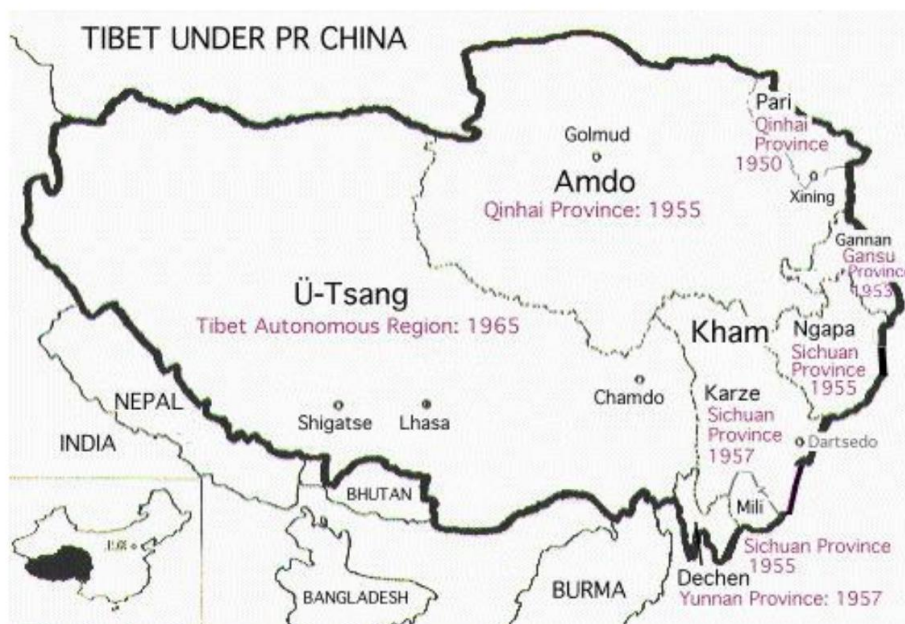
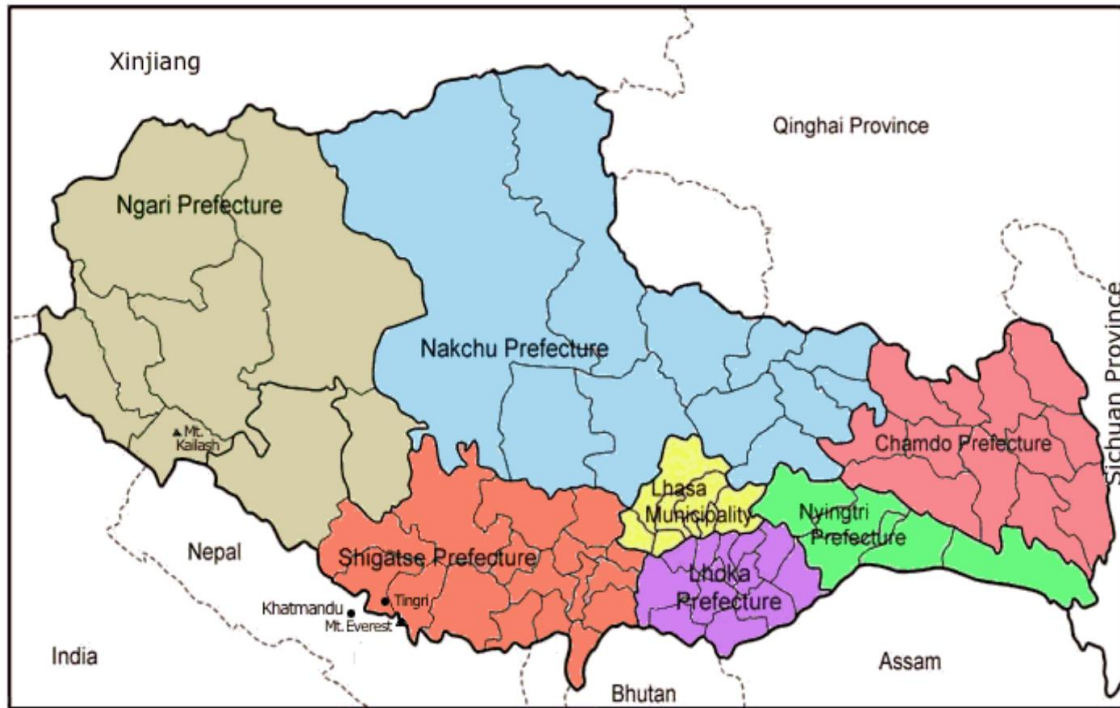




TIBET INSIGHT DECEMBER 15-31, 2018



TAR NEWS

TAR Party Committee Executive Meeting

December 31, 2018

The TAR Party Committee met on December 30, to review the 2018 reports and the draft economic, social and budgetary plans for 2019. The meeting was presided over by TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie and attended by Che Dalha (aka Qizhala), Chairman of TAR People's Government, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Ding Yexian, Secretary of Party Group of the TAR's Political Association, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government, and other TAR leaders like Jiang Jie, Penpa Tashi, He Wenhao, Pema Wangdui and Liu Jiang.

Wu Yingjie pointed out that "as a special frontier ethnic area," Tibet has always received the "special love" of the General Secretary and the Central Party Committee. He claimed that Tibet had firmly established "four consciousness," strengthened "four self-confidences" and achieved the "two maintenances." He added that TAR had implemented the spirit of the 19th Party Congress, the Sixth Tibet Work Symposium and Xi Jinping's exposition on border stability, of managing Tibet and administering Tibetans. He said "the new year, 2019 is the 70th anniversary of the founding of the 'new China' and hence is the key year for building a well-off society." The Party Secretary emphasized that "to achieve reform, stability and development in the entire region, one must be more closely united and rally around the CCP CC with Xi Jinping as the core of the leadership." The Party Secretary said eradicating poverty, industrial development, strengthening cooperation with inland provinces, and to strive for individual enterprises and state-owned large-scale enterprises are some of the core agendas for the New Year. Members of the TAR People's Congress, TAR People's Government, TAR CPPCC, and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

TAR PSB Chief led a delegation to visit the Nepalese Ministry of Internal Affairs for a third working meeting

December 16, 2018

At the invitation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Nepal and approved by the TAR Party Committee and the Ministry of Public Security, Zhang Hongbo, Deputy Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee of the TAR Party Committee and Secretary of the Party Committee of the Public Security Department, led a 6-member Tibetan police delegation from December 12 to 16, 2018, to Nepal for the third working meeting with the Home Minister of Nepal. During his stay in Nepal, Zhang Hongbo met Nepal Minister of State Ram Bahadur Thapa and senior officials of various “powerful departments”. He held talks with Nepal’s Minister of Home Affairs, Ram. According to a report, consensus was reached on “further strengthening law enforcement cooperation between the two sides and to strengthen cooperation and jointly crack down transnational crimes.

Lhasa Party Secretary meets German delegation

December 10, 2018

On December 7, 2018, Baima Wangdui, member of the Standing Committee of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, met Babel Koffler, Human Rights Commissioner of the German Federal Government. Baima Wangdui congratulated Babel Koffler and the 15th Sino-German Human Rights Dialogue for its successful conclusion in Lhasa. He said, briefly, that “under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China and the selfless support of the people of the whole country, the people of all ethnic groups in the region have worked and struggled hard.” He added that “since the 18th National Congress, the outstanding achievements of Tibet have been achieved under the special care of the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core. He said that Tibet now achieved economic development, improvement of people's livelihood, religious and social harmony.” Babel Koffler appreciated achievements of Tibet in various fields in recent years and expressed his willingness to expand consensus through constant exchanges and promote further development of bilateral relations between China and Germany.

Lhasa to Shigatse Airport section's new road construction (control project) started

December 17, 2018

A ceremony to launch construction of the G4218 Lhasa-Shigatse Airport Section's new road was held. Tengwu, Deputy Secretary-General of TAR People's Government presided over the launch ceremony and concerned officials of the project attended.

The G4218 Lhasa to Shigatse Airport section road is a section in National Highway Network Planning (2013-2030), believed to be an important project as it links the Belt and Road Initiative to South Asia through Tibet. The Project was readjusted in the "13th Five-Year Plan" of the Ministry of Transport in 2018.

G4218 Lhasa-Shigatse Airport section of the new road construction project is 166.168 kilometers, with an estimated total investment of 29.9 billion yuan. It is constructed with first-class highway technical standards, two-way four-lane, design speed of 100 km / h, and subgrade width of 25 m. The starting point is located at the Nyingtri-Gongga Airport Expressway Interchange, passing through Qushui County, Nimu County, Renbu County and Sangzhuyu District. The end point is the completed National Highway 318 Line Shigatse Airport to Shigatse City High-grade Highway. Among them, the total length of the control engineering line is 75.8 kilometers, the estimated total investment is 8.02 billion yuan, and the planned construction time is 36 months. It consists of the two branches of Kyirong Interchange to the Tea Bara Service Section and the Dazhu to Shigatse Airport Section.

The Project is recognised for its fast approval and highest unit cost in the history of highway construction. Once completed, it will become the bridge to 'South Asia' and Tibet and the travel time from Shigatse to Lhasa will be under three hours. Tengwu said, "the new road will consolidate Border defense and promote Tibet's external image."

LHOKA NEWS (CH:SHANNAN)

Lhokha City held an emergency meeting on maintaining stability and safety production

December 08, 2018

Lhoka was reported on December 8, to have 'recently' held an emergency meeting on 'stability maintenance'. It demanded that officials of all levels of government should improve their ideological understanding and implement these thoughts and principles accordingly. Officials were told to unify thoughts and actions and strengthen law enforcement inspections especially in "key areas."

Relocation of Jisong village in Tsona County

December 24, 2018

The villagers of Jisong Village of Tsona County, located more than 4,500 meters above sea level, have been relocated at a cost of 72.8 million yuan. According to the government, the high altitude relocation was carried out to spare the villagers from a difficult life because of the bad environment, frequent frost damage, poor living conditions and lack of public facilities.

The government carried out a major inspection of Jisong village in June 2017, before the first phase of Jisong village's high-altitude ecological relocation. The project decided to implement new measures such as appropriate separation of production and living areas, special feeding of livestock in pastoral areas and 'release' of labour into the tertiary industry. The project aims to build a 'modern border village' with convenient transportation, good environment and complete facilities, which is described as an effort to uplift the villagers from poverty and make them live and work in peace and contentment. The relocation site is in Tsona County. After more than a year of construction, the houses, commercial streets, village service centers, cultural and sports

squares and roads have been completed before end 2018. This is the sixth border well-off village in Tsona County, and the first high-altitude ecological relocation. Official media reports claim “The new village is not only spacious, comfortable, and equipped with complete facilities, but also laid with geothermal heating facilities for each household”.

SHIGATSE NEWS (CH: XIGAZE)

Digital Urban Management System to be put into Operation in April

December 21, 2018

The Urban Management Committee of Shigatse said that construction of a digital Urban Management System (UMS) for the city has been fully launched and the project approval, feasibility study and preliminary design work have been completed. It is scheduled to be put into operation at the end of April 2019. The purpose of a Digital Urban Management is reported to be to obviate the difficulties of managing the entire (increasing) population of the city. The Municipal People’s Government, therefore, proposed to the TAR Party Committee a digital UMS, which also includes construction of digital grid modes of management. The TAR Party Committee granted 11 million Yuan for the proposal.

Shigatse Party Members and Cadres holds preparatory meeting for the two sessions

December 24, 2018

Presiding over a meeting, Shigatse Party Secretary and Vice Chairman of TAR Zhang Yanqing reiterated to his officials the importance of working towards a ‘harmonious, civilized, happy and beautiful Shigatse’ and told to comprehensively strengthen party’s leadership, further unify their thinking and maintain discipline. Liu Hushan, Deputy Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee and Mayor of the city presided over

the meeting. Shigatse City leaders Cheng Siqu, Feng Jikang, Ni Junnan, Xu Xiangguo, Wang Xiangmin, Jiang Guojie, Daixi Sorang Zaba, Hongli, Yan Xinlong, Yang Kun, Lei Jinchang, Pazhu, Malingtian, Ba Sang, Wu Hong, Pan Sixiao attended the meeting.

Party Secretary Zhang Yanqing emphasized that delegates to the CCP CC's National People's Congress (NPC) and CPPCC should understand the significance of the sessions and enhance their sense of political responsibility and participate accordingly in discussions at the sessions. He pointed out "it is necessary to closely focus on shortcomings in Shigatse ecological development undertakings, key issues and General Secretary Xi Jinping's instruction on border stability." He added that during the two sessions, Deputy Directors and some members of the Standing Committee of the First People's Congress of Shigatse and Vice Chairmen of CPPCC will be elected in "accordance with law on Regulations of the Local Organizations," "Regulations on the Selection and Appointment of Leading Cadres of the Party and Government," and "the Standards of Good Cadres in the New Era and Good Cadres in Ethnic Areas," framed by the TAR Party Committee. Zhang Yanqing affirmed that the three prime selection criteria for these positions are, comprehensive background research, recommendation and ideological understanding.

CHAMDO NEWS (CH: CHANGDU)

CCTV radio and TV channels to be launched in six counties of Chamdo

December 27, 2018

The Chamdo daily reported that CCTV will broadcast Tibetan Language for Television and radio channels to Chamdo's Zogang, Baima, Lhorong, Gonjo, Riwoche and Jomda counties. The Central Radio and Television Station will broadcast 18 hours a day, report on major news at home and abroad, lives of Tibetan herdsmen in Tibet and other Tibetan areas, economic and social development achievements, and Tibetan history and culture. Kham and Amdo dialect are also to be incorporated in the broadcast content of these channels to make Tibetans understand and absorb information better.

The project is one of five phases of the "West New Project", with a total investment of 691,200 yuan. It will add a 100W FM transmitter, antenna feeder system, receiving system and corresponding supporting facilities to each county.

NGARI NEWS (CH: ALI)

4,000-year-old cave site unearthed on Ngari

Xinhua January 03, 2018

A cave site containing delicate stone tools and pottery shards believed to be at least 4,000 years old was unearthed in Ngari Prefecture of Tibet. The Melong Tagphug cave site, composed of two caves of 1,000 square meters and 250 square meters respectively, is about 4,600 meters above sea level. It is the first prehistoric cave site confirmed on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. He Wei, an archaeologist, said in addition to abundant cultural relics and animal bones, ochre rock paintings composed of geometric patterns, human figures and palms and the sun were also found. The excavation was carried out by a joint archaeological team from the Regional Cultural Relics Conservation Institute and the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and will continue in 2019. Archaeologists said the discovery sheds light on human activities, environment change, origins of agriculture and animal husbandry and prehistoric art on the plateau.

Village Task Forces Work In Ngari Prefecture

December 26, 2018

The seventh batch of Village Task Force for Ngari Prefecture was applauded by the TAR Party Committee for vigorously "contributing to building well-off society, stability and development in Ngari." Ngari Municipal Party Committee reportedly held four meetings to deploy village cadres and the Local Office arranged task forces for 70 villages, prepared 145 first aid kits and "special notebooks", examined the cadres, conducted pre-job trainings, carried out supervision and inspections 38 times. The main

leaders of the stationed units have insisted on investigating in the villages every quarter. The village Task Force cadres were made to study the constitution, Party Constitution on Religious Affairs and Regulations. All cadres are obliged to learn both Chinese and Tibetan. It is said that the Task Force cadres in Ngari carried out ideological and political education among the masses 2806 times and over 200,000 people participated. "Special lectures" were held 2395 times, especially for farmers and herdsmen to change their ideas and way of thinking, and the task force cadres coordinated with Poverty Alleviation Departments to alleviate poverty and for Party building. The Village Task Force in Ngari 'helped' the Party Branch to add more than 800 rules and regulations to Task Force Management, included 452 party members, and trained 128 party members to become 'reliable' and 'active' party members. 1.188 million yuan (about 172,544 U.S. dollars) were invested in the Village Task Force for living allowances, and 22.392 million yuan (about 3.252 million U.S. dollars) in various compensations and subsidies.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

The Latest White Paper Says "Tibet has 358" Living Buddhas

December 2018

In the light of increasing criticism over human rights violation in Xinjiang, the State Council Information Office, PRC issued a white paper titled "Progress in Human Rights over the 40 Years of Reform and Opening up in China". It says, "Reform and opening up has helped to liberate and develop productive social forces. It has opened up a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and ushered in a new chapter in the development of human rights". Under the sub-heading 'Fully Developing Human Rights in All Respects', it mentions that "The Chinese government, in accordance with the Constitution and the law, supports all religions in upholding the principle of independence and self-management; religious groups, clerical personnel and believers manage their own religious affairs".

According to the White paper, the Tibet Autonomous Region presently has 1,778

venues for practising Tibetan Buddhism and some 46,000 resident monks and nuns. It has 358 'Living Buddhas', more than 60 of whom have been confirmed through historical conventions and traditional religious rituals. It claims that the 'Living Buddha' reincarnation is a succession system unique to Tibetan Buddhism, and is respected by the state and governments at different levels of the autonomous region. The state has issued the 'Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism'. It also claimed that the system whereby Tibetan Buddhist monks study sutras has been improved. By 2017 a total of 84 monks from Tibet had received senior academic titles in Lhasa and 168 in Beijing.

The new white paper emphasized on how the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the 19th Party Congress established the guiding ideology of the CCP and ways to strengthen the legal protection of human rights to ensure that the people enjoy extensive rights and freedoms as prescribed by law. Xi Jinping thought raises new and higher development requirements for China's human rights in the new era, and provides fundamental principles for the people to follow the path and advance the cause of human rights with Chinese characteristics.

The Qinghai-Tibet Railway's police station was awarded as the "Model Police Station."

December 18, 2018

Zheng Tianhai, Director of the Qinghai-Tibet Public Security, under Golmud Public security Office of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Security Bureau, said: "Our police station has been awarded the honorary title of 'Model Police Force', which is both an honour and a challenge". This is the highest altitude police station in China where Tangula mountainside is above 5,000 meters, and oxygen content is less than 50% of the mainland. The station has jurisdiction over the 582-kilometre Qinghai-Tibet Railway, and the unrivalled area of Hoh Xil that stretches for hundreds of kilometres. Zheng Tianhai said the policemen have measured the 500-kilometre route step by step to collect data in the jurisdiction on public security, the statistics of each bridge and culvert, and the

visit of each herd. This is have a solid foundation for the plateau railway and a blueprint for the safety of the line.

Academic Annual Meeting of Gansu Tibetan Studies Association on 40 years of reform and opening up, Lanzhou University

December 17, 2018

The annual symposium of Gansu Tibetan Studies for this year was held on the theme “40 years of reform and opening up”. The academic meeting was co-hosted by the Tibet Research Institute of Gansu Province and Institute of Tibetan studies of the Northwest Minority University Research Centre, Lanzhou University. More than 100 scholars and experts attended from various institutions like North West Normal University, Gansu National Teachers College, Gansu Provincial Institute of Nationalities and Gansu Tibetan Studies Institute. The conference focused largely on the significance of development of the Tibetan studies program in Gansu province in the reform and the opening up period since 1978. It also reviewed the progress and prospect of Tibetan studies. Some of the important invitees were Prof. Ngawang Gyatso from Gansu Provincial Institute of Tibetan Studies, Zhao Lishen, Director of the Northwest Minority University, Prof. Yang Shihong, President of the Gansu Tibetan Studies Association and Yang Yong, Secretary-General of the Gansu Provincial Institute of Tibetan Studies.

The seminar assisted in organizing the "First Silk Road Tibetan Studies Symposium" to serve the "One Belt, One Road" strategy, which ‘produced positive social impacts’ and discussed the selection method and launch of Academy Awards of the Research Society Awards. The seminar also discussed the Tibetan-Chinese dictionary, Bon religion, and poverty alleviation in Gansu. It launched the Dunhuang Literary Documents of Gansu Province (5 volumes) published by the Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House at the Northwest Minority Research Center of Lanzhou University. At the closing ceremony, Professor Yang Shihong, President of the Gansu Tibetan Studies Association said, “By reviewing the development process of Tibetan studies in Gansu in the past 40 years of reform and opening up, it further clarifies the course of the development of Tibetan studies in Gansu under the new era. The seminar built a bridge

between universities and scientific research institutions in Gansu and played a role in expanding exchanges, enhancing friendship, and strengthening cooperation. It will certainly promote the improvement of Tibetan studies in Gansu".

China expresses strong indignation at the U.S. Reciprocal Access Bill on Tibet

December 20, 2018

The state-owned Global Times on December 20, castigated the 'Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018', signed into law by US President Trump on December 19. The act is designed to promote access for US diplomats, officials, journalists and others from the US to Tibet and Tibetan autonomous prefectures in Sichuan, Qinghai, Yunnan and Gansu provinces. It also says that Chinese officials involved in the formulation or execution of policies related to access to the region by foreigners will be denied entry into the US, according to the website of the US Congress. The Global Times said the Act "sends the absolutely wrong message to "Tibetan separatists," severely violates basic norms in international relations, grossly interferes with China's domestic affairs and is extremely harmful to China-US exchanges". Dismissing what it described as the allegation that "China imposes greater restrictions on foreigners seeking to travel to Tibetan-inhabited areas than other regions of China", it said "China welcomes foreigners to visit Tibet, but their visits must follow China's laws and regulations and relevant formalities." Zhi Zhenfeng, a legal expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, told Global Times on December 20, "that US politicians need to go back to law school, as it is the fundamental sovereign right for a country to manage foreigners' entry".

Separately, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said on December at the daily press briefing that "the bill violated the basic rules of the international relations, and we urge the US administration to immediately take effective measures to prevent the bill from being signed into law, so as not to seriously damage Sino-US relations and bilateral cooperation in important areas". He added that since 2015, nearly 40,000 people from the US including senior US politicians have visited Tibet. Li Haidong, a

Professor of US studies at China Foreign Affairs University, said the bill's passage demonstrated that the US government has stepped up hard-line policies toward China. Such long-arm jurisdiction practices undermine China's sovereignty. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying responded by saying "it is a gross interference in China's domestic affairs and sent a seriously wrong message to "Tibetan independence". It is gravely harmful to the communication and cooperation between China and the United States". She also stressed that Chinese government has taken certain administrative measures in accordance with laws and regulations for foreigners to enter Tibet, which she says "are totally necessary and justified".

She warned that if the U.S. side takes actions according to the act, it will cause serious damage to bilateral relations and bilateral exchange and cooperation in key fields, and if the U.S. keeps using Tibet to interfere in China's domestic affairs, it will take full responsibility for the consequences.

First Bridge of Sichuan and Tibet is completed

December 25, 2018

The Xingkang Bridge is one of the key control projects of the "One Bridge and One Tunnel" of the Yakang Expressway. The Yakang Expressway is the "big artery" connecting Ganzi and the mainland. The Xingkang Bridge is 1411 meters long, with a main span of 1,100 meters and a bridge surface of 269 meters from the water surface of the Dadu River. It is known as the "First Bridge of Sichuan and Tibet".

Construction of the Xingkang Bridge began in September 2014. At the end of 2016, construction of the first UAV traction pilot cable in Sichuan Province was completed and bridge deck installation initiated. On December 18th, the load test was completed and it was ready for operation. Jiang Jinuo, Deputy Chief Engineer of the Yakang Expressway C15 project, said: "At present, all the projects have entered the final sprint stage. The Xingkang Bridge will be officially put into use at the end of this year with the Luding to Kangding Tunnel Group. Yakang Expressway will be fully operational." In 2019, it will take only 3 hours from Kangding City to reach Chengdu.

China intensifies sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism in Ganzi, Sichuan

December 27, 2018

As part of the increasing 'sinicization' of Tibetan Buddhism and to integrate it to 'socialism with Chinese characteristics', the CCP sent geshe, khenpos, tulkus and other monks who have authority over monastery management in Ganzi Tibetan Prefecture for "five loves; two observances and three responsibilities" ('five two three') re-education. They emphasised and demanded love for the party and taught Tibetan monks, nuns, and religious believers about "Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics" and "the direction of Chinese religionization". Under the guidance of the Ganzi State Committee, the Sichuan Government, and United Front Work Department, the Ganzi Prefecture Buddhist Association on December 26, adopted "five loves; two observances and three responsibilities" program. The authorities said this is mainly to make monasteries rule and law based, 'groom' monks and nuns who abide by the law and improve the quality of the monastery, and 'educate' monks and nuns. It was carried out in 17 different monasteries in different towns and villages. Reports claimed that this helped monks to practise harder and the state has made enormous progress in the various works and management of the monastery.

CCP meeting on Interpretation of Tibetan Buddhism

January 15, 2019

On December 25, the CCP met for "The Third Session of Tibetan Buddhism Interpretation Forum of the Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association" in Lhasa, and publicized the "Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics" to the Tibetan monks and nuns and religious believers. They emphasised the need to adhere to the ideological direction of the sinicization of Buddhism.

(Comment: The five love are; love for the party, love the motherland, love the people,

love the unification, love the Buddhist tradition; and the two observances are to observe the law and the commandments; and three responsibilities are the responsibility to the party, to the people, and the Buddhism.)

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

Dalai Lama says there was only one informal contact with China after 2010

January 02, 2019

The hindustantimes.com on December 25 quoted the Dalai Lama as saying he has had one informal contact with the Chinese government after 2010 when a series of talks between the two sides through his envoys, begun in 2002, ended. reported the hindustantimes.com Dec 25. It cited him as saying in an exclusive interview that there was only one informal dialogue with the Chinese government through retired officials and businessmen after all formal channels were closed in Jun 2010. The newspaper added it was not clear whether the contact was initiated by the Dalai Lama or by the Chinese, what it was about, and why it did not continue.

The report also cited him as saying that on the issue of his reincarnation, it should be decided through an international conference after his natural death and that it is “not his business” to decide on his successor through either reincarnation or emanation. If true, this is a departure from his well-known previous position that he did not want to give China a free hand to meddle in his succession issue especially with the Tibet issue remaining unresolved. He has also said that no discussion on the question of his reincarnation had started yet. The Dalai Lama has called the meeting of the 17th Karmapa recognized by him, Ogyen Trinley Dorje, the head of the Karma Kagyu lineage of Tibetan Buddhism, and his rival claimant Trinley Thaye Dorje, anointed by rival regent Shamar Rinpoche, in France this year a “rightful beginning”. However, he has made it clear that he will not play the mediator between them.

The Dalai Lama has said that the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima recognized by him but then spirited away by the Chinese government within days in 1995 was alive, while Gyaltzen Norbu foisted by the Chinese government in his place occupies the post but lives in Beijing.

Tibetan activists protest against Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Visit to India

December 22, 2018

Twelve Tibetan activists belonging to the Students for a Free Tibet, India, were arrested on December 21, following a protest in front of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra just 15 minutes before the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's arrival at the Gala Event. They also held up banners criticising his visit. The protesters shouted slogans demanding Freedom for Tibet. The activists comprised students studying in various colleges across India.

Dalai Lama among 10 most admired in USA for 9th year

December 29, 2018

Gallup's 2018 Most Admired Man list showed that Americans love the Dalai Lama and he ranks eighth on the list of the most admired men in the world. The list, released on December 27, is based on a survey that asked more than 1,000 adults across the United States which living person they admired most. The news that the Dalai Lama was once again on Gallup's list came just days after he spoke about America's commitment to Tibet during an interview with the Hindustan Times of India. The interviewer had asked the Dalai Lama for his reaction to the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, a new law in the US that takes aim at China's isolation of Tibet.

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