

**L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena attends funeral of late Col Sonam Wangchuk (Retd) MVC Says late officer's indomitable courage, dedication & service to country would continue to inspire generations**

**Leh, April 16:** The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today attended the funeral of the Lion of Ladakh, late Col. Sonam Wangchuk (Retd), MVC, who passed away on April 10. In a solemn ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor laid a wreath and paid rich tributes to the decorated Kargil War hero.

The funeral was attended by senior Army officials, personnel, family members, and a large number of people. Col. Wangchuk was accorded a Guard of Honour by the jawans of the Ladakh Scouts in recognition of his distinguished service to the nation.

Late Col. Sonam Wangchuk played a pivotal role in India's victory during the 1999 Kargil War. As a young officer, he led daring operations under extremely challenging conditions in the high-altitude battlegrounds, displaying exceptional bravery, leadership, and tactical acumen. His courageous actions and steadfast commitment significantly contributed to the success of Indian forces, earning him the prestigious Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), the country's second-highest wartime gallantry award.

Expressing deep grief, the Lieutenant Governor said he was profoundly saddened by the demise of Col. Sonam Wangchuk, whose valour during the Kargil War brought immense pride to the nation and Ladakh. He stated that the late officer's indomitable courage, dedication, and service to the country would continue to inspire generations.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for strength for them in this hour of grief. He had also visited the family yesterday to personally convey his sympathies and pay his respects.

Paying homage to the "Lion of Ladakh," the Lieutenant Governor had announced that the UT Administration will establish a befitting memorial in Leh in honour of late Col. Sonam Wangchuk, in consultation with the family, the Indian Army, and local representatives. He stated that the memorial would serve as an enduring symbol of Ladakhi valour and pride.

The Lieutenant Governor affirmed that the legacy and bravery of late Col. Sonam Wangchuk will forever remain a source of inspiration for future generations.



