His Holiness.

The Dalai Lama will arrive via the Technical Airport, near the Indian Air Force base where the national flag proudly stands tall, and will be received by the religious heads of Ladakh, along with the top officials of the administration.

From there, the spiritual leader will proceed towards the Civil Airport area, where the public reception is planned.

Ladakh Buddhist Association, Ladakh Gompa Association, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh and Union Territory Administration, Heads of various religious organisations, other dignitaries and guests and stream of public is expected to queue along the way, to give a warm welcome and to seek blessings from His Holiness.

Thousands of school children in uniform are also expected to line both sides of the road as his motorcade passes, in their traditional dresses with scarves in their hands.

From there, The Dalai Lama will proceed to Jivetsal-- His Holiness' Summer Residence in Leh, where he will take several days' rest to acclimatise to the weather.

Unlike his previous visits, the detailed itinerary of the spiritual leader's stay in Ladakh is yet to be made public, but his office has asserted that His Holiness will visit Zaskar for several days towards the end of this month.

Leh city has been adorned with welcome banners, and prayer flags, even as



**The Earth News welcomes His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama on his arrival in Ladakh. The staff, management, and readers of The Earth News seek blessings from His Holiness and prays for his comfortable stay in the region.**

the the reception path has been decorated, even as a request has been made to meat and chicken shop owners along the route to keep their establishments closed between 8:00 AM and noon on July 12, until His Holiness reaches his residence, to ensure the sanctity of the occasion.

Chief Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal has been spearheading the preparation for the high-profile visit, under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor Brigadier BD Mishra (retd), even as security arrangements have been beefed up near the residence of Dalai Lama in Choglamsar and other areas of Leh district.

Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Leh, Shruti Arora visited Jivetsal at Choglamsar, to review the ongoing preparations ahead of His Holiness Dalai Lama visit to Leh.

The Leh Hill Council chief Tashi Gyalson also recently reviewed the preparations for the visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, while Administrative Secretary, Tourism & Culture Department also chaired a meeting earlier this week to ►P11

## Kindness basis for peace: HH expresses gratitude in his 90th birthday message

**DHARAMSHALA:** The Dalai Lama on Friday expressed heartfelt gratitude and conveyed his appreciation for the overwhelming love, prayers and good wishes received from across the globe on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

The message released from the Tibetan government-in-exile read, "Dear, Brothers and Sisters, thank you for your warm greetings on my 90th birthday. I very much appreciate your kind gesture. I feel my



life has been of some benefit to people across the world, and I dedicate the rest of my time to the service of others."

The 90th birthday of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, also known as Lhama Thondup, whose teachings have inspired millions worldwide across faiths and cultures, was on July 6. Celebrations were held in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh and various parts of the world to mark the milestone. ►P11

## Sixth Schedule demand emotional overreach, says fmr Amb Stobdan

**Samphel asks Wangchuk to reconsider hunger strike**

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**LEH:** As Ladakh remains embroiled over ideologies on a range of issues, former diplomat Phunchok Stobdan has questioned Ladakh's demand of its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, calling it an emotional overreach rather than a viable political aspiration.

Stobdan, a prominent Ladakhi academic, who served as the Indian ambassador to Kyrgyzstan before retir-



ing from the Indian civil services, also saw the opposition to outside investment in Ladakh impractical. In an ►P11

## Maintain uniformity in data reporting, directs CS Kotwal

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**LEH:** Urging departments to maintain consistency in data reporting and ensure that all submissions are well-documented and up-to-date, Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal, chaired a virtual meeting to review the Regulation and Deregulation framework of the MIS (Management Information System) Portal.

During the meeting, a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the key sub-priority areas and the proposed



action plan to improve regulatory efficiency and streamline departmental processes was presented.

The meeting focused on the overall progress of the MIS Portal and included deliberations on ►P11

## India hit 9 Pak sites in 23 minutes: Doval

**CHENNAI:** India hit nine terror targets crisscrossing Pakistan with precision and missed none of them during Operation Sindoor, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said on Friday, taking pride in India's capability and technological prowess in neutralising the threats from across the border.

The precision was to the point where India knew who was where, and the entire operation lasted hardly 23 minutes past 1 am on May 7, he said.

"Thereafter, they said Pakistan did this and so on. Can you tell me of one image or photograph that shows



any damage to India," Doval asked while speaking at the 62nd convocation ceremony of IIT, Madras.

India launched Operation Sindoor on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 persons, mostly tourists, were ►P11

## LBA slams offensive remarks by Insta user

**LEH:** The Youth President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) Jigmet Rafstan has issued a stern condemnation against the Instagram account holder operating under the handle prayagraj.ka.ladka for circulating a video that allegedly contains derogatory and misleading remarks about Buddhism.

In a strongly worded statement, the Jigmet Rafstan expressed deep outrage over the content of the video, calling it "highly offensive and an intentional act to malign the peaceful image and sacred values of ►P11

## HE Khanchen Konchok Rangdol Rinpoche 1st Ladakhi appointed as 33rd Drikung Khanchen

Gyalson attends enthronement; spirituality unfolds in Ladakh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** A historic and spiritually profound day unfolded in the heart of Ladakh as the sacred grounds of the Dharma Centre in Choglamsar bore witness to an event of deep cultural pride and spiritual significance.

His Eminence Khanchen Konchok Rangdol Rinpoche was formally enthroned as the 33rd Khanchen of the Drikung Kagyu lineage becoming the first Ladakhi ever to be appointed to this revered post in the 800-year-old history of the tradition.

The atmosphere was filled with devotion and rever-



ence as monks, dignitaries, community leaders, and hundreds of devotees gathered from all corners of Ladakh to take part in the auspicious occasion.

Prayers were offered, khataks were laid with respect, and heartfelt congratulations flowed in for H.E. Khanchen Konchok Rangdol Rinpoche, whose humility and service have already left a lasting mark on the people of the region.

Among the dignitaries present was Chairman, CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, along with Dy. Chairman Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councillor ►P11

## First ever Wanla Lonpo Festival celebrates heritage, revival of tradition in Sham valley

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** In a remarkable celebration of heritage, identity, and unity, the inaugural Wanla Lonpo Festival, 'Echoes of Valour' was held in the historic village of Wanla in Sham Valley.

With deep reverence for the legendary Lonpo of Wanla, this one-of-a-kind festival drew large participation from villagers, monks, artists, and tourists.

The event was graced by Chairman, CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson as the Chief Guest. Among the prominent dignitaries present were Executive Councillor, Ghulam Mehdi; Councillor of Khamtsi Constituency,



Lobzang Sherab; Sham LBA, President Tsering Norboo, Sham LBA Women President Tsering Tsomo, Dr. Kunzes Dolma, VP, LBA, Leh, Ven. Dorje Lupon from Wanla Gompa; BJP State President,

Tashi Gyalson Khachu, District President of the Indian National Congress Rigzin Namgyal, Stanzin Dolkar, President Mahila Morcha of Congress, Leh, LBA Youth Representatives, Sh. ►P11