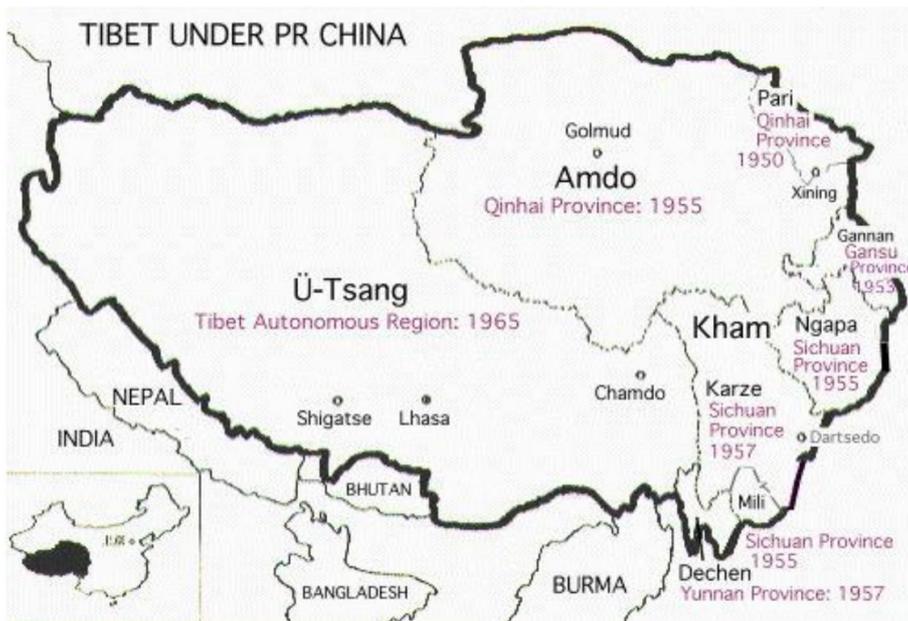
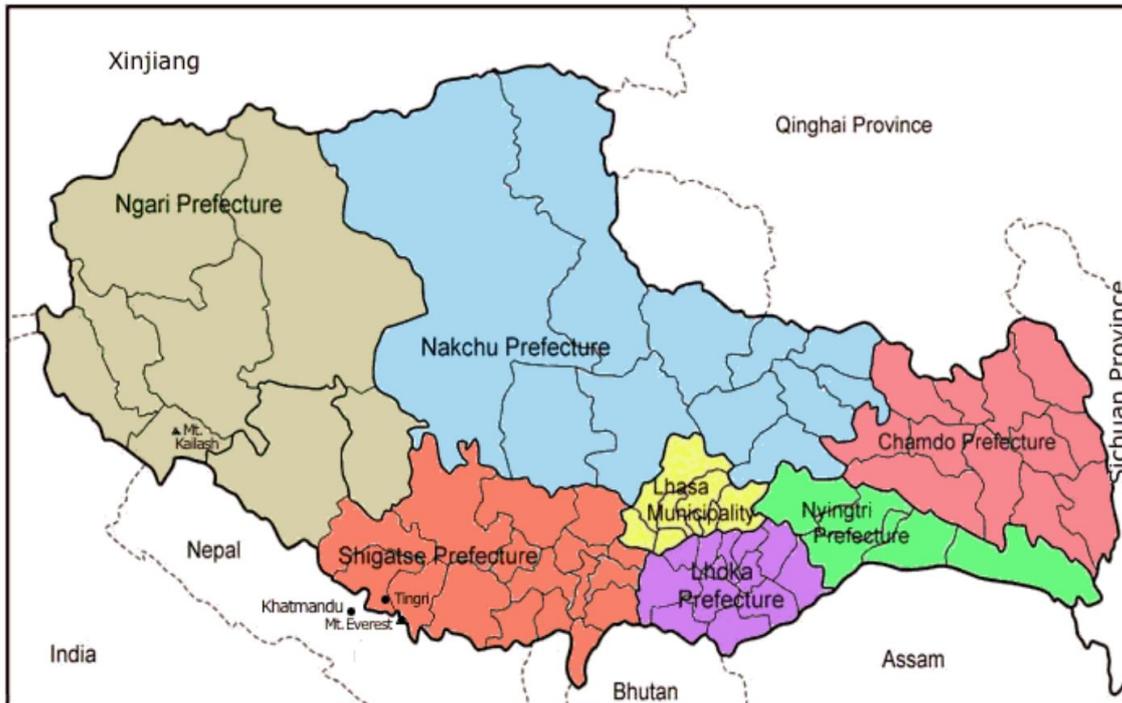




TIBET INSIGHT APRIL 15-30, 2021



TAR NEWS

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information in Lhasa

April 12, 2021

China's Deputy Minister of Industry and Information Technology, Wang Zhijun visited Tibet and held the 4th Work Forum of Aid Tibet on April 10. Chairman of TAR People's Government and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Che Dalha aka Qi Zhala represented the TAR Party Committee and spoke. The Forum was attended by Ji Guogang, Deputy Director of the TAR People's Congress' Standing Committee, Jamyang Sonam, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Political Consultative Conference, and Zhang Yongze, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government. Zhang Yongze signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Industry and Information on behalf of the TAR Party Committee.

Representing the TAR Party Committee and Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, Che Dalha/Qi Zhala, said they were grateful to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology for their "long-term support for the advancement of Tibet's industries, information and communication" and for "considering their tasks in Tibet as an important political obligation, for implementing various decisions and deployments of Xi Jinping and the Central Party Committee". He added; "implementation of the Party's Tibet aid work thus far has demonstrated the incomparable superiority of the socialist system and immense warmth of the motherland" and that he "believes the aid work has become an important tool in fostering and forging the consciousness and oneness of the Chinese community as a nation". In conclusion, Qi Zhala said "I would like to thank General Secretary Xi Jinping, and Party Central Committee from the bottom of my heart and the people of the country for their support" and expressed the hope that the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology will continue to care and support Tibet's Industry and Information Technology, promote clean energy, natural drinking water, fur processing etc. He assured the TAR Party Committee's commitment to implementing of Xi Jinping's instructions and the strategies of governing Tibet in the New Era.

Wang Zhijun summarised the achievements and work experiences of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology since the 3rd Work Forum on Aid to Tibet and outlined the subsequent works to be done. He urged the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology

to continue implementing the party's strategic work deployments as an essential and strategic political task and said they should strive and innovate new ways of aid Tibet work, including strengthening talent exchanges and training. The TAR Economic and Information Technology Department and Communication Administration Bureaus presented work reports at the meeting. Representatives of Aid Tibet organisations from provinces and cities also signed counterpart support and cooperation agreements.

Sixth Group Leader of the State Council's Safety and Fire protection Bureau inspects Tibet

April 19, 2021

On April 16, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie met Li Jinxiang, the Sixth Group leader of the State Council's Safety and Fire Protection Bureau and his team in Lhasa. Pema Wangdui, Standing Member of TAR Party Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government, Liu Jiang, Standing Member of TAR Party Committee and Secretary-General of TAR People's Government, attended the meeting.

In his speech, Wu Yingjie thanked the State Council's Safety and Fire Protection Bureau for their "long-term support and safety works in Tibet". He pointed out that in recent years, "due to the strong leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping, Central Party Committee, the Ministry of Emergency Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and other Central Ministries, Commissions, Counterpart aid Tibet provinces and cities for Tibet, the TAR Party Committee and TAR People's Government are guided by socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, strengthened four consciousness, four confidences and two safeguards among other campaigns". He said there are still some "unsolved long-term problems" and that "under the guidance of the State Council's Security Committee, the TAR Party Committee implemented General Secretary Xi Jinping's instructions on safety production work, and focussed on key areas such as food and medicine, transportations, forest fire prevention, fire safety, construction of and safety measures for culture relics". Wu Yingjie further added, "safety work is weak and remains severe in Tibet" and that he hopes "the inspection team led by Li Jinxiang will help identify weak links, provide preventive measures, find out and fill loopholes and continue to help modernize level of TAR's safety production and governing capabilities".

Li Jinxiang assured the TAR Party Secretary that he and his team would perform their duties with strict work discipline, truly study (in-depth) the current situation and ensure productive results.

Forced Relocations and Militarisation of Border Regions continue in Central Tibet

April 30, 2021

Tibetans in Dingri investigated and coerced into calling for their exiled relatives to return. Anonymous local sources in Tibet reveal that in the latest development of military preparation at the border region in Tibet, Chinese authorities are turning huge territories of nomadic grasslands into military base camps. Tibetan nomads in Gampa County, Dingri County, Ngamring County, Nyalam County of Shigatse(Ch: Xigaze) and Ruthok County of Ngari (Ch: Ali) have been asked to relocate and their territories have been used to build military base camps.

Following the forced relocations of hundreds of thousands of Tibetan nomads in eastern Tibet from 2006 onwards, China has instructed other provincial governments to pursue the resettlement policies. Since 2011, the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) administration under the instruction from the central authority plan to carry out the relocation of the nomad in the next ten years and urged the nomads to return their land to the Chinese authorities. They have been promised ten years of compensation.

Authorities in Dingri were reported to have organised meetings in February 2021. They warned Tibetan nomads against sharing news of the relocation and warned that will be viewed by the CCP as ‘spreading rumours’ and those who do so will be punished according to the law and all the assistance and compensation of water and grass they receive would be terminated.

According to the same source, Chinese authorities in the region held numerous public meetings where they told the people to invite their relatives residing in exile and warned that their names will be removed from the family register and the quotas of family land that their possession will be used by the government for farming. Since February this year, police accompanied by senior villagers have been investigating absentee family members.

Chairman of TAR People's Government inspects Ngari

April 19, 2019

As per instruction from TAR Party Committee, the Chairman of TAR People's Government and Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee, Chedak la aka Che Dalha (Ch: Qi Zhala) made an inspection tour to Ngari (Ch: Ali) from April 15-17. He inspected Muntse Town of Gar County, Barka and Hor Town of Purang County (Ch: Burang) and Rabang Town of Ruthok County. He was accompanied by Jamphel, Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government.

The inspection by the Chairman of TAR People's Government had the following three purposes:

- i) He was inspecting ecology protection and governance work in these four districts. After on-site inspection, he called for a meeting, listened to work reports, and stressed Xi Jinping's exposition that "protection of the ecology of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau as the indispensable responsibility for the survival and development of the Chinese nation". He demanded eliminating "ills and ambiguities" and absolute loyalty to the Party with Xi Jinping at the core. He asked the concerned officials of the districts he visited to consolidate their responsibilities, increase daily management and inspections, and severely crackdown on "illegal activities being carried out in the ecologically protected area, and protect mountains and rivers".
- ii) He went to these counties to inspect the implementation of the feedback and rectifications given by the 14th Supervisory Group, who stayed in Tibet for three months to "educate and rectify" the first batch of political and legal teams in Tibet. Leader of the Supervisory Group, Li Jia met the TAR Party Secretary and Leader of the Political and Legal Team's Education and Rectification Leading Group of TAR, Wu Yingjie, on March 30 to relay Xi Jinping's important instructions and those of the CCP CC about the decision-making process. This was not limited to the education and rectification of political and legal Teams in Tibet, supervision tasks, and understanding the work of the Political and Legal Commission of TAR.
- iii) Che Dalha's inspection was to understand the progress of the 'Party history and education programme' in Ngari. He emphasised the need to learn party history, connect theory with practice, strengthen and foster better relationships between the party and the people.

(Comment: Both Hor and Barka Town of Purang County (Ch: Burang) are located in the north of Mapham Yumtso (Lake Manasarovar). Purang County borders Nepal's Sudurpashchim and Karnali Province, and the humla district. It borders India's Nachani, Khela of Pithoragarh (Uttarkhand). Rabang Town is in Ruthok County of Ngari, which shares a border with India's Ladakh.)

Civil Affairs Bureau of TAR launches “Special Action” campaign in rural areas

April 12, 20221

In an apparent attempt to carry out the Party History and Learning Education Programme, and “to solve living security of people with special difficulties”, the Civil Affairs Bureau of TAR Party Committee launched a “Special Action Plan” named “Implementation Plan to relieve worries and warming the Party”. The Special Action Plan started in April this year and to be carried out till the end of the year aims “to send warmth, and implement warm policies to win over people’s heart, in arranging and sorting out problems of people in need”. Other tasks include: “solving actual problems of people, effective propagation of the success of poverty alleviation measures, strengthening rural revitalization, improving social service capabilities, innovating new ways of social assistance, and to convey party’s care for the people and propagate party’s livelihood policy”.

This Action Plan mandates a large number of cadres from the Civil Affairs Bureau of TAR to visit homes of the people at grassroots levels, publicise and propagate the Party’s Social Assistance policies, identify and speedily resolve “people’s problems” including those of people with special difficulties, the elderly, patients and single-parent families.

Vice Minister of Education meets top TAR leaders

April 28, 2021

The Vice Minister of Education and Member of the CCP Leading Group of the Ministry of Education, Sun Yao led a delegation to Lhasa. They met top TAR Leaders including Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, Chairman of TAR People’s Government Che Dalha/Qi Zhala, Standing Committee Member and Secretary-General of TAR Party Committee Liu Jiang, , and Standing Committee Member of the TAR Party Committee and Minister of Organization Department of TAR, Chen Yongqi on April 25.

In his speech Wu Yingjie thanked the Ministry of Education for their support in “various undertakings” in Tibet, especially in the field of education. He briefed Sun Yao and his delegation on the work to implement the Seventh Work Forum on Tibet. Xi Jinping’s speech focused on the “development of education system in Tibet” and stressed that since the 18th Party Congress, Xi Jinping paid greater attention to the “development of Tibet’s education system” and has therefore issued directions on many occasions. These rules injected a solid impetus to promote and develop the education system in Tibet. He stressed that the Ministry of Education’s Tibet Aid always took their aid work as a “major political task embedded with the party and the country”. He said that although the education system in Tibet has achieved considerable success, there is still a big gap that needs to be filled, and for that, TAR needs the strong support of the Ministry of Education.

He requested the Ministry of Education’s help in providing “vocational skills training for farmers and herdsmen” and to “guide young people of all ethnic groups to foster the sense of Chinese nationalism beginning early childhood”. He assured that the TAR Party Committee will fully implement proceedings of the Seventh Forum, including General Secretary Xi Jinping’s strategic instructions on governing Tibet in the new era. Wu Yingjie stressed that the TAR Party Committee would focus on the fundamentals of who to train, how to prepare and what to train, while adhering to the Party’s education policy at the same time.

Sun Yao acknowledged the “remarkable achievements” in the field in Tibet and said the Ministry of Education will conscientiously implement the spirit of the Seventh Tibet Work on Tibet, its key tasks for the long-term stability of Tibet, and the obligations of the 14th Five Year Plan. He added that the Ministry of Education will “increase their support through educational undertakings that will lay a solid foundation, strengthen the education system in border areas, and accelerate training of high-level talents in vocational and technical fields”. Sun Yao and his delegation went to the Tibet University’s Department of Tibetan Medicine and Lhasa Teachers College. ^[1]_[SEP]Meng Xiaolin, Vice Chairman of TAR People’s Government, and Du Jiangong Vice Chairman of TAR PPCC and Secretary of the Party Group of the Educational Department of TAR also attended the meeting.

Head of TAR UFWD holds meeting to intensify propagation of its works

April 29, 2019

Tenkho (Ch:Danke), the Head of TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD), Deputy Secretary of TAR People's Political Consultative Conference (PPCC) and Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government held a meeting of all heads of UFWD across TAR on April 28 to study and deploy ways of propagating "CCP's Regulations for United Front Work" and the subsequent "Regulations for its promotion and implementation in TAR". Zhukhang Thupten Khedup, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government and head of TAR PPCC, Tashi Dawa, member of TAR People's Government, attended along with other leaders.

At the meeting Tenkho stressed that "studying, propagating and implementing the regulations and works of the UFWD must be treated as an important political task at present as well as for the future". He added that "integration of Xi Jinping's Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, sinicization of the Tibetan Buddhism, promotion of the sense of Chinese nationalism, correct ideological and political constructions must be given importance".

A day prior to this meeting, on April 27, a training of the trainers -- persons who would be propagating the regulations of the UFWD -- was carried out in Lhasa. At this training, Tenkho emphasised the need to strengthen propaganda campaigns such as "Four Consciousness", "Four Confidences" and "Two Maintenances" and said that the UFWD must also do a good job in overseas Chinese affairs.

Chairman of TAR People's Government meets Chairman of Zhijin Mining Group

April 25, 2021

Chedak/Che Dalha (Ch: Qizhala), Chairman of TAR People's Government and Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee, met an 'inspecting group' led by Che Jinghe, the Secretary of the Party Committee and Chairman of Zhijin Mining Group. Vice Chairman Zhang Yongze and Vice Chairman Ren Wei of TAR People's Government attended the meeting.

At the meeting Qi Zhala said that Tibet is an important national strategic resource reserve and clean energy base. He hoped the Zhijin Mining Group will focus on new development patterns that ensure the establishment of the sense of the Chinese community, employ Tibetan college graduates, local people and help “revitalise Tibetan villages and create a win-win proposition”. Chen Jinghe replied the Zhijin Mining Group would ensure effective results and build stable and secure developmental infrastructures in ecological frontiers.

Strong Monastic Management is cardinal for social stability in Tibet, says Official in Sog County

April 25, 2021

Lobsang Gyatso, Deputy Secretary of the Sog Party Committee in Nagchu whilst inspecting Nyimaling Monastery on April 21, said “a strong Monastic Management Committee is cardinal in ensuring social stability in Tibet” and that monasteries should be treated as “the frontline battlefield” which need to be won to fight against secession. He inspected monasteries in Sog County, assessed work reports, and asked in detail about the cadres stationed in the monasteries. He enquired about the ideological education progress work of the monks, implementation of stability maintenance works, and resolving existing “risks and difficulties in the religious fields”. He told the cadres stationed in the monasteries to shoulder “stronger sense of political responsibilities, create new ways of monastic management and preparedness to deal with major political issues”. He also emphasised the need to strengthen the study of “Management Measures of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism” and have a “clear-cut stand against divisions and separatism”.

Metok County pushed for more ‘Red education’, Nyingtri

April 27, 2021

As part of the Learning Communist History Campaign in China, each village in Metok was told to select more ‘Red lectures’ and open more ‘Red broadcasting platforms’. They were told “to consider every village level organisation activity site as the party history podium, and the village as the party history classroom, and use the red radio as a “red teacher.” Every village has been asked to select a group of local lecturers who know communist party history well and learn fast and form a team consisting of village-level secretaries, heads of the household, village cadres, and retired cadres. Their primary responsibility is to carry out ‘red education’

in the local language, including reading the Party history broadcasting, reprinting and playing the Party history stories, and ‘red songs’.

Thus far Metok County has broadcast more than 600 audios of ‘red songs’ and party history using the ‘red broadcast’ and conducted more than 200 sessions of party history reading. The villagers were also told to select a group of ‘online red lectures’ and set up evening classes. The Party has established 54 ‘red night school lecture halls’ in towns, counties, and villages. These online lecturers are ordered not only to conduct evening classes but also to teach online in WeChat groups by inviting experts and veterans on Party history. More than 55 Party branches and 44 government agencies have actively participated in this campaign of learning the party history on Metok.

Miling County extends exceptional support to military personnel to deepen the civil-military integration.

April 20, 2021

In the spirit of implementing the National Veterans Work Conference, the Veterans Bureau Affairs of Miling County, Nyingtri, conducted a signing ceremony of “special support and care for the army” with the Agricultural Bank of China, Miling branch, and Miling Chengxiang Passenger Transport Co., Ltd on April 19. It was attended by Tadim Gyatso (in Chinese: Dan Zhijiancuo), Deputy Head of the Milin County Government, Fang Wenxing, Head of the People’s Armed Police Force (PAPF) Miling County, and Ning Xiaojie, Deputy Governor of the Agricultural Bank of Nyingtri.

At the ceremony, the Agricultural Bank of China and Chengxiang Passenger Transport Co., Ltd. promised to provide priority, high quality, and preferential services to military personnel, veterans, and other preferential care recipients. The Agricultural Bank China has posted priority signs for military personnel and veterans and opened special windows at its business outlets for military personnel and veterans, offering cards, free of annual card fees, inter-bank transfer fees, and other personalized exclusive financial preferential services. The Miling County Chengxiang Passenger Transport Co., Ltd. provides passenger vehicle shuttle services for active servicemen, military members, retired soldiers, and other preferential treatment targets for their daily travel needs. Relying on the warehouse logistics system of the comprehensive demonstration project of e-commerce in Miling County, it provides preferential

treatment for downstream delivery of express logistics and door-to-door delivery and pickup services. It delivers express logistics such as Shentong, YTO, and Yunda within the county and from the county to the troops.

The Milin County Veterans Affairs Bureau adhering to Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics as the guidance, implemented the important expositions and important instructions of General Secretary Jinping on the work of veterans and strives towards making the "soldier's profession respected by the whole society." It hoped that all sectors of the society will work together to continuously provide more "priority, high-quality and preferential" services for active servicemen, military members, veterans, and other preferential treatment targets to achieve Xi's idea of civil-military integration in the new era.

China tells monastery to take the lead in the vaccination drive in Nyingtri.

April 26, 2021

China begins its vaccination drive in TAR this month and the authorities in Bomi County, Nyingtri, told the monastery to take the lead. The Monastery Management Committee explained the need for a vaccine as an essential precaution. To boost the trust of people, the authorities wanted monks and the monastic community to get vaccinated first and actively participate in the prevention and control of the epidemic.

The Monastic Management Committee was told "As per the Buddhist principle of advocating harmony and love for religion, the monks and nun should do a good job in epidemic prevention and control, actively assist the local party committees and governments to do ideological work for religious believers, increase support in action, guide religious believers to believe in science, do not believe in rumours, do not spread rumours, and fully cooperate with vaccination." They further told the monks and nuns to encourage people to 'obey the leaders and obey the orders, and build a solid line of defence for epidemic prevention and control.'

Tibet Task Force Guangdong purchases poverty relief insurance for 140,000 farmers and nomads, Nyingtri.

April 27, 2021

The ninth batch of aid to the Tibet task force of Guangdong Province purchased poverty relief insurance for 140,000 farmers and herders by investing 2.31 million Yuan. Guangdong is the assigned twin city of Nyingtri Prefecture, TAR. The relief package would cover natural disaster relief, accident relief, and epidemic and health emergency relief. According to Liu Guangming, Deputy Secretary of the Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee and Executive Deputy Mayor, the contribution of the Aid to Tibet task force of Guangdong this time is a preventive measure to avoid the risk of Nyingtri falling back into poverty due to the Pandemic, and to align with the larger campaign of 'learning the party history and act as a social stabiliser.'

China raising Tibetan army unit to counter India?

April 19, 2021

A report in *The hindustantimes.com*, April 18, citing Intelligence reports and communication intercepts from three separate intelligence agencies suggested that China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) intends to create a Special Tibetan Army Unit. . If this plan goes head, it will be the first PLA formation comprising soldiers from a specific ethnicity, the report noted.

It said China has stepped up efforts to recruit more Tibetans as the border standoff with India on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) continues and has been holding special recruitment drives across the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) since the beginning of the year. Anonymous Indian sources said PLA officials had crisscrossed the TAR to hold recruitment drives and pick up Tibetan recruits who were already at PLA camps.

PLA officials from Lhasa were reported to have visited Ruthok Town in Ngari Prefecture in the third week of February to recruit Tibetans as soldiers. These officials were later stated to have travelled to Zanda or Tsamda County, one of the border counties of TAR, to select Tibetan recruits from several PLA camps for possible induction into the special unit. The PLA also reportedly carried out a recruitment drive in Lhasa to induct a sizeable number of Tibetans. The PLA was expected to raise more border defence regiments comprising Tibetans, the report said. "These new recruitment drives are being held at a time when there are reports that mainstream Chinese troops from lower altitudes faced problems during their deployment in

Tibet. We have intercepts showing their troops suffered from health problems such as severe mountain sickness and high altitude pulmonary oedema,” the report quoted one Chinese official as saying. “It is also meant to send a message to India and to Tibetans in India”.

The special recruitment drives were stated to be meant to induct Tibetans into regular PLA, not the Tibetan militia units, which play a role in patrolling, logistics and transporting supplies using mules and horses.

(Comment: China’s official statistics from 2010 show that there were 4,300 Tibetans in the PLA’s 2.1 million servicemen. More recent figures are not readily available. The report could have been prompted by India publicising use of its Tibetan force, the Special Frontier Force (SFF).)

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Golog forms a special women’s inspection team to promote 'four consciousness and four loves'

April 14, 2021

Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai established a special women’s inspection team in four counties to protect and promote the Party’s campaign of ‘four consciousness and four loves’. Local representatives and party members of Matoes Dzong, Machen Dzong, Gadee Dzong and Chikdril Dzong were called for a meeting from April 8 to April 11. As suggested in the meeting, a special women's inspection team was formed, and they were instructed to inspect and visit villages and homes of their counties at least twice a month. The women's team falls under the jurisdiction of county PSB, and their expenses will also be covered by the same. Special subsidies and benefits will be provided for women in the team. It is reported that the team was formed to cover the lack of constant visits from the provincial authorities due to the region's harsh climatic condition, particularly in the winter.

First Direct Flight from Harbin to Lhasa

April 19, 2021

The Harbin-Taiyuan-Lhasa route officially opened on April 16. The opening of the Harbin-Taiyuan-Lhasa route builds an air bridge between Heilongjiang and TAR. This route is

operated by Tibet Airlines Airbus 319. The new route is expected to play an active role in the economic and social development of the two provinces and provide faster and more convenient transportation for political and business travel and tourism. 10,000 people visit Tibet from Heilongjiang annually.

China Tibetology suggests a different method for Tibet on 'Theoretical Thinking about the Interaction and Integration of Ethnic Group

April 26, 2021

A group of researchers from China Tibetology Research Center, Beijing, recently published an article titled “Theoretical Thinking about the Interaction and Integration of Ethnic Group” in their official quarterly publication. The report analyses the paths and benefits of China's effort at Ethnic integration in various fields of economic, social, political, and culture. It sums up how the whole effort at ethnic integration should translate to forge a sense of community of the Chinese nation and national assimilation. The concluding part of the report talks explicitly about Tibet under the sub-heading 'The characteristics of ethnic exchanges and fusion between Tibet and key provinces in Tibet-related work.'

It suggests that Tibet has certain differences from other ethnic minorities due to the “Dalai clique and separatist forces”, and, therefore, requires a different method from other ethnic groups for integration. The report says, "In Tibet and key Tibet-related provinces, there are not only the same major social contradictions as other parts of the country but also special contradictions between the people of all ethnic groups and the separatist forces represented by the Dalai clique. There are also conflicts between Tibetan Buddhism and the separatist forces represented by the Dalai clique". The report encourages more ideological education, more tourism, more infrastructure development, and enhanced sinicisation of Tibetan Buddhism. The broad suggestions made in the report are as follows:

- Ethnic integration in Tibet should be advanced from three dimensions: global, national (covering TAR and all key-related Tibetan provinces) and local (covering all key agencies at the local which has influence over Tibetans);
- Ideological education is an important method: In Tibet and key Tibet-related provinces, due to historical, geographical, and other reasons, there are some problems in the behaviour of

ethnic exchanges and exchanges to a certain extent. It is necessary to intensify the ideological education of ethnic unity and progress, adopt different forms and innovative propaganda methods to conduct targeted education for party members, cadres, young students, intellectuals, ordinary people, and religious personnel represented by Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns;

- Development of tourism is an important path: Tibet and the key provinces related to Tibet, especially the two border areas of Sichuan, Gansu, and Qinghai, and TAR, Sichuan, Yunnan, and Qinghai, used to have close geographical environments, solid religious atmosphere, serious overseas penetration, and frequent stability-related incidents. It is necessary to continue to deepen the high-quality tourism development, speed up the planning and construction of civil aviation airports, railways, and highways, break up road network, and strengthen the interconnection and integrated development of transportation connections and turn Tibet into a global tourism hub;

- Correct handling of religious relations and role: In the social life of the Tibetan people, the influence of religion is everywhere, including life values, moral values, custom taboos, weddings, and funerals, etc. The general behaviour of the people is also governed by religion. However, Tibetan Buddhism is restricted by historical and objective factors. It politically, nationally and conservatively 'worships' the 'teacher', and has a strong sense of privilege and a large negative impact on the broad masses of monks and nuns and religious believers. It is necessary to continuously strengthen ideological education, popularize scientific and cultural knowledge, promote modern lifestyles, and gradually dilute and eliminate the negative influence of religion among the masses. The separatist forces use religious power to provoke the ideological defense of our ethnic relations; China must always adhere to the direction of Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism and attach importance to the role of Tibetan Buddhism in promoting ethnic exchanges.

Ganzi conducts house searches calling it 'Education and Rectification Visit.'

April 30, 2021

The Political and Legal Education Department, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, announced 71 measures to enhance the political and legal system in Ganzi. It includes the launch of a remote family video meeting system in the judicial body and also the establishment of a car management convenience service point in every local PSB branch.

As part of the measure, each policeman visited three households and carried out the so-called "education and rectification visits". The purpose of the visit was described as to carry out the in-depth promotion of the education and rectification of the political and legal teams and establish the feelings on the front line and front work. As of April 30, 7215 households have been searched, and the police have received more than 3,200 opinions and suggestions. During this search, the team claimed to have dealt with and resolved some 1,300 'hidden dangers of various contradictions'. The new measures are expected to strengthen and standardise the grass-root litigation system and maximise the punishment for 'untrustworthy personnel'.

Gansu sets up a business representative office in Nepal

April 30, 2021

The licensing ceremony of the Gansu Commercial Representative Office in Nepal was held in Lanzhou, Gansu, on April 30. This is the 13th overseas commercial representative office established by Gansu to serve as a bridge to promote Gansu and Nepal in modern agriculture, cultural tourism, and other cooperation in education and construction. China believes that the construction of the "Belt and Road" Initiative has brought new opportunities for cooperation and development between Gansu and Nepal. Nepal is the gateway between China and South Asia.

With the new office, they intend to see a closer exchange between Nepal and Kanlho (in Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. Gansu highlights 'Nepal is a famous pilgrimage site globally, and Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture has a colourful ethnic culture. The two have similarities and complement each other. Tibetan Buddhism culture is the link between the cultural and tourism cooperation between the two sides in the future'.

In 2017, Nepal was invited to serve as the guest of honour at the 23rd Lanzhou Fair. The Gansu Provincial Economic Cooperation Bureau disclosed that Nepal would be the country of honour for this year's Lanzhou Economic and Trade Fair and set up a Nepal Pavilion to promote an all-round understanding of Nepal among Gansu people.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Special exile Tibetan parliament session set for May 20

April 28, 2021

The outgoing, 16th Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPiE) is to hold an additional session on May 20, according to an announcement issued by its secretariat on April 28. The announcement does not state what has necessitated the holding of the additional session, or any agenda.

The most apparent purpose is to elect a new panel of three justice commissioners, including the chief justice commissioner, of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission (TSJC).

Without a Chief Justice Commissioner, the newly elected Sikyong and the 17th TPiE members cannot be installed since there will be no one to administer to them their oaths of office. This is because on March 25, the TPiE very controversially sacked the existing panel of justice commissioners for having taken suo moto action against its standing committee members for deciding to cancel the September 2020 parliament session in violation of the Charter of Tibetans in Exile.

A session could be held if at least two-thirds of the total membership of the TPiE –at least 30 members – attend. This is viable since there is no travel ban in India where well over 35 members reside. Also, a committee to recommend candidates for the posts of Justice Commissioner require the inclusion of the Chief Justice Commissioner as a member. The sacking of the Justice Commissioners has rendered constituting the committee impossible. However, the TPiE may circumvent this requirement by rendering his inclusion in the committee as not necessary.

US congressional rights body's co-chair reiterates call for 11th Panchen Lama's release

April 26, 2021

As Tibetans marked the 32nd birthday of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama, their second most prominent religious figure whose whereabouts remain unknown after he was “kidnapped” by the Chinese authorities in 1995 when he was 6 years old, US Congressman

Jim McGovern, Co-chair of Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, reiterated his call for his unconditional release.

Born on April 25, 1989, kidnapped Gedhun Choekyi Nyima on May 17, 1995, three days after Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, proclaimed his recognition as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama and has hidden him and his family since then. In his statement McGovern said "The Commission's mandate is to promote and defend the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And one of the many things the commission does is advocate the release of Prisoners of Conscience around the world. Prisoners of conscience are people whose freedom has been taken away from them without any real justification even though they've neither used nor advocated violence. Often people are imprisoned because of who they are. Sadly, there are many prisoners of conscience in the world. And one of them is Gedun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Pachen Lama of Tibetan Buddhism."

China's stock response to all queries, including from the United Nations human rights officials and bodies, for the last 26 years has been that "he and his family are alive and well" and that he did not wish to be disturbed.

McGovern has accused China of controlling the existence and true identity of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. "My birthday present to Gedhun Choekyi Nyima is the same as every year to renew my call for his immediate and unconditional freedom and that of his family as well", he has said, adding "no government is justified in doing what the Chinese government is doing. He should be free because he has the moral and legal right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion including the right to practice his religion as he chooses. He should be freed because he is still a young man and is the right thing to do. So happy birthday Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. May this year be the year we have the privilege to meet in person."

(Comment: The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (formerly Tom Lantos Human Rights Caucus) is a bipartisan body in the United States House of Representatives.)

