

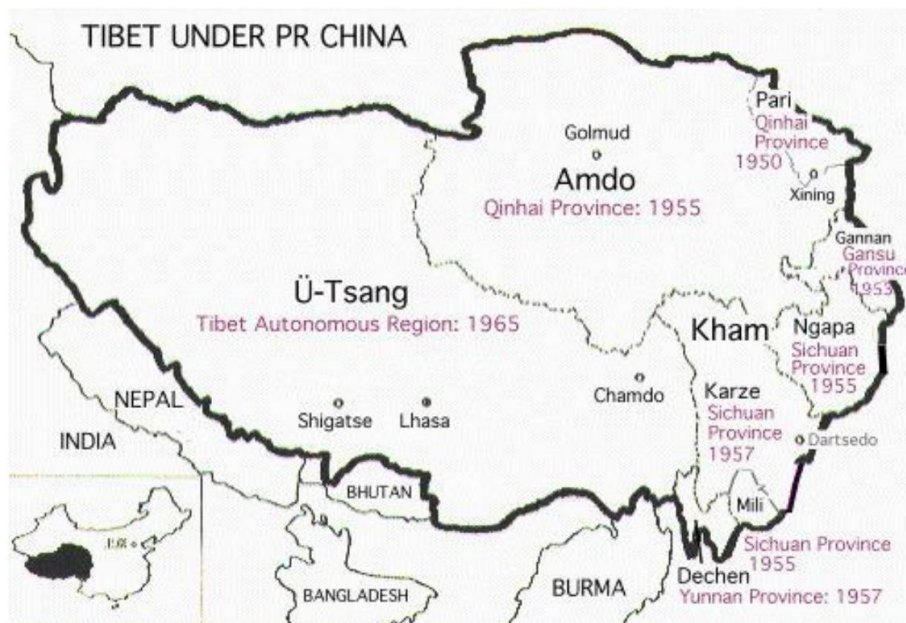


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TIBET INSIGHT April 1-15, 2021



News in/from Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)

Shigatse transfers 240,000 farmers and herdsmen for employment generation

March 26, 2021

The Human Resource and Social Security Bureau of Shigatse reported that 240,000 farmers and herdsmen were transferred within and outside of Shigatse through the mediation of 31 labour dispatch organizations, 1662 labour cooperatives, 1547 village labour brokers, 125-county level and 38 Municipal and 9 District level transfer bases. After completion of “vocational skill training” at the Skill Service Centre based in Shigatse, trainees comprising farmers and herdsmen are transferred to different cities in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). “Skill training” includes breeding, forest resource and waste picking, planting, woodwork and cooking in addition to tailoring skills to the needs of new and emerging industries. Under the auspices of the TAR Party Committee, Shigatse plans to build 30 more employment bases in Shigatse alone by 2021 and generate “employment” to 10,000 more farmers and herdsmen.

Law Enforcement Team of TAR People’s Congress conducts inspections in Shigatse and Lhoka

March 10, 2021

Coinciding with the 62nd anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day, the Law Enforcement Team of TAR People’s Congress conducted several inspections in Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze) and Lhoka (Ch: Shannan).

Led by the Deputy Secretary of TAR People’s Government and Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of TAR People’s Congress, Doto (Tibetan), the inspections were carried out in villages, counties and cities in Shigatse and Lhoka. One purpose of the inspections was to oversee the progress of ethnic unity under the theme “Regulations on the Establishment of Ethnic Unity in TAR” and how the regulation is being implemented by the Local Enforcement Committees.

The Inspection Team emphasised the need to further standardise the regulation “Ethnic Unity and Progress Work in TAR”, strengthen it, and continue to carry out and propagate inter-ethnic

exchanges, interactions and build more platforms to forge consciousness and oneness of the “Chinese nation as one”.

Women’s Reconnaissance unit of Lhoka Army Division conducts military drills

March 23, 2021

The Women’s Reconnaissance Unit of the Lhoka Army Division conducted different military drills, ranging from cavalry tactics to jumping out of cars to shooting, climbing, rappelling to blasting practices. Led by Squad Leader Feng Kunna, the Women’s Reconnaissance Unit was drilled to infiltrate into the “enemy’s” command post and carry out military operations. The two-day military drill also encompassed exercises including harsh climatic conditions such as extreme cold temperatures and a difficult battle environment. The drills were reported to be a success.

The Women’s Reconnaissance squad had recruited women from the health, communications and other disciplines and were “drilled” to survive hypoxia, fight in cold weather conditions and master combat skills such as shooting, climbing, and rappelling.

Shigatse UFWD carried out propaganda activities in Nyalam County for “returned Tibetans”

March 23, 2021

Yan Jianhua, Minister of United Front Work Department (UFWD) and Standing Member of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee went to Dram on March 22 to meet and greet “returned Tibetans”. While interacting with Tibetan returnees, Jianhua asked about their well-being and employment status and urged them to convey to their overseas friends and family to appreciate the social and economic development in Tibet. He also urged them to support the Party, and do things that are conducive to the unification of the motherland.

He asked some of the returned Tibetans whose family and friends are in Guangzhou and Shenzhen to correct themselves ideologically and politically before settling down and finding jobs upon their return.

Nang County assigned flood and drought relief Command Teams

April 2, 2021

Nyingtri (Chi: Linzhi) Prefecture's Nang County has designated a tri-level flood control and drought relief Command Team comprising 36 members. They include 11 members from Towns and 17 and 8 members from different villages and counties respectively. The Commando Team was established to deal with "various emergencies". The task of the Command's members from the Counties is to organize and implement tasks when an emergency strike first, while Township level members are to respond after a report of an "emergency" arrives. Village level commandos are responsible for emergency rescue works in the village itself.

Fundings approved for three new airports in Tibet

April 10, 2021

China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) recently approved funding for a series of major airport construction projects in TAR according to a report in the Tibet Daily dated April 10, 2021. It identified three new airports namely, Lhuntse in Lhoka (Ch: Shannan), Dingri in Ngari (Ch: Ali) and Burang/Purang in Ngari as those to be built. All are close to the border with India. In addition the reconstruction and expansion of the second runway of Lhasa airport has been approved with a total investment of 13.6 billion yuan. The local Lhasa government has been instructed to improve the transportation system as well as the transport infrastructure in the borders under this project, to meet the travel needs of locals and ensure a guaranteed capacity to respond to emergent needs of Tibet's economic and social development.

96 per cent of the work on the second runway at Lhasa Gongka airport has been completed. The reconstruction and expansion of Terminal 3 of the Lhasa Gongka International Airport was one of the key construction projects for the 13th Five-Year Plan, and work on it was started in December 2017 with an investment of 3.907 billion yuan. The construction includes a new 88,000 square meter T-3 terminal building, 21 air stations and will be operational in 2021.

Lhasa's ideological and political training of Teachers starts

April 08, 2021

The Lhasa Municipal Party Committee started Ideological and Political Training on April 7 at the Lhasa's Teachers Continuing Education School. The training is focussing on Xi Jinping's exposition and elucidation on education including but not limited to studying political documents of the party, and improving the political and ideological standpoints of teachers.

The training proposes to “intensify education of ideals and beliefs, rigorously implement Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era in the school campus, classrooms, in the minds of teachers and students, to foster the sense of the consciousness of the Chinese nation, conduct patriotic (re)education, to inculcate traditional Chinese values and empower red genes”.

The person in charge of the Municipal Education Bureau said the Bureau attaches importance to such training and that the concerned departments have “carefully selected expert trainers and designed curriculum for the training”. The training was for three days and over 200 teachers from primary and secondary schools participated.

Shigatse's Nyalam Customs Anti-smuggling Branch won the honorary title from the Central Ministry of Public Security

March 25, 2021

Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze) Nyalam County's Customs Anti-Smuggling Branch won an honorary title from the Central Ministry of Public Security for their “first-class performance”. It is the only unit from Tibet to receive this “honour”.

The Nyalam Customs Anti-smuggling Branch has jurisdiction over the entire Shigatse including Dromo Yatung (Ch: Yadong) bordering India's Sikkim with a distance of 1600 Kms. The Nyalam Customs Anti-smuggling Branch was given the honorary title for their commitment to Xi Jinping's Thoughts on “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era” and for strictly implementing the work requirements of the General Administration with due diligence, hard work and their expertise in anti-smuggling work. The Branch has been winning honorary titles since 2016 from “Advanced Primary Organization of the National Custom system” to “Outstanding Primary Unit under Central Public Security Bureau”.

Tsering Dhondup, Former Vice Chairman of Shigatse PPCC, removed from the Party

April 01, 2021

According to TAR Discipline Inspection Commission, Tsering Dhondup (in Chinese: Ciren Tunzhu), former Vice-Chairman of Shigatse (Xigaze), has seriously violated the Party's discipline and law. The report mentioned, "Tsering has lost his ideal and beliefs. He deviated from his original aspirations and mission, seriously violated the Party's political discipline, the spirit of the eight central regulations, work discipline, violated national laws and regulations". He was accused of corruption, bribery, and illegal possession of ammunition.

He is removed from the Party, dismissed from all his public office entitles, and transferred the case to the procuratorial organ of the TAR for further review of case. The case report also highlighted "Tsering as a leading cadre had no sense bottom line, distorted values, resisted organisational review, and his lack of responsibility caused loss of state-owned assets."

Tsering Dhondup (Male, Age- 59) is a Tibetan by nationality from Gyangtse County, Shigatse. He joined the CCP in August 1984, after completing college. He was the Vice Chairman of the PPCC Shigatse Prefecture (2015-2020) and Secretary of the Namulin County Party Committee (2015-2018).

Tibet issues border activity bans, strengthens control over illegal crossings

April 06, 2021

The Tibet Autonomous Region has banned 15 border activities, further strengthening controls over illegal crossings as the region prepares to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its peaceful liberation in May. The Public Security Department and Foreign Affairs Office of the Tibet Autonomous Region has jointly issued a circular with other government departments, highlighting 15 acts that are prohibited at the border. The prohibited acts include entering the border management zone without valid documents; evading border inspection; organizing or helping others to be smuggled across the border; hunting or collecting national protected rare animals and plants; etc.

In 2020, the central government called for efforts to ensure national security and enduring peace and stability, steadily improve people's lives, maintain a good environment, solidify border defence and ensure frontier security at the seventh Central Symposium on Tibet Work.

Yang Minghong, a professor with the Faculty of Social Development and Western China Development Studies at Sichuan University told Global Times that due to Tibet's long border and its harsh geographical and natural conditions, the border was not fully guarded before and criminal activities have always taken place along the border.

China begins 5G internet at Tibet radar station across India

April 13, 2021

According to a Chinese military official (April 12) China has begun operating 5G internet services at the Ganbala (Tibetan: Gampa-la) radar station in Tibet at an elevation of 5,374 meters above sea level. Ganbala is the world's highest manually operated radar station. The Gampa-la pass is part of Tibet's Nagarze (in Lhoka) County which shares borders with India and Bhutan.

The official military website reported that the People's Liberation Army started to coordinate with civilian enterprises to commence construction of the 5G base station at Gampa-la to solve the difficulty of network access for border defence troops. The report added that apart from providing stable and high-speed 5G signal to soldiers in the deep mountains, the project is part of efforts to improve training and on-duty conditions for soldiers stationed in border areas.

Former Party Secretary of Toelung Dechen District and First-level investigator under investigation

April 14, 2021

Kalsang Phuntsok, former Party Secretary of Toelung Dechen District of Lhasa is under investigation by the TAR Discipline Inspection Committee for "serious violations of discipline and law". Interestingly, his party designation before the investigation was that of a First-Level Investigator in Lhasa in addition to his role as the party secretary of Toelung Dechen District from November 2019 to March 2021.

Phuntsok, a Tibetan, was born in December 1976 in Damshung County of Lhasa and joined the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in June 2000. Before joining the CCP, he worked in different positions, namely the Director of Education and Sports Bureau, Deputy District Chief

of Chengguan District, and Deputy Secretary and Director of the Party Leadership Group of the Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau of Lhasa from April 1996 to August 2016. From August 2016 to March 2021, he was Party Secretary of Toelung Dechen District. From March 2021 till the present, he was the first-level Investigator in the District.

Party Secretary of Lhasa inspects schools and villages to see progress in Party history Learning and Education

April 14, 2021

Yan Jinhai, Party Secretary of Lhasa Municipality inspected schools and villages in Lhasa on April 12 to evaluate the progress of Party history learning and education. He was accompanied on the inspections by Zhuang Hongxiang, Deputy Secretary of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, Wu Yasong, Standing member of Municipal Party Committee and Minister of Propaganda Department, and Zhang Zheng, standing member of Municipal Party Committee and Secretary of Chengguan District.

During an inspection of the Beijing Experimental Middle School in Lhasa, Jinhai and his team went to the Junior High school class, ideological and political classrooms and corridors, Teachers' Ethics Lecture hall and other parts of the school campus. He told the teachers that "they should spearhead the students" in learning about the party's history, and incorporate "interesting activities" to spread the "essence" of the party in the minds of young people.

A New Red education base opened in Nyingtri

April 1, 2021

A new 'Red education base' was opened in Gongbujiangda County, Nyingtri, on April 1, 2021. The project is worth 1.8 million Chinese Yuan, with a total construction area of 400 square meters. The people and cadres of Nyingtri were told that with this project the "Political standards must be higher, party spirit requirements must be stricter, and organizational discipline must be stronger." The new red education base is expected to further strengthen the grassroots party spirit, and solidify the foundation for effective development of 'party history learning and education'. Nyingtri plans to soon come up with an overall plan on 'how to best use this red base and ways to deepen the party history learning and education'.

Nyingtri carries out national consciousness campaign to monks and nuns

April 15, 2021

To promote the "4.15" National Security Education Day for the people, the Miling County Political and Legal Committee carried out a 'national consciousness campaign' for monks and nuns of the Zhongsa and Dangga villages. Li Jie, team leader of Zhongsa village, said launching of this publicity and education activity is intended to set off a wave of learning, publicity, and implementation and also provide a good platform for the general public to further understand national security knowledge and create strong publicity of the knowledge that "national security is everyone's responsibility". He added that there is need to raise the public's awareness of national security precautions, strengthen the national security and civil defence, counter-insurgency, anti-secret theft, and anti-espionage for laying a solid foundation for maintaining national security and social stability.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

The Central Institute of Socialism held a seminar on Tibet, Beijing

April 7, 2021

An academic seminar on "Creating the Consciousness of the Chinese Nation: Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet" was conducted by the Central Institute of Socialism on April 6. Experts and scholars from the Central Party School, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Minzu University of China, the China Tibetology Research Centre, and the China Tibet Information Centre participated in the discussions.

The official statement highlighted that "Experts and scholars at the conference believe that the Party Central Committee has always attached great importance to Tibet work, especially since the 18th Party Congress, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has attached great importance to Tibet work, cared about the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, and vigorously promoted the economic and social development of the TAR".

"With the support of the Party Central Committee and the people of all ethnic groups across the country and the joint efforts of the children of all ethnic groups in Tibet, the production and living conditions of the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet have been greatly improved, their

quality of life and spiritual outlook has been renewed, and the economic and social outlook has achieved leapfrog development".

Sershul cracks down on Tibetans possessing Dalai Lama's photographs

April 9, 2021

Chinese authorities in Dza Wonpo township in the Kardze (Chinese, Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture's Sershul (Shiqu) launched a new campaign in the area forcing Tibetans to sign a document promising not to keep or circulate the portrait of the 14th Dalai Lama.

Radio Free Asia, citing an unidentified source, reported that the campaign began with a public meeting on March 17 in which authorities announced that "Anyone found possessing or displaying images of the Dalai Lama will be liable to criminal prosecution, and that anyone found with the banned photos will be cut off from any financial support or other assistance they receive from the government."

Authorities had recently inspected a local old-age home on the pretext of cleaning the facility and confiscated a number of the banned photos, giving residents of the facility pictures of China's President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders to put up in their place.

Tibetans in the area are required to download an app on their phones, giving officials access to all the user's data. Dza Wonpo is under heavy surveillance post- the 2008 protest, and has attracted a further police crackdown after a local monastery refused to hoist the Chinese flag in 2012.

Shenzhen Wintech to provide 100 sets of integrated intelligent communication system equipment for Tibet and Xinjiang border defence

March 03, 2021

Shenzhen Wintech company has decided to provide free support valued at 50 million Yuan to border defence units in Xinjiang and Tibet from March 1. This includes a platform of 100,000 cubic meters of the "Integrated Smart Communication System for Border and Coast Defense" and 500 sets of professional communication equipment. Units in the region can apply for free,

and Hi-Tech (Shenzhen Wintech) provides life-long free equipment and technical services, and subsequent applications in other regions will be open. The company is described as 'the forefront of reform and opening up, and has developed independent innovation and insists on advancing with the times, and made high-tech contribution to the civil-military integration".

The Shenzhen Wintech company publicises the spirit of company and its tribute to the border defence army as:

“Where I stand is China

You defend and watch with your lives

We are grateful to you with actions

Great rivers and mountains, let's not give up!

The snow-capped mountains echo the heroic spirit,

And the wind and snow border show loyalty”

China cracking down on Tibetan writers and educators, Sichuan

April 14, 2021

Go Sherab Gyatso, popular known as Gosher, a 46-year-old monk at Kirti monastery in Sichuan's Ngaba (in Chinese, Aba) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, was taken into custody by State Security agents on October 26, 2020, in Sichuan's capital Chengdu. He was arrested because of his book "We Need To Wake Up," published in 2007 by Gansu Nationalities Press, and several articles detailing the restrictions on freedom of expression that Tibetans endure under Chinese rule.

A few other prominent writers and environmental activists were also arrested with Gosher. On April 2, Sey Nam, writer and environmental activist, and Tsering Dolma, a former political prisoner, were taken into custody from Serta County, Kardze. Tsering Dolma has been detained at least twice before in 2008 and 2012 after she took part in protests against Chinese policies and rule in Tibetan areas.

Gangbu Yudrum, who previously served a three-year prison term, in 2008, for raising the banned Tibetan national flag was again arrested by the local authorities of Serta County on March 22.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Penpa Tsering appears set to become the next Sikyong of CTA

April 15, 2021

Penpa Tsering is set to be the second Sikyong. On April 16 he was well ahead by over 5400 votes in the more than 60,300 votes counted. A total of 83,079 votes were cast worldwide. Official results for the Sikyong election are to be formally announced on May 14 and that of the Parliament seats from May 14-28.

Penpa Tsering's biggest win has come from the exiled Tibetan heartland of Dharamshala where he won 3,425 votes against Kaydor's 1,933.

Kaydor has done exceptionally well at Bylakuppe Lugsam and Mundgod settlements where the big monasteries, dominated by people of Kham origin, are seen as a vote bank for fellow-Khampa candidates. But he has also done well in U-Tsang dominated Ladakh, winning 1,241 votes to Penpa Tsering's 1,236.
