



His Holiness the 12th Gyalwang Drukpa of the world-renowned Drukpa Lineage and his followers at the press conference to announce the flagging-off of the annual Drukpa Padyatra where over 600 Buddhist monks will undertake a spiritual journey spanning 400 km across the rugged Himalayan mountains from Manali to Ladakh at the Hotel Piccadilly, Sector 22-B, in Chandigarh on Friday.

— Photo: Kulbir Singh Kalsi

Drukpa Sect Head To Undertake Manali-Ladakh 'Padyatra'

FW BUREAU
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His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa, head of the Drukpa Lineage (proponents of the Mahayana Buddhist philosophy) is leading a pilgrimage (padyatra) commencing from Manali, Himachal Pradesh, and culminating in Ladakh to coincide with the colourful annual Hemis Festival in Ladakh. The yatra will start from Manali, HP, tomorrow and end on July 3.

The 'padyatra' will span across northern India, covering 400 kms and crossing five Himalayan passes and Drukpa would be accompanied on the yatra by over 750 Buddhist monks, nuns and lay people

from all over the world who wish to be guided by his wisdom and teachings.

Speaking about this pilgrimage during a press conference here, Gyalwang Drukpa said, "the 'padyatra' is indeed a unique initiative as this is probably the first time that a spiritual leader is personally traversing such a huge distance, replete with hardships in a conscious endeavour to reach out and connect to his followers in remote Himalayan villages, and raise global awareness and enlightenment."

Gyalwang Drukpa, said, "we are confident of raising awareness during the 'padyatra' and helping people discover their intrinsic strengths to become caring and responsible citizens

of the world.

We would strive to raise awareness of key issues plaguing the world today and possible solutions for a better tomorrow. It aims at generating interest in the Drukpa Buddhist traditions and is focused towards creating awareness on the teachings, art and culture of this 800-year-old legacy."

While teaching people the importance and the need to conserve the sanctity of nature, Drukpa said globalisation and industrialisation open up a million opportunities for the world to come together and flourish, but they also increase the challenges facing humanity as a whole — climate change being the villain du jour. ♦