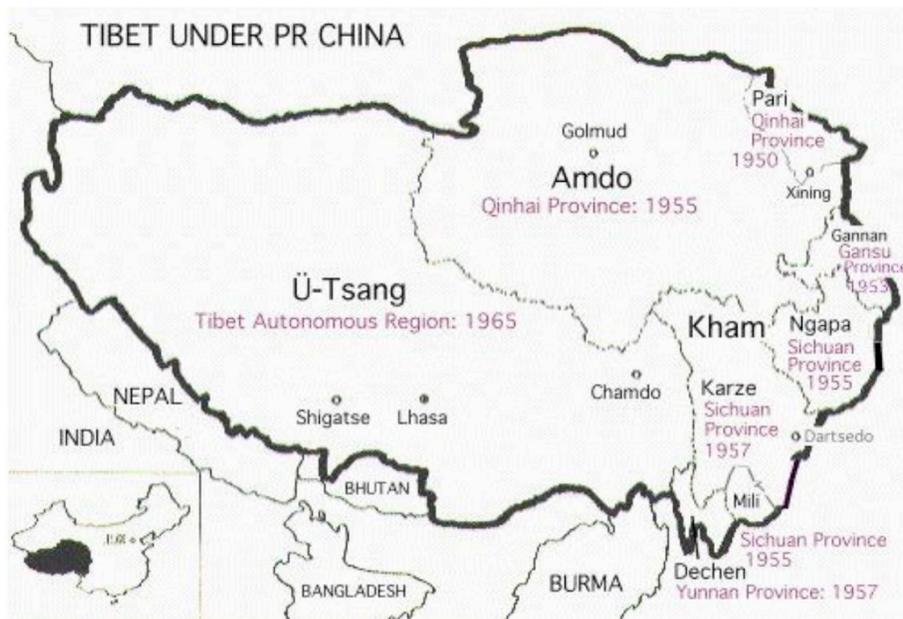
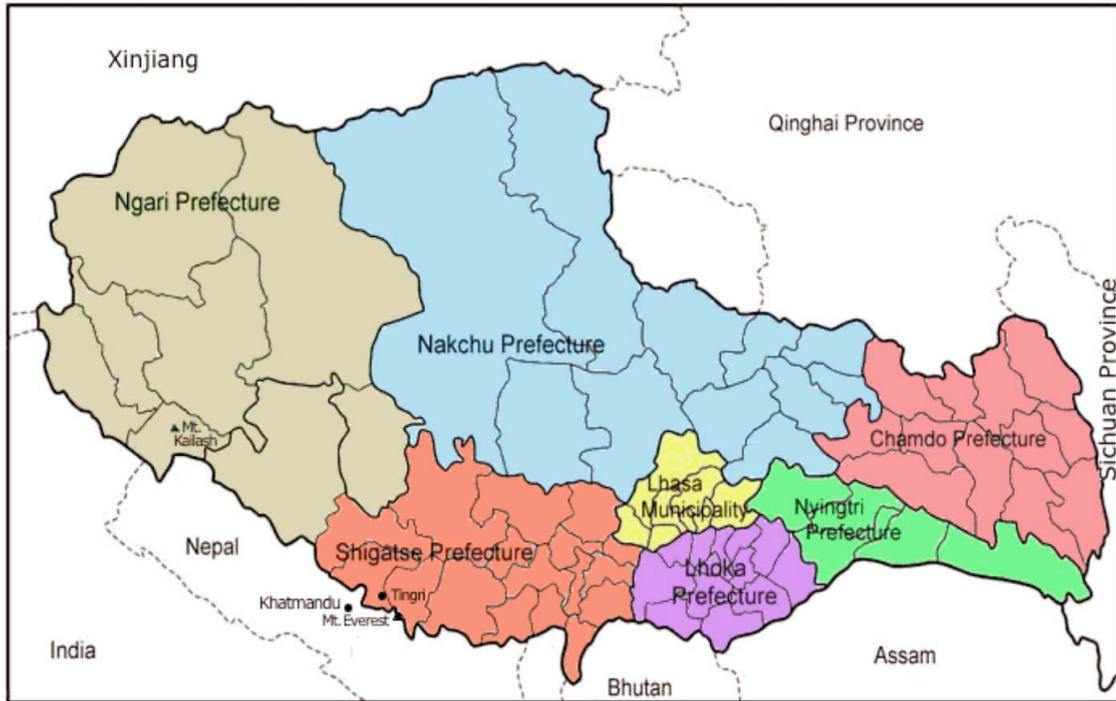




TIBET INSIGHT



Summary

- Chinese Panchen Lama visited Exhibition on Reincarnation of Living Buddhas
- Another Self-Immolation In Tibet
- Kashag to discuss memo-protesting removal of Office of Tibet Representative, Washington, DC
- Tibet University received ‘National Civilized Award’
- A Tibetan delegation led by Lobsang Gyaltsen, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Chairman of TAR People's Congress, visited Belgium, Finland and Russia from November 13 to 22, 2017.

TAR NEWS

Mongolian Monks in Beijing to study Tibetan Buddhism

November 14, 2017

Twelve Mongolian monks have been invited by the Buddhist Association of China to study Tibetan Buddhism at the Tibetan Buddhism College of China for a period of one year. Jampa Thinlay, a senior teacher at the College read out the welcome message from the Buddhist Association of China which stated that “the Buddhist communities of China and Mongolia enjoy a long-standing friendship and that there have been increasing exchanges in recent years. Organizing of this class builds a bridge for in-depth and friendly exchanges between the two Buddhist communities.”

Nergue Khaitso, Abbot of the Mongolian Monastery Sain Nomin, reiterated the “friendly and close bilateral relations” between Mongolia and China and said “training of the Mongolian monks will

encourage more young monks to study in China.” The twelve monks, two of whom are assistants, are to study Tibetan grammar, Tibetan calligraphy, Chinese language, basic theories of Buddhism, religious rituals, computing and other courses. They will also tour China.

(Comment: The Buddhist Association of China has earlier invited Mongolian Buddhist representatives to attend the Fourth World Buddhist Forum and twice invited Mongolian Buddhists to visit China. In 2016 they were, in turn, invited to visit Mongolia. Also, on July 15, 2015, the Chinese appointed Panchen Lama had received a group of eight Mongolian Buddhists at the Xihuangsi Monastery in Beijing.

The Dalai Lama’s visit to Mongolia impacted negatively on China-Mongolia relations. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Mongolia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Tsend Munkh-Orgil by telephone after the Dalai Lama’s visit that China hoped Mongolia would “scrupulously abide by its promise” not to invite the Dalai Lama again. The Mongolian Minister was later quoted as saying Mongolia firmly supports the one China policy, consistently holds that Tibet is an inseparable part of China, that the Tibet issue is China’s internal affair.”)

Tibet University receives ‘National Civilized Award’

November 20, 2017

The Central Steering Committee for the Building of Spiritual Civilization promulgated on November 17, 2017, the fifth “National Civilized City”, “Civilized Villages”, Civilized Units and the “National Civilized Campus” Awards. Tibet University won the award for the most “Civilized National Campus” for conscientiously implementing not just the spirit of the 19th Party Congress but also for inculcating spirit, ideological and political work of National and Regional Conferences including organizing activities, research projects etc.

The University was encouraged to implement and study earnestly General Secretary and President “Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristic in the new era” enshrined in the Party Constitution at the 19th Party Congress.

Former TAR Leader dies

November 18, 2017

Sun Piyu, a former Deputy Director (grade level) of the Committee on History, Literature and History of the CPPCC Tibet Autonomous Region, died at the age of 69 on November 14, 2017 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province.

(Comment: Sun Piyuan was born in October 1948 in Qingdao, Shandong Province. He started working in October 1968 and joined the Communist Party of China in April 1972. He worked mainly in Nagchu, Nyingtri and Lhasa before retiring on health grounds in 2008.)

Chinese Panchen Lama visits Exhibition on Reincarnation of Living Buddhas

November 25, 2017

On November 23, around 60 Tibetan “Living Buddhas” recognised by China over the past ten years and led by the Panchen Lama, visited the Tibetan Buddhist Reincarnation Special Exhibition in the Tibet Museum of Culture in Beijing on the Tenth Anniversary of the promulgation of the "Administrative Measures on Reincarnation of Living Buddhas of Tibet".

The exhibition provides a comprehensive introduction to the historical evolution of the Reincarnation System of Tibetan Lamas (Living Buddhas), as well as the religious rituals and historical custom of reincarnation of the ‘Living Buddhas’ such as the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama.

After visiting the exhibition, the Panchen Lama said that the ‘Living Buddhas’ of Tibet in all previous dynasties not only had deep religious attainments, but also made important contributions to the reunification of the country and prosperity and stability of the society at that time.

(Comment: The ‘Administrative Measures on Reincarnation of Living Buddhas of Tibet’ were promulgated by China’s State Religious Affairs Bureau and implemented with effect from September 1, 2007. In the past 10 years alone, more than 60 living reincarnations of the Buddha in the Tibet Autonomous Region have been identified and ratified according to the Measures in an attempt to ‘standardize’ the reincarnation of Living Buddhas and give the procedure being implemented by the Chinese Communist Party legal colour.)

Self-Immolation In Tibet

November, 2017

A 63-year old Tibetan monk, Tenga, self-immolated on November 26, 2017, in Kardze county, Sichuan province. He called out for freedom for Tibet before dying of burns. Police arrived very soon and took away his body while the authorities placed his family members in Dando village under watch and immediately imposed a communications clamp-down in the area.

(Comment: According to ICT, this brings the number of self-immolations by Tibetans to 151.)

TAR Leader leads Delegation abroad

November 24, 2017

A Tibetan delegation led by Lobsang Gyaltzen, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Chairman of TAR People's Congress, visited Belgium, Finland and Russia from November 13 to 22, 2017.

During his stay in Brakel in Brussels, Lobsang Gyaltzen met Belgian Ambassador Siegfried Bracke and visited the Chinese Cultural Center of Brussels and the Woluwe-Saint-Lambert Language School. The Tibetan Delegates interacted with overseas Chinese citizens in Belgium and met some Chinese diplomats based in Belgium.

In Helsinki, the delegation met the Chairman of the Finland-China Friendship Group, Shana Larasratti and visited the Lagariti Nature Reserve. They held talks with overseas Chinese in Finland and gave lectures on the importance of the diplomatic relationship between Finland and Tibet.

In St. Petersburg, Russia, they met Melnikov, First Deputy Chairman of the Duma and First Deputy Secretary of the Russian Federation and held talks with Chinese overseas in Russia. Lobsang Gyaltzen met Chinese Embassy personnel at the Embassy in Russia and inspected the China Chengtong Group Co. Ltd, which has invested in building the Greenwood International Trade Center in Russia.

During the meeting with the Belgian and Finnish parliamentarians and the Russian Duma, Lobsang Gyaltzen briefed them on the achievements of the Chinese Communist Party in improving the economic and social conditions and the people's livelihood and also spoke about 19th Party Congress and its

significance. He expressed full confidence in the future of Tibet and said the Tibetan people will surely live a happy life under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

TIBET TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

China-Tibet: Safety Issues In Lhasa-Tibet Railway

November 2017

A blog is circulating in China's social media expressing fears on safety of the Lhasa-Shigatse railway route. The author of the blog, who appears to have detailed knowledge of the railway's construction, details six problematic issues of the line, which endanger its safety. The blog, which was posted on several Chinese language news sites and social media and has been translated into English, describes “problems at the stretch labelled TJ6 on the Lhasa–Shigatse Railway” that have been known for two years but apparently not resolved. These include cutting corners on material such as steel needed for tunnels, bridge pillars that are too short, and not enough cement used. According to the author these contributed to “severe landslides” during construction of a tunnel entrance. The blog states: “What is really a pity, however, is that all of the involved departments and control organs, including the China Railroad Headquarters, the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Company, the Lhasa–Shigatse Railway Construction Command Bureau (the personnel from which have all been transferred to the Lhasa-Nyingtri Railway Construction Command Bureau) and the Lanzhou Railroad Management Bureau responsible for project supervision and control, are turning a blind eye to the problems exposed.” Discussing the Lhasa-Shigatse route, the blogger said that in February 2016, the Lanzhou Railway Supervision and Management Bureau identified that five out of eight pillars supporting a major bridge on the route are two meters short, “thus causing a severe hidden safety hazard” but that nothing has so far been done about the problem. He added that the “problem of skimping on construction materials” that “is particularly severe starting from 100 meters into the respective tunnels; 60% of the second lining reinforcing steel bars do not meet standards. [...] Furthermore, they severely skimmed on small conduits in the tunnel, and some were simply left out; and they also only used about 30% of the bolts.” The blogger stated that: “The ‘leftover’ steel was subsequently sold by the contractors”, with one relative of a contractor “at one point making over 40 million *yuan* in a single transaction.” The social media

discussion also notes that while the Chinese authorities state that the construction of the railway is for tourism purposes, its use is also heavily strategic and based on military concerns.

China-Tibet: Lhasa-Nyingtri Railway Line

November 2017

Construction has begun on a new line to Nyingtri (Chinese: Linzhi) in the TAR, in the sensitive border area with Arunachal Pradesh, which the Chinese government flagged as “a new era in railway construction”. The Nyingtri line will be part of a new railway route linking the TAR to the capital of Sichuan, Chengdu, and beyond, running east from Lhasa. Referring to this connection, the blogger writes that: “According to guancha.cn, the Shigatse-Lhasa-Nyingtri railway with Lhasa as its strategic fulcrum, is to be used for passengers as well as for commodities and military personnel. From a geopolitical and regional military perspective, the strategic value of the Lhasa-Shigatse Railway is shocking! With Lhasa as its main hub, Shigatse as its western wing and Nyingtri as its eastern wing, it forms a circular area covering a distance of 700 kilometres from the east to the west and thus works towards safeguarding the Tibetan borderlands.” The Lhasa-Nyingtri-Chengdu rail network is of high importance to the Chinese Party state; given Xi Jinping’s emphasis on the importance of control of Tibet’s border areas.

China-Tibet: Lhasa-Kathmandu Railway

November 2017

The Nepalese press recently reported that China and Nepal had completed a study on the cross-border, 100-km railway that they say will connect Kathmandu with the border town of Kyirong (Chinese: Gyirong) in the TAR. Last year, China's National People’s Congress had confirmed the extension of the rail link from Shigatse (Chinese: Rigaze) to Kyirong (Chinese: Gyirong) on the Nepal border as part of a strategic rail network. Reports in the Chinese and Nepalese media have indicated that the construction of Tibet’s railway from Shigatse to the borders of India and Nepal is scheduled for completion by 2020. The article in Nepal’s www.myrepublica.com on November 11 referred to a study of the route that was part of the ‘One Belt One Road’ agreement signed by the Nepalese government with China in May. The report claimed about 85 percent of the railroad will be underground and will pass beneath the hills from Kyirong, which lies at the altitude of 4000 metres, to Kathmandu (1400 metres).

(Comment: The likelihood of a railway tunneled deep under Chomolungma (Mt Everest), in the youngest and one of the most active seismic zones on earth, is unlikely. The Chinese official media has

stated that the rail link would reach Nepal via Shigatse and Kyirong, on the border, where a new 'land border post' has been established. The route Shigatse-Kyirong would not naturally pass through the Mount Everest area, unless there were particular reasons from the Chinese side. This possibility was first raised in 2015 by a railway and 'tunnelling expert', Wang Mengshu, who was cited by China Daily as saying: "The line will probably have to go through Qomolangma [Chinese way of referring to Chomolungma or Mt. Everest] so that workers may have to dig some very long tunnels." A more credible piece by a 'tunnelling expert' in 2012 did not mention this plan at all but focused on two possible routes that had been charted from the Chinese side and across Nepal. In the same article in the Nepalese press on November 11, Ananta Acharya, director general of the Department of Railways in Nepal, appeared to be urging caution in reaching conclusions about the nature of the construction, saying, "This was a basic research of the topology and geography. Both sides will later reach an agreement for carrying out a feasibility study.")

CHAMDO NEWS (Ch: Changdu/Qamdo)

Training of Nuns and Nunnery Cadres in Chamdo

November 20, 2017

The Chamdo Women's Federation in collaboration with the United Front Work Department and the Civil Affairs Bureau of Chamdo Municipal Party Committee, conducted four-day training sessions for 40 nuns and 22 women cadres of Monasteries across the city. The training was to educate monks, nuns and the general masses about monastery/nunnery management policies, religious morality, ethnic solidarity and laws to main social order. The trainees were made to conscientiously study and implement the spirit of the 19th Party Congress as well as "other series of arrangements" made by the TAR Party Committee and Municipal Party Committees on "strengthening the roles of monks and nuns" in the monasteries/nunneries and their role in society. Trainees were given a free physical examination.

Tu Ga, Vice Chairman of the Chamdo Municipal Committee PPCC attended the opening ceremony of the training session and applauded the Municipal Women's Federation for reaching out to women and masses of all walks of life and for encouraging unity and cohesion of all ethnic groups by educating and training them. He further praised the Municipal Women's Federation for reaching out to the nuns, who

play an important role in establishing “good image, political awareness and strengthening of Monastery/Nunnery Management” in society in general and in Chamdo in particular.

NGARI NEWS (Ch: Nagqu)

The 18th China Reporter Day Award Ceremony held in Ngari

November 2017

The Ngari Party Committee held a conference entitled ‘2017 Press Publicity Summary and the 18th Press Conference Commendation’. The conference summarized publicity work in TAR in 2017 and, as a token of appreciation, presented awards to some individuals for their outstanding efforts and initiatives in the media. Member of the Prefectural Party Committee and Ngari Propaganda Minister Sonam Tseten, cadres and workers of the Propaganda Department, Tibet Daily, Regional TV Stations and the Propaganda Front of the Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region attended the ceremony.

Sonam Tseten, on behalf of the Ngari Prefecture Committee, appreciated the journalists for adhering to the government instructions and guidelines. He said that since the beginning of this year, the majority of journalists firmly grasped the correct orientation of public opinion and faithfully fulfilled their "48-character" mission as proposed by Xi Jinping. They adhered to the principle of "unity, stability" guided by Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and Xi Jinping thoughts.

Sonam Tseten stressed that they will work closely in the coming months around the work of the Central Committee and the Central Discipline Inspection Commission so as to provide a strong message for the construction of harmony in Ngari.

The meeting presented awards to 15 “advanced” journalists including Ngari News and other four “advanced collectives” and Tibet TV stations under the title "2017 Advanced Collective and Outstanding Journalists.

A Communication Network Coverage Seminar was held in Ngari

November 16, 2017

Peng Pu, Deputy Secretary of the Prefectural Party Committee and Administrative Commissioner of the Prefectural Government of Ngari, presided over a symposium on the work of communication and operation enterprises in Ngari on November 14, 2017. Kalsang Tsering, Deputy Secretary of the Government Party Group and Government Adviser of TAR, attended the meeting and delivered a speech.

At the meeting, the Deputy Secretary of the Prefectural Party Committee and Administrative Commissioner Peng Pu expressed his appreciation of Kalsang Tsering and his Party's Research Team for their guidance on construction of the communication network. Shen Zhaoshan, Secretary of the Regional Politics and Law Committee reported on border frontline network coverage. Deputy Commissioner Duan Xiaoyong reported on the regional communication network construction problems and made suggestions. The Regional Communications Administrator reported on the work of communications supervision. The regions' Mobile, Telecom, China Unicom and Tower Company reported on their respective business operations and coverage of their information and communication networks.

Seminar on the spirit of the 19th Party Congress held for Cadres

November 22, 2017

The first grade cadres at the county level in Ngari prefecture held a seminar to study and implement the spirit of the 19th Party Congress and also to “embrace” “Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristic in the new era”. The seminar was held to guide leading Party cadres of the region to unify their thinking at par with the Party and also to unite their strength with the goals and tasks set forth by the 19th Party Congress. The Regional Party Committee Secretary, Zhu Zhongkui presided over the seminar and spoke on the importance of studying the 19th Party Congress and Socialism with Chinese Characteristic in particular.

The Seminar gave training and counselling to the regional experts and initiated group discussions on the thematic interpretation of “Xi Jinping’s Thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era”.

Examining the report on the studying and implementing the spirit of 19th Congress in Ngari

November 16, 2017

On November 15, the Ngari Prefecture Regional Propaganda Committee held a meeting and reviewed the report on the study and implementation of the spirit of the 19th Party Congress in Ngari. The head of TAR Propaganda Department and the Discipline Inspection Commission Secretary Wanjun examined the report and TAR Party Committee Secretary Zhu Zhongkui presided over the meeting. TAR Party Committee Secretary Zhu Zhongkui pointed out during the meeting that it was an important report, which has provided a powerful guide to adhere to the spirit of the 19th Party Congress of the Communist Party of China and to strive for long-term peace and order in Ngari. Ngari Party Committee members, County cadres and staff attended the meeting.

LHOKA NEWS (Ch: Shannan)

Lhoka Delegation in Hunan Province

November 27, 2017

On November 20, Hunan Provincial Party Committee Secretary and Provincial People's Congress Director Du Jiafen, Provincial Party Committee Deputy Secretary Wulan, and Governor Xu Dazhe met the Lhoka Delegation in Changsha in Hunan Province.

The Delegation led by Deputy Secretary and Mayor Phurbu Dhondup, visited Hunan Province and reaffirmed the strong bonds between the two provinces and encouraged continuation of the cultural exchange and support and aid which was initiated in 1994.

Since 1994 when Hunan Province's support program to Lhoka was initiated, Hunan Province has dispatched 8 batches totalling 372 'Aid Tibet' cadres with a total aid fund of 1.388 billion yuan to promote rapid economic and social development in Loka Prefecture.

Du Jiafen, on behalf of the Hunan Provincial Party Committee and Provincial Government, warmly welcomed the delegation from the Lhoka Party and government. He said that Hunan Province will resolutely implement the series of strategic plans finalised by the Central Government and will always take responsibility to do a good job in helping Tibet in the new period with assistance in sectors such as employment, science and education, medicine, industry, culture. He said, "We will continue to improve

the long-term aid mechanism to Tibet and jointly promote long-term development, peace and stability in Lhoka”.

Lhoka Delegation visits Anhui Province

November 24, 2017

A Lhoka Party Delegation met Li Jinbin, Party Secretary of Anhui Province and Director of the Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee and Li Guobin, Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and Governor of Anhui Province. They also met the Deputy Director of Anhui Provincial Party Committee Xin Xingxing, Provincial Standing Committee and Executive Vice Governor Deng Xiangyang, and Provincial Standing Committee and Organization Minister Yan Zhichan to discuss and strengthen the relationship between the provinces and reaffirm the aid and support provided to Tibet and Lhoka in particular.

In the 16 years since its aid to Lhoka, Anhui Province has provided a total of 1.229 billion yuan of aid funds and implemented 210 aid-Tibet projects and sent 6 batches of 113 Aid Tibet cadres, to promote long term development, peace and stability.

Anhui Party Secretary Li Jinbin also said: “Over the years, Anhui Province has always targetted its assistance to Tibet as an important political task. It has focused on local needs, highlighted its plans and led the work to accurately carry out the projects of industry, culture, medical care and education assistance to Tibet”.

SHIGATSE NEWS (Ch: Xigaze)

Shigatse Municipal Public Security Bureau held Press Conference

November 15, 2017

On November 13, 2017, the Public Security office of Shigatse Municipality held a press conference in the Municipal information office. Wang Zhizhong, Deputy Director of Public Security and traffic police team leaders were present Deputy Director General Da Xing reported to the media on traffic violations in the current year and disclosed that there were total cases of 5,822 traffic violations in the city. Asking

civilians to be more responsible and adhere to traffic rules, he said more measures are being taken to tackle violators including adding electronic police stations at intersections.

Wang Zhizhong, Deputy Director of Public Security briefed reporters about management of the city's public order. He said since the beginning of this year, Shigatse city had organized a total of 15 city-wide centralized investigations of social activities, checked more than 84,000 investigation workers and supervised 2124 residence permits or resident card. They also checked more than 25,000 rented houses, 2,321 guest hotels, 430 gas station and 680 entertainment houses. They found a total of 896 security risks and rectified them and eliminate all kinds of security risks. He revealed that till now a total of 319 "criminal cases" had surfaced in the city, 82 "criminal suspects" had been arrested and 36 people arrested via the Internet. A total of 645 cases had been investigated by public security authorities resulting in the arrest of 1478 people.

Wang Zhizhong said that in the next step public security organs at all levels throughout the city will focus more closely on the main task of "creating a safe and stable social order in the six cities and towns" and strictly implement the District Public Security Bureau and the City's Public Security work conference agenda.

Zhang Yanqing's meets retired cadres

November 17, 2017

Zhang Yanqing, Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Government, member of the Party Group and Party Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Committee met 90 retired cadres in Shigatse on November 15 to discuss the spirit of the 19th Party Congress. He shared his experience of attending the Congress and briefed the retired cadres on the success and spirit of the same.

Zhang Yanqing said retired veteran cadres are valuable assets for the development of various departments in the city. He sincerely hoped that in the new era the vast number of retired veteran cadres will redouble their efforts and play a key role in helping Party members and cadres in building contingents. The retired cadres promised to strictly adhere to the guidance given by the 19th Party Congress and do their utmost to bring long-term development, peace and security in Shigatse.

China conducts unmanned helicopter firing and drone tests in Tibet

November 26, 2017

China's official news agency Xinhua disclosed on November 24, 2017, that it had conducted a series of drone and unmanned helicopter flight and firing tests over the Tibetan Plateau between Oct-Nov 2017. It said these have applications in counter-terrorism, drug policing, border patrols, meteorology and mapping. Quoting the Jiangxi Province Office of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, Xinhua added that on November 18, three AV 500W unmanned helicopters conducted firing tests at an altitude of 4,300 metres in Qinghai Province. Earlier on October 31, the AV500 was reported to have climbed to an altitude of 5,006 metres during tests, the maximum said to have been achieved by a domestically made unmanned helicopter. The Xinhua report also said that on November 9, the XM20 multi-rotor drone had taken off and landed with a full payload at 4,600 metres above sea level. The report said a helicopter research and development institute in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province, owned by the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, developed the aircraft.

China issues vague and overbroad rules on Internet censorship in Tibet

The Machu County Public Security Bureau (PBS) located in Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu province, announced the implementation of vague and broadly defined rules on internet censorship in Tibet. The document contains instructions to online chat group administrators and owners of public accounts on how to conduct self-censorship. The notice, that took effect on 8 October, contains rules that are a local version of two new regulations issued on September 7, by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC). Both the "Management Regulations on Online Public Accounts" and "Management Regulations on Internet Groups" assert that the regulations were passed to "promote the healthy and orderly development of online community" and "uphold the socialist core values." All online group administrators and owners of public online accounts are required to follow the nine instructions listed in the notice below is a translation of the nine rules listed in the notice:

1. Do not share information containing political contents
2. Do not believe in rumors and do not tell them

3. Do not share internal documents containing confidential information
4. Do not share information containing pornography, drug use, and violence, etc.
5. Do not share information related to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan before it is released on government websites
6. Do not share military related information
7. Do not share documents containing state secrets
8. Do not share fake videos that sully the image of police
9. Do not share other illegal information

Earlier this week, a report released by Freedom House stated that half of all internet shutdowns in the reporting year were specific to mobile connectivity, with most mobile shutdowns occurring in Tibet.

Activities of Tibetans inside and Abroad

Irked by Tibetan flag displays, China's under-20 football team declines to play in Germany

November 28, 2017

China's under-20 football team cancelled a series of weekend friendly matches with 15 more fourth-division teams in Germany due to a dispute over the display of Tibetan flags by pro-Tibet spectators. A commentary in the Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece 'People's Daily', called the display of the flags during the only match the team played on November 18 "an insulting slap in the face." The Chinese under-20 team returned home.

Sangay hails Taiwanese bill that dissolves Tibetan panel

28 November 2017

Tibetan Prime Minister-in-exile Lobsang Sangay on Tuesday hailed a bill passed by the Taiwanese parliament that dissolved nearly a century old ministry-level Mongolian Tibet Affairs Commission

(MTAC), saying it was creating misunderstanding between Tibetans and Taiwanese. He said, “The MTAC has been a sore point and source of misunderstanding between Tibetans and Taiwanese. Personally, I have opposed MTAC since my college days and I am glad to see it shut down.” Taiwan’s Yuan on November 26 approved the bill to dissolve the MTAC. Ruling Democratic Progressive Party legislator Lee Chun-yi, also a member of the committee for dissolving the commission, said: “What we should do is protect the Mongolian and Tibetan community in Taiwan and guarantee that Mongolian and Tibetan culture will continue to be respected in Taiwan.”

(Comment: The organisation that dates back to the days of the Chinese Empire was meant to oversee relations with the Mongolian and Tibetan dominions. It was renamed the Mongolian Tibet Affairs Commission (MTAC) in 1929 in the then Republic of China and continued in Taiwan.)

Kashag to discuss memo-protesting removal of Office of Tibet Representative, Washington, DC

November 28, 2017

Around 100 Tibetans in Dharamshala as well as from Nepal, Delhi, Bylakuppe, Dehradun and elsewhere protested on November 27 at the secretariat of the Central Tibetan Administration over the recent abrupt dismissal of Penpa Tsering, Representative of the Office of Tibet in Washington, DC. The protesters were said to have presented a memorandum to the Cabinet Secretary Phuntsok Tsering who, in turn, informed them that it will be discussed on November 28, when the biweekly meeting of the Tibetan cabinet (Kashag) was to take place.

The protesters called for the constitution of an independent committee to investigate the Kashag’s decision to replace Penpa Tsering. A notice issued by the Kashag on November 7, had simply said he will be replaced by the current Education Kalon (Minister) Ngodup Tsering with effect from December 1.

Leadership Appointments and Removal

November 26, 2017

The list of appointments and removals of the Standing Committee of Shigatse People's Congress (Adopted at the 23rd meeting of the Standing Committee of the First National People's Congress of Shigatse on November 21, 2017)

Appointment:

- Passang Dolma – as an inspector of the Shigatse People's Procuratorate.
- Feng Xiaoyi – as Secretary General of Shigatse Municipal People's Government
- Jiang Guojie - as elective representative of First People's Congress
- Li Shirong as elective representative of First People's Congress

Removal:

- Li Xinyin - as Secretary General of Shigatse Municipal People's Government
- Tashi Tsering (Sakya County delegation), Samdup Tsering (Dingjie County delegation), Phuntsok Tsering (Zhetongmen County delegation), and Wang Daming (Nyalam County delegation) of the Shigatse People's Congress were removed. Shigatse People's Congress has 259 representatives.

-----END OF REPORT-----