

## Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre Pays Tribute to Ladakh's Illustrious Sons

Leh: The staff members, students, grandparents, and members of MIMC Devachan Family, gathered this morning in solemn unity to offer prayers in memory of two distinguished sons of Ladakh— **Col. Sonam Wangchuk, MVC (Retd.)** and **Ambassador P. Stobdan**. Their passing this month has created a deep sense of loss across Ladakh and the nation.

The prayer ceremony, led by Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, was held in an atmosphere of reverence, reflection, and heartfelt gratitude for the exemplary lives and lasting contributions of the departed.

Col. Sonam Wangchuk, a recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra, served the nation with exceptional courage and dedication in the Indian Army. He stood as a symbol of discipline, patriotism, and selfless service. Known for his humility and strong connection with the people, he continued to inspire generations of youth in Ladakh to uphold values of integrity, resilience, and commitment to the nation.

Ambassador P. Stobdan was a respected diplomat, scholar, and strategic thinker whose work significantly contributed to India's foreign policy and the understanding of Himalayan geopolitics. Through his intellectual clarity and deep insight, he brought attention to the aspirations and identity of Ladakh at both national and international levels. He remained deeply rooted in his homeland and was a steadfast advocate for its people.

Paying tribute, Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena described them as “two luminous pillars of Ladakh,” noting that although their paths were different—one in military service and the other in diplomacy—their shared commitment to the nation and to the welfare of their people united them in purpose.

On this occasion, he also announced that two Buddha statues will be dedicated in their honour at the Buddha Park for World Peace, as part of the ongoing installation of 1,000 Buddha statues at the MIMC.

Shri Phonsok Ladakhi attended the prayer ceremony and offered a moving rendition of a Buddhist hymn in memory of the two departed souls, adding a deeply spiritual and reflective dimension to the gathering.

The ceremony concluded with prayers for the eternal peace of the departed ones and a collective resolve by the MIMC community to carry forward their enduring legacy of service, wisdom, and compassion.



