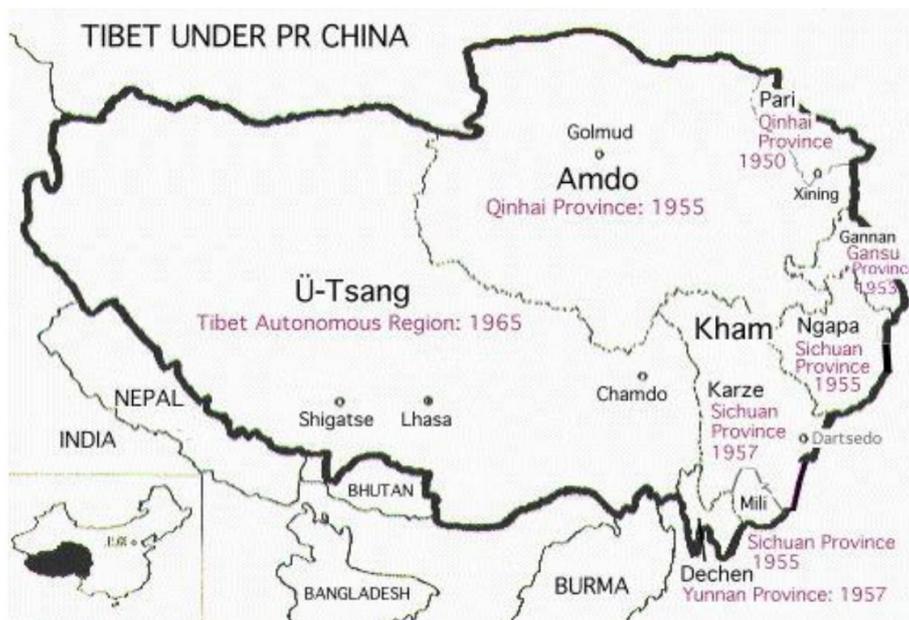
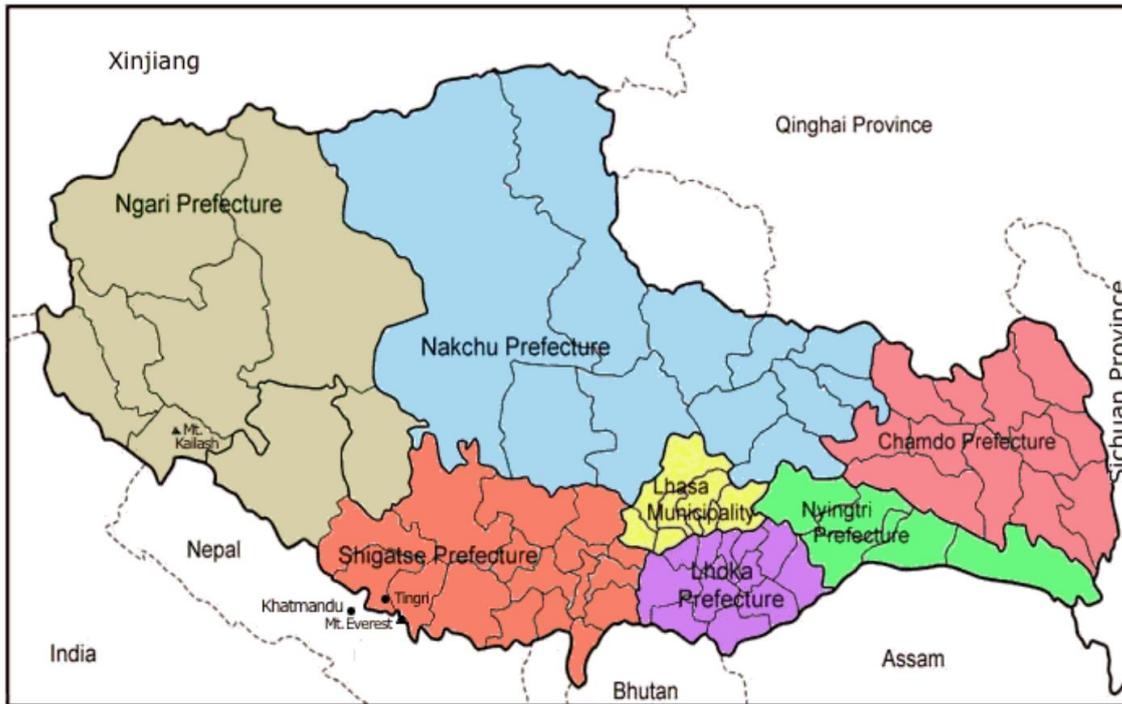




**TIBET INSIGHT 1-15 March, 2021**



## TAR NEWS

### **China appointed Panchen Lama says overseas 'anti-China forces' are using Tibet-related affairs as bargaining chips**

March 11, 2021

Member of the Standing Committee of CPPCC, Vice-Chairman of Chinese Buddhist Association and Chairman of Tibet branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association and the Chinese appointed Panchen Lama, Gyaltzen Norbu told reporters of the China News Service, that Tibet has changed. He said “by working in collaboration with other provinces and regions, Tibet has witnessed great economic development, but there are still challenges on the religious front”. He said he travelled to 25 counties and 33 monasteries in Nyingtri, Nagchu, Shigatse and Lhasa during his visit to Tibet last year and conducted “Buddhist activities” and “social surveys”.

Gyaltzen Norbu criticised “anti-China forces” for using Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism to “attack China’s ethnic and religious policies”. He added that “Foreign anti-China forces”, specifically referring to USA, are “not truly concerned about the Tibetan people nor about Tibetan Buddhism but are using Tibet-related matters for their vested interest”. He emphasised that “these countries are hyping the issue to international topics and then using it for political purposes and as a bargaining chip to pursue their interest”. He said this will, however, “not deter our determination, confidence and perseverance to support the leadership of the CCP and to take socialism with Chinese characteristics, no matter how great the external interferences are”.

(Comment: Gyaltzen Norbu did not name the countries that he claimed are “hyping” the issue.)

### **Tight security presence and mobilization on March 10 uprising anniversary**

March 11, 2021

On the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Tibetan national uprising day on March 10, the first detachment of the Tibet Armed Police Corps, soldiers, PLA police officers, public security officers and fire rescue personnel were stationed across Lhasa, partook in military exercises and were mobilized by the Stability Maintenance Headquarter of TAR.

Zhang Yuan, Executive Deputy Secretary and Commander in Chief of the TAR PSB Headquarters, Yan Jinhai, Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Secretary of Lhasa Municipality, Liu Jiang, Standing Committee Member of the TAR Party Committee and Secretary-General of TAR Party Committee and He Wenhao, Standing Committee Member of the TAR Party Committee and Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee attended and spoke.

Zhang Yuan commended the officers and combatants for their “loyalty and protection of national security and social stability”. He reiterated that the month of March is critical for stability maintenance and asked the officials present to maintain unity.

In conclusion he urged officers and soldiers, as they return to patrol duties, to be loyal to the party, to remember the party’s mission, fight against ‘terrorism’, suppress violence, and stabilize the border, which is a mark of stability. Drills and military exercises were simultaneously conducted in all cities and prefectures.

### **Head of TAR UFWD assures stability on Tibet’s borders during a CPPCC meeting**

March 09, 2021

On the side-lines of the fourth CPPCC session held in Beijing, Danke aka Tenkho, the Head of TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD), Standing Committee Member of the TAR Party Committee and Deputy Secretary of TAR PPCC, participated in a discussion and stated that TAR will implement the revised ‘CCP Central Committee’s Regulation’ and take it as an important political task. He also stressed the need to further assimilate Tibet’s situation”, improve political stance and strengthen party leadership. He said to govern Tibet, absolute adherence to the Party’s leadership is a must, in addition to promoting exchanges and integration of all ethnic groups, adhering to the direction of sinicization of religion and managing religious affairs according to law, and ideological and political propagation of the Party’s work to non-party members. He stressed the need to focus on four issues of work in Tibet, namely Stability, development, ecological protection and consolidating Tibet’s borders and building a new socialist Tibet.

## **Pema Wangui on a grassroots inspection tour to Nagchu**

March 09, 2021

Pema Wangdui, former Party Secretary of Lhasa, current Executive Vice Chairman and Standing Committee Member of TAR Party Committee, was on an inspection tour to Nagchu from March 3-7. During his inspections of Shentsa County, Nima County, Palgon County, Driru County, Seyney-chu County, and Lhari County of Nagchu, Wangdui inspected party branches, monasteries, villages, towns, schools, warehouses, industrial bases, cooperative societies, and people's homes to evaluate stability maintenance work and to propagate the party's special education on "political standards, and organizational discipline".

Acknowledging Nagchu's economic and social development, he emphasised maintaining stability, improving political positions, and implementation of the "four standards", "Two safeguards". He demanded social cohesion, a strong Monastic management system, and the need to "educate" monks and nuns and party cadres and officials in all departments about the importance of the sense of the Chinese nation(alism).

*(Comment: Driru county is one of the hotbeds of protest against Chinese rule and has witnessed several self-immolations.)*

## **TAR Stability maintenance Supervision Team inspects Drepung Monastery**

March 08, 2021

The TAR Stability Maintenance Supervision Team headed by Sonam Rinzing has been inspecting Drepung monastery from March 1, to oversee stability maintenance work. On March 5, monks of the Drepung monastery were mandated to watch a live broadcast of the fourth NPC session and study the work reports presented by Premier Li Keqiang.

Monastic Management cadres of the monastery said the monks had strived to turn crises into opportunities and that the epidemic didn't perturb them in achieving "strategic" results. During the inspection, the Sonam Rinzing-led Team propagated the 'four standards to become exemplary monks and nuns', "four consciousness" and "two safeguards". The monks were told to "follow the party and acknowledge the importance of socio-economic developments in Tibet".

## **Vice-Chairman of PPCC Shigatse under disciplinary review**

March 12, 2021

Tsering Dhondup (Ethnicity: Tibetan), Vice-Chairman of the Shigatse People's Political Consultative Conference (PPCC), is reported to be under investigation for "serious violations of discipline and law" by the TAR Discipline Inspection and Supervision Committee.

Tsering Dhondup was born in Gyatse County of Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze) in December 1962 and joined the Communist Party of China (CCP) in August 1978. From 1978 to December 1990, he served as a cadre under TAR Public Security Bureau and subsequently, as Deputy Director of Nyalam (Shigatse) County Public Security Bureau from December 1990 to May 1995. From May 1995-1997, he served as the Director of Panam County's (Shigatse) Public Security Bureau, as Deputy Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee of Panam County (Shigatse) and Director of Panam County's Public Security Bureau. He was appointed Vice-Chairman of Shigatse PPCC in 2018.

## **TAR Stability maintenance Supervision Team inspects Ngari**

March 10, 2021

On instruction by the TAR Party Committee, Chime Rinzin, Standing Committee Member of TAR People's Congress and Deputy Director of TAR Stability Maintenance Bureau's Supervision Team, inspected five counties of Ngari (Ch: Ali) from March 2-8. While visiting, Purang (Ch: Burang), Rutok, Gerze, Tsochen and Gyegyel counties, Chime Rinzin, emphasised Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era, especially his expositions on Tibet affairs, including but not limited to social stability, monastic management, and border control. The Inspection Team visited households, Towns, monasteries, party branches, agricultural and pastoral areas.

## **TAR convenes Special Meeting to promote legal and political education**

March 17, 2021

He Wenhao, Standing Committee Member of TAR Party Committee, Secretary of TAR Political and Legal Committee, and Deputy Director of the Political and Legal Education and Rectification Leading Group of TAR convened a "special meeting" recently to propagate legal

and political education, listen to work reports from the ‘Special Teams’ assigned throughout TAR and to guide on education and rectification works.

He Wenhao also heard the preparatory work report of the Political and Legal Education and Rectification Committee, to be implemented throughout TAR. Acknowledging the preparatory work of the political and legal teams, He Wenhao stressed the need to make persistent efforts to “unify thoughts and actions in line with CCP Central Committee”. He added that “education and rectification therein must be deepened, positions and orientation must be clear, the rectification of rigid thoughts must be thorough and responsibilities must be strengthened”.

He Wenhao also said that while the TAR Commission for Discipline Inspection and Supervision Committee will carry out the main responsibilities, “the Political and Legal Education and Rectification Team must support and cooperate to lay a solid foundation for investigation and correction works as well as in formulating policy mechanisms”.

### **Jagang border defence village given ‘exemplary title’**

March 19, 2021

Jagang village, of Ruthok County in Ngari, was recently given an award and the honorary title of ‘the exemplary village for poverty alleviation’ by the TAR Party Committee. The village, located just 80 kilometres west of the Indo-China(Tibet) border trading point at Dumchele along the Line of Actual Control, was full of adobe houses with poor and muddy roads and poor transportation. After it was listed as one of the border defence villages, the village has developed with large two-storeyed buildings, coloured walls, village squares, village committee activity centres, kindergartens, schools, and good transport.

The ‘Two-Village Committees’ of the border defence village reportedly “integrated poverty alleviation projects into party building, consolidating borders and maintaining stability”. The village’s collective economy grew from 880,000 yuan in 2016 to 3.2 million yuan in 2020 and the per capita annual income increased from 8,600 yuan in 2016 to 23,000 yuan in 2020. To build infrastructure including roads, the Two-Village Committees implemented and followed national investment plans by building 465.37 miles of roads employing 1,500 labours most of whom were migrant labourers, built three farmland irrigation projects, seven drinking water fountains, more than 400 village-level activity venues, and a demonstration border-village with 149 houses.

## **Deputy Director of UFWD's Seventh Bureau inspects Lhoka**

March 17, 2021

On March 14, Lin Jian, Deputy Director of the Central United Front Work Department's (UFWD) Seventh Bureau which looks after Tibet Affairs, went to Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) and inspected Tradruk monastery. He was accompanied by Zhuo Feng, Deputy Secretary of Lhoka Municipal Party Committee, Tenzin standing member of Lhoka Municipal Party Committee, Head of the Municipal UFWD, and Deputy Secretary of Municipal PPCC and Nima Tsering, Deputy Mayor of the Municipal People's Government and Party Secretary of Nedong County, where the monastery is located.

The Inspection Team studied the historical origins and background of the Tradruk monastery, the Monastic Management Affairs committee and met the Monastic cadres. At a meeting at the monastery, the Monastic Management cadres presented their work report on the management of the monastery. Tenzin presented the current situation of the monastery while Nyima Tsering, explained the historical background of the monastery to the inspecting team.

While acknowledging the stability maintenance and other "achievements in Lhoka, the Inspecting Team led by Lin Jian directed all party branches and offices to propagate Tradruk Monastery as a model of ethnic exchanges and integration. They were also told to strengthen Monastic Management according to law and ward off the "negative influences" of religion.

**(Comment: Both Tenzin and Nyima Tsering are ethnic Tibetans.)**

## **Border Management Area requires a special 'border pass', Nyingtri**

March 1, 2021

According to the latest notice from the Medog Border Management Brigade at the Tibet Entry-Exit Border Inspection General Station, a 'special border pass' along with household registration and government identity card are required to enter Damu Border Checkpoint and Daguo Bridge Checkpoint starting from March 1, 2021.

According to the "Regulations on Border Management of the TAR", the entire Medog region is under the jurisdiction of the border management area and personnel entering and exiting

need to comply with the relevant regulations of the border management area and show the relevant documents at the border checkpoint to be allowed to pass.

Any persons whose household registration is not in the border management area must hold the 'Border Pass' and the 'Resident ID Card' and 'Residence Permit'. This includes the PLA and PAP officers and soldiers not stationed in the border management area. They need to present a certificate issued by the competent department at, or above, the regimental level along with their official card and soldier card to enter and leave the border management area. If any unit enters or exits the border management area, the border inspection department is required to be notified in advance to pass inspections.

Tibetans, Hong Kong and Macao residents, Taiwanese, and others living abroad with Chinese nationality must hold a 'border pass', 'mainland travel permit' and 'permit letter to enter Tibet' to enter the border management area. "Foreigners (including foreign Tibetans) and stateless persons who go to border management areas that are not open to foreigners must present their valid entry and exit documents with 'Approval Letter for Entry in Tibet' and 'Travel Permit for Foreigners of the PRC'."

### **China intends to start construction of two sections of Ya'an- Nyingtri Railway in June**

March 11, 2021

Two sections of the railway connecting Sichuan province and the TAR are expected to start construction before June, according to Lu Chunfang, a member of CPPCC and researcher at the Chinese Academy of Engineering. The two sections will link Ya'an and Xinduqiao in Sichuan province and Bomi County in Nyingtri. Public tenders have been invited. Lu Chunfang said "Although China has abundant experiences in constructing all types of railways, including high-speed and railways at high altitude and carrying heavy hauls, it is insufficient to only rely on previous experiences to build the Sichuan-Tibet railway." He said innovations are the key to solving difficulties.

(Comment: The 1,838-km Sichuan-Tibet railway has three parts: the Chengdu-Ya'an section opened in December 2018; the Lhasa-Nyingchi section started construction in 2015 and is still underway; and the middle section between Ya'an -Nyingtri, which started construction in November 2020.)

## **Nyingtri Border Management Detachment preaches the spirit of the two sessions**

March 12, 2021

The Nyingtri (in Chinese: Linzhi) Border Management Detachment of TAR has organised the police to ‘actively’ listen and watch the two sessions to spread the ‘spirit’ of the NPC. The Nyingchi Border Management Detachment Party Committee held a special meeting to discuss how to study, publicize and implement the spirit of the national two sessions, and formulate specific measures. Zhu Jinshui, Party Secretary of the Nyingtri Border Management Detachment conveyed that “as the Immigration Management Police in the new era, they must be firm in their responsibility for the security and stability of China’s border”.

All the Border Management Brigade teams from each county went into the homes in their localities and also approached tourists to spread the message of the two sessions, where they told people that ‘the party and country always think about people and their policy is good for the people, so people should always welcome any new policy put forward by the Party’. In the past few days, police from the Nyingtri Border Management Detachment visited villages and scenic spots in their jurisdiction, preached the ‘spirit’ of the two sessions 20 times to more than 8,000 people, and distributed more than 5,000 propaganda materials.

The Border Management Detachment also carried out propaganda activities in schools in Nyingtri to celebrate the 58th Lei Feng Memorial Day and told students to become ‘little Lei Feng’ and ‘inherit the traditional virtues of the Chinese nation’.

## **Head of TAR Organization Department on stability maintenance inspection in Shigatse**

March 17, 2021

Standing Member of TAR Party Committee and Director of TAR Organization Department, Che Yongqi recently conducted investigations in Samdrubchu county, Khangmar County, Panam County, Tashi Lhunpo monastery, and the Mount Everest Agricultural Innovation Expo Park. Che Yongqi randomly inspected convenience police stations, gas stations, supermarkets, and public places to assess stability maintenance work.

While meeting Party Officials, Chen Yongqi urged them to tighten their grasp over stability maintenance work, enhance their combat capabilities for “risks”, improve political stance and

implement the party's strategy of governing Tibet in the New Era. He demanded strong "emergency risk control measures and plans, efficient border control measures, strict Monastic Management according to law, and promotion of Tibetan Buddhism to socialist society". It is necessary, he added, "to propagate and educate the masses about the party's history, and to strengthen higher political standards and stronger organizational discipline among party cadres". He also urged party officials to work on the four major areas of focus, stability, development, ecological protection and strong borders in the new Era and produce actual results.

### **Tibet to have high-speed bullet train before July this year**

March 06, 2021

Xinhua (March 6) quoting Lu Dongfu, Chairman of China State Railway Group Co.Ltd and Deputy to the National People's Congress, disclosed that TAR will operate bullet trains before July 1 this year marking the opening of the high-speed train services in all Chinese mainland provincial-level regions. Lu Dongfu said a 435-km railway link to the regional capital of Lhasa will run Fuxing trains powered by both internal-combustion and electricity. Construction on the railway connecting Lhasa with Nyingtri in eastern Tibet started in 2014. It will be the first electrified railroad in Tibet and is slated to begin operations in June 2021. Track-laying work was completed by the end of 2020. The railway has a designed speed of 160 km per hour, according to its constructor Tibet Railway Construction Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of the China State Railway Group. The high-speed railway network will cover 98 per cent of cities with over 500,000 residents. He also said the CR450 technological innovation project aims to develop new Fuxing models that are safer, greener and smarter, with higher energy efficiency.

### **TAR to spend 190 billion yuan on transportation projects**

March 06, 2021

Xinhua quoting the TAR Transportation Department revealed that the TAR Party Committee plans to spend about 190 billion yuan (about \$29.3 billion) between 2021-2025 on transportation infrastructure projects. The money will be used, among other projects, for building new expressways, upgrading existing highways and improving road conditions in rural areas. The report said that by 2025, the total mileage of highways in TAR will exceed 120,000 km, and that of expressways will exceed 1,300 km.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

### **Tashi Dorjee speech doesn't represent aspirations of local Tibetans**

March 11, 2021

On March 7, Tashi Dorje spoke on the new changes in the reconstruction of Yushu during deliberations of the Qinghai delegation at the Fourth Session of the 13th National People's Congress. He said his words had become a reality and after the earthquake, the cadres of Yushu with the support of the Party Central Committee and spirit of the people, said there will be a new Yushu and they would rebuild their homes. He then said he wishes that President Xi comes again to see the new Yushu which now has stable houses and cleaner streets.

Xi Jinping replied, "I am very concerned about Yushu. I am very happy to hear your introduction today. I believe that Yushu will develop even better in the future". He did not indicate plans to visit Yushu. The Chinese official media propagated this as a big story to portray the wishes of Tibetans and other ethnic minorities in China.

Yushu today claims to have increased per capita net income from 2,970 yuan in 2015 to more than 7,000 yuan now. It also claimed that 6 cities and counties of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai Province have been lifted out of poverty.

### **Ganzi Governor Xiao Youcai highlights lack of comprehensive planning in project for transport interconnectivity of TAR with other Tibetan regions**

March 9, 2021

Xiao Youcai, Deputy to the NPC and Governor of Ganzi, suggested the need for a comprehensive and coordinated special plan for building transportation interconnectivity in the five provinces/regions - Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu, Yunnan and TAR. He said the lack of comprehensive and coordinated planning had led to delays in the project construction and traffic in the border areas. He said the inconsistent construction schedules of the provinces, has harmed social and economic development of the border areas. He highlighted how TAR and other Tibetan areas outside TAR are comparatively lagging behind in economic development and social governance and are very prone to natural disasters.

Emphasising the importance of the geographical location of the five provinces/regions of Sichuan, Yunnan, TAR, Qinghai and Gansu, Xiao Youcai said West China can connect with Central Asia, South Asia, and Southwest Asia. Involved are the areas of Ganzi Prefecture and Ngaba Prefecture from Sichuan Dechen Prefecture, Nyingtri from TAR, Yushul Prefecture, Golog Prefecture, Tsolho Prefecture from Qinghai Province, and Kanlho (Gannan) Prefecture of Gansu Province.

The "Special Plan for Transportation Interconnection in the Five Provinces (Regions) was proposed by the Ganzi Prefecture in 2019, and all construction is targeted to be completed by 2035. Proposing the building of a modern three-dimensional comprehensive transportation system of "internal and external communication, green and environmental protection, safe and reliable", he suggested that the National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Transport make this a national-level project and comprehensively plan and implement it in a coordinated manner.

### **Military conducts training at Amnye Machen sacred mountain in Qinghai**

March 12 2021

The military trained recently on and around the Amnye Machen sacred mountain and met with resistance from local Tibetans. The local Tibetans and monasteries in the region petitioned the Chinese authorities to stop armed military training on the sacred mountain. The local authority ignored the sentiment of the Tibetans and instead launched a 're-education' session twice a week in the region. The Tibetans were warned not to show any signs of disobedience to any project launched by the government.

China has begun daily training of the Special Women's Police Detachment at the Amnye Machen sacred mountain in Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. They had built a military adaptation training station in Machen Dzong, Golog in late 2020. They encouraged female college graduates from the region to join and promised special incentives if the college graduates belong to Machen village. Information from inside Tibet reveals that around 200 women receive armed training daily. Amnye Machen or Machen Pomra is at an altitude above 6000 meters.

## **China issued ban on Tibetans travelling to other parts of Tibet**

March 9, 2021

Ahead of the Tibetan National Uprising day, China has increased its surveillance and imposed travel restrictions on movement from one place to another in Tibet. In eastern Tibetan areas like Yushul and Tsongon, the general public are not allowed to move outside their province till April. And in cases of emergency, they have to get prior permission from the local welfare office to travel outside their area. Security personnel have started checking vehicles on the highways connecting Yushul and Xilling, and other neighbouring areas.

### **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

#### **Candidates for the 2021 exile Tibetan elections declared**

March 22, 2021

The Election Commission for the Central Tibetan Administration declared the lists of candidates for the Sikyong (President) and 17th Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPiE) elections on March 22. Polls for both will be held simultaneously on April 11. Chief Election Commissioner Wangdu Tsering Pesur said campaigning by, or for, the candidates is to end on April 8 at 5 pm.

Penpa Tsering, former Representative of the Dalai Lama in Washington and Aukatsang Kelsang Dorjee, Advisor to current CTA President Lobsang Sangay are the two candidates for the election for the post of Sikyong, Executive Head of the CTA. They won the highest number of votes in the preliminary polls held on January 3 and whose results were declared on February 8.

Candidates qualifying for election to the 45-seat TPiE are those who won the highest number of votes in the polls held on January 3 as per the rule in the Tibetan Charter.

## MP's remarks over 'Bhod Gyalo' in parliament spark debate

March 17, 2021

A Tibetan MP's remarks on March 16 during the ongoing parliamentary session has been criticised by Tibetans, including on the social media. MP Dolma Tsering questioned whether the slogan 'Bhod Gyalo' (Victory to Tibet / Free Tibet) and the iconic song that paid tribute to the Tibetan uprising day, asserting Tibetan independence and nationalism, are in accordance with the Middle Way Approach (MWA). The phrase 'Bhod Gyalo' is trending on some social media circuits as netizens posted the slogan on their social media accounts in protest.

MP Dolma Tsering in response told Phayul that she had no intention whatsoever to irk different sensibilities but had to ask the question in the parliament for reasons she deemed important. "Our exile community is a democratic society, wherein one has the power to assert one's own opinion on different ideologies, be it Umaylam or Rangzen. NGOs like Tibetan Youth Congress believe in Rangzen ideology and it is their right to voice their opinions, however, the CTA established by His Holiness the Dalai Lama has worked towards the MWA policy. During the recent commemoration event, the public sang the Tibetan uprising song and shouted "Bhod Gyalo", and I thought that these undermined the Umaylam policy. For the Middle Way to first change, there was a public mandate and the referendum was achieved through the due process when it was first introduced".

CTA President Lobsang Sangay responded in the parliament on March 17, and said "Emotions and policy are different. ... Some had even told me that if we could welcome Chinese leaders with khatak [white scarf] so that they would be happy and help Tibetans in some way".

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