



21 key controversies: Exposing Sonam Wangchuk and His deep ties with Ford And Rockefeller Foundation, among others


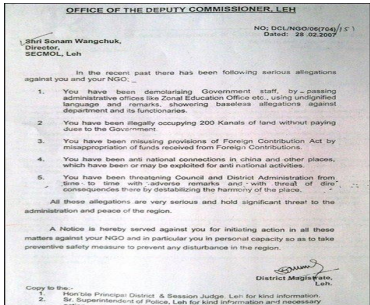

This report compiles **21 key controversies** surrounding **Sonam Wangchuk**, including his links to **anti-India organisations**.

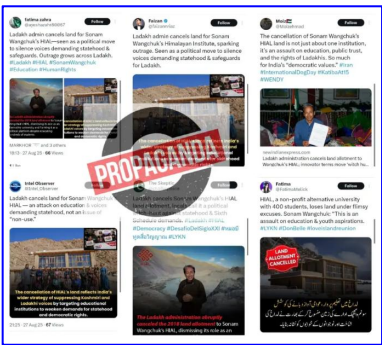
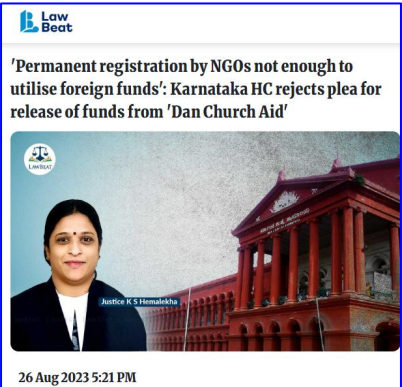
On **26 September 2025**, activist Sonam Wangchuk was been **arrested by the Leh police under NSA**. He was accused of **inciting a mob with provocative statements**. On September 25, the MHA also cancelled the registration of Wangchuk's non-profit organization, "Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL)", for violating the FCRA Act, 2010.



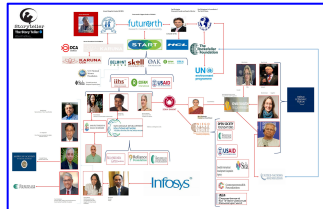
This report is divided in **three Parts** :

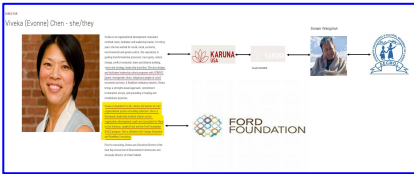


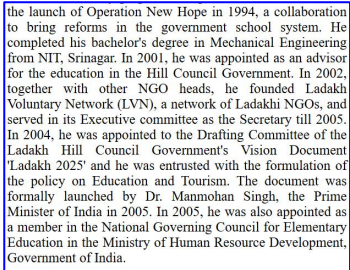
1. [Part 1: 10 Controversies Related to Sonam Wangchuk](#)
2. [Part 2: 6 Instances of Funding Received from Anti-India Organizations](#)
3. [Part 3: 5 Controversial Photos](#)

PART 1: Controversies Related to Sonam Wangchuk		
S.No.	Incident	Visual and Source
1.	<p>Pakistan Intelligence Operative found Linked to Sonam Wangchuk</p> <p>Date : 27 September 2025</p> <p>Ladakh DGP Dr. SD Jamwal stated that Sonam Wangchuk had been in contact with a Pakistan Intelligence Operative (PIO), who was relaying information to Pakistan and was recently arrested.</p>	 <p>ANI</p>
2.	<p>MHA Revokes SECMOL's FCRA Licence for Repeated Foreign Funding Violations</p> <p>Date : 25 September 2025</p> <p>The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 25 September 2025 revoked the FCRA licence of Sonam Wangchuk's non-profit, the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), citing repeated violations of India's foreign funding laws for NGOs.</p>	 <p>The Indian Express</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>Sonam Wangchuk Attends 'Breathe Pakistan' Conference in Islamabad</p> <p>Date : 6 February, 2025</p> <p>On 6th February, 2025 Sonam Wangchuk participated in the 'Breathe Pakistan' conference, which was held in the city of Islamabad and organised by 'Dawn Media'.</p> <p>"In Pakistan, I see Dawn Media is taking that responsibility as a champion of environment. I wish all countries and in my country and media house really take this responsibility like here," he had stated during the 'Breathe Pakistan' conference.</p>	 <p>Opindia Video Link</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>In 2007 UPA Accused Sonam Wangchuk of FCRA Misuse, Illegal Land, and Anti-National Links</p> <p>Date : 28 February 2007</p> <p>In 2007, the UPA government accused Sonam Wangchuk of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Misusing funds received under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) ➤ Illegally occupying 200 kanals of land without paying dues ➤ Having alleged anti-national links with China and other foreign entities ➤ Attempting to disturb the social harmony of Ladakh 	 <p>Swarajyamag X - Link</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Ladakh Administration Revokes Land Allotted to Sonam Wangchuk's HIAL Over Non-Utilisation</p> <p>Date : 21 August 2025</p> <p>The Ladakh administration revoked the land allotted to Sonam Wangchuk's Himalayan Institute of Alternative Learning (HIAL) in the Union Territory.</p> <p>In 2018, around 1,076 kanals of land in Phyang village, Leh, had been granted to HIAL on a 40-year lease. However, Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk, cancelled the allotment, stating that the land was not utilised for its intended purpose, as no legally recognised university had been established on the site to date.</p>	<p>Ladakh administration cancels land allotment to Wangchuk's HIAL; innovator terms move 'witch hunt'</p> <p><i>The 3 Idiots fame innovator Wangchuk has termed the government move as a "witch hunt" and described HIAL as the pride of the people of Ladakh and the entire country.</i></p>  <p>The New Indian Express Opindia</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Sonam Wangchuk Sparks Outrage with Controversial Remarks on Goddess Sita During 2024 Interview</p> <p>Date : 18 March, 2024</p> <p>On 18th March, 2024 Sonam Wangchuk stirred a controversy after making highly objectionable remarks about Goddess Sita during an interview. The activist who has been observing the 'fast unto death' protest for the last 13 days said that "Modi government has turned out to be such a Ram who rescued Sita from Ravan but sold her on the open market after that."</p>	 <p>X Video Link Opindia</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Pakistani Social Media Handles Supported Sonam Wangchuk and showed him as a victim of the Indian Government</p> <p>Date : March 2024</p> <p>After the Ladakh administration revoked the land allotted to Sonam Wangchuk's Himalayan Institute of Alternative Learning (HIAL), several Pakistani social media accounts amplified a false narrative portraying him as a victim of the Indian government.</p>	 <p>Opindia Times of India</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Sonam Wangchuk terms anti-India Dan Church Aid, a 'reputed organisation'</p> <p>Date : 26 August 2023</p> <p>Alleging MHA leaking his NGO's details, Sonam Wangchuk terms Dan Church Aid, a 'reputed organisation', Dan Church Aid is funded by George Soros.</p> <p>On 26 August 2023, the Karnataka High Court dismissed a writ petition filed by Bengaluru-based MANSA Centre for Development and Social Action, which had sought a directive to its bank to release ₹29.12 lakh received from Denmark-based NGO Dan Church Aid that had been withheld.</p> <p>The Court noted that, following a 2013 communication from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had instructed all banks to ensure that any fund transfers from Dan Church Aid to individuals or organisations in India must be reported to the ministry for clearance before being processed.</p>	 <p>The Pamphlet Lawbeat</p>

9.	<p>Sonam Wangchuk Comes from Influential Family, Not Poor Background (as Portrayed in 3 Idiots)</p> <p>In Three Idiots, they portrayed Rancho as the son of a poor gardener, but in reality, Sonam Wangchuk comes from a powerful and influential family. His father, Sonam Wangyal, was a Congress leader and a minister in the Jammu and Kashmir government.</p>	 <p>The Week</p>
10.	<p>Sonam Wangchuk Married American Rebecca Norman, is linked to organisations linked to Ford Foundation</p> <p>Sonam Wangchuk married an American woman, Rebecca Norman, in 1996. Rebecca studied at the School for International Training (SIT) and Harvard University. SIT, a private non-profit institution based in Brattleboro, USA, is closely associated with the U.S. State Department and receives funding from the Ford Foundation, George Soros' Open Society Foundations (OSF), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Rebecca is also a strong supporter of Joe Biden and a vocal critic of Donald Trump.</p> <div data-bbox="256 1010 895 1160"> <p>The School for International Training (SIT) is known for its focus on experiential education and international programs. It has a variety of funding sources, including individual donors, grants, and institutional support. Here are some key categories of donors and supporters for SIT:</p> <p>1. Foundations and Non-Profit Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various foundations provide grants to support SIT's educational programs and initiatives, especially those focused on international development, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Some of these foundations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ford Foundation The Open Society Foundations The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation </div>	 <p>Sage Journals The Chronology</p>
<p>Part 2:Funding from Anti-Bharat Organizations</p>		
11.	<p>Sonam Wangchuk's SECMOL Funded via FutureEarth Networks Linked to "Club of Rome"</p> <p>Sonam Wangchuk founded the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) in 1988. The organisation receives funding from FutureEarth Networks, whose founder, Paul Shrivastava, now serves as Co-President of The Club of Rome — a prominent think tank established with Rockefeller support. The Club of Rome is widely known for initiating the global discourse on "climate crisis" and "overpopulation" through its influential 1971 report titled Limits of Growth.</p>	 <p>SHRM SECMOL-Partnerships Club of Rome Futureearth, Slgaurdian</p>


12.	<p>SECMOL Partner Karuna.org Linked to Ford Foundation</p> <p>Another partner of Sonam Wangchuk's SECMOL is Karuna.org. The USA chapter of the Karuna Foundation is directly linked to the Ford Foundation. Evonne Chen, Director of Karuna USA, the American subsidiary of the Karuna Foundation, also leads the Ford Foundation's BUILD Program.</p>	 <p>SECMOL-Partnerships Karuna USA</p>
13.	<p>Sonam Wangchuk's Main Funder China Hub, Hosted by CPC-Controlled Institutes</p> <p>The Chinese hub of Future Earth networks, which is the primary funder of Sonam Wangchuk, is hosted entirely by institutes controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CPC).</p> <p>China Global Hub Funders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ China Association for Science and Technology ➤ Sun Yat-sen University ➤ Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory (Zhuhai) ➤ Key Laboratory of Tropical Atmosphere-Ocean System (Sun Yat-sen University), Ministry of Education 	 <p>Future earths</p>
14.	<p>Wangchuk Received 2002 Ashoka Fellowship Funded by Rockefeller</p> <p>In 2002, Sonam Wangchuk received Ashoka fellowship which is funded by Skoll foundation, Schwab foundation, Rockefeller foundation</p>	 <p>Ashoka</p>
15.	<p>Sonam Wangchuk Appointed to Ladakh Vision and National Education Councils During Manmohan Singh's Tenure</p> <p>In 2004, when Manmohan Singh became the Prime Minister of India, Sonam Wangchuk was appointed to the Drafting Committee of the Ladakh Hill Council Vision Document, Ladakh 2025, and was tasked with formulating policies on education and tourism. The document was formally launched by Manmohan Singh in 2005. In the same year, Wangchuk was also appointed as a member of the National Governing Council for Elementary Education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development in the Manmohan Singh government.</p>	 <p>Archives</p>

16. Sonam Wangchuk's Connections with Ford Foundation and Other International NGOs

- In 2016, he [received](#) the Fred M. Packard Award from the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature, an award funded by organizations including the Rockefeller, Pew, and Packard Foundations.

3. **The David and Lucile Packard Foundation**
 - Known for its work in marine conservation, climate change, and biodiversity protection, the Packard Foundation has been a key partner for [IUCN](#) in advancing conservation goals, particularly in ocean and coastal ecosystems.
4. **The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation**
 - Focused on environmental conservation and scientific discovery, the Moore Foundation has partnered with [IUCN](#) to protect critical ecosystems, particularly in the Amazon, Andes, and other biodiversity hotspots.
5. **MacArthur Foundation**
 - The MacArthur Foundation has supported [IUCN](#) projects related to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and ecosystem management in regions such as Southeast Asia and Latin America.
6. **The Rockefeller Foundation**
 - The Rockefeller Foundation has contributed to initiatives related to sustainable development and resilience, working with [IUCN](#) to address environmental challenges linked to food security and climate adaptation.
7. **The Pew Charitable Trusts**
 - Known for its environmental and conservation programs, Pew has worked with [IUCN](#) on marine protection, species conservation, and policy advocacy to safeguard natural ecosystems globally.

- In 2017, he was awarded the TN Khoshoo Memorial Award, which is also funded by the Ford Foundation.



ATREE
@atree.org

#HappeningNow: Mr Sonam Wangchuk awarded the 14th TN Khoshoo Memorial Award. #TNKhoshoo2017 #Sustainability

T N KHOSHOO MEMORIAL AWARD AND LECTURE 2017
Satish Dhawan Auditorium, IISc

Sonam Wangchuk

T N Khoshoo Memorial Award and Lecture

The T N Khoshoo Memorial Award and Lecture was instituted in 2004 to honour the legacy of the world-renowned environmental scientist, Dr Tripti Nath Khoshoo. Dr Khoshoo was first Secretary of the Indian Government's newly created Department of Environment, in 1982. He played a significant role in the development of India's environmental policy. Dr Khoshoo was one of the original trustees of ATREE.

The annual T N Khoshoo Memorial Award is given to an academician or a practitioner whose work has had an impact in the fields of environment, conservation, or development. The T N Khoshoo Memorial Award was started by the Khoshoo family and ATREE to honour Dr Khoshoo's legacy. Through the T N Khoshoo Endowment Fund, the award, each year, encourages and promotes individuals for outstanding achievements in the field of conservation and sustainable development. The fund is sponsored by Dr Khoshoo's family, ATREE, the Ford Foundation, the Institute of Rural Research and Development (an initiative of the SM Sehgal Foundation), and other philanthropists. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 100,000.

- In 2018, he received his most prominent recognition, the Magsaysay Award, an honor often linked to individuals with connections to international networks, including those associated with the CIA, which has historical links to the Ford Foundation. [\[The Better India\]](#)
- Sonam is affiliated with the NGO LEAD India, another organization funded by the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation. [\[Ford foundation\]](#) [\[Lead india about\]](#)
- He is also [involved](#) with the International Association for Ladakh Studies, which published a four-volume work on Ladakh's culture, a project supported by the Ford Foundation.

Part 3: Controversial Photos

S.No.	Incident	Visual and Source
17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Photo of Actor Prakash Raj Meets Sonam Wangchuk In Leh, Supports His Hunger Strike ● Actor Prakash Raj on March 26, 2024, met Sonam Wangchuk, who has been on a hunger strike here for nearly three weeks demanding statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. ● Raj had extended his support to this controversial protest led by Wangchuk. ● On Sep 27, 2025, Prakash Raj also protested the decision to arrest Wangchuk. Sharing these photos, Prakash Raj wrote, "You can cage a bird, but you can't stop it from singing." 	 <p>@joinprakashraj @prakashraaj NDTV</p>
18.	<p>Photo with AAP MP Sanjay Singh [16 October 2024] Tribune India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In October 2024, Sonam Wangchuk was protesting at Ladakh Bhawan in Delhi demanding inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. ● During this protest, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh met Sonam Wangchuk at Ladakh Bhawan in New Delhi on October 15, 2024. ● Wangchuk was protesting at Ladakh Bhawan because the Delhi Police had not given him and the volunteers accompanying him permission to protest at Jantar Mantar. 	 <p>Tribune India</p>
19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ AAP leader Mathur and party's met Sonam Wangchuk ❖ On May 7, 2024, AAP leader Abhinandita Dayal Mathur and the party's Ladakh convener Tsering Phuntsog met Sonam Wangchuk and expressed support for the controversial four-point constitutional demand of Ladakh. 	 <p>NDTV [7 May 2024]</p>

20.	<div data-bbox="272 226 884 703" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="895 226 1433 703" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>❖ Photo with Mohammed Yunus (Bangladesh) - Post Link, 2 [8 February 2020]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● These photos of Bangladesh Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus with Sonam Wangchuk and others were taken during an event at the British High Commission in Dhaka on 8 February 2020.
21.	<p>❖ Photo with Mm Michelle Bachelet the President of Chile - Post Link [21 January 2018]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In January 2018, Sonam Wangchuk met former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet at the Congreso Futuro 2018 event in Santiago, Chile. ● While posting this photo on Facebook, Wangchuk had made the controversial comment that, "No wonder that when Chile was struck with a 8.8 scale earthquake in 2010... only 5,000 people died. The same year an earthquake of 7 magnitude (nearly hundred times weaker) in poorly prepared Haiti killed roughly 200,000 people!!!" <div data-bbox="991 902 1449 1359" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Post Link</p>