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TAR NEWS

TAR PPCC holds the 50th Chairmen's Meeting

April 02, 2022

On the instructions of Phakpa Lha Gelek Namgyal, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CCPPC), Lei Guilong, Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Political Consultative Conference (PPCC) presided over the 50th Chairmen's meeting of TAR PPCC on April 1. The meeting studied the decisions of the fifth session of the 13th CCPPC conference, the 20th Standing Committee meeting of TAR PPCC, and reviewed the implementation of the 'Four Creations' by all members of the TAR PPCC across the region in addition to emphasising Xi Jinping's "important instructions" on Tibet work and the Party's strategy of governing Tibet in the new era.

Tibetan monks and nuns told to be "politically reliable" in a "special lecture" at the Tibetan Buddhist Academy

April 02, 2022

The Tibetan Buddhist Academy held a "special lecture" on April 1 to promote and propagate the "Three Consciousness". Zhukhang Thupten Khedup, Vice Chairman of the TAR PPCC, Executive Vice Chairman of the Tibet Branch of the Buddhist Association and Dean of the Tibetan Buddhist Academy, was invited as the speaker.

In his lecture, Khedup told the monks and nuns to enhance their level of 'national awareness', 'civic awareness', 'awareness of rule of law' and their responsibility to disseminate "today's hard-earned happy life". He emphasised the importance of being "politically reliable", patriotic, and listening to and following the party. One of the primary roles of Monks and

nuns, he said, is to convince the public about morals, and convince them to abide by the laws and regulations of the country. Thupten Khedup urged the monks and nuns to “act at critical periods, to be a good monk and nun with a firm stand to safeguard the unity of the motherland and to play an active role in promoting long-term stability and development of Tibet”.

TAR Party Secretary inspects Shigatse

April 07, 2022

TAR Party Secretary Wang Jungzheng inspected Shigatse from March 31 to April 4. He inspected Samdrubtse County, Panam County, Sakya County, Dingri County, Gamba County, Khangma County, Yatung Dromo, Gyantse and other counties and cities of Shigatse. During his inspection tour, Wang Junzheng stressed Xi Jinping’s “important instructions” on Tibet work and the Party’s strategy of governing Tibet in the new era and the need to focus on the “four major areas” i.e. stability, ecology, development and border consolidation.

At Samba village in Panam County, grassroots cadres visited local history museums and people’s households.

The Party Secretary also met Palyang, Secretary of the Village Party Branch, and inquired about the village’s collective economy, characteristic industries and stability maintenance in the village.

Wang Junzheng inspected the border defence village in Yatung Dromo and emphasised that party members and cadres must follow the party and strengthen their “care in providing a good life to the masses and the party’s intention to make them rich”. He visited three old “grannies” who apparently supported the army, provided food, and acted as “couriers” to and from Officers/soldiers for decades. Wang Junzheng also visited Mt. Chomolhari in Yatung Dromo, one of the holy lakes in Tibet, and Kangshung Glacier, one of the three main glaciers of Mount Everest. The Party Secretary visited Janglung Khangsar Community in Samdrubtse district to inspect the progress of “ethnic unity” and integration of ethnic groups. He emphasised the need to tell stories of ethnic integration and unity.

At Gambha County’s Plateau Frontier Guard Model Camp, Yatung Dromo Frontier Culture Exhibition Hall, and Anti-British Memorial Hall in Gyantse County, Wang Jungzheng,

emphasised the need to “propagate and educate the history of the party, and new China” by using ‘red resources’, revolutionary sites, memorial halls and museums. He listened to the work reports of Shigatse and reiterated the implementation of “Two Establishments”, and “Two Maintenances” and study of Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. He spoke of strengthening and cracking down on “hidden dangers”, fostering the consciousness of the Chinese nation, and Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.

Wang Junzheng inspected the Tashi Lhunpo and Sakya Monastery as well. At Tashi Lhunpo, he inquired in detail about the monastery’s fire safety measures, study practices of monks, and monastic management measures, and sought “suggestions for Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.” During his inspection of Sakya monastery, he studied the monastery’s national unity exhibition room and said “the cultural relics in the monastery are an important testimony of the exchanges and integration of various ethnic groups”. He added “it is important to use the cultural relics, and publicize that Tibet has been an inseparable part of the great motherland since ancient times”. He told the monks to educate and guide the people about ethnic unity and stability, and to strive to build a “new socialist modern Tibet.”

Metok Party School held a political literacy training for the Party members and cadres

April 13, 2022

Wei Changqi, Secretary of the Medok County Party Committee and second-level Inspector, attended and supervised the political literacy training for Party members. Chen Jinxin, a member of the Standing Committee, Minister of the Organization Department, and Principal of the Party School of the County Party Committee presided over the meeting.

Wei Changqi emphasized that the aim of this training is to improve the political literacy, theoretical accomplishment and professional level of party members and cadres. It is also to promote the improvement of work style, the ability to handle party affairs and implement various new tasks of party building in the new era. All the party members and cadres were reminded to set high political standards.

The training mainly focused on:

1. To Consolidate the organization and build a strong team

They were told to take political construction as the core essence of party building work, and studying and implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as the core political task. Always take organizational construction as the foundation for the party building work, work hard to build a strong fortress of grassroots organisations.

2. Improve work style and responsibility

Firmly grasp the requirements of high-quality development, earnestly seize the important strategic opportunity period, and work hard to promote the economy of Medok County with a sense of urgency, something that cannot wait and slow down.

3. Improve Self-discipline

It is highly necessary to be self-disciplined and continuously improve self-political cultivation and professional ability, and build a solid foundation for promoting the long-term stability and high-quality development of Medok in the new era of political security.

TAR Party Secretary meets Chairman of State Grid Corporation of China

April 14, 2022

On April 12, TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng met Xin Baoan, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Chairman of State Grid Corporation of China, in Lhasa. Zhang Zhigang, Deputy Secretary of the Party Group and General Manager of State Grid Corporation of China, Yan Jinhai, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of TAR and Chairman of TAR People's Government, Chen Yongqi, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of TAR and Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government, Ren Wei, Member of the Standing Committee of TAR Party Committee and Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government, and Dawa Tsering Member of TAR Standing Committee and Secretary-General of TAR People's Government, were present.

Wang Junzheng thanked the visitors from State Grid Corporation for their various "undertakings" in Tibet and said the State Grid Corporation has always regarded projects in Tibet as an important political task in ensuring stability and long-term development.

In his reply, Xin Baoan assured thorough implementation of Xi Jinping's "important instructions "on Tibet work and the Party's strategy of governing Tibet in the new era" and implementing the "four major focuses" of stability, ecology, development and border consolidation.

Miling County carries out 2022 political education training

April 16, 2022

Miling County, Nyingtri carried out a political education training meeting for village cadres. The meeting was presided over by Lobsang Tashi (in Chinese: Luo Sang Tashi), a member of the County Publicity Committee and was attended by representative teams from 9 administrative villages in Miling County.

The training mainly focused on three aspects: (i) grassroots party building, where village cadres were told to become role models for building a strong fortress of grassroots party building. (ii) Conceptual and theoretical understanding: the village committees were told to firmly grasp the new characteristics of rural development in the new era, party history learning, party propaganda and clean work style. Learn and strengthen the 'four awareness', 'four Self-confidences' and achieve 'two maintenances'. (iii) National Common Language training: the participants were told that adhering to the "national common language training" is a long-term task, and told to earnestly learn Putonghua, practice Chinese characters, and read articles on the Party history. The party grassroots cadres were instructed to raise their Chinese language and culture to a new level, comprehensively improve the cultural literacy of the masses, and carry forward the traditional virtues of Chinese culture.

Nang County conducts paperless office training for the party cadres

April 15, 2022

The District Economic and Information Office of Nang County, Nyingtri held a 4-day paperless office training for the party cadres from March 28 to 31. Around 50 cadres from the various departments from villages in the county attended. The training session intends to build a virtual environment for the e-government extranet, that is practical and operational. The training was a combination of theory and practical operation. It explained the debugging and maintenance of hardware facilities and the installation and application of paperless

systems to the trainees. After the centralized training, the expert team of the District Economic and Information Office and the technicians of China Unicom would go to each unit and department to carry out on-site training to ensure that the 48 e-government extranet lines in the county are unblocked and the paperless office system of each department can operate without a problem.

Nang County has till now created 136 paperless office OA accounts, connected with 90 mobile VPNs, and realized 11 whole-process of electronic signature and approval forms, such as leave requests, car applications, document circulation, and leadership approval. Three are circulated within the government office, one within the county party committee office, and 7 in each township department synchronously, all of which can realize the synchronization of computer terminals and mobile phone terminals, and achieve the goals of reducing the number of cadres, improving the efficiency of examination and approval, and saving administrative costs.

Strengthen skills to fight against “separatist forces” says Head of TAR United Front Work Department

April 19, 2022

On April 18, Karma Tsetan, Head of TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD) and Standing Member of the TAR Party Committee, inspected the Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association and the Reception Office of Overseas Tibetan Federation and spoke on the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism and improving skills to fight against the “severe and complex separatist forces.”

At the Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association, Karma Tsetan inquired about the results of the “Four Standard” campaign and the protection of Kagyur and Tengyur scriptures. He explained that under the leadership of the Buddhist Association of China, the Tibet Branch of the Association has played an important role in bridging the gap between the party and the people in promoting the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.

He was accompanied by Zhukhang Thupten Khedup, Vice Chairman of TAR PPCC, Executive Vice President of the Tibet Branch of the Buddhist Association and President of the Tibetan Buddhist Academy, and Sonam Rinzin, Vice Chairman of TAR PPCC, Secretary

of the Party Group and Executive Vice President of the Tibet Branch of the Buddhist Association.

After his inspection at the Tibet Branch of the China Buddhist Association, Karma Tsetan inspected the Reception Centre of the Overseas Tibetan Federation along with Phurbu Tashi, Member of TAR UFWD and Secretary-General of TAR Reception Office for Overseas Tibetan Federation. Speaking to all cadres and workers, he told them to improve their services and management capabilities, improve their skills, and create a favourable environment for both, the domestic and international fight against the “complex and severe separatist forces.”

China claims unprecedented progress in prehistoric archaeology research in Tibet

April 20, 2022

TAR claims to have made significant progress in prehistoric archaeology research after years of focus on palaeolithic culture, human origin and cultural lineage of archaeology.

A total of 21 archaeological investigation and excavation projects were started in 2021, and a specific survey of 277 grotto temples was completed last year, according to the Regional Cultural Heritage Bureau.

The Bureau noted that a "time-space framework of prehistoric archaeological culture" has now been established in TAR.

In 2020 and 2021, archaeologists conducted excavations on 10 tombs, pits, and other human living sites at the Mapotso relics site in Kangmar County, dating back some 4,000 years.

"It is the earliest prehistoric site that has been discovered in the heart of Tibet. More importantly, it is a new unique archaeological culture type of lakeside fishing and hunting in Tibet," said Shaka Wangdu, a Researcher at the Regional Institute of Cultural Relics Protection. He described the discovery as of great significance in exploring prehistoric culture and how humans adapted to the cold and scarcity of oxygen on the plateau. TAR plans to continue prehistoric archaeology research and finalize more than 10 archaeological projects in 2022.

Guangdong released 20.6 million yuan to assist TAR's transport infrastructure

April 20, 2022

In order to thoroughly implement the requirements of the central government's assistance to Tibet, Xu Wenqiang, Director of the Transportation Department TAR, and Zhang Quan, the first-level Inspector of the Guangdong Provincial Department of Transportation, held a discussion in Lhasa recently. At the meeting, Xu Wenqiang said that under the strong leadership of the Ministry of Transport and the party committees and governments of the Guangdong and Tibet provinces, the Guangdong Provincial Department of Transportation and the Autonomous Region Department of Transportation adhered to the principles of seeking truth and being pragmatic, uniting and cooperating, and seeking common development. They said 20.6 million yuan will be spent on personnel exchanges and training programs, application of new technologies in information technology, development policies, institutional mechanisms, grass-roots facilities and other fields to carry out 5 major projects and 12 sub-projects of assistance and cooperation. A combination of aid, industrial assistance and financial assistance has effectively promoted the innovative, safe and healthy development of the TAR's transportation services and systems, and laid a foundation for comprehensively deepening the cooperation and exchanges in the transportation field between the eastern and western provinces (regions).

Zhang Quan said that the transportation systems of Guangdong and TAR implement Xi Jinping's important exposition on governing borders and stabilizing Tibet, the spirit of the central Tibet Work Forum and the spirit of the important instructions of the Party Central Committee on strengthening cooperation and exchanges between the eastern and western provinces. Three years of Guangdong-Tibet road transportation assistance and cooperation have been implemented, and a sound cooperation mechanism has been established at three levels, including the transportation authorities of the two regions, road transportation management agencies, and industrial enterprises.

To deepen further cooperation, Guangdong and TAR intend to carry out cadre temporary training to allow cadres from both sides to work in new units and new positions, so as to make up for shortcomings in practice and improve their comprehensive capabilities. Guangdong will provide assistance to the development of the rural passenger transport system and postal services in Nyingtri.

Chairman of TAR People’s Government inspects Nyingtri and Chamdo

April 25, 2022

Chairman of TAR People’s Government, Yan Jinhai inspected three counties and districts in Nyingtri (Ch:Linzhi) and Chamdo (Ch:Changdu) to meet grassroots party cadres, and inspect “ecological protection”, “hydropower development”, “rural revitalization and well-off border construction projects”.

The Chairman emphasised the implementation of Xi Jinping’s “important instructions” on Tibet work and the Party’s strategy of governing Tibet in the new era and implementation of the “Central Party Committee’s decision of the four major events i.e. “development, stability, environmental protection and border consolidation” and the “Four Creations”.

He inspected Mekong, Drichu and Yarlung Zangpo rivers and emphasised that “hydropower resources in South-eastern Tibet is a major project of vital national interest” as well as for achieving “carbon neutrality and clean energy.

Yan Jinhai randomly inspected seven people’s households, characteristic industries and the South Lhoba Ethnic Town in Mailing county of Nyingtri. During these random inspections he emphasised that “to love the motherland is to love every inch of the motherland”. He added “it is important to understand the patriotic spirits of the soldiers guarding the borders and for striving to be at the forefront of the country’s mission in strengthening borders and prospering border residents”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Dechen Prefecture pushes for a ‘four in one’ mechanism to promote consciousness of the Chinese nation community

April 3, 2022

The propaganda and promotion of the consciousness of the Chinese nation community in Yunan’s Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture effectively started in 2021 after the setting up of the Chinese Nation Community Awareness Research and Educational Practice Center. To achieve a high level of the consciousness of the Chinese nation community, Dechen Prefecture adopts the four-in-one mechanism as follows:

i. Creation of discussion forums

Creation of discussion forums such as the Shangri-La Forum for Forging the Consciousness of the Chinese Nation Community in 2021, where various experts, leaders and scholars at the national and provincial levels will be invited to join the political and academic circles of Diqing Prefecture to conduct all-round, comprehensive, in-depth exchanges and discussions about the awareness of the community of the Chinese nation. In addition, the forum will organize and carry out research and support research related to the theme and complete a systematic research book as the academic achievement of the forum.

ii. The Theoretical Research

It is to mainly work on publicity and education of the community of the Chinese nation community; and launch theoretical achievements such as academic papers, special reports, books and video materials, speeches and special cultural lectures etc. In 2021, Dechen Prefecture established a library at the practice centre, highlighted seven main themes for the theoretical base and spent around 200,000 yuan.

iii. Cultivate Education Bases

Cultivating a number of educational bases to integrate and utilize the existing advantageous resources of Diqing Prefecture, focus on bringing ethnic unity into campuses and classrooms, and gradually list institutions and places with certain social influence and educational functions to promote and build a solid Chinese nation community awareness education base. Each education base will have to come up with publicity teaching material and an annual report. In 2021, the Shangri-La Ancient Tea-Horse Road Museum (the former residence of Ma Zhucai) was awarded as the first Dechen Prefecture to build the Chinese nation's community awareness education base. Dechen Tibetology Research Institute also applied for the first batch of education bases for the awareness of the Chinese nation's community and undertook the baseline research project under the theme "Exploring the Methods and Paths of Diqing Prefecture's Awareness of the Chinese Nation Community from the Perspective of Rural Revitalization" in 2021.

iv. Demonstration/pilot counties

Based on the 2021 work report for this year, Tacheng Town, Weixi County, Jinlong County, Jiantang Town, Shangri-La, and Deqin County, were flagged as areas having a deep degree of ethnic exchanges and integrations. Also in 2021, the practice centre

has created a basic information database of ethnic unity and progress of the Diqing Institute of Tibetology. Academic materials with high historical and academic value in the Tibet-related areas of Yunnan, such as historical records and research on the current situation, were to be collected and made into a research tool for experts and scholars to understand and study Diqing. An initial investment of 500,000 yuan has been made, and the database hardware procurement has been completed and 14,975 pages of ancient books, 49,034 pages of other books, and 137 cassettes of tapes have been scanned and entered.

Authorities in Golog force Tibetan parents to learn Mandarin

April 11, 2022

The Chinese government's new campaign for the common national spoken and written language of Mandarin compels Tibetan parents in Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, mostly nomads and farmers, to learn Mandarin. Last July, the Chinese Ministry of Education issued a notice listing those kindergartens in all ethnic and rural areas that will use the national common language from the fall of the same year. With the report that children tend to forget the language they learned in school during long summer and winter vacation, the authorities now force parents to learn Mandarin and tell them to communicate with their children in Mandarin.

The focus on parents as agents of Chinese language promotion is explained by Tibetan Watch as a new tactic for delivering the Party propaganda and policies at the local level and expanding its scope of intervention in the private lives of Tibetan families. It also puts pressure on parents to keep up-to-date with and fully understand the changing policies, regulations and laws that govern language.

According to Tibet Watch, from February to March this year, at least 16 compulsory workshops for parents were held in a secondary school in Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, with local officials also required to attend. One of the meetings that took place on March 9, aimed not only to teach the Chinese language but also to reform [participants] thoughts through Chinese education. The participants were told to first learn and improve the “common” language very well, and then assist their children with language learning as part of their contribution to the ‘Chinese Dream’.

Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture sent million-yuan anti-epidemic materials

April 15, 2022

On April 14, anti-epidemic materials worth 1,048,840 yuan were sent from Shangri-La, Dechen Prefecture, to help Shanghai. This was the third batch of anti-epidemic materials sent by the prefecture to Shanghai. Li Yanlan, Deputy Secretary of the Dechen Prefecture Party Committee, Song Yongli, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Prefecture People's Congress, and Li Tao, Deputy Governor of the Prefecture People's Government, attended the departure ceremony at the Central Tower, Shangri-La. They mentioned that "It is to reflect the Dechen people's determination to "stand with Shanghai and overcome difficulties together".

Under the arrangement and deployment of the State Party Committee and the State Government, various departments at all levels in the state have collected, deployed, and transported epidemic prevention materials and other materials to Shanghai according to the needs of epidemic prevention and control. Dechen Prefecture has raised a total of more than 3.07 million yuan in anti-epidemic supplies to Shanghai till now.

Shanghai is the sister state of Dechen Prefecture. It played an important role in poverty alleviation and development in Dechen Prefecture since the 18th Party Congress under the instruction of the Central government. It says "with the strong support of Shanghai, Dechen Prefecture continued to intensify the efforts to promote concentrated and contiguous poverty alleviation and development work in an orderly manner. It has made important contributions to the state's success in winning the battle against poverty and achieving historic economic and social development".

Yeolongmen Tunnel of Chengdu-Lanzhou Railway completed

April 26, 2022

Yeolongmen Tunnel is part of the Chengdu-Lanzhou Railway. It was completed after ten years of drilling on April 25. The Chengdu-Lanzhou Railway is an important section of China's "eight vertical and eight horizontal" high-speed railway network planning. The designed speed is 200 kilometres per hour. Yeolongmen Tunnel is located in Gaochuan Township, Mianyang, Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The tunnel was designed by

the China Railway Second Institute and constructed by the China Railway 19th Bureau and the China Railway 5th Bureau. It is divided into two tunnels. The total length of the tunnel with auxiliary tunnels and other tunnels exceeds 70.5 kilometres, and the maximum depth is 1445 meters. The tunnel construction started in December 2012, and the left line tunnel was completed on November 28, 2021.

The project is considered an important part of post-Wenchuan Earthquake relief construction as the earthquake caused significant damage to the construction project due to rock deformation and landslide debris.

According to Xiao Xialing, Commander of the Chenglan Headquarters of Chenglan Railway Company, “the geological conditions of the Chenglan Railway are extremely rare and complex, it requires rare technologies and has high safety risk”. He added that since the construction of the tunnel, it faced strong aftershocks, severe floods, debris flow etc. Completion of the tunnel means that the entire Chengdu-Lanzhou Railway has laid a solid foundation for its completion and opening to traffic in 2023. The Sichuan section of the Chengdu-Lanzhou Railway is about 275 kilometres long, with a total investment of 38.5 billion yuan,

Ngaba dispatched 35,000 cadres as pairing up assistance to 197,000 farmers and nomads

April 29, 2022

Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture launched the ‘two alliances and one advance’ project in 2018, a pairing up system, of one party cadre, one well-off family and one poor family. Recently, they dispatched 35,000 party cadres or officials to reach out to more than 197,000 farmers and nomads. They were instructed to focus on building closer connections with individual households and monks in the monastery, and advancing legal and policy awareness among them.

The project is reported to have helped solve more than 13,000 legal problems in the village and resolve more than 14, 000 disputes and conflicts of varying degrees. These cadres have access to all levels of society from local organisations, monasteries, schools and even individual families. One of the projects-in-charge of the Ngaba government reported that the

prefecture intends to carry out the construction of 100 demonstration villages and 1000 village renovations as part of the ecological civilization under this project.

According to the Judicial Bureau of Ngaba Prefecture, under the ‘two alliances and one advance’ program, the county created 14 legal and policy advocacy groups and 220 grassroots teams working with masses in their day-to-day life. They are expected to help people increase their income, promote rural revitalization projects, and act as a connecting bridge between the Party and the masses.

China told to close down two private schools in Sershul, Sichuan

April 26, 2022

The local authorities issued a notice to two schools in Sershul County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in April 2022. The two schools are run by Sershul Tresur Rinpoche and Lama Ngodup. Lama Ngodup’s school is an orphanage, and both have been running for more than 20 years. The circular directs the school to send all the kids to the state-run boarding schools before April 20, and schools will be effectively closed after that. There were several other cases of primary schools being shut down in Sershul in the last few years and parents were also instructed to send their children only to state run boarding schools. According to local sources, this is done to implement the common national language and meet the target of 85% of the population speaking Mandarin in 2025.

China makes Xi Jinping’s thoughts mandatory in Tibetan Primary school

April 30, 2022

The Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Machen Dزون, has made it mandatory for the students of primary schools (class I-V) to learn Xi Jinping's thoughts and other political education. The local authorities formed a WeChat class for the primary school students in the area where they have to attend classes every day on Xi Jinping’s thoughts and ‘socialist characteristics in the new era’. In the WeChat group, parents, school teachers, local police and local Party cadres have to participate and contribute. All the political education is required to be conducted in Mandarin. The other subjects in the schools need to be taught in Mandarin as well.

A meeting was held in Qinghai for the Buddhist associations on April 27, where they were instructed to convert their teachings into Mandarin and translate all the teaching materials into Mandarin to promote the national common language policy.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Top US official on Tibet issues to meet Dalai Lama in Dharamshala, visit Nepal

April 30 2022

The United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues, Ms Uzra Zeya, is expected to travel to India and meet the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala in May— the first major contact between the two sides under the Biden administration. She will also travel to Nepal where a sizeable number of Tibetan refugees reside.

Zeya, the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, was appointed the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues last December. The Indian-American was the first person the Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Mr Penpa Tsering, called on during his just-concluded, first official visit to the United States.

In India, she is expected to be in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh for meetings with the Dalai Lama and leaders of the CTA during May 18-19.

After India, Zeya will visit Nepal from May 20 to 22 and meet senior officials including the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

Zeya will be the highest-level US official to visit Nepal in almost a decade. Earlier, in 2012, two US Under Secretaries—Wendy Sherman and María Otero—had visited Nepal. The flurry of visits from the US in recent times coincides with the 75th anniversary of Nepal-US diplomatic ties, but are also taking place in the wake of the ratification of the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact by the Nepali Parliament.

Zeya's visit takes place in the backdrop of US expressions of concern about the condition of Tibetan refugees living in Nepal and calls on Kathmandu to provide identity cards to as many as 10,000 currently undocumented Tibetan refugees. Nepal stopped issuing identity cards to Tibetan refugees since 1995.

(Comment: Tibetan refugees in Nepal are seen as a major security concern of China and Kathmandu's political restrictions on them have been immense. Zeya's visit is taking place in an uptick in relations between the two countries.)

China warns Canada for allowing visit by 'separatist' exile Tibetan leader

May 08, 2022

Castigating him for saying that "Tibet is not part of China," the Chinese Embassy in Canada has on May 7 expressed "strong disapproval of and firm opposition" to Ottawa for having allowed the Tibetan "government-in-exile" leader Mr Penpa Tsering to visit the country and for having arranged for him to testify before the country's House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

Sikyong Penpa Tsering, the executive head of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), is visiting Canada from May 2 to 10, with his highlight-event being his testimony on the issue of Tibet in the Canadian parliament on May 5.

Referring especially to the repression of Tibetan language and culture, the Sikyong was stated to have urged Canadian policymakers for more legislation and sanctions on China.

Another person who testified with him was Zeekyab Rinpoche, the abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in South India. The Panchen Lama's traditional spiritual 'seat' is the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Shigatse, the parent monastery of the one in South India. , to whose parent monastery in Tibet the China-disappeared second most prominent religious figure of Tibet, the Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, belongs. Beijing abducted the Dalai Lama-recognised Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as a six-year-old in 1995. His whereabouts remain unknown.

On the prospects for reaching a settlement on the issue of Tibet, the Sikyong expressed grave pessimism, noting "Under President Xi, things look dire that even hope for negotiations in the immediate future seems remote." He has urged the committee to unanimously pass a motion for the resumption of Sino-Tibet dialogue.

While the Sikyong has made clear the CTA's decades-long policy of seeking genuine autonomy for an undivided Tibet under China's existing constitution, the Chinese embassy

spokesperson has called the “Tibetan government-in-exile” a separatist political organization with the aim of achieving “Tibet independence.”

On the issue of the 11th Panchen Lama, the spokesperson has accused the Dalai Lama of having declared a child (sic) as “the reincarnation of the Panchen (sic) Lama while overseas without authorization,” calling it “illegal and invalid.”

The spokesperson has reiterated his government’s oft-repeated, patently self-contradictory claim that “the so-called reincarnation of the Panchen (sic) Lama is just a regular Chinese citizen who is living an average life.”

The spokesperson has warned Canada to “immediately stop interfering in China’s domestic affairs over Xizang (Tibet)-related issues, while damaging the stability in Xizang(Tibet), and to stop providing support and a platform for separatists on which to carry out their anti-China separatist activities, or China will be compelled to respond accordingly.”

The Chinese attack came after the committee unanimously adopted a resolution “supporting the peaceful resolution of Tibet”.
