

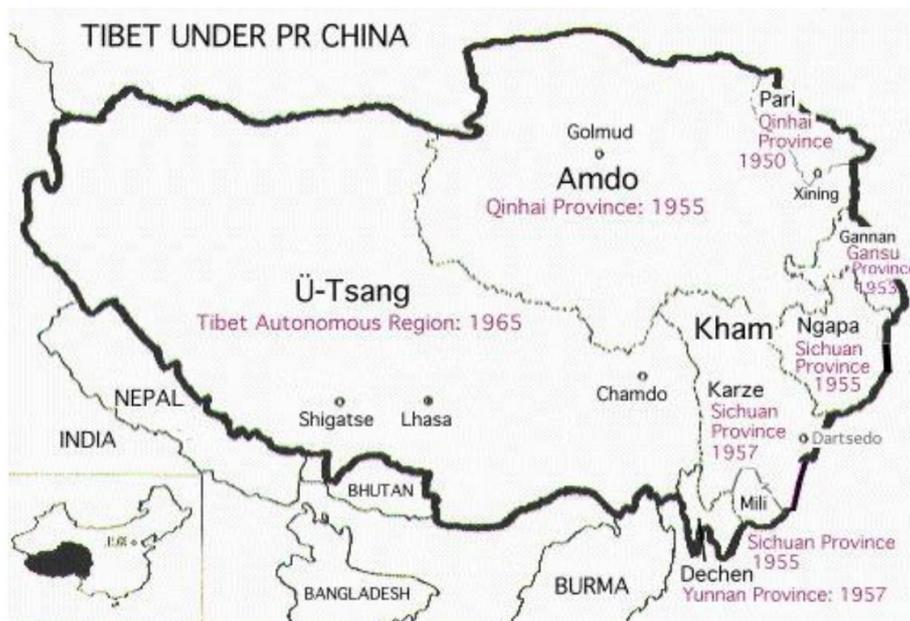
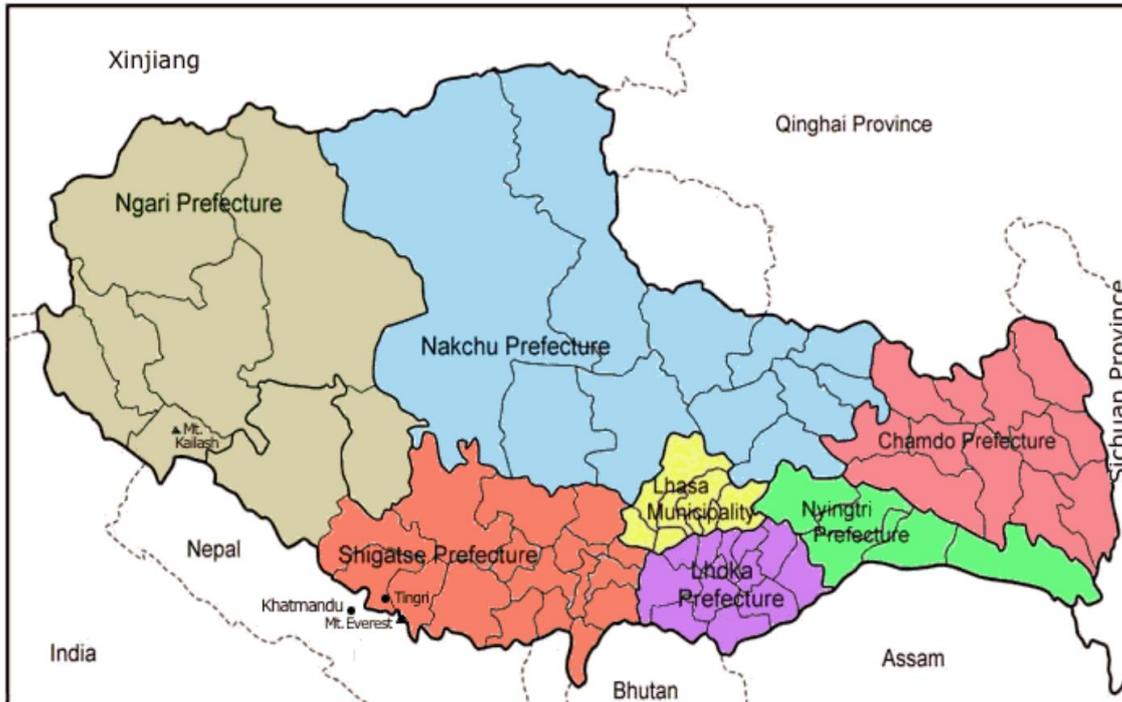


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TIBET INSIGHT 15-31 March, 2021



TAR NEWS

CCP Central Committee's designation of Supervisory Team in Tibet

March 30, 2021

The CCP Central Committee tasked its 14th Supervisory Group in Tibet three months ago 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 CCPCC about the decision-making process. This was not limited to the education and rectifications of political and legal Teams in Tibet, supervision tasks, and but also to understand the work of the Political and Legal Commission of TAR.

The meeting was attended by Sun Ruibiao, Deputy Leader of the 14th Supervisory Group, He Wenhao, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Wang Weidong, Secretary of TAR PPCC's Party Group, Chen Yongqi, Deputy Leader of TAR Political and Legal Team Zhang Hongbo, Head of TAR Public Security Bureau, Tendar and Xia Keqin, Education and Rectification Leading Group of TAR.

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, said the 14th Supervisory Group's three-month visit to Tibet is “not only a powerful guide and propagation of the CCP CC's educational and rectification of TAR Political and Legal Teams, but it also provides a comprehensive review of TAR's political and legal work, which has its reflection and care by Xi Jinping”. He assured that under the leadership of the TAR Party Committee, party organizations and branches across TAR have studied Xi Jinping's thought on the rule of law on strengthening the construction of the political and legal team. They have studied the “four consciousnesses”, “four confidences”, and have also maintained a “high degree of consistency with the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core and effectively unified ideological actions”.

Medog County launches “vocal training” for farmers and herdsmen

March 25, 2021

Medog County (also known as Pemako), Nyingtri Prefecture, TAR, has invested 2.358 million yuan since the beginning of 2021 to conduct “15 vocational training” sessions for farmers and herdsmen involving 707 people.

Sponsored by the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee, and Nyingtri Municipal People's Government, the Nyingtri Human Resource and Social Security Bureau on March 29, organized the Nyingtri Vocational Skills Competition for 2021 at the Municipal Technical School. The purpose of the competition was to implement Xi Jinping's instructions on building “an army of knowledge-based, skilled and innovative workers”. More than 300 people

including, teachers and students of Nyingtri Technical School and employees from related industries in the city participated.

Liu Guangming, Deputy Secretary-General of the Guangdong Provincial Government, Leader of the ninth batch of Guangdong Provincial Aid Tibet Task Force, Deputy Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee, and Executive Deputy Mayor attended the competition among other officials.

(Comment: According to Adrian Zenz, Senior Fellow in China Studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, Washington, D.C, in March 2019, the TAR issued the 2019-2020 Farmer and Pastoralist Training and Labour Transfer Action Plan (西藏自治区 2019-2020 年农牧民培训和转移就业行动方案, Xizang Zizhiqu 2019-2020 Nian Nongmumin Peixun he Zhuanyi Jiuye Xingdong Fang'an) which mandates the "vigorous promotion of military-style...[vocational] training," adopting the model pioneered in Chamdo and mandating it throughout the region. The vocational training process must include "work discipline, Chinese language and work ethics," aiming to "enhance labourers' sense of discipline to comply with national laws and regulations and work unit rules and regulations").

River and Lake Inspections carried out in Medog County of Nyingtri

March 17, 2021

Led by Zheng Ming, the Deputy County Head of Medog County People's Government, and the Chief of the County's River Office, County Water Conservancy Bureau, Medog Branch of the Ecological Bureau, Forest Bureau, County's Natural Resource Bureau and County's Education Bureau, conducted inspections in Yajiang (Damu/Tamu Township), Jinzhuqu (Gedang Township Section), Yajiang (Dexing/Deshing Township), Yajiang (Medog Town Section), from March 12-15 and the Ximo river. The inspection was carried out to inspect "four chaos" along the river sections in each of the above Townships. It was reportedly found from the inspections that the water ecology of the river is stable barring a few litters (wastes), and sand piled along the river channel.

Zhang Ming asked all heads of rivers and lakes in all Towns to enhance their sense of responsibility and increase river inspections and strengthen communication with county-level river and lake chiefs. He ordered that a report on the latest condition of rivers and lakes be sent to the County-Level River and Lake Chief's Office on time.

Inspections carried out along the Yarlung Tsangpo to analyse "hidden dangers"

March 24, 2021

Deputy Secretary of Medog County Party Committee and County River Chief Wei Changqi carried out a patrol on March 23 along the upper stream of the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra River) to study changes in the water level of the river and uncover "hidden risks". During the

inspection, Wei Changqi stressed that “Medog County” has a special geographical location and that it is prone to “hidden” dangers including natural disasters.

(Comment: Originating at Angsi Glacier in western Tibet, southeast of Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar, the Yarlung Tsangpo later forms the South Tibet Valley and Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon before passing into India’s state of Arunachal Pradesh. Downstream from Arunachal Pradesh the river becomes wider and is called the Siang. After the river crosses into India it is called the Brahmaputra. In November 2020, the Chairman of PowerChina announced the construction of a “super” dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo which, he said, would be the world's largest hydroelectric project).

Head of TAR Public Security Bureau inspects monastery in Maldrogongkar

March 26, 2021

Vice-Chairman of TAR People’s Government and Director of TAR Public Security Bureau, Zhang Hongbo inspected Bangsa Monastery in Maldrogongka, Lhasa on March 23. He was accompanied by Chime Dorjee, Standing Member of Maldrogongka County Party Committee, Secretary of the County’s Political and Legal Committee and Director of the County’s Public Security Bureau.

Zhang Hongbo and Chime Dorjee conducted an in-depth inspection on the management of the monastery including its religious affairs, financial management, supervision of monks, ideological “education” of the monks, and the monastery’s security and stability. They investigated the monastery’s halls, rooms of the monks, and other “key parts” of the monastery.

After the investigation, Zhang Hongbo reportedly tabled his suggestions and inputs on “how to improve Monastic Management, sinicize Tibetan Buddhism and strengthen the efficiency of Monastic cadres”. He stressed Xi Jinping’s thought that: “Governing the country must begin by governing the borders and stabilizing Tibet” and that Monastic Management Committee must implement “four consciousness”, “four confidences” achieve “Two safeguards” and govern the monastery according to law, and as per instructions by the party.

Bomi-Nyingtri section of the Sichuan-Lhasa railway

March 21, 2021

According to the China National Railway Co. Ltd, the latest bidding for contracts for the Ya’an-Xindu bridge and Bomi-Nyingtri section of the Sichuan-Lhasa railway has been completed with participation from 37 construction companies that met the qualifications. Among them, seven construction companies (including Consortium) won the bids for six construction tenders. On March 18, the Sichuan-Lhasa Railway Company organized a mobilization meeting for construction enterprises. The construction of each section will start from April 1.

The project includes two tunnels and one bridge (Sejila mountain tunnel, Kanding No.2 tunnel, and Dadu river bridge). Construction of these projects began in November 2020 and was put on hold due to winter. The 186-kilometres long section from Ya'an to Xinduqiao is located in Ya'an city, and Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province; and the section from Bomi to Nyingtri is 151 kilometres in length and located in Nyingtri.

Nyingtri completed the expansion of its Miling aviation corridor

March 21, 2021

Nyingtri Miling Airport is the second largest airport in TAR. Expansion of this aviation corridor began in May 2019. With a total investment of 532 million yuan, the project comprises one parallel taxiway, three vertical connecting lanes, 6 class C aircraft landing facilities, and two general-purpose aircraft bays. The parallel taxi route was officially opened on March 20. The new route is expected to reduce the aircraft's time on the runway and increase the peak hour capacity of the airport. According to Tsesung, Deputy Head of the Nyingtri Civil Aviation, the overall goal of the expansion is to meet the 2030 target of 1.4 million annual passengers, 5,600 tons of cargo, and 15,390 sorties of aircraft (take-off-and landing). At present, five airlines serving eight cities operate to Miling Airport.

Exhibition on 'Reincarnation of Living Buddha' held in Pal Choeten Monastery, Nyingtri

March 29, 2021

The Temple Management Committee of Pal Choeten Monastery, Nyingtri held re-education activities and an exhibition on 'Reincarnation of the living Buddhas' for two days from March 28 to commemorate the 'Serf Emancipation Day'.

At the photo exhibition event, the Temple Management Committee explained the content of each section of the "Management Measures for the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism" and other "rituals and historical customisation" of the reincarnation system, inheritance, and Tibetan Buddhism. The committee claimed that the monks now have a better understanding of the 'historical laws of religion and deepened the ideological understanding of how Tibet has been an inseparable part of the great motherland since ancient times and that Tibetan traditional culture is a component of Chinese multiculturalism.'

On March 28, the monks attended the 'national anthem and flag-raising ceremony along with the grassroots cadres and police. This was followed by a series of propaganda activities including 'Red film' sessions, films comparing old Tibet and New Tibet, a speech contest on the theme 'National unity and anti-session struggles,' and education on 'four standards and four loves' to become 'advanced monks and nuns.' The committee explained how the monks should strengthen the sense of community of the Chinese nation as one and improve their understanding of 'four consciousness,' 'four self-confidences', and 'two maintenances.'

697 villages and towns in TAR have Discipline Inspection Committees

March 24, 2021

The People's Daily (March 24) disclosed that TAR has completed establishment of Discipline Inspection Commission and Supervisory Offices in 697 villages and towns in TAR and selected 1,968 disciplinary inspection personnel.

The newly established Discipline Inspection Commission Office is expected to ensure that each town (sub-district) is equipped with at least one disciplinary commission secretary concurrently serving as the director of the inspection office and one or two discipline inspection officers concurrently serving as inspectors. Besides, TAR has also set up four investigation teams to conduct investigations in all 74 counties, provide on-site guidance and supervision, and inspect the performance of these new sub-district offices.

TAR signed the Tibetan Medicine Industry Development Cooperation Agreement, Beijing

March 24, 2021

TAR and China Tibetology Research Center, Beijing jointly held a signing ceremony of the TAR Tibetan Medicine Industry Development Cooperation Agreement in Beijing on March 23. Signatories to the agreement include the Lhoka Tibetan Medicine Hospital, Kanlho Tibetan Medicine Industry Group Co. Ltd, and Beijing Tibetan Hospital under the China Tibetology Research Centre.

It was attended by Zheng Dui, Director of the China Tibetology Research Center, Lian Xiangmin, Deputy Director-General, Xia Gang, Deputy Director of the TAR Health Committee, Chen Zongrong, Party Secretary of the China Tibetology Research Center, and Luo Mei, Vice Chairman of the TAR People's government.

Chen Zongrong pointed out that Tibetan medicine is an integral part of traditional Chinese medicine, and has unique and very precious medical and cultural values. The TAR Party Committee and TAR government attach great importance to supporting the Beijing Tibetan Hospital and relevant parties in TAR to strengthen cooperation and jointly promote the development of Tibetan medicine. He further said "The initiation is to implement the spirit of the Seventh Tibet Work Forum, forge the consciousness of the Chinese nation community, and promote exchanges between all ethnic groups."

Dagu Hydropower Station is expected to be operational in 2021, Lhoka

March 30, 2020

The China Water Resources and Hydropower Ninth Engineering Bureau Co., Ltd. extracted a concrete core sample with a diameter of 200 mm and length of 26.2 meters at the Dagu Hydropower Station in TAR. The Bureau claimed that the core sample is located on the right bank of the dam section of the hydropower station on the Yarlung Tsangpo. It has a smooth

and dense surface, uniform aggregate distribution, and good interlayer bonding which, according to the Bureau, reflects the high-level construction quality of the Dagu Hydropower Station and shows that the construction quality and technology of the dam has reached the leading international level.

The Dagu Hydropower Station, with a total investment of 12.2 billion yuan, is the largest hydropower project under construction in Tibet. It is planned that the first unit will be put into operation in 2021 and be completed in 2022.

Head of TAR UFWD on a week-long inspection tour to Chamdo and Nyingtri

March 24, 2021

Head of the TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD), Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government, Danke (Tib: Tenkho) inspected Chamdo (Ch: Changdu) and Nyingtri (Ch: Linzhi) from March 16-23, 2021.

In Chamdo, Danke inspected three counties, Drayab county, Kharochu county, Pashoe county; and in Nyingtri, he visited two counties, Drayib Chu(Ch: Bayi) county and Bome county. During the inspections, Danke met Monastic Management Committee Officials, Party leaders of the counties, Party cadres of local UFWD, and inspected monasteries including the Jampaling monastery in Chamdo and met representatives of the religious heads, monks and nuns. Danke held meetings with each of the top officials of the counties he visited when he emphasised the following:

1. To implement Xi Jinping's thoughts concerning governing and stabilizing Tibet's borders first to govern the country, and to apply the proceeds of the seventh Tibet Work Forum. He also stressed strengthening propaganda campaigns such as the "Four Consciousness", "four self-confidence" and "two safeguards".
2. The need to embolden and strengthen political leadership. This includes focusing on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the party, and the 70th anniversary of the "peaceful liberation of Tibet" guided by Xi Jinping's thoughts especially on governing and stabilizing Tibet's borders, propagation of the four standards to become exemplary monks and nuns, maintaining of national unity, integrating the monks and nuns towards the party and ensuring long-term stability.
3. Danke stressed strengthening monastic management by further standardizing and legalizing monastic affairs, and safeguarding against "overseas infiltration". He added that the Monastic Management Committee must work to win over the monks and nuns for long-term stability in the region.
4. Finally, he urged the need to promote and propagate the party's policies for which, the local units of the UFWD must act as a "magic weapon" and set higher political and ideological positions.

China uses Jewon Koondhor Rinpoche's case as to how 'Tibetan returnees feel at home'

March 9, 2021

In a media interview (March 9) with the English-language China Daily, Jewon Koondhor Rinpoche from Jampa Ling Monastery, Chamdo, urged 'the Tibetans living abroad to visit the region and learn about its development and changes.' He said, "I am delighted with the progress in Tibet's poverty relief work, and I am glad to see that Tibetan people, especially those living in villages, are having a better life." He also said he was astonished at the changes in Tibet since he travelled the first time in 1984.

Jewon Koondhor returned from Switzerland in 2011 to permanently settle in Lhasa. In 2012, he became a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Tibetan Committee and started to serve as Vice-Chairman of Tibet's Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese. In 2018, he became a member of the 13th CPPCC National Committee. In 2019, he donated more than 380 literary works and cultural relics, including dozens of Level I and Level II national-level cultural relics, to the Chinese government. Among them was the seal of a former emperor in Tibet's Bomi areas. He said in the interview that he is committed to promoting the 'real Tibet' to the outside world.

(Comment: The Jampa Ling Monastery, Chamdo, is a prominent follower of Dorjee Shugden.)

TAR awarded 'top ten people under the rule of law'

March 25, 2020

TAR held an award ceremony to highlight the '2020 top ten people of rule of law' in Lhasa on March 24. This is part of promoting China's model citizens. A certificate and trophy were given to the following:

Pel Chung (Ethnicity: Tibetan) - Director of the People's Mediation Committee of Renmao Community, Nagchu Prefecture. He became a 'policy preacher' of the Party in 2012, carried out more than 100 publicity campaigns on the rule of law, 200 legal consultations, and reached out to more than 30,000 people.

Yin Chuan (Han) - Secretary of Kongmei Village, Dingri County, Xigatse Choedup Losang Gyal, Director of Xiangkang Temple Civil Management Committee Chayu county, Nyingtri (described as the only living Buddha and religious person to receive the award). His monastery was awarded the 'Second National Harmonious Temple' in the past. He donated 150,000 Yuan to Wuhan, and his monastery donated 400,000.

Tenzin Jigme, a fourth-level sergeant of the Criminal Police Detachment of Lhasa Public Security Bureau, was also awarded. The final evaluation was done by a special review committee comprising 30 experts.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Tibetan Students arrested for ‘inciting separatism’

March 22, 2021

Jampa Tsering, a Tibetan student, was sentenced to one year and six months by Tsolho (Ch: Hainan) Intermediate Court on charges of being involved in separatism. He was arrested for being involved in the public display of “illegal team flag and logo” on the Internet. Tibet Watch could not confirm the flag and logo, but Tibetans on social media speculated that they had used the Team Tibet flag and jersey of the exile Tibetan football team.

He was also accused of storing the 'illegal pictures' on the messaging app ‘QQ’ and was suspected with intending to commit separatist crimes and undermine national unity. Dugor Tsering helped Jampa Tsering obtain and design the football team flag and logo. The flag was publicly displayed to the audience during the 6th "Holy Lake Cup" football match in Gongme County, and later circulated on WeChat. The Chinese authorities claimed it caused a bad political impact.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Tibetan parliament-in-Exile votes to remove entire apex court panel

March 26, 2021

The Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPiE) on March 25, voted to remove the entire panel of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission, leaving the Central Tibetan Administration without a judicial head for the time being. Dismissal was on the ground that the three Justice commissioners – Chief Justice Commissioner Dagpo Sonam Norbu, and Justice commissioners Tenzin Lungtok and Karma Damdul had violated the Charter of Tibetans-in-exile. By taking suo-moto action against the TPiE for failing to hold its Sep 2020 session as mandated by the Charter itself. The latter had not only dismissed this claim as incorrect but also taken limited action against members of the Standing Committee of the TPiE who had taken the decision not to hold the session by citing Covid-19 restrictions.

Reading out the relevant provisions of the Charter of Tibetans-in-Exile, Speaker Jungney claimed that the Supreme Justice Commission could assume jurisdiction in cases only if it had been specifically approached by a party, which was absent in this matter. At least two members of the TPiE felt that removing the entire members of the apex judiciary for the stated grounds was drastic, all the more so because of the lack of legal clarity on matters at issue and its possible impact on Tibetan society. Suo moto action is a well-known principle of judicial cognizance of cases especially in India where courts have, in an expansive interpretation of approach, acted on matters coming to their knowledge, including on the basis of newspaper reports, if they are felt to be important or urgent enough to warrant such action.

Addressing a joint press conference on March 27, Chief Justice Commissioner Sonam Norbu Dagpo said he and his two co-panellists were accepting the decision of the parliament for their removal from office as law-abiding citizens with long records of public service.

The Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission took suo moto notice of the cancellation, calling it unconstitutional, and issued a notice to the Parliament's Standing Committee, saying an online meeting could be held. But the parliament's Standing Committee stood by its decision, and the Supreme Justice Commission on September 25 2020 imposed a limited penalty on its 11 members, including the Speaker, for violating the Charter.

During discussion of the motion in Parliament, some members said the problem was with the laws and rules and they should be amended to avoid future problems without cracking the whip so harshly on the justice commissioners.

