



Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

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A Voluntary Organization Committed to the Cause of Science, Culture and Scientific Outlook

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Press Statement: Breakthrough Science Society stands with Mr Sonam Wangchuk

The Breakthrough Science Society (BSS) expresses its solidarity with Mr Sonam Wangchuk as he undertakes a peaceful long march from Ladakh to Delhi to create public awareness of the impending disaster in Ladakh due to climate change and to urge the Union Government to take effective steps to protect the fragile ecosystem of the region.

The consequences of rising temperatures, notably the rapid retreat of glaciers, pose imminent risks to critical water sources essential for the region's survival. The Indian Government should take urgent measures to reach the target of zero net carbon emissions by cutting down the use of fossil fuels and afforestation of all land unsuitable for agriculture. In contrast, we see rampant deforestation in the name of 'development' and increasing use of coal and petroleum products in electricity production and transportation. Alternative energy sources like solar photovoltaics are being employed incorrectly by handing over scarce pasture land to corporate houses to install solar panels. In tune with Mr Wangchuk, the BSS also demands that the Indian government play its role in averting the climate catastrophe. We also support the demand to bring Ladakh, with its distinct environment and cultural heritage, under the Sixth Schedule to give the region's indigenous people the right to self-governance.

The BSS stands with him in appealing to everyone to join in raising awareness, demanding action, and unitedly resolving to confront the challenges of climate change and forge a path to a more sustainable and hopeful future.

The BSS strongly protests against the repressive measures taken by the government to prevent the peaceful march from entering Delhi. We call upon the government to engage immediately with Sonam Wangchuk and the protestors, to listen to their legitimate demands and see that their concerns about their environment and the well-being of the Ladakhi people are genuinely addressed and not sacrificed at the altar of so-called industrial development and investments for profits.

Dhruvajyoti Mukhopadhyay, President

Soumitro Banerjee, General Secretary