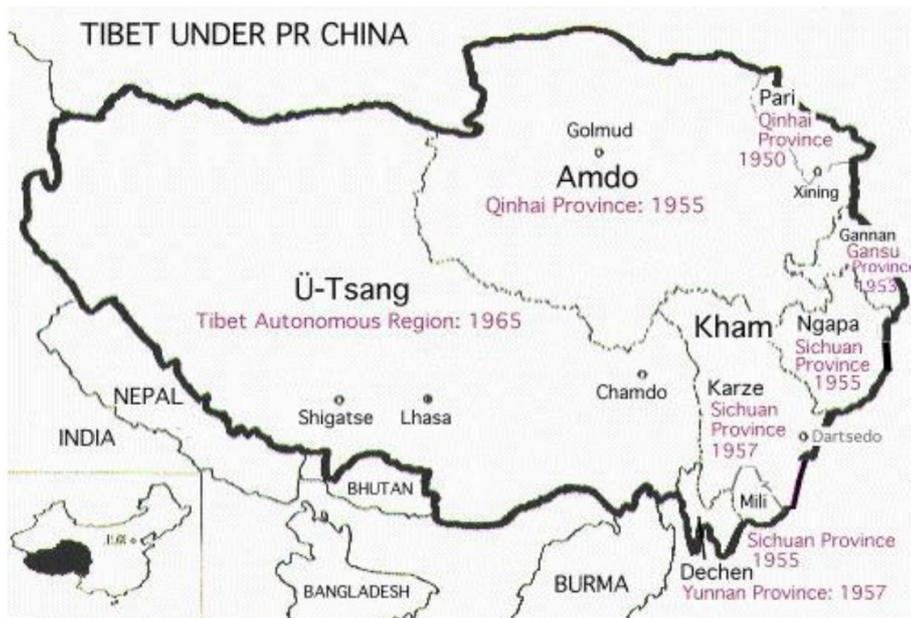
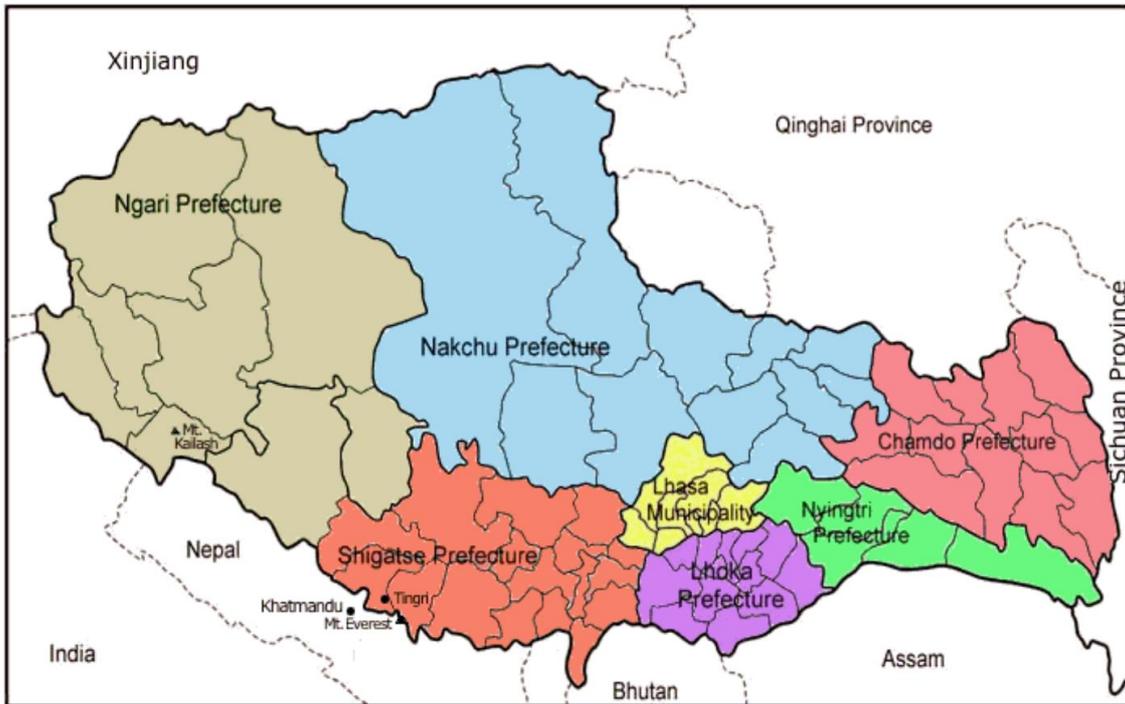




**TIBET INSIGHT, 1-15 JANUARY 2021**



## TAR NEWS

### **Inspection in Drepung monastery to assess stability maintenance**

January 12, 2021

Directed by the TAR Party Committee, Zhuangyan Cai Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, inspected 'stability maintenance' in the Drepung monastery on January 11. He listened to the detailed reports by Drepung monastery's TAR Party Committee on political security and stability maintenance work. Zhuangyan Cai interacted with the Monastic Management Committee members and other communist cadres stationed in the monastery. He told the officials to tighten stability maintenance, make sure the monks abide by the "four consciousness" and "four confidences" and urged officials to think of innovative ways to ensure "harmony, unity of the motherland, ethnic unity", and long-term stability.

Zhuangyan Cai also inspected check-points on the Lhasa-Liuwu Expressway, bus stations, railway stations, convenience police stations and other public places as part of "field investigation" of stability maintenance work in the region. He emphasised "Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era", the 'essence' of the Seventh Tibet Work Forum, and the Party's governing Tibet strategy in the new era, and adherence to the TAR Party Committee and TAR People's Government. He advised officials to implement the responsibility of maintaining harmony and stability earnestly.

He was accompanied by TAR leaders, Pema Wangdui, Xu Xueguang, Sonam Rinzin and Yan Guijun.

### **Publicity Campaign on "Anti-Terrorism Law"**

December 31, 2021

To strengthen the anti-terrorism Working Group, intensify anti-terrorism propaganda work and create awareness about anti-terrorism, the Anti-Terrorism Bureau of Ngari, together with the Ngari Prefectural Cyberspace Affairs Office, Regional Procuratorate, Regional Security Bureau, Anti-Smuggling Bureau and the Ngari Anti-Terrorism Special Investigation

Detachment, fourteen anti-terrorism unit members, carried out a propaganda campaign themed on “anti-terrorism law” on December 27 in all seven counties of Ngari.

Zhang Huiming, Deputy Secretary of Ngari Party School and Counter-terrorism group leader; Shen Zhaoshen, member of Ngari Political and Legal Committee, Director of National Security Office, Party Secretary of the Police Department and Deputy Head of Anti-terrorism; and Tenzin Phurbu, Deputy Secretary of Ngari Prefectural Party Committee, Chief Inspector of Anti-Terrorism Leading Group and Office Director of the Ngari Prefecture Public Security Department, participated in the propaganda campaign. The campaign was carried out mainly in the densely populated areas of Ngari. It included the display of exhibition boards, banners, responding to on-site queries and distribution of copies of the “Terrorist Attack Prevention Manual”, which described potential locations, methods of detection and identification of a “terrorist attack” and other reading materials. Officials from the Ngari Police Department also issued copies of the “Anti-Terrorism Law of the People’s Republic of China” in the attempt to “fully mobilise the masses on how to strictly prevent and reduce breeding ground for violent and criminal activities.”

### **Tibet Military Region holds Fourth Plenary Meeting**

January 13, 2021

Fourth enlarged, Military-Civil Plenary meeting of the Tibet Military Region was held recently in TAR. TAR Party Secretary and First Secretary of the Tibet Military Region, Wu Yingjie, members of the Tibet Military Region and officials from the General Office of the TAR Party Committee attended.

Speaking at the meeting, Wu Yingjie emphasised the need to enhance the strength of the army in the Tibet Military Region and maintain national unity and territorial integrity. He explained that in the past year, the TAR Party Committee has adhered to Xi Jinping’s thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, on the consolidation of the army, and the intensification of the “four consciousness and four confidences” campaign.

He advocated building a strong army that firmly believes in its core leadership and loyalty in the party’s commands. He added that political position, direction, and principles must always align with the Central Military Commission, with Xi Jinping as the core. In addition to

shouldering the responsibility in securitizing borders and fulfilling the “sacred mission” of protecting the unity of the motherland, and social harmony, the Tibet Military Region must also resolutely fight against “separatist activities” and defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity. He added that deepening civil-military integration and building the relationship between civilians and military is essential and gave the example of Dolkar and Yangzom, the two sisters and their father from Yumai in Lhoka (Ch:Shannan) to whom Xi Jinping wrote a letter in 2017. Wu Yingjie told officials to emulate their “good work” in protecting the borders and asked them to propagate this to other people.

### **TAR PPCC convenes 37th Chairmen Meeting**

January 13, 2021

On January 12, the TAR PPCC convened its 37th Chairmen’s Meeting. Chaired by Phakpa Lha Gelek Namgyal, Vice-Chairman of CPPCC and Chairman of TAR PPCC, it was presided by Danke, Member of the TAR Party Committee, Deputy Secretary of TAR PPCC and head of TAR United Front Work Department. Other TAR PCC Vice Chairmen like Gao Yang, Zhukhang Thupten Khedup, Chime Rinzin, Lobsang Jigme, Wang Yanglin, Sangay Dakpa, Dolkar, and Lei Guilong attended.

In addition to studying Wu Yingjie’s speech given at the 163rd Standing Committee Meeting of TAR, and his feedback to the work reports of the TAR PPCC, the 37th Chairmen’s meeting also discussed work plans for 2021, reviewed materials for the upcoming 11th TAR PPCC session, and discussed the need to improve the political stand, ideological understanding and obedience to a unified leadership. The meeting emphasised that the concerned preparatory departments must consider the overall situation of the region, and must be enthused with a sense of responsibility, good mental state and ensure that all preliminary tasks for the 11th TAR PPCC session are conducted in a smooth and coordinated manner.

### **TAR Leaders inspect Norbulingka and Potala Palace**

January 11, 2021

The Vice Chairman of TAR People’s Government Dorjee Tsedup accompanied by a team of officials recently inspected the Norbulingka and Potala Palace to evaluate the protection of cultural relics and fire safety mechanisms. Dorjee Tsedup said that protection of cultural relics

is conducive to inheriting the Chinese nation's spirit and cohesion. All cultural protection units must enhance their sense of responsibility, recognise potential hazards and ensure adequate measures.

### **Public Security Bureau of Ngari's Gar County organises yearly training of Police and Combat Forces**

January 15, 2021

On January 15, the Public Security Bureau of Ngari's Gar County organised its yearly training of police and combat forces. Dawa Tsering Standing Committee member of the County Party Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee, and the County's Public Security Bureau attended the inaugural meeting and spoke. Phurbu Dhondup, member of the County's Party Committee and Deputy Director of the County's Public Security Bureau, announced the training plans for 2021.

In his speech Dawa Tsering instructed:

1. Importance of correct political position and clear understanding/significance of the combat training and that 2021 will see an intensification of combat training. Therefore, the implementation of a training plan is vital for the current and future.
2. Focus on the key tasks and the resolve to improve and strive for large scale military training, urged police forces to comply by all organs of the public security bureaus
3. Strengthen organisational leadership and promote full-scale actual combat training of the entire police force to achieve practical results.
4. The Special Office for Military Training must ensure training progresses in an orderly manner and that officials of Public Security Bureaus at all levels should set an example in military training.

### **Bomi County employs 'family management model' to put the masses to the Party line, Nyingtri**

December 29, 2020

Nyingtri dispatched 29 county-level leaders to conduct an in-depth investigation of public sentiment and civil affairs petitions at the end of 2020. The County proposes a 'four to one' family management model to popularise the Party line among the masses. This mandates that

they encourage the party members and government officials 'to treat the masses as their family, people's appeals as their household affairs and people's work as their family business'. They have carried out more than 1,200 surveys, received 310 public appeals, and helped to solve 150 problems.

A total of 2,440 party members and cadres in the County have paired with more than 3,500 households through both 'one to one' and 'one to many' mode. These party members and cadres have carried out more than 24,600 daily contacts through phone calls and WeChat and visited 7,120 times on major festivals. The number of convenience service halls, e-government service halls, township-level convenience service centers, and village-level convenience service agencies have been increased. The County posted more than 120 party members and 106 convenience liaison officers to supervise these offices and a total of 8,100 civil affairs agents have been appointed.

### **Nyingtri PPCC completed Seventh Session meeting and election**

January 13, 2020

The Nyingtri Municipal Committee PPCC concluded its Seventh Session on January 12. The conference urged that the Nyingtri's PPCC organizations at all levels and its members firmly keep the original mission in mind and further improve the system of political consultation, democratic supervision, and political consensus. For doing so, they pointed out that the following things must be followed: (i) must adhere to the political direction of the Party's leadership, (ii) must strengthen 'four consciousness', 'four confidences', and 'two safeguards,' (iii) must focus on the principle of servicing the overall situation of development, (iv) must consolidate and develop the broadest patriotic united front for building a political consensus, (v) must take a clear position of the CPPCC to perform its duties for the people and enhance the people's sense of happiness and security, and (vi) all CPPCC members must continuously improve their political grasp, investigation and research capabilities, and the ability to contact the masses. The meeting specifically mentioned closely follow the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core.

The Seventh Session also elected three Vice Chairmen, namely Tenzin Rabten, Wangdue, Zhu Zhenghui. Dai Ping was elected as the General Secretary and Dawa as a new Standing Committee Member of the PPCC.

## **Nyingtri held a briefing meeting of the second batch of advanced "Four Stresses and Four Loves" mass education practice and activities**

January 15, 2021

Nyingtri held a summary briefing meeting on the advanced collective deeds of the second batch of 'four stresses and four love' mass education and practice on January 15. According to the report, **Bomi County** has established 15 "Red Iron Cavalry" Communist Service Teams with more than 150 people since 2017. They are equipped with eight motorcycles to reach out to the farmers and herdsmen, carry out "Four Stresses and Four Loves" education, poverty alleviation policies, epidemic prevention and control, and various propaganda lectures. The propaganda contents are made into short videos and shared through county and district official WeChat accounts and Douyin. One of the main themes of the lectures and videos is 'red heart-, party-building' through 'four loves and four stresses'.

**Chayu County** has established 16 publicity teams with more than 100 people to carry out the 'four stresses and four loves' mass education. The County has carried out mass education under the theme 'national unity and building a beautiful home together'. They preach the Chinese constitution, theories of the Party, and poverty alleviation policies. In villages such as Zala and Xueni, they held declamation competitions to prove loyalty to the Party and told people to follow advanced national model citizens like Tseyang and Choesang (Qusang).

**Metok County** (in Chinese: Medog) has conducted people-to-people preaching by dispatching the 'four love and four stresses' teams to government agencies, enterprises, monasteries, schools, and nomads and patrol areas. From 2017, the County has re-educated more than 320,000 people and made more than 7,000 presentations. From January 3 to 4, the Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee held its 131st Standing Committee Meeting to convey and study the spirit of the Central Rural Work Conference, the Ninth Plenary Session of the District Party Committee, the District Party Committee Economic Work Conference, the District Party Committee and People's Congress Work Conference. Municipal Party Secretary Ma Shengchang presided over the meeting.

**The Linzhi Guangdong Experimental School** formulated the "Four Stresses, and Four Loves" mass education practice and activities and established propaganda groups mainly headed by the School Party Branch Secretary Jin Sang. The school advised officials to carry

out mass education activities coinciding with important festivals, invite more experts from outside and encourage people to access online material of the ‘Tibet Million Serf Liberation Memorial Hall’.

### **Nyingchi held the Municipal Standing Committee Meeting**

January 21, 2021

The Municipal Party Committee of Nyingtri held the 131st Standing Committee meeting from January 3 to 4. Wangdui, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Mayor; Liu Guangming, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Executive Deputy Mayor; Zhang Xiuwu, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; Liu Yeqiang, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee; Zhu Jiang, Secretary of the Municipal Public Security Bureau; Dawa, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Minister of UWFD; Zhang Haibo, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Minister of Propaganda; Mei Jiakui, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee; and Yu Chang, Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee, and Director of the Supervisory Committee, attended the meeting.

The meeting reminded those attending of the importance of Xi Jinping's speech at the Central Rural Work Forum, 7th Tibet Work Forum, 9th Plenary Session, and Central Economic Work Forum and asked them to carry out an excellent job in implementing the 14th Five Year Plan and China's long-term goal of 2035. Counties, districts, and departments at all levels were told to continue to deepen the "Four Stresses and Four Loves" mass education and practice activities and building of a socialist spiritual civilisation. Promoting the ideological and moral basis of agricultural and pastoral areas and guiding people of all ethnic groups to appreciate the Party's favour and follow the Party unswervingly was emphasised as the priority.

The meeting pointed out that Secretary Wu Yingjie's speech at the work meeting of the District Party Committee and People's Congress made comprehensive arrangements for the People's Congresses in the region for the coming times. It stated that the standing committees of the people's congresses at all levels must earnestly study and implement the spirit of Secretary Wu Yingjie speech at the District Party Committee and People's Congress, always adhere to the Party's leadership throughout all aspects of the work of the people's congress, unswervingly

follow the path of the socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and serve more consciously.

The meeting also reported five cases of violations of the Central Regulations of the Eighth Rule by bureau-level cadres. The Disciplinary Inspection Commission of the TAR passed the decision on the five cases.

### **Tsona arrested 18 Tibetans on the charges of “separatism”**

January 7, 2021

Tsona Dzong authorities arrested 18 Tibetans on charges of separatism on January 2 from Shingyon village, Tsonga Dzong, Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan). Among the arrested, 11 are Tsona residents, and seven are from outside Tsona. According to sources from inside Tibet, preceding the arrest of 18 Tibetans, the local People's Congress held a meeting where people were banned from carrying their mobile phones. After the meeting, a number of people were interrogated at the local police station as many of them had their phones with them due to their work, and consequently, they were fined 500 Yuan.

The next day 18 people were not only arrested but severely beaten at the Tsona Dzong Police station during interrogation on suspicion of being involved in activities of ‘separatism’ and ‘splitting’ the nation. Three of them were in critical condition and taken to a local hospital. They were asked to produce their household registration (hukou) and it was found that some are from Chamdo and Sershul counties and have small businesses. Tibet Times reported that 11 of them are females and 7 males. They are Woesser, Khangsa, Kunsang Dechen, Situ Kyi, Phuntsok Choedon, Palden Dakpa, Chemi Wangmo, Nelha. Sobo, Dhondup Dorjee, Guru Kyab, Rinchen Tsering, Tsering Dekyi, Sang Peyi, Tsoshe, Menlha Dolma, Tsering Dolma, and Thupten Choephel.

### **PLA holds drill in Tibet to strengthen joint ops amid border row with India**

January 19, 2020

A “rare multi-dimensional armed forces’ exercise” was conducted in early January involving both ground assault forces as well as helicopters of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) aviation unit. China’s PLA Daily stated that “land and air force join hands in three-dimensional

assault” at a “certain place” on the Tibetan plateau. The report remarked that it was held to improve combat capabilities and “It is understood that in the past, except for the annual comprehensive exercises, the brigade training was mostly ‘single combat’. How to enable commanders at all levels to find the right time and rhythm during joint operations and to improve the combat effectiveness of the system is an urgent issue to be solved.” It added that the joint training exposed the shortcomings and weaknesses of the ground military. The elaborate exercise is being held in the backdrop of the longest military stand-off that started last May in eastern Ladakh.

### **China plans to further optimise administrative divisions by merging the counties in Tibet and East Turkestan.**

January 8, 2021

China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs held the third video conference on the work of the National Civil Affairs System in Tibet and Xinjiang on January 6. Li Jiheng, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Minister of Civil Affairs attended the meeting and pointed out that 'it is necessary to support Tibet and Xinjiang to optimize the administrative division further'. Li Jiheng also said that under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee and the strong support of all parties concerned, TAR and Xinjiang and the prefectures in Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces have achieved important results in aid and poverty alleviation. This helped comprehensively improve the level of civil affairs work and maintain the unity of the motherland and national security.

He emphasised that ‘facing the new situation and new tasks, it is necessary to earnestly shoulder its responsibilities and push the civil administration system to assist Tibet and Xinjiang to a new level’. "It is necessary to support Tibet and Xinjiang in further optimising administrative divisions and promote new urbanisations”. He said that the 13th Five Year Plan had made a major adjustment to the administrative divisions by withdrawing prefectures and turning them into cities like Turpan and Hami in Xinjiang.

## **Lhasa-Nyingtri railway will operate bullet train in June**

January 5, 2021

TAR will get the first Fuxing bullet trains in June this year when a new rail line opens to traffic on the Lhasa-Nyingtri railway line. The China State Railway Group Co. Ltd. said that Fuxing bullet train series will be available in all provincial-level regions on the Chinese mainland.

Track-laying work for the Lhasa-Nyingtri rail line was completed at the end of 2020. It will be the first electrified railroad in the TAR. According to Xinhua, the Fuxing bullet train to run in Tibet will be a customised version, which runs at 160 km per hour. It will have oxygen supply equipment and two kinds of power traction: internal combustion and electric power since more than 90 percent of the track will pass through areas about 3,000 meters above sea level. Internal combustion devices are designed to cope with emergencies on the plateau.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR**

### **Two Tibetans were arrested in Qinghai in connection with the election of Tibetans-in-exile**

January 12, 2021

Two Tibetans, Kakho and Namyak were arrested from Chumarle Dzong, Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai, on January 6. The two are administrators of the WeChat group called United Association which has over 350 members.

Quoting inside Tibet sources, the Tibet Times said they were alleged to have circulated an audio recording about the recent preliminary election for the Sikyong of the exiled Tibetan Government. Following their arrest, the local police interrogated the villagers and confiscated their personal mobile phones. With the heightened digital security policy, the villagers were told to keep and share only pictures of natural scenery and refrain from keeping and sharing photos of people. The whereabouts of the two arrested are not known.

## **Zhu Weiqun says ‘the Dalai Lama has no authority over his own reincarnation’**

January 15, 2020

Zhu Weiqun, former Executive Vice Minister of the CCP CC UWFD and presently Director of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of the 12th National Committee of the CPPCC, said in an interview with China News Agency that 'the Dalai Lama has no authority over his reincarnation. If the U.S. and the 14th Dalai Lama attempts such an effort, that will only be the fake Dalai Lama'.

Commenting on Trump signing the U.S.'s Tibet Policy and Support Act (TPSA), he affirmed the Chinese government will be involved in the reincarnation process of the 15th Dalai Lama and will de-legitimise the Tibetan Government in Exile. He described the TPSA as a collaboration between the CTA of the 'Dalai clique' and the U.S. Congress. He also blamed the failure of 10 rounds of dialogues between China and Dharmasala to the Dalai Lama, saying that the latter was never sincere and instigated various rebellions inside Tibet, including the 2008 Tibetan Uprising, despite negotiations being on the table. Zhu Weiqun felt that the Dalai Lama is not treating his reincarnation seriously, whereas China does.

He added that the U.S'. intention of signing the TPSA is to increase its means of interfering in China's internal affairs by appointing the Special Coordinator on Tibet, who he says will never be able to play his role as China will never approve of him. He further added that the sanctions on Chinese officials related to Tibet would ultimately fail, and the U.S. will eventually realise that.

(Comment: The TPSA appears to have been a major setback to China as many researchers and party members have reacted to it.)

### **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

## **US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, seeks inputs from Dalai Lama, exile Tibetan leadership**

January 14, 2021

Robert A Destro, the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, interacted (January 13 ) online with the Dalai Lama and with the executive and legislative heads of the Central Tibetan

Administration (CTA) at Dharamshala, India. Destro, who is also the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, informed the Tibetan spiritual leader that his government will continue to urge Chinese authorities to meet the Dalai Lama or his envoys to find ways to protect Tibet's traditional culture and religion under Chinese rule.

According to Radio Free Asia and Tibet Times, the Dalai Lama emphasised to Destro the importance of preserving Tibet's Buddhist religion as a source of benefit and moral value for the world, adding that Tibet's fragile environment—now under threat from Chinese development projects—had a direct link to the survival of millions around the world.

Destro later met online with Sikyong Lobsang Sangay, the executive head of the CTA, and his ministerial colleagues as well as Speaker Pema Jungney, Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok and the other Standing Committee members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile. The Sikyong suggested the US government build an “international coalition of countries” that will help the Tibetans protect their rights and preserve their unique identity. Destro asked for practical suggestions from the CTA leadership on which he could act. He also said, “We have urged like-minded countries to pass their own versions of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act so that the world can travel to Tibet as freely as the Chinese can travel in our countries and bear witness to what's going on in Tibet.”

## **2021 Sikyong Elections Preliminary round results**

January 14, 2021

It is now all but certain that Penpa Tsering and Kelsang Dorjee Aukatsang (Kaydor) will be the two candidates for election as Sikyong, the executive head of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) according to unofficial counts. There is a provision for withdrawal of candidature after the Election Commission announces the results on February 8. As empowered by the Tibetan election law, the Tibetan Election Commission had announced beforehand that there will be only two candidates for the election of Sikyong, made up of those getting the first and second highest number of votes in the candidate-selection poll that was held on Jan 3.

The unofficial tallies of votes made by the Tibetan Service of rfa.org and tibetsun.com both show that Penpa Tsering, former Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPIE) has won the highest number of votes at over 23,100. He is followed by Kelsang Dorjee Aukatsang, the

CTA's Chief Resilience Officer, with more than 13,500 votes. Ms Dolma Gyari, a former CTA minister, is not far behind with more than 12,800 votes. And Dongchung Ngodup, Representative at the Bureau of HH the Dalai Lama, New Delhi, who did not campaign himself, has won more than 9,200 votes. According to tibetsun.com, only a few smaller polling places were still to announce their results. More than 80,000 exile Tibetans had registered to vote, with reportedly around 60,000 actually taking part in the January 3 poll. Also being counted are the votes for selecting candidates for the 45-member Tibetan Parliament in Exile, about which there have been no reports so far. Voting for both the Sikyong and members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile takes place on April 11.

