



TIBET INSIGHT, 1-15 SEPTEMBER 2022

TAR NEWS

State Council Dispatches 15th Inspection Team to TAR

September 03, 2022

Per instruction by the State Council of the CCP, the 15th Inspection Team of the Council went to TAR to conduct on-spot inspections starting August 30. Zhang Xinwang, the Leader of the 15th Inspection Team, also a member of the Party Group and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Yan Jinhai, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Chairman of TAR People's Government, attended a meeting convened with the Inspection Team. The meeting was broadcast live in Lhasa and Nyingtri.

Zhang Xinwang explained the primary purpose, key content, work arrangement and disciplinary requirements of the inspection. He emphasised the need to thoroughly study and implement the “important instructions of General Secretary Xi Jinping” on preventing and controlling the spread of covid-19 and stabilising the economy.

He also emphasised Premier Li Keqiang's instructions on stabilising the macroeconomic market and development, urged party officials and cadres to improve their political position earnestly, and understood the inspection's significance. He acknowledged implementing the spirit of the 'Central Economic Work Conference, TAR People's Government Work Report' and the State Council's “package of policies and measures to stabilise the economy.” He further specified the purpose of this “special inspection.” He said these inspections are carried out following clues of the problem, the need to focus on the issue and rectify it following the "central and local policies and projects."

Yan Jinhai, ethnically a Tibetan and the Chairman of the TAR People's Government, said the Inspection Team's on-site inspection in TAR is not only a political examination to see the implementation of decisions and deployments of the CCP Central Committee and the State

Council, but also a comprehensive evaluation of various work in Tibet, especially the work of the TAR People's Government. He added, "Tibet is a powerful spur for promoting long-term stability and development." Yan Jinhai said; TAR People's Government will take the inspection as an opportunity to deepen its understanding of and work harder to accelerate the implementation of the party's policies, increase responsibility and resolutely complete tasks assigned by the CCP Central Committee and the State Council." He further added; that firstly it's essential to improve political position, treat the inspection with utmost serious attitude and thereby cooperate with the inspections, and secondly, to strengthen political responsibilities by rectifying problems with the strictest actions.

TAR leaders Jangre Lobsang Tenzin, Gyaltzen, Meng Xiaolin, Jamphel and Wang Yong also attended the meeting

Chairman of TAR People's Government Inspects Shigatse

September 03, 2022

Yan Jinhai, the Chairman of the TAR People's Government, inspected Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze) from 1-2 September as directed by the TAR Party Committee and the National Health Commission, the National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Working Group. The Chairman inspected project areas, supermarkets, quarantine centres, hospitals and hotels in different counties of Shigatse.

The first inspection site for Yan Jinhai was the construction site of the Xianghe Water Control Project, an irrigation project of 172 major water-saving and supply projects identified by the State Council and located in Namling county of Shigatse. He asked in detail about the implementation and preventive measures of COVID-19, whether the construction staff and workers have conducted their COVID test, analysed protective materials, and construction progress work. Yan Jinhai told them to maintain a high degree of vigilance, to keep a strict eye on "import and export gates", and promote the resumption of work in an orderly manner.

Yan Jinhai then inspected local supermarkets in the Samdrubtse district and spoke to traders and merchants. He told them to deliver supplies with "zero contact" and not increase prices. He demanded that it is necessary to keep abreast of the people's urgent expectations and instruct supermarkets, pharmacies, and vegetable stores to comply with regulations.

Yan Jinhai also inspected the management and material security of closed-loop and quarantine hotels in the Samdrubtse District.

TAR Donates COVID Prevention Supplies and Materials to the Nepalese Consulate in Lhasa

September 7, 2022

On behalf of the TAR Party Committee and the TAR People's Government, Xiao Youcai, a Member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee and the Executive Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Government went to the Consulate General of Nepal in Lhasa on September 5, to present some medical protection kits and other materials to the Consulate General.

Xiao Youcai reportedly told the Nepalese Consulate that TAR is maintaining social distance, striving for a comprehensive victory in Covid prevention and control, and gradually restoring average production and living order. He also claimed that “China's covid policy equally protects the health and safety of Chinese citizens and foreign citizens and that he hoped that foreigners in Tibet, including Nepalese nationals, will continue to strictly abide by China's epidemic prevention regulations, do an excellent job in personal protection, and work with China to overcome difficulties.”

Chairman of TAR People's Government's Second Inspection to Shigatse within 10 Days

September 14, 2022

Yan Jinhai, the Chairman of TAR People's Government and Sun Yang, the Deputy Director of the National Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention, inspected Kyirong County of Shigatse from September 12-13 and the grassroots front-line cadres and people. This is Yan Jinhai's second visit within ten days.

At Drama village in Kyirong, Yan Jinhai and Sun Yang asked in detail about the number of residents in the town, their epidemic prevention and control measures, and their living security. The village is to be turned into homestays when the situation improves. Yan Jinhai and Sun Yang reminded everyone that the more the situation improves, the more vigilant they must be and that the homestay project must be done in a prudent and orderly manner. They claimed the “difficult prevention and control results have strengthened the confidence and determination

of the people of all ethnic groups to listen to the party, appreciate the party's gratitude, and follow the party.”

Jan Jinhai and Sun Yang went to Rasuwaghadi-Kyirong Bridge to "assess the COVID situation and border control measures." They emphasised that preventing the epidemic is the most crucial political responsibility. And said, “it must not be sloppy or slack in the slightest. It must be strictly managed, and resolutely guard the country's gate, weave a dense line of defence, and strictly guard against political "flies" and virus "mosquitoes.”

Kyirong was approved as a national-level border economic cooperation zone in March this year. Yan Jinhai and Sun Yang assured them that the economy would be back on track soon. When meeting the border guards, they pointed out that in the prevention and control of the epidemic, the officers and soldiers of the army played an irreplaceable role. They further said, "the army and the people are united in fighting the epidemic together, and once again continue to write the deep love between the army and the people. As long as we continue to work together, think in one place, and work hard in one place, victory in the battle against the epidemic is just around the corner.”

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng Inspects Nagchu

September 2, 2022

On August 31-September 1, Wang Junzheng, the Party Secretary of TAR, went to Drachen county, Ser-nyed County and Sog county of Nagchu to inspect the covid situation and overall social and economic conditions. He conducted random inspections at checkpoints and stressed that Nagchu is the north gate of Tibet and that it is essential to understand the overall security concept by ensuring strict controls for people living and entering Tibet.

Wang Junzheng stressed controlling railway stations, national highways, and roadways as an essential requirement to control the spread of coronavirus.

In Sernyed (Ch: Seni) county, Wang Jun inspected villages, towns, monasteries and also the Comprehensive Governance Centre Building of Nagchu. He went to oversee the progress work of the grid-style social management construction project. At Drachen and Sog county, the Party Secretary inspected Characteristics Products and Sales Exhibition Hall, College Student Entrepreneurship Incubation Base, and Sog County Patriotic History Memorial Hall.

During the inspections, Wang Junzheng analysed the role of grassroots party organisations in the covid prevention and control work and their efforts in strengthening the grassroots governance system. He emphasised that at this point of covid situation, the grassroots party organisations are the backbone, an opportunity and a test to improve their social governance capabilities, strengthen the sense of Chinese nationalism, maintain social stability and guard border territory. He directed the Grid-Style Social Management to be oriented with a particular focus at the grassroots level, a hierarchy of 'Party-Branch + Grid + Dual Households' and clear-cut post-settings and work responsibilities.

The Party Secretary was accompanied by TAR leaders like Liu Jiang, Dawa Tsering, Doto and Gyatso.

Tourist From China Stranded in Purang Returns Home

September 10, 2022

On September 9, Pureng (Ch: Pulan/Burang) County People's Government claimed to have helped return 37 tourists from China stranded in Pureng due to covid lockdown. The tourists were from Xi'an, Shaanxi, Shanghai and Qinghai. Pureng County People's Government arranged vehicles and food till Golmud in Qinghai in three batches for the tourists to return to their respective homes.

Head of Nyingtri PSB investigates grass-roots social governance work in preparation for the 20th NPC

September 14, 2022

Ren Weidong, Deputy Mayor of the Municipal Government, Deputy Secretary and Director of Nyingtri Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB), inspected the work of grassroots social governance and supervised the security-related work on September 10, ahead of the 20th Party Congress. Ma Zengkang, Secretary of the Municipal PSB, member of the Standing Committee of the Drayibchu (Ch: Bayi) District Committee, and Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee accompanied him. Ren Weidong visited Drayibchu District Public Security Bureau, Xincheng Police Station and Nichi Community to conduct an on-the-spot investigation and learn about the grid management operation of the police stations, analyse the problems and shortcomings in the current grid operation, and review hardware facilities and grassroots

governance construction. He inspected the report on the overall situation of community police work and talked with community cadres and grid personnel.

His main emphasis and suggestion were:

- The grid division should be more scientific and reasonable. Grid management is an important measure to promote the modernisation of regional social governance. The grid members must take responsibility and strictly follow the relevant aspects of epidemic prevention and control. It is required to assist in maintaining the Covid test and, increase the intensity of household inspections, constantly update the jurisdiction's personnel information registration ledger and the floating population's dynamic information.
- The operation of police affairs should be more scientific and standardised. Exploring the cooperation mechanism between comprehensive command, law enforcement and case handling, and community policing is necessary. It can help to improve the working tool of other police departments to support the police station and fully assume the responsibility of maintaining the stability of the jurisdiction and the safety of one party and serving the people.
- The grid police should be more solid and robust. The focus should be on the construction of community governance of the public security police stations. It will help strengthen community prevention and promote the reduction of the police force and the advancement of police affairs. Encourage and guide the police to take root in the community. Actively mobilise the community, society and other mass prevention and mass governance forces to participate in community governance.
- Special treatment for the police should be implemented more carefully: Treat police with preferential treatment as an effective way to strengthen team management and toughen their responsibilities. The preferential treatment of police officers should be able to relieve their worries and warm their hearts. Actively implement the rank promotion, training and selection of young cadres and police officers. They should be provided livelihood security and other warm and friendly measures to gather vigilance further, boost morale, and welcome the party's 20th National Congress with excellent spirit.

Covid Cases and “hidden dangers” Focal Points Of Discussions At Work Meetings

September 15, 2022

The regular work meetings of the counties in Nyingtri discussed how to effectively unify their thinking and understanding, improve their political positions, and carry out an in-depth investigation of “hidden dangers” for social harmony in counties like Metok, Kongpo Gyamda and Drayibchu (Ch: Bayi). As of September 14, there are 347 positive Covid cases in Nyingtri.

Metok (Ch: Medog) County People's Government held the 3rd regular work meeting in 2022. Li Jiji, the Deputy Secretary of the County Party Committee and Mayor, presided over the meeting. The panel pointed out that with the steady improvement in the covid situation, the relevant department should be careful of the normalisation process and should keep strict measures in allowing people to come in and go out of the county.

The meeting also emphasised that all departments should comprehensively strengthen disaster prevention, mitigation, and grassland fire prevention and strictly implement the on-duty leadership line. All the party members were reminded that epidemic prevention and control is shouldering political responsibility. The concluding notes of the meeting were all to strive to create a harmonious and stable social environment and practical actions to welcome the 20th NPC.

Standardisation of law enforcement at Leibugo Border Police Station, Tsona

September 15, 2022

The Lebuguo Border Police Station is located in Monba Nationality Township, Tsona (Ch: Cuona) County, Lhoka (Ch: Shannan). Recently, it was awarded the title of “National Demonstration Unit for Law Enforcement by Public Security Organs.” The police station has worked on a "standardised law enforcement behaviour, refined management of the jurisdiction humanised service throughout the process.” The police station carried out ideological and political classes, moral lectures, case evaluations, court hearings, skills competitions, etc. They established a monthly inspection, quarterly assessment, and annual ranking mechanism for law enforcement quality, linking law enforcement quality with individual rewards and evaluations, and continuously stimulated and mobilised the enthusiasm of the police to learn and strive to improve their legal professionalism.

Reportedly, up to now, 100% of the police have passed the public security organ's basic-level law enforcement qualification examination. The law enforcement case handling has always maintained zero reconsideration, zero lawsuits, and zero petition attitude. Apart from legal knowledge classes, they also have to attend patriotism and national unity education. The station has jurisdiction over four grid areas. Each grid area has one policeman, one auxiliary police officer and three joint defence team members responsible for daily service management and control.

Executive Deputy Mayor of Lhasa Apologises for Inefficient Handling of Rising Covid Cases

September 18, 2022

On behalf of the Lhasa Municipal People's Government, Damdul, Standing Member of the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee and Executive Deputy Mayor of Lhasa Municipal People's Government, apologised through a press briefing on September 18 for the shortcomings and weaknesses in handling the rising covid cases in Lhasa. He added that at the critical period in the rise of covid cases, Lhasa Municipal People's Government was ill-prepared, had insufficient capacity, slow response and had shown poor execution of covid control and prevention measures. He further elaborated that due to inadequate nuclei acid detection capabilities in the early stage of the covid rise, there was a lack of nucleic acid screenings in some parts of the city, resulting in delayed tests and inaccurate results. Due to such chaos and lack of explanation, some people misunderstood, Damdul added.

He said; that Lhasa Municipal People's Government had also failed in managing quarantine centres, including providing logistical support and that there was untimely cleaning and garbage removal, a lack of proper service in the medium and high-risk areas, and the supply of materials was not in place. Acknowledging "some staff members" failure to solve difficulties and promptly respond to the people's demands, Damdul apologised "deeply" to people of all ethnic groups in Lhasa and those stranded in the city on behalf of the Lhasa Municipal People's Government.

He further added, "winning the fight against the coronavirus as soon as possible and restoring life to normal as soon as possible are the common goals and expectations of the whole city. The more difficult the time is, the more we need the understanding, support and cooperation of

the city's people of all ethnic groups. We are well aware that our work is still far from the expectations and requirements of the people.” He added; that we must face the problems and improve our deficiencies, optimise prevention and control measures, unblock the channels for public opinion, and work with the people of all ethnic groups in the city to overcome the difficulties and strive to recover soon as possible.

(**Comment:** Angry residents, overwhelmingly Han Chinese, in Lhasa took to social media to voice their frustration over the handling of the Coronavirus outbreak, which started in early August and prompted a citywide lockdown. More than 40 days into strict lockdown, they say families have run out of food items, and at quarantine centres, rotten food is being given, and sometimes people are left without food for days. Social media has so many criticisms that internet police are busy deleting them, another social media user commented.)

Nepal and China are taking a step toward Tibet-Nepal Railway Project

September 18, 2022

On August 10, China announced it would start a feasibility study for the ambitious Tibet-Nepal Railway **project** within a year. The announcement during Nepal foreign minister Narayan Khadka’s visit to China revealed that China would pay for the study.

The proposed 170-kilometre railway, part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will link Kyirong in southern Tibet to Nepal’s capital **Kathmandu**, entering Nepal in the Rasuwa district. The plan is to extend the railway to India eventually.

People familiar with the matter told The Third Pole that building the railway from Kyirong to Kathmandu would cost about 38 billion yuan (USD 5.5 billion), almost equal to total government revenues for the country in 2018. Although only one-third of the total length falls on the Nepal side, this stretch would account for almost half of the costs due to the complex geology and climate.



Map Courtesy: The Third Pole

The proposed route for the Tibet-Nepal Railway (Lhasa-Shigatse-Kyirong-Pokhara-Kathmandu-Lumbini.)

The estimated cost of the feasibility study has not been made public, but China has announced that it will provide RMB 800 million (USD 118 million) to Nepal in 2022.

But some worry about Nepal’s lack of ability even to review technical reports as it does not have railway engineers. The department established a decade ago is dominated by road engineers.

“It was OK to rely fully on the Chinese for a pre-feasibility study as it was more of a kind of survey, but the feasibility study is a key project document if it’s going to be implemented, and Nepal must have serious eyes on it,” said Paribesh Parajuli, who is among a handful of railways engineers in the country – none of whom work for the government. Experts say this

could be a defining move for the Tibet-Nepal Railway, which has been on hold for years with Nepal reluctant to fund the study and China reticent about financing it. “The feasibility study will do two important things: first, it will determine the route, including ground and bridge proportion. And second, [it will determine] the type of railway that needs to be built – high speed or slow,” said Paribesh Parajuli, an engineer who worked as a consultant at the Department of Railways until 2019.

In late 2018, China prepared a pre-feasibility study of the railway for Nepal. It estimated the cost of the 72.5 km section in Nepal at USD 2.75 billion. The report not yet publicly available suggested it was a challenging project but not impossible. Nepal, which built its first railway in 1927 near its border with **India**, had no railway department until 2011 and is yet to hire railway engineers to staff the department.

In 2018 – the same year as the pre-feasibility study – the Nepal Department of Railways and China Railway signed a memorandum of understanding to foster cooperation. But the Department of Railways was not informed by its foreign ministry about any developments during China’s foreign minister Wang Yi’s visit in March and Nepal’s foreign minister’s visit in August.

In 2020, China’s former ambassador to Nepal, Qiu Guohong, wrote in a Nepali newspaper: “Our great leader Mao Zedong was the one who sowed the seeds of the Nepal-China railway dream. During Nepal’s late King Birendra Shah’s visit to China in 1973, Mao mentioned the Qinghai Tibet railway. Even during that time, Mao had thought about linking the Tibet railway to Kathmandu in Nepal as he was a visionary.”

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Sershul County police launched a data collection campaign for every household.

September 5, 2022

Sershul (in Chinese: Shiqu) County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, mobilised the Sershul police to gather personal information about each county’s residents. They launched a “Little Yellow Motorcycle” team, mainly responsible for collecting every resident’s data. They have been travelling across the county by motorbike and reaching

out to the people. The police have also been contacting every household in the pastoral land. It seems that nomads and farmers who have lost their livelihoods after being relocated or resettled from their pastures have been recruited for this work but calling them a “voluntary basis”.

The Niga Police Station's official social media account stated that the "Micro-policing + Village Policing" (Ch: 微警务 + 村警务) were carried out with the help of “Little Yellow Motorcycle” (Ch: 小黄车). This service enables them to reach the villages scattered across the pastureland quickly. Sershol County has come under the sore eye of the Party in the last few years, witnessing a wave of mass detention the previous year.

Tibet Watched explained that this policing drive also promoted the “Fengqiao style police station”, a Maoist-era strategy of mobilising “revolutionary masses” to “re-educate” what the Chinese Communist Party categorised as “class enemies”. Resurrected in a 2013 speech by Xi Jinping as the “Fengqiao experience”, it was later integrated into the Ministry of Public Security’s nationwide campaign in 2019 by naming one hundred police stations across China- including Tibet- as a model of “Fengqiao-style police station”.

Trika County in Tsolho TAP investigates ‘hidden dangers’

September 8, 2022

Trika (Ch: Guide) County, Tsolho, (Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai, carried out an extensive investigation of “hidden dangers” to effectively do a good job in social security and create a safe and stable social environment. The deployment is part of the "Hundred Days Action" for public security crackdowns and rectifications initiated this summer. Recently, the PSB of Tsolho County, together with the Hedong Police Station and the Dungkar Police Station, conducted a detailed inspection of the qualification information, tenant information, and epidemic prevention and control of the rental houses and hotels around the area.

A total of 9 hotels and rental houses were found to operate in violation of regulations. They were issued notices of ordering for rectification within a given time limit. The person in charge must apply for a particular trade certificate before operating per the Covid protocol. All business operators were warned to follow strict Covid norms and fulfil the County’s epidemic prevention and control responsibility requirements. The joint investigation and rectification's

primary purpose was “to effectively regulate the operation of rental housing from the roots, ensure the safety and practical interests of the masses, and further consolidate the main responsibility of epidemic prevention and control.”

Qinghai Communist Youth league dispatched 10,000 youth squadrons for Party propaganda

September 12, 2022

China Tibetan Network reported that the Qinghai Communist Youth League and the Provincial Youth Work Committee dispatched 10,000 youth squadrons to “actively guide and inspire school children to become qualified members of the Communist Youth League and Communist Party tomorrow.” They were referred to organise theme classes in the form of class lectures, micro-videos, school activities, story-telling, etc., in a way that “children could feel the care of the party, would want to become members of the Communist Youth League, and always follow the party.” It is recommended that the team members follow the example of outstanding youth and party members. Other than looking for potential candidates for future members of the Communist Youth League, they are to work for epidemic prevention and control activities and strengthen the online network. So far, they have gathered nearly 350,000 team members across the province to watch Xi Jinping's speech at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Youth League. They are expected to work towards increasing the work of inheriting the red gene and welcome the victory of the Party's 20th National Congress.

A 6.8 quake hit Chasamkha, Ganzi TAP.

September 13, 2022

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake occurred in Chaksamkha (Ch: Luding) County, Ganzi TAP, Sichuan Province, followed by several aftershocks with the highest 4.2 magnitudes recorded. As of September 13, at least 95 people were killed, more than 30 people missing, and 432 injured. According to the local rescue headquarters, 55 deaths occurred in the Ganzi TAP, where Chaksamkha is located, while 38 deaths were reported from Ya'an. However, the number of people killed and injured in the area is widely suspected to be much higher than official reports. The government had to deploy a level IV emergency response plan and set up around 124 resettlement areas. Around 1,900 soldiers from the PLA's Western Theatre

Command were sent to help with earthquake relief and rescue work. So far, 200 million Yuan has been released for earthquake relief jointly by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Ministry of Emergency Management.

The earthquake caused significant landslides and floods in the region, hampering the rescue operation. The area is prone to earthquakes. According to statistics, there have been 79 earthquakes of magnitude three or higher within 200 kilometres of the epicentre in the past five years, with this being the largest. Fifty-one earthquakes of magnitude five or higher in the past ten years have occurred within 500 kilometres of the epicentre.

According to social media posts, the strict Covid lockdown in the region created friction between authorities and ordinary people. During multiple tremors, the Epidemic Prevention Committee rigidly agreed not to open the gates of the societies and buildings. This caused hysteria amongst the people, and many tried to break the locks and gates with force. In retaliation, the authorities used power to control them.

Thermo Fisher sells \$160,000 worth of profiling kits to TAR Police

September 13, 2022

Both Citizenlab and Human Rights Watch released a report on collecting DNA samples from Tibetans by the Chinese authorities. Thermo Fisher signed a deal with the Tibetan police promising profiling kits worth \$160,000 in early September. Thermo Fisher is a Massachusetts-based company that has come under fire for selling similar supplies to police in Xinjiang. The deal will provide DNA kits and replacement parts for sequencers to authorities in Tibet.

The report highlighted that a second tender announcement showed that in October 2021, police in Lhasa spent \$173,000 upgrading a “3500 sequencer,” a product name and price range matching Thermo Fisher’s 3500 Genetic Analyzer line. Other documents hosted on a third-party government tender site suggest that Tibetan police also bought Thermo Fisher equipment in August last year.

The University of Toronto Citizen Lab estimates that since 2016 authorities have taken DNA from 919,000 to 1.2 million Tibetans — a fourth to a third of the region’s population. A report released by Human Rights Watch finds that authorities have collected blood samples from

children in Tibet and surrounding areas. In at least one county in Tibet, according to the Citizen Lab report, sources combined DNA testing with what they termed Covid-19 prevention efforts.

Human Rights Watch found records of police going into Tibetan schools to collect DNA. In one case, a local police department from neighbouring Qinghai province, where much of the population is ethnically Tibetan, posted on its WeChat account a photo of boys getting their fingers pricked while officers stood by. In addition to children, the report says, police are sweeping up DNA from people in Tibet's rural areas.

According to The Intercept, Thermo Fisher is not the only entity outside China implicated in the Tibetan DNA drive. At Molecular Genetics & Genomic Medicine, published by the New Jersey-based Wiley, eight editorial board members resigned last year after the journal published papers detailing genetic differences among Chinese ethnic groups, including Tibetans. One flagged piece listed an author from the Tibetan Public Security Bureau, the region's central police agency.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Visiting US Senator expresses admiration for Tibetan spirit of struggle

September 4, 2022

On September 3, a delegation led by US Democratic Senator Jon Ossoff, on an eight-day tour of India, visited Dharamsala and met with leaders of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). The delegation was reported to have called on His Holiness the Dalai Lama in the morning and later visited the Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPiE). The senator explained that his visit aimed to understand how Tibetans were keeping alive the flame of the Tibetan struggle in exile, which he considered inspiring and encouraging.

The delegation was stated to have interacted with members of the Standing Committee of the time. The senator was given a briefing on the functioning of the exile Tibetan Democratic setup, the issue of Tibet, and the peaceful struggle.

The delegation's India tour aimed to strengthen economic, cultural, and security ties with Indian business people and politicians. Before visiting Dharamsala, the board took part in several governments and business engagements and met with prominent business executives and political leaders, including Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The Dalai Lama to visit Sikkim in October

September 15, 2022

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, HH, the Dalai Lama, is to visit India's north-eastern, the Tibet-border state of Sikkim, in late October on an invitation from its Chief Minister.

The invitation was stated to have been delivered by the state's Ecclesiastical Department Minister, Ven Sonam Lama when he called on the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate at the latter's exile home at Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, on September 14, joined by the department's secretary Passang D Phempu.

The Dalai Lama accepted the invitation and expressed his keen desire to visit Sikkim, which he said is always dear to him. And Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) has said, "I am joyful that His Holiness accepted the invitation to visit our state. His benign presence will be a great privilege for the devotees to seek his blessings." The minister has said the visit would be for five days, from October 28 to November 1, 2022.

The Dalai Lama previously said, on September 7, during a long-life offering ceremony in Dharamsala, that he would revisit Mön Tawang soon. The birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama is part of India's border state of Arunachal Pradesh which China claims is part of southern Tibet and, therefore, its territory.

A group from Mon Tawang was present as a part of the long-life offering ceremony. There is no announcement yet when this visit will take place.

China previously criticised visits to the state not only by the Dalai Lama but also by top Indian leaders as well.

(Comment: The invitation to the Dalai Lama by the Chief Minister of Sikkim appears to be a signal to China.)
