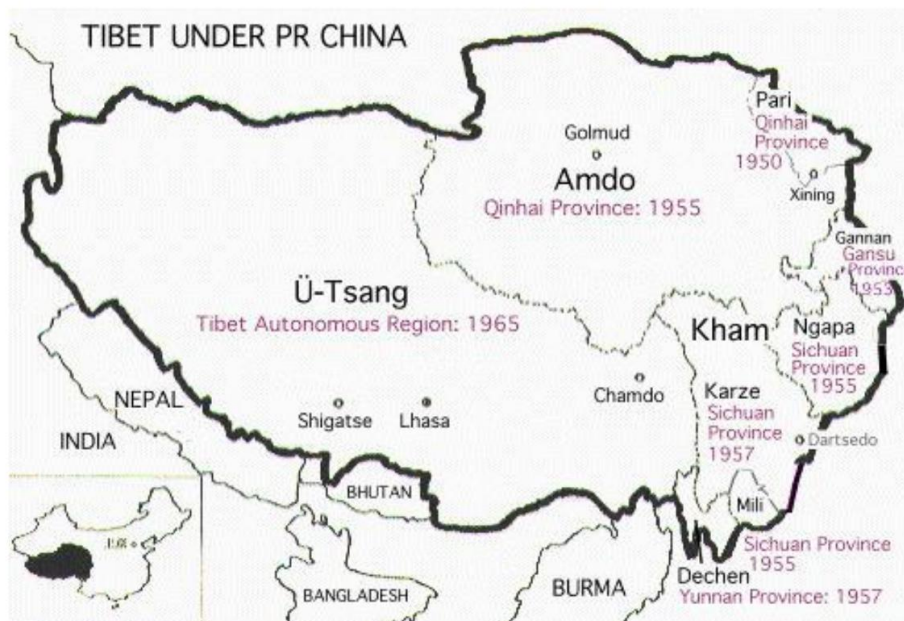
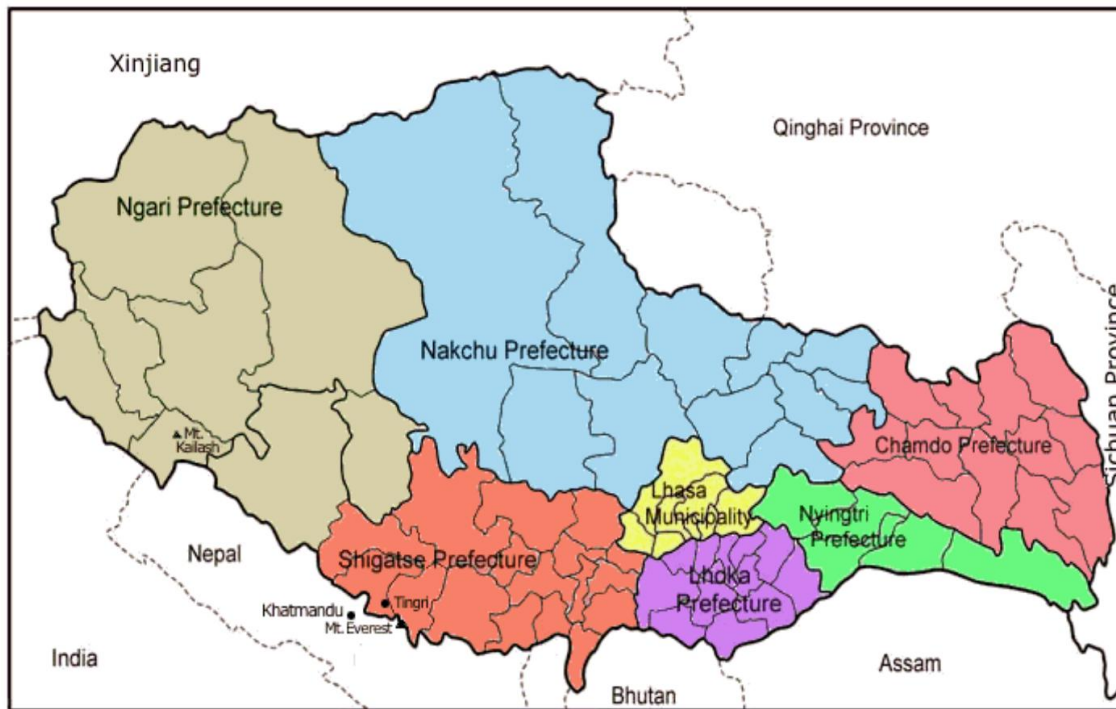




TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 MARCH 2020



TAR NEWS

TAR PSB's 'zero-tolerance' crackdown on 'illegal crimes'

March 04, 2020

TAR Public Security Bureau (PSB) cracked-down in Lhasa on March 4 against various 'illegal crimes' including counterfeit medicine and manufacturers of protective supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, illegal hoarding of supplies that disrupts market order, other crimes that disrupt social harmony and violations of the law. The PSB claimed it had cracked seven criminal cases concerning the pandemic, investigated 134 administrative cases concerning social order, arrested ten suspects and seized 50,000 fake masks.

The TAR PSB claimed that in this 'People's War against the Pandemic', all TAR police are mobilized, and they intend to maintain a 'zero-tolerance' attitude towards illegal activities.

Four Officials arrested by TAR CDI on corruption charges

March 28, 2020

Following an inspection by the TAR Commission for Discipline Inspection (CDI), four TAR Officials one each from Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze), Lhoka (Ch: Shannan), Ngari (Ch: Ali) and Nagchu (Ch: Nagqu) were arrested on charges of corruption. The TAR CDI has strengthened supervision and accountability, and consolidation of political responsibility.

Du Wenxin, former Party Secretary of Shietomon (Tib: འཇམ་མཐོང་སྐོན་རྫོང་།) County of Shigatse was dismissed from the Party position in October last year and charged with receiving bribes of gifts worth 5540 Yuan and misappropriating funds worth 250,000 Yuan. In addition, he was charged with 'disciplinary' problems.

Lobsang Tsering, Director of Poverty Alleviation Office of Lhoka's Gyatsa (Tib: ལྷོ་ཚལ་རྫོང་།) County was charged for not performing his duties conscientiously, and that a project he undertook at a village in the County didn't operate, thus yielding no benefits and wasted poverty alleviation funds. He was warned by the Party in September 2019.

Dawa Yonten, Deputy Director of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureau of Gar (Tib: མཁའ་རྫོང་) County of Ngari, was also charged for not performing his duties correctly. A project concerning Animal Husbandry and Agriculture in the County was not completed on time and he mishandled subsidies leading to a loss of 5.9 million Yuan. He was warned by the Party in October 2019.

Tseyang, Party Secretary of Gambu village in Tsomar Township of Amdo (Tib: ཨ་མདོ་རྫོང་) County, was the fourth official arrested on charges of embezzling Funds meant for livestock building. She was charged for fabricating fake meetings, contracts and tax invoices. She was warned in November 2019.

A circular issued by the TAR DIC after issue of arrest warrants against these four officials demanded stricter actions and firmer discipline by officials at all levels.

TAR Propaganda Department held special Conference ahead of ‘Liberation Day’ anniversary

March 27, 2020

TAR Propaganda Leader and Member of TAR Standing Committee, Penpa Tashi convened a special meeting ahead of the ‘Serf Liberation Day’ and emphasized how the ‘liberation’ has helped achieve political, economic and societal change in Tibet. He urged that all propaganda organizations in TAR should value the anniversary and organize various commemorative activities in the region. He stressed that “since the 18th Party Congress, the CCP CC has paid special attention and care and, in return, the people of all ethnicities in the region and the Propaganda Department should promote and publicize the CCP CC ‘with Xi Jinping as the core’, and put their energies together to maintain national unity.” He added that the Propaganda Department should educate and guide people about the ‘Four Consciousness,’ “Four Confidences”, “Two Securities” and make them feel ‘grateful’ to the Party, make them listen to the Party and follow the Party.

TAR Party Secretary inspects preparedness of schools for resumption

March 26, 2020

On March 24, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, along with Ding Yexian, Executive Deputy Director of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of TAR PPCC, Pema Wangdui, Member of the TAR Standing Committee and Party Secretary of Lhasa Municipality inspected schools in Lhasa to oversee preparedness for resumption of classes after closure in the wake of the Coronavirus Pandemic. While visiting the Senior Middle School No.3 and Junior Middle School No.2 in Lhasa, Wu Yingjie reiterated the need to implement the series of Xi Jinping's speeches and his letter to the students of Tibet University on its 60th Anniversary.

The Party Secretary inspected temperature measurement, testing kits and other epidemic prevention materials at these two schools. He told school authorities to adhere to the 'One School, One Policy' and make every effort to ensure sufficient supply of epidemic prevention materials, analyze health status of both teachers and students, and strictly implement measures such as temperature monitoring, wearing masks, ventilation and disinfection, and to keep the campus environment clean and hygienic. He also asked the teachers to focus on "patriotism education so that both students and parents can feel the Party's grace, superiority of socialist system." The Party Secretary told the school authorities that to create a strong sense of the Chinese nation is important.

TAR CDI convenes meeting on strengthening political inspection

March 25, 2020

Wang Weidong, Standing Committee Member of TAR Party Committee, Secretary of TAR Commission for Discipline Inspection (CDI), and Director of TAR Supervisory Committee presided over a meeting attended by all officials of TAR CDI to study the feedback received from the CCP Central Committee's Special Inspection Committee on Poverty Alleviation in TAR. Wang Weidong pointed out that it is an important task at present as well as in the future to grasp the vitality of 'rectification' feedbacks from the CCP CC's Special Commission on Inspection. He stressed, "Disciplinary Inspection and Supervision Commissions across TAR must improve 'Four

Consciousness’, strengthen ‘Four Confidences’ to achieve ‘Two Securities’ and rigorously implement Xi Jinping’s exposition on poverty alleviation, and inspection works.”

He emphasized that the TAR CDI and Supervision Commission should take the lead in all ‘rectification’ responsibilities, strengthen leadership and guide lower-level Disciplinary and Supervision agencies. He asked Disciplinary and Supervision organs to strengthen political supervision, seek truth, be transparent and consolidate Party organizations at grassroots levels.

NGARI NEWS (CH: ALI)

Ngari holds meeting to discuss measures to combat telecommunication ‘crimes’

March 25, 2020

The Ngari Special Joint Office organized a meeting of All Joint Members to deliberate on actions to combat telecommunication network ‘crimes’ in 2020. Shen Zhaoshan, member of Ngari Party Committee and Secretary of Political and Legal Committee and Party Secretary of the Ngari Public Security Bureau convened the meeting attended by 37 Joint Units in the region. The meeting was telecast to all County-level Officials. The meeting discussed measures implemented in 2019 to combat telecommunication network crimes and analyzed loopholes requiring special attention. The report did not the measures to be implemented in 2020, but the meeting discussed strengthening detection tactics and measures for cracking down on internet and telecommunication crimes.

NYINGTRI NEWS (CH: LINZHI)

Zhang Haibo inspects Chayu County, Nyingchi

March 25, 2020

Zhang Haibo, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Minister of Propaganda Department, visited Chayu County, Nyingchi, on inspection. The Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Mayor Wandue, held a meeting to discuss ways to uplift people from poverty. Zhang Haibo inspected towns, villages, convenience police stations, and border village constructions. He urged the people to practice "four confidences and four loves"

and work towards a collective industrial development for rural revitalization. He stressed that apart from doing an excellent job in epidemic control and prevention, all should strictly implement the responsibility of territorial management, strengthen the county's ability to investigate, and resolve the contradictions and disputes. It is important to control the key personnel and maintain stability.

The visits were mainly to ensure the timely resumption of construction and production as there is apprehension it might be difficult to meet the deadline of 2020 poverty alleviation and building a well-off society. Zhang Haibo told them to advance the overall plan of poverty alleviation by ensuring that all the registered households maintain a stable income. The grassroot Party cadres were told to build a strong foundation and be role models and educate and guide the masses to have confidence in the Party and follow the Party line.

Wangdue also mentioned that 'In order to accelerate the progress of the people's livelihood, one must raise ideological awareness and win the people's heart.' All departments at all levels in the city must always adhere to the 'people-centered' development of ideology with a high sense of political responsibility, greater enthusiasm in fulfilling duties of improving all ethnicities in the city.

LHOKA NEWS (CH: SHANNAN)

Lhoka UWFD meeting on Ethnic and Religious Affairs, TAR

March 19, 2020

Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan) held the United Work Front (UWF) Conference on Ethnic and Religious Affairs to enforce the spirit of the work of the National United Front Ministry and Directors on 18th March. It was attended by Gesang, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Tenzin, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Minister of UFWD, Sonam Quba, Deputy Mayor and Lobsang Phuntsok, Secretary of the Party Committee and Director of Sanye Temple Management.

Gesang addressed the conference saying that in 2019, the UWFD at all levels had thoroughly implemented the critical exposition of Xi Jinping 's work on strengthening and improving the

political leadership, unifying ideological understanding, and uniting people's hearts and national unity. Lhoka also strived to create a national model city of national unity, promote religious harmony, and maintain social stability, and support private enterprises for economic development, and overcome poverty. The UWFD was successful in making new contributions to the long-term development and stability of the Lhoka.

Gesang reminded and asked all levels to clearly understand the new situation, grasp the laws, and further enhance the sense of responsibility for the social and religious work of the United Front in the new era. He told them to adopt a problem-oriented approach and highlight the advantages of the Party and system to ensure a stable and harmonious society. He further emphasized the need for close theoretical study and worked hard in both learning and actual practice.

He also said, "We must strengthen the spirit of struggle and closely guard against major risks and challenges in the field of religion. We must pay close attention to propaganda and build up awareness of the Chinese nation as one community. It is necessary to pay close attention to the overall situation of service, guide private entrepreneurs to actively fulfil their social responsibilities, and play an active role in promoting national unity, maintaining social harmony and stability". It is important to have cohesion and develop a patriotic United Front team to improve the management level of ethnic religions of the United Front and build a team of ethnic and religious cadres of the United Front, who are politically firm, proficient in business, and strong in style.

SHIGATSE NEWS (CH: XIGAZE)

Legal Education for Tashi Lhunpo Monks

March 25, 2020

Prior to March 28, which is being observed across TAR as 'Self-Emancipation' day, the Monastic Management Committee of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, in Shigatse invited teachers from Shigatse Municipal Party School and made them teach the 36 monks in the monastery about Regulations of the Religious Affairs, Constitution, "Four Consciousness" and "Four Standards" of how to become 'exemplary monks.' The monks, who reportedly included Rinpoches (living Buddhas), scripture masters, and group leaders were also taught the 'Regulations on how to establish a Model City for

Unity and Progress.’ The teaching sessions were recorded live and sent to the Monastery’s Wechat Group.

Municipal Leader on inspection to Monasteries in the region

March 20, 2020

Dhondup, Deputy Director of Shigatse People’s Congress and Party Secretary of Dingri County of Shigatse conducted a comprehensive inspection to all monasteries in the region, checked stability maintenance and implementation of the County’s United Front Works. He also inspected progress work of the ‘six defense’ measures and educational activities of the monks and nuns. Dhondup emphasized to the monks and nuns that they should set example of how to adapt Tibetan Buddhism to socialism, recognize shortcomings in the ideological education and inculcate ‘Four Consciousness.’ He told the monks and nuns to shoulder the responsibility of maintaining stability and social harmony in the region.

NAGCHU NEWS (CH: NAGQU)

Online Q & A session for monks and nuns in Nagchu

March 25, 2020

The Nagchu United Front Work Department, Nagchu Religious Affairs Bureau and Nagchu Judiciary Bureau conducted an online Question & Answers session for monks and nuns, on the theme ‘National Law is greater than canonical rule, and that law must be observed first.’ The online session was aimed at creating awareness among the monks and nuns in the region about national law, constitution etc. The online session also had questions that tested the political consciousness of the monks and nuns, their understanding of law and their academic thinking and capabilities to learn, understand and practice law.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Liu Peng investigates Zoige County, Ngaba Prefecture

March 16, 2020

Liu Ping, Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and Head of Provincial Party Committee's Leading group to respond to the Coronavirus epidemic made a three day (March 10-13) visit to Zoige County, Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Tibet Prefecture to investigate the grassroots situation and supervise the coronavirus epidemic prevention work and economic and social development of the region. He told the frontline workers of the epidemic to continuously stay alert, maintain pressure, and work to stabilize and expand the hard-won situation. He also visited the ecological project construction site of the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers and reminded them that Ngaba is an important ecological barrier and water conservation area.

He also met grassroots cadres and masses and went village to village and visited all town health centers. He demanded that epidemic prevention and control should be continuously strengthened to safeguard the lives and health of the people.

Liu Ping made a special visit to the monasteries including Sorge monastery, Niba monastery, Dhoezang monastery, and Langmu temple where he told monks to follow the guideline of promoting patriotic love of Tibetan Buddhism and work with local party committees and government in maintaining social stability and long-term peace and stability of the nation. He also listened to the "cadres + monks" management committees and praised their positive contribution to the prevention and control of the epidemic. He further ordered that the monastery be banned for the public and no Buddhist activities should be held. He instead suggested that the monks go to the homes of believers to carry out legal education. He also said, "It is necessary to focus on working principles such as "adapt to socialist society and modernize the governance system," and always adhere to the principle of independence and self-reliance and follow the direction of the Sinicization of the religion. It is necessary further to understand the divisive nature of foreign hostile forces, standardize the operation of the "cadre + monk" management committee, to strengthen the management and guidance of monk education and management committee education, and guide the monks to feel the gratitude of the party and follow the party."

Dechen Tibetan Prefecture to invest 3.5 billion to promote highway construction, Yunnan

March 19, 2020

Dechen (in Chinese: Diqing) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan released a budget of 3.5 billion yuan to accelerate the construction of six roads in the prefecture, including Huxiang, Xiangxiang, Xiangwei, Weiju, Jiagxi, and Eastern Ring Road. Construction of the roads is expected to promote tourism in the western part of Yunnan and improve its overall highway traffic network. Dechen is considered an important junction to TAR and Sichuan. In order to complete the construction of these six highways, workers have been asked to resume their work which was shut down due to Covid-19. All the workers and administrators were told to follow the idea of "One project and two commitments" and make sure that construction is back to the normal pace.

Tibet Daily launched "Tibet Million Serf Liberation Memorial Online Pavilion"

March 20, 2020

As Tibetans in exile and abroad commemorate March 10 as Tibetan National Uprising Day, in China it is called Tibet's Democratic Reform Day, to mark the 61st so-called Democratic Reform. Tibet Daily officially launched the 6-day "Tibet Million Serf Liberation Memorial Online Pavilion" on March 13. Usually, Tibetans from different counties under TAR are taken to Lhasa as part of the re-education campaign, particularly in March. The online exhibition will serve as an online patriotic education base that will strengthen youth moral education, cadres education, and on-site teaching base in TAR. The online exhibition will remain open to the public.

It emphasised that in contrast to the days of serfdom, where the serfs had money and no medical facilities, now under the Party, even during the outbreak of such epidemic like coronavirus, the people were not only provided free medical treatment but the Party members, cadres and doctors sacrificed their lives to save other people. The Chinese Communist Party is using propaganda to win the hearts of people where they keep repeating that 'the source of people's happiness is the CCP.'

Tibetan cadre dies while working at the forefront, Sichuan

March 23, 2020

30-year old Atse Lhundup died while working at the forefront of the Wuhan virus. He was in a waiting room at Hongyan No. 1 police station when pronounced dead. He was one of the so-called grassroot cadres who were deployed to fight against the surging epidemic in the Tibetan area of Sichuan. Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) County announced his death and praised him for working 24 hours and sacrificing his life to save the people. He was a policeman for 11 years in Hongyun County, Ngaba Tibetan, and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province.

On February 2, the Hongyun Country Epidemic and Control Headquarters assigned him as the Deputy team leader of the epidemic prevention and controlled check-up card in the Shijinsi town. They said that despite his deteriorating health, he kept insisting on being on duty and guarding the check-point. According to Rdio Free Asia (RFA), they made his death public with details to spread the narrative of Tibetans supporting the work of the Chinese government including sacrificing their lives and working overtime.

Ngaba County exposed various officials for violations of Eight Central Regulations, Sichuan

March 24, 2020

On March 23, the Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Prefecture Commission for Discipline Inspection publicly exposed five officials for violating the Eight Regulations of the Central Committee as following;

Yang Jun, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and Mayor of Kalong Town, Heishui County, Li Xiaojun, Deputy Mayor of Kalong Town, Luo Wenjun, Deputy Mayor, and Special Ministry of the Sergu town, Aba was charged for submission of fraudulent reports. In November 2019, each town and county had to submit a report of their work on China's new drive of theme education of "not forgetting the original heart and remembering the new mission". The officials were accused of getting other people to write the reports and also copying the report from others available online. This had caused an adverse effect on theme education. They were punished and warned.

Yang Xiuping, member of Party Committee and Deputy Director of Ngaba Prefecture Medical Security Bureau, was charged with receiving gifts and borrowing money from the company for personal use. These have been seized by the government and he was warned.

Cui Xianggang, the Chief of Special Food Safety Supervision and head of Ngaba State Market Supervision Bureau, was accused of receiving gifts from the management services and received a total of 41,300 Yuan through red packets, for which he was punished and money seized by the government.

Ganzi starts a massive grassroots inspection in the county, Sichuan

March 26, 2020

Ganzi County deployed 27 county-level leaders, 510 government officials and 480 village cadres as a working group to inspect and investigate poverty alleviation from March to June. They are to spend the first 15 days on township level investigation for finding ways to return to normalcy from the epidemic effect. The inspection will focus on three key tasks, including epidemic prevention and control, poverty alleviation, and social stability. The working group has to strictly supervise and guide prevention and detection of the current epidemic situation in an orderly manner and timely publicity of poverty alleviation policies and household inspection.

The group has carried out inspection and supervision work in 219 villages, 42 temples, 37 primary and secondary schools and, 3,300 households of Ganzi County. 3,300 households are categorised as 'poor' and the inspections were done household-wise.

Shangri-La Airport launches the facial recognition service, Yunnan

March 26, 2020

Shangri-La Airport, Dechen Tibetan Prefecture (in Chinese: Deqing) launched the contactless smart travel service by adopting 'facial recognition, 'online payment,' and 'two-dimensional code scanning.' Despite China's claim that there are 'no' or few new cases of the Covid-19, it is reported

that the purpose of introducing this contactless smart travel is to reduce the risk of cross-infection and achieve full epidemic prevention. The airport orders are to follow electronic boarding passes and sled-document identification, and the system automatically verify through facial recognition. They will also follow "three no contacts to disinfect" service at the airport where there will be no contact with passenger documents, no boarding pass and no contact with mobile phones of the passenger and timely disinfection of counter phone if used by the passengers. The airport parking fee has to be paid online through WeChat. The introduction of contactless smart travel service has enhanced the efficiency of the airport work and image of smart aviation tourism. The use of facial recognition could facilitate the government's effort to further curb movement of Tibetans.

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

Dalai Lama donates to CM relief fund to fight COVID-19, expresses support

March 26, 2020

The exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama has expressed support for the measures taken by the state government of Himachal Pradesh and central government to combat the outbreak of the COVID-19. He donated Rupees 15 lakh to the Chief Minister's fund to provide essentials to the less privileged members of the society.

In a letter written to the State Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, the Tibetan leader said, "Since Himachal Pradesh has been my home for almost 60 years. I naturally feel an affinity for its people. Therefore, as a token of respect and sympathy, I am making a donation from the Gaden Phodrang Trust of the Dalai Lama to the Chief Minister's Fund in order to contribute to providing essential supplies like food and medicine for the poor and needy members of the community."

He also expressed his confidence in the steps taken by the Central Government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's firm leadership, to contain the spread of the virus.

Corvid-19 infects three exile Tibetans, two dead

March 28, 2020

Three Tibetans living in exile are known to have been infected thus far by the Covid-19 global pandemic. Two of the Tibetans, one each in England and India, have died while a third is in quarantine with his family in Paris.

Latest reports Mar 26 said a Tibetan man has been quarantined with his family after testing positive with the infection.

Earlier, on March 24, Jamyang Choegyal Kasho (or Jamchoe-la), with serious preexisting conditions, passed away in King's College Hospital in south London where he had been admitted on March 15. Doctors confirmed two days later that he had died of the Covid-19 infection.

The first Tibetan known to be infected with the disease was 69-year-old Dharamsala-resident Tenzin Choephel. He returned to India with his wife from a trip to the USA on March 15. He was taken to Dr Rajendra Prasad Medical College Hospital in Tanda, Kangra, on March 23 and died the same day. He was asthmatic and susceptible to flu. His family and others who had contact with him have been quarantined.

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