

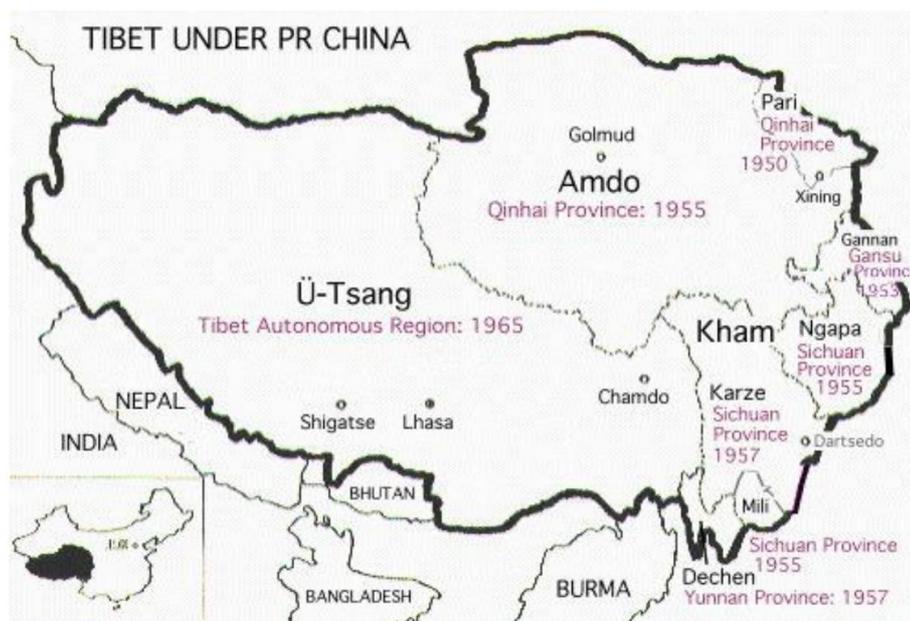
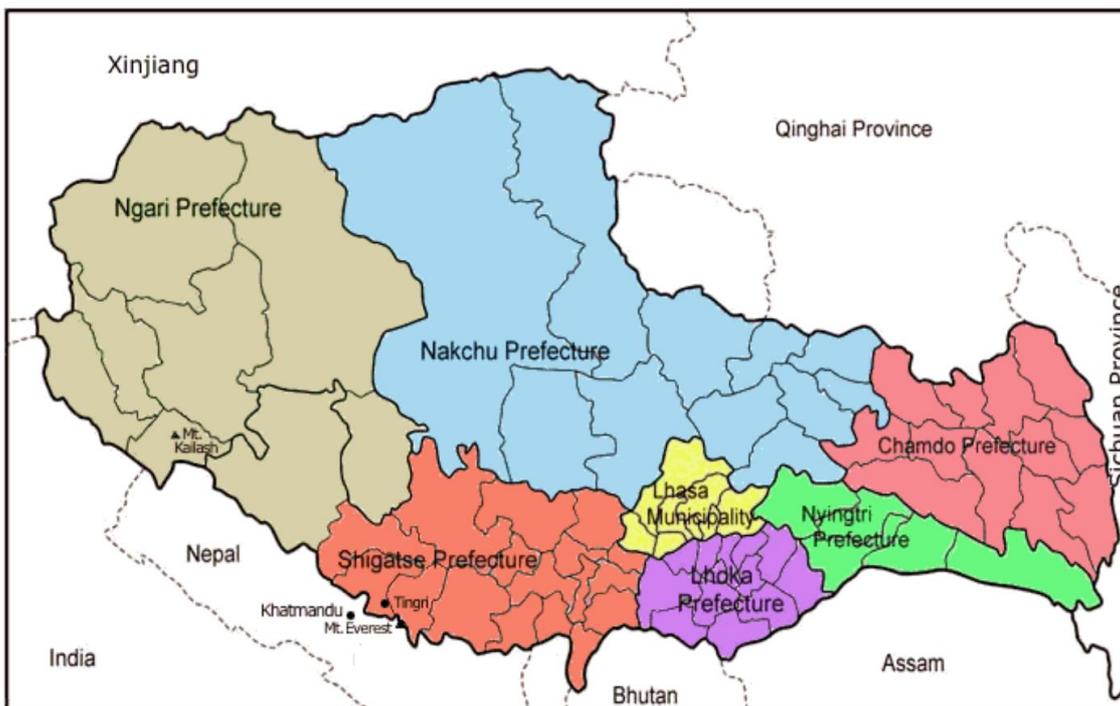


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TIBET INSIGHT MARCH 1-15, 2019



TAR NEWS

TAR 'Stability Headquarters' convenes conference of all Municipal Branches to 'improve' political position

March 14, 2019

On March 13, the TAR Stability Headquarters convened a conference of all municipalities, local supervision teams and Temple Management Cadres in TAR to 'strengthen' political responsibility, 'improve' the political position and re-examine stability maintenance work deployments.

Ding Yexian, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Chief Commander of TAR Stability Headquarter and Deputy Secretary of TAR People's Government presided over the conference, which was broadcasted all across TAR. Among others, Pema Wangdui, He Wenhao and Liu Jiang, Members of the TAR Party Standing Committee attended the conference. Ding Yexian, stressed the importance of abiding by 'Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era', and his decrees on securing the border and border areas. He added, "all must continue to improve political positions, strengthen political responsibility, and the understanding of sensing a problem before it even occurs." The main points of his speech at the conference were:

- i) To always maintain a high degree of vigilance, strengthen 'bottom line thinking', and study and implement anti-separatist laws while maintaining the strictest of self-discipline;
- ii) All officials must recognize key areas of focus with clear goals;
- iii) All officials and party members must strictly abide by the terms and conditions of their respective on-the-job positions, and report as and when need be; and
- iv) That March is a month that requires 'stability' the most and, as such, officials and party members must 'win the battle' against it meticulously.

TAR Provincial military leaders, Tenzin Yangchen, Woesser, Ju Jianhua, Li Wenhan, Ma Shengchang, Wang Jun, Dorjee Tsedup, Zhang Yangqing, Meng Xiaolin, Lobsang Gyurmey, Sonam Rinzin, Zhuo Yu, Awang Dorjee, Gao Yang, Zhang Yongze, Shi Mojun, Wang Haizhou also attended the conference.

Meeting held to improve efficiency and quality of Institutional Structures

March 16, 2019

On March 15, the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee held a meeting to review and reform efficiency of the City's institutional structures. Pema Wangdui, member of TAR Standing Party Committee, Secretary of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, and Leading group head for the Reform of Party and Government Organizations in Lhasa, spoke at the meeting while Zhuang Hongxiang, Deputy Secretary of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee's Organization Department and Head of the

Leadership Team for reform of Government Institutions in Lhasa, presided over the meeting. He presented the proposals on 'Institutional Reform Plan for Lhasa' and 'Organizational Reform Implementation plan' at the meeting.

Speaking at the meeting Pema Wangdui emphasized that reforming and consolidating Municipal Party Committee and State institutions should be in line with the Central Party Committee with 'Xi Jinping as the core'. He added, "Lhasa being the capital city, the institutional reforms, stability and economic development are vital and that solid organizational leadership including coordination, resolving 'major risks,' are essential."

The 'Institutional Reform Plan for Lhasa' proposes strict political discipline, assurance of stability and harmony, clarification of political orientation and obedience to decision-making arrangements of the CCP CC. The plan requires party members and cadres to undergo a political test and review. The meeting was telecast to all regions and counties.

Lhasa Municipal Party Committee leaders, Xiao Zhigang, Shen Haibin, Yun Dan, Damdul, Ma Jun, Anu Tsering and Liao Bo attended the meeting.

Public Security Organs held a mobilization meeting, Nyingchi city

Linzhi News, March 4, 2019

Zhu Jiang, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, and member of Public Security Bureau, Ren Weidong, the Deputy Mayor and Party Secretary of the Municipal PSB, along with around 400 officials from the municipal PSB, the municipal Border Management Detachment and the anti-terrorist special investigation detachment attended the meeting.

At the oath ceremony, those attending vowed to be "loyal to the party, serve the people, enforce the law, be disciplined, obey orders, obey the command, and use the highest standards, and the most stringent measures, and be decisive to win the battle." Zhu Jiang reminded all members of the public security police that they should diligently remember Xi Jinping's words that "to secure the motherland, you have to secure the border first", enhance the political position, and firmly implement 'four consciousness'. He emphasized on moving with the time and trends and that they should be able to comprehend the Party committee's decision-making arrangement and adopt appropriate actions according to the reality of the municipal committees. They were advised to grasp the actual combat situation and improve the ability to scientifically judge and resolve the hidden dangers and risks.

The entire PSB was exhorted to resolutely crack down on illegal activities, eliminate the hidden dangers and maintain social stability. Zhu Jiang emphasised that they have to be civilized and serve the people according to law. To make up for the limited police force, there should be more effort in

mass mobilization as there is unlimited civilian power, and the PSB should be a exemplary so that people from all ethnics groups will 'love' it.

Dolkar awarded the title 'Nation's Eighth Red Flag Bearer'

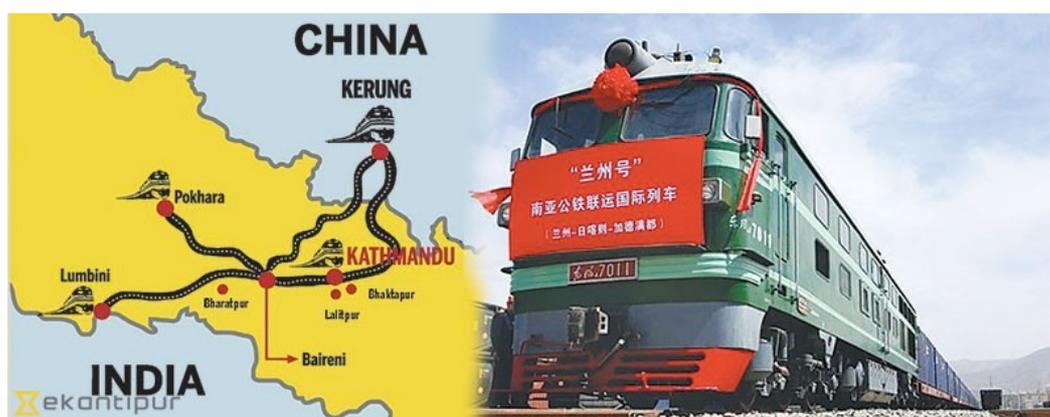
March 14, 2019

Dolkar has become a prominent example of 'loving the motherland and guarding the border' after she and her sister Yangzom wrote a letter to Xi Jinping in October 2017. She is now one of the delegates of the National People's Congress and at the second session of the 13th NPC session the All China Women's Federation for award of the title "National March for Eight Red Flag Bearer" commended her. Dolkar told reporters 'I flew to lot of places last year, three times to Beijing, Xinjiang, Qingdao, Shanghai, Hubei and many other cities'. I have told the concerns of Yumai people to the Central Party Committee and Yumai people's love for the motherland and for the party. She said the per capital income of Yumai township had reached 61,452 yuan, an increase of 11.1%, and that their income is 27,000 yuan higher than the average level of the whole district. In 2018, 49 households consisting of 159 people were moved to Yumai from the neighbouring village and this year the plans are to move 17 more households of around 64 people. Dolkar said that the border guarding team is 'ever increasing'.

Kathmandu-Kyirong Railway line will take two years to complete and cost 25 billion rupees

March 18, 2019

The Nepal government has estimated that it will take around two years and Rs 35 billion to complete the detailed project report of the Kathmandu-Kyirong (Shigatse) railway. Nepal and China, however, are yet to agree on the funding modality for preparing the DPR.



According to officials, the Nepali side has already requested China's railway authorities to fully fund the DPR. Madusudan Adhikari, secretary at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation, told the Post that "A meeting is likely in the end of this month or by the second week of April in China. The two sides will discuss the issue and fix the date for starting the DPR [work]." He said "As per our initial discussions with the Chinese side, given the geo-technical complexities and arduous terrain, we

have estimated that it will take two years to complete the project DPR, and it will cost around Rs35 billion. We have requested the Finance Ministry to allocate the budget to carry out the DPR work with the Chinese side jointly.”

The Chinese side has conducted the pre-feasibility study of the 121 railway project in December, 2018. The National Railway Authority of China has handed over the pre-feasibility study report of Kathmandu-Kyirong railway to Nepali officials on December 10. China First Survey and Design Institute had conducted the pre-feasibility study on a grant.

Adhikari also said “The financial and technical nitty-gritty will be discussed during the upcoming meeting in China. At least for now though, we need to allocate the required funds in the budget. It should be either foreign loan or grant or local loan, and it must reflect on our annual budget even if the Chinese side agrees to fully fund the DPR.”

After completing the detailed project report, the next step would be deciding the investment modality for the \$2.75 billion (Rs257 billion) cross-border railway project. Around 73 kilometres of the railway line will be in Nepal. As per a report prepared by the Department of Railways, around 98.5 percent of the railway would either be bridges or tunnels, and per kilometre construction cost would be Rs3.55 billion. The Kathmandu-Kyirong railway is one of the most talked about subjects in recent months, but the pre-feasibility study has described the project as “complicated and arduous”. The pre-feasibility report stated that engineering crew would lay ramps along the northern and southern slopes leading to lake Paiku near Kyirong, to connect tracks to the Kathmandu section. The ramps would overcome the huge difference in elevation between the southern and northern toes of the Himalayan mountains, it said. The preliminary findings suggest Kathmandu section is in the “collision and splicing zone” along the Eurasian Plate, presenting six major geological problems. The project’s longest and most steep grade is up to 95 kilometres out of the 121 km.

Apart from fixing the date to start the DPR study for the Kathmandu-Kyirong rail project, an upcoming meeting in China will discuss the pre-feasibility study of the Kathmandu-Pokhara railway. The Chinese railway team conducted one field trip from Kathmandu to Pokhara in December as part of the pre-feasibility study. Nepal and China have also, in principle, agreed to conduct pre-feasibility study for the Kathmandu-Lumbini railway. A final decision is yet to be taken.

China Installed New Surveillance In Tibet Ahead Of 1959 Anniversary

March 13, 2019

The Global Times reported that Chinese authorities helped install facial recognition surveillance in 200 new taxis in Lhasa ahead of the anniversary of the 10 March 1959 uprising. A bus and taxi company in Lhasa has introduced the new surveillance-equipped cars with support from the Chinese-led Lhasa Government and Traffic Management Bureau. The cameras use biological recognition and big data analysis to identify drivers and monitor their bio information. They scan the faces of drivers before a journey, allowing the car to start once a match between the vehicle and the driver is made. If no match is found an alarm is set off in the car. The cars combine facial recognition with GPS tracking

so authorities can monitor the driver's behaviour. This monitoring reportedly includes spotting illegal driving, or other activity like renting a car out to others or talking on the phone while on the road. "If the driver doesn't match the car, we will draw back the car, criticize and educate the driver who rented the car to others illegally. If the circumstances are serious, we will even ask the driver to stop driving or terminate his or her contract," Cui Shaoyou, the Vice General Manager of the transport company told the Global Times. The Global Times claims the cameras, which have been introduced in the lead up to 10 March, make journeys safer and more convenient for passengers. The rollout adds to the existing "grid" system of surveillance and security already established in Lhasa, where there's a large network of police stations, travel is restricted and communications are often monitored. China also introduced a new internet regulation earlier this year called 'standards for the investigation of short video contents of the internet' which bans short films from discussing subjects such as Tibetan independence. It has one hundred rules prohibiting contents including 'reactionary' flags, the 'splitting' of China, independence issues relating to Taiwan, Xinjiang and Hong Kong, besides banning other video materials, Tibet Watch said.

Local Leaders reiterate Wu Yingjie's critique of the Dalai Lama

March 15, 2019

Following TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie's statement in Beijing on the sidelines of the NPC on March 05, that "Since defecting, the Dalai Lama has not done a single good thing for the Tibetan people. Tibetan people have gratitude in their hearts. They are grateful to the Communist Party for bringing them a happy life," local leaders in TAR have reiterated his statement and said the Dalai Lama 'didn't bring any benefits except 'unrest in Tibet.'" Tong Min, head of Organizational Department in Panam County, Shigatse said "the Dalai Lama's ultimate goal is to overthrow the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and split the motherland and the party officials should sabotage destruction activities of the Dalai clique." Another local Party official and cadre of Gaden Tsurphunling Monastery Temple Management in Tingri County, Choedhen Tashi added "I have been in the Monastery for seven years, and witnessed that all monks and nuns love the motherland, oppose splittism, feel grateful to the party, and have the determination to safeguard the motherland from the destructive activities of the Dalai Clique." Tsering, the Party Secretary of Danang County, of Lhoka Prefecture assured that "people in the county are united in their willingness to cooperate with party and safeguard reunification of the motherland." Thupten, a Party official of Yadong County, of Shigatse stated that the 'livelihood of people living in the border areas have improved, the Dalai clique in the "other country" tries every means to undermine reunification of the motherland and obstruct development." Another unnamed official of Amdo County of Nagqu Prefecture said "under the leadership of the party, we live happily and live in peace and contentment. Only the Chinese Communist Party can lead us to a better life in the future."

China to establish five national parks in 'Tibet'

March 16, 2019

China says it will build five Third Pole National Parks in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) to reinforce its claim as environment protector and boost ecotourism. Plans for these parks are still in a preparatory phase, so most details, including the size of all but one of them, are still being worked out. China's official chinadaily.com on March 12 cited Yao Tandong, Director of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as saying the five locations encompassed areas around Qomolangma (Tibetan: Chomolungma (Mt. Everest, Shigatse City), Bome and Medog counties (Nyingtri City), the Zanda Earth Forest (Ngari Prefecture), the Changtang Plateau (Nagchu City), and Serling Tso, TAR's largest lake (also in Nagchu City). The report quoted Qi Zhala, Chairman of the TAR government, as saying construction of the park will start around the Gangdise mountain range in western Tibet, Serling Tso in southwestern Tibet and around Bome County in southeastern Tibet. The report said the Serling Tso park will probably cover around 38,200 square kilometres that are home to 20,000 to 30,000 people. The report claimed that the park will increase the earnings of locals by four to five times, something which has not been seen in previous experiences with similar projects. Yao Tandong said local residents will be able to find work in the national parks as guides or park rangers, which would pay better than traditional farming and herding, given the region's booming tourism economy. He said "The new national parks will benefit the environment while boosting the local ecotourism economy." The report noted that China's forestry and grassland authority defines national parks as those approved and managed by the State. They are typically much larger than natural reserves and cover a wide range of biomes, landscapes and at times historical artifacts, such as the Great Wall.

Zhou Zhonghe, a researcher at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, was cited as saying national parks are representations of a country's most iconic natural and cultural heritages, as well as habitats for wildlife species.

Lhoka city claims to have eliminated poverty in all 12 cities

March 14, 2019

In 2018, Lhoka (Shannan) city lifted 4, 378 households with 15,132 people out of poverty. In the last three years Lhoka city succeeded in eliminating poverty from all 12 counties and districts totalling 16,721 households consisting of 52,705 people. The city's achievement in meeting the target is attributed to its precisely following the poverty alleviation strategy of both, the Municipal Party Committee and Municipal government, and adhering to the people centred development approach. From the very beginning Lhoka city carried out in-depth publicity and education activities such as 'feeling the party's gratitude, accounting the rich people and running a well-off home'. Property alleviation has included skills training, industrial projects, cultural tourism and subsidies particularly the frontline projects.

In 2018, Lhoka city spent 740 million Yuan to raise the 26 different subsidies for the frontline

residents, low-income workers, and old age pension. Till November 2018, the city built 171 industrial projects, and 10,000 skills training projects and had 762 people working for poverty alleviation. Tibet Daily said, "Shannan city has insisted that all work should focus on poverty alleviation, all kinds of resources will be concentrated on poverty alleviation, and all forces will gather to fight poverty and strive to form a pattern of poverty alleviation". In 2018, Lhoka city strengthened the 'pairing assistance' of the party member, rich households and poor households. It optimized and helped 73 units covering 117 deep poverty stricken villages. According to the statistics, more than 61,800 poor people were 'paired' with cadres and workers at different levels and coordinated in implementing policies at the ground level. 215 private enterprises in the city also participated in poverty alleviation and helped 7222 households.

Chen Yongqi inspects Nyingchi Airport and Lamaling Monastery

March 4, 2019

On March 3, Chen Youqi, a member of the TAR Party Standing Committee visited Nyingchi Airport and Lamaling Temple to conduct an inspection and research on behalf of the TAR. He met the police officers and cadres stationed in the temple. At Linzhi Airport, Chen Yongqi carefully investigated the internal security of the airport, checked the passenger security inspection, public security duty room, monitoring computer room, fire rescue station and other facilities. He stressed that it is necessary to conscientiously follow the TAR party committee, maintain stability, tighten the string of maintaining stability, improve emergency plans, increase patrols and investigations, and strengthen control over key personnel and dangerous goods, to ensure the safety of the Nyingchi Airport.

At Lamaling Temple, Chen Yongqi looked into details of the working and living conditions and difficulties of cadres stationed in the temple. He emphasized that cadres stationed in the temple should have a clear-cut, straightforward and strong management sense of the temple. They should do a good job in investigation of "the hidden dangers" in the temple to ensure the stability and harmony of the temple. He pointed out that the monks and nuns should always adhere to the direction of "sinicization" of the religion, actively participates in "four consciousness and four loves" and should strive to be 'advanced' monks. They should inherit and promote patriotic love, teach good practices, and educate the believers about the party, party gratitude and promote religion to adapt to the socialist society.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Qinghai Tibetan area has the highest employment rate in 2018

February 26, 2019

According to China Tibet Online, the employment rate of registered college graduates from Qinghai

province was 89.3%, with the employment rate of registered college graduates from the six Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures reaching 90%.

The total population of Tibetan-inhabited areas is presently 2.1 million people, which accounts for 36 percent of Qinghai's total population. According to 2018 data, Qinghai province has implemented the policy to reward and subsidize companies that hire college graduates, encouraging companies to hire college graduates. Throughout the year, companies in the province hired 7,862 college graduates, which is 38 percent of registered employment. Of this number, 2,345 college graduates were from Tibetan-inhabited areas, an increase of five percent over last year.

Radio Free Asia (RFA) said (February 22) "In 2018, there were 40,000 applicants in the Tibet Autonomous Region alone who sat for the entrance exam for positions in the Chinese civil service, but only about 3,000 passed their exams to become eligible to be considered for government positions." It said Tibetan graduates are edged out by Chinese competitors for jobs and Tibetan university graduates face increasing difficulty in finding jobs in Tibetan regions with increasing numbers of Han Chinese in the job market. RFA claimed an anonymous source from Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai Province said that 'between 20,000 and 30,000 Tibetan and Chinese university graduates sat for civil service exams in the prefecture last year. Entry level government jobs pay from 6,000 to 7,000 yuan [U.S. \$893 to \$1,042] per month, and the number of applicants has increased over the years, with the number of Chinese applicants now astronomically high'. The majority of Tibetan applicants are unable to find work in private companies and corporations, including high-tech firms or industry. Mandarin proficiency has also been a disadvantage for Tibetans.

China attempts to project an unprecedented human rights record in Tibet

March 2, 2019

On March 1, Zhaluo, a human rights consultant with China Society for Human Rights Studies and a research fellow at China Tibetology Research Centre, on the sidelines of a meeting on "Development and Progress of Human Rights in Tibet" at the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, said that the rapid social and economic development in Tibet is due to the careful preferential policies adopted by the central government and strong fiscal aid from the central government, and assistance from the other enterprises and provinces. On March 9, China authoritative official news agency Xinhua published a commentary highlighting how Tibetans enjoy an unprecedented human rights record in history. It said what China did for Tibet is something more than Abraham Lincoln's abolition of slavery! The report stated that the number of poverty-stricken population has decreased by over 80% from 860,000 to 150,000; that Tibetans elect their own local legislature, and 92% of the lawmakers at city, county, and township level in Tibet are Tibetans or other minorities. Tibet has 19 deputies in the NPC. It claimed "Tibet is in its best period of development; its human rights situation has never been in better shape".

Security clampdown on set of March Uprising, Sichuan

March 7, 2019

On the eve of March 10, the state-run Tibet Daily published numerous pictures of military demonstrations by large numbers of armed police and armoured vehicles marching and drilling in the heart of Lhasa. Similar drills were held in Tibetan areas outside TAR. According to RFA, more armed Chinese police and officials were deployed in county villages to carry out surveillance on March 7, in Dzamthang county in Sichuan's Ngaba (Aba) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. Officials also made pre-emptive visits to monasteries in Dzamthang and people coming to Dzamthang have been asked to register the times of their arrival and departure, and tell authorities the reasons for their visit. Tibetans have been forbidden to sell gasoline or kerosene due to the several self-immolations by individuals from Dzamthang Jonang monastery. There is frequent inspection in the monasteries and a clockwise watch in the county, township and even in the sub-districts.

A Tibetan who recently returned from Tibet told Tibet Times that in Tibetan regions in Qinghai like Zoge, surveillance cameras in the area monitor the movement of every individual. There is roughly one surveillance camera every 10 metres in addition to deployment of more security forces.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Nepal has reassured it would continue to protect rights of Tibetans in the country

March 19, 2019

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that during his meeting with Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali in the United States, Nepal assured US officials that it would continue to protect the rights of the Tibetans refugees living in Nepal. Nepal hosts almost 11,000 Tibetans refugees in 12 refugee camps across the country. US officials have been continuously lobbying Nepal to provide refugee cards to the Tibetans for travel, jobs or pursuing higher education. Nepal stopped issuing refugee cards to the Tibetan refugees in 1995.

(Comment: Nepal is committed to the 'one-China policy' and recognises Tibet as integral part of China. Successive governments in Nepal have prevented Tibetan refugees from holding any kind of demonstration and protest against China inside Nepal.)

Dalai Lama contemplates Chinese gambit after his death

March 18, 2019

The Dalai Lama said on March 18 that it was possible that once he dies his incarnation could be found in India, where he has lived in exile for 60 years, and warned that any other successor named by China would not be respected. Anticipating some attempt by Beijing to foist a successor on Tibetan

Buddhists, he said “China considers Dalai Lama’s reincarnation as something very important. They have more concern about the next Dalai Lama than me. In future, in case you see two Dalai Lamas come, one from here, in free country, one chosen by Chinese, then nobody will trust, nobody will respect (the one chosen by China). So that’s an additional problem for the Chinese! It’s possible, it can happen.” On whether there will be a reincarnation, the Dalai Lama said “If the majority of (Tibetan people) really want to keep this institution, then this institution will remain,” he said. “Then comes the question of the reincarnation of the 15th Dalai Lama.”

The reaction from Beijing was swift and at a daily news briefing in Beijing on March 19, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the 14th Dalai Lama himself was chosen by following centuries-old religious rituals and history, which were “respected and protected” in rules and ordinances regulating religion. “Therefore reincarnations, including that of the Dalai Lama, should observe the country’s laws and regulations and follow the rituals and history of religion.”

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