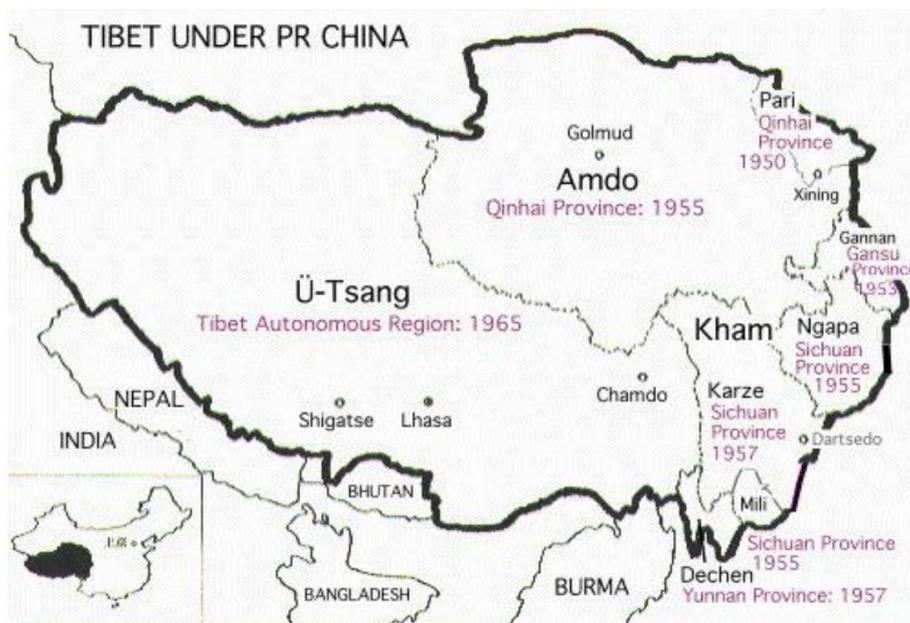
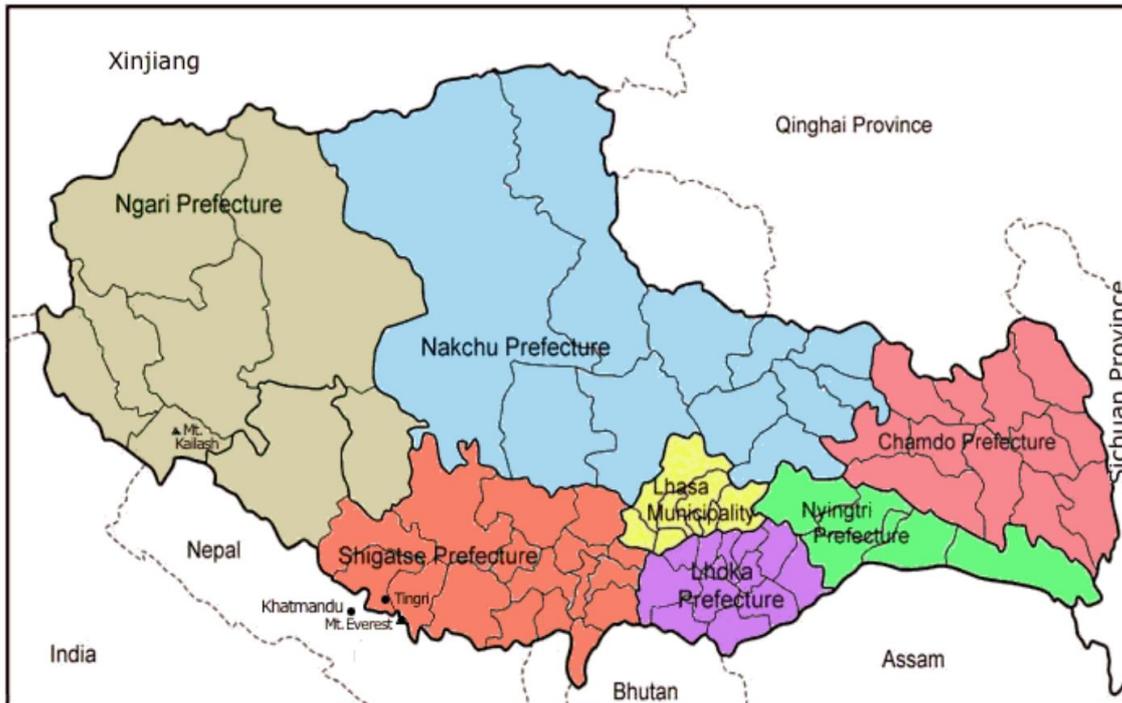




**TIBET INSIGHT, MAY 15-31, 2021**



## **China issues White Paper on Tibet titled '*Tibet Since 1951- Liberation, Prosperity and Development*'**

May 2021

On May 21, 2021, China issued a White Paper on Tibet comprising ten chapters and captioned 'Tibet Since 1951: Liberation, Development and Prosperity'. Asserting that "Tibet has been an integral part of Chinese territory since ancient times, and one of the main Tibetan-inhabited areas in China", it claimed that "In the aftermath of the Opium Wars in the middle of the 19th century, the UK-led imperialist powers began to cultivate the idea of 'Tibet independence', intentionally undermining China's sovereignty and territorial integrity". The White Paper also stated that "In 1793, after dispelling Gurkha invaders, the Qing government restored order in Tibet and promulgated the Imperially Approved Ordinance for Better Governance of Tibet (the 29-Article Ordinance), improving several of the systems by which the central government administered Tibet. It stated that China had sent troops to different parts of Tibet to guard the "4000 kms" border. The ordinance stipulated that the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama and other grand Living Buddhas had to follow the procedure of "drawing lots from the golden urn", and the selected candidate would be subject to approval by the central government of China." Stating that there was considerable social and economic inequality in Tibet, the White Paper claimed that "197 hereditary aristocratic families and the few top families each possessed dozens of manors and thousands of hectares of land. The family of the 14th Dalai Lama owned 27 manors, 30 pastures, and over 6,000 serfs. The Dalai Lama alone owned 160,000 taels (one tael = 30 grams) of gold, 95 million taels of silver, over 20,000 pieces of jewellery and jade ware, and more than 10,000 pieces of silk clothing and rare furs. Meanwhile, the serfs and slaves, who accounted for 95 per cent of the population, had no means of production or freedom of their own. They were subjected to the three-fold exploitation of corvée labour, taxes, and high-interest loans, and struggled for mere existence." It later said that "In consideration of Tibetan history and the region's special situation, the Central People's Government adopted a circumspect attitude of patient persuasion, waiting for the ruling elite to carry out reform, and giving them adequate time to do so. In 1956, still awaiting a change in the attitude of the ruling upper class, the Central People's Government decided that no reform should be carried out in Tibet for six years. During his visit to India in January 1957, Premier of the State Council Zhou Enlai handed a letter from Chairman Mao Zedong to the 14th Dalai Lama and 10th Panchen Lama, and the accompanying senior local Tibetan government officials. The letter informed them of the central government's decision that reform would be deferred for six years; whether

reform should be carried out after six years would still be decided by Tibet following its situation and the prevailing conditions. The Central People's Government showed the utmost patience and made every concession.” The White Paper referred to the issue of the reincarnation of Living Buddhas in some detail. It said “The reincarnation of Living Buddhas has been carried out in an orderly manner following laws, regulations, religious rituals and historical conventions. In 1995, with the approval of the State Council, the search for and identification of the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama and the enthronement of the 11th Panchen Lama were completed by drawing lots from a golden urn. In 2010, the Sixth Living Buddha Dezhub was identified and enthroned through the drawing of lots from a golden urn and with the approval of the government of the Tibet Autonomous Region. By 2020, 92 reincarnated Living Buddhas had been identified and approved through traditional religious rituals and historical conventions. Traditional religious activities are carried out regularly under the law – activities such as studying scriptures and debate, initiation as a monk or nun, abhisheka (an empowerment ceremony), and self-cultivation. Examination on scriptures and subsequent promotion in academic degrees are also held in monasteries regularly.” Section 9 of the White Paper on national security and stability claimed that “Over the years, Western anti-China forces have used Tibet as a pretext to disrupt China and interfere with its development, and the 14th Dalai Lama and his supporters have continued to try to promote “Tibetan independence” by provoking incidents to jeopardize peace and stability in Tibet.” The section then briefly discussed the CIA’s actions in the 1950s, and said that “since the 1980s, Western forces have played an active role in all the outbreaks of unrest that have taken place in Tibet.” Reference was made to the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018, and the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020. Referring to the XIVth Dalai Lama it stated: “Since the 14th Dalai Lama fled abroad in 1959, the central government has exercised great restraint and done its best to provide solutions, for example preserving his position as a vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee until 1964. After reform and opening up, the central government offered the 14th Dalai Lama an opportunity to accept the policy that “all patriots belong to one big family, whether they embrace patriotism earlier or later,” and invited him to send representatives to return home for a visit. The central government received 13 visits by private representatives of the 14th Dalai Lama between 1979 and 2002 and approved ten visits from 2002 to 2010. But to the disappointment of the central government, the Dalai Lama has refused to relinquish his political demands.” The final section of the White Paper contained guidelines for the new era under Xi Jinping in which at least three of the 10 items refer to ensuring ethnic and Party unity. The state-owned CCTV-1 carried (May

23) a special report entitled 'Earth-shaking historical changes have taken place in the 70 years of peaceful liberation of Tibet'.

### **Fire safety drills conducted in monasteries ahead of the 70th year celebration**

May 19, 2021

On May 18, Nang County's Fire Emergency Rescue Brigade and the Buchu Monastery Management Committee jointly organised a series of fire drills involving 22 monastic party cadres, monks, and nuns. During the drills, the firefighters of the Nang County Fire Emergency Rescue Brigade instructed the volunteers how to carry out their duties. The report claimed that after the drills, the knowledge of monks and nuns on fire safety awareness has increased and their fire emergency response-ability has improved.

*(Comment:* Since 2011, 133 Tibetans, of whom a large number were monks and nuns, in Tibet (TAR and other parts of Tibet) have self-immolated to protest Chinese "occupation". Because of the fear of self-immolations, the TAR authorities installed fire extinguishers at every convenience police station and in monastic institutions. Fire safety drills are also occasionally held in monasteries and crowded places).

### **TAR Party Secretary visits Lhoka to witness the change of leadership in counties and Townships**

May 20, 2021

Wu Yingjie, Party Secretary of TAR and Head of the Leadership Change Unit of TAR, visited Gongkar (Ch: Gonggar) County of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) on May 19, to investigate the overall situation in the county and witness the change of local leadership. The Party Secretary was accompanied by Liu Jiang, Standing Committee Member of TAR Party Committee and Secretary-General, and Chen Yongqi, Standing Committee Member of TAR Party Committee and Director of the Organisation Department of TAR. The visiting team from Lhasa commended the outgoing cadres of the "Two Village Committees" in Jixiong Town of Gonggarn County, for consolidating party building work at grassroots levels. Jixiong village had 1324 residents, out of which 866 participated in voting to select new village committee members. Wu Yingjie was quoted as saying that the transition of the "Two Village Committees" is a reflection of a socialist democracy at grassroots levels and that it is related to

the founding principles of the Party. Wu Yingjie added “grassroots party-building efforts should involve fighting against separatism, and that the newly elected officials must listen to the party, follow the party, foster unity, ensure stability and should be clear of ambiguity in times of crisis”. Wu Yingjie also told the officials that they are not allowed to practice and believe in religion, let alone its propagation, nor can they get influenced by family members and friends.

The selection of new members for the regional People’s Congress was also in process when Wu Yingjie and his team arrived in Gonggar. At Jixiong Town, Wu Yingjie visited the local Party Committee, met the Party Officials and instructed them as follows:

1. Thoroughly study Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new era, his expositions given during the 7th Work Forum on Tibet. The officials were told to maintain stability and oppose separatism. Through exchanges and integration, they must improve the livelihood of people from food to clothing, housing and transport facilities.
2. The officials were told to improve their political stance, work hard to grasp the requirements of Xi Jinping and the Central Party Committee and strengthen “four consciousness”, “four self-confidences” and “two maintenance”.
3. They should work under the terms and conditions of their appointment including abiding by the “ten prohibitions” and strictly adhere to work discipline.

Wu Yingjie listened to reports on the change of leadership in counties and Towns of Lhoka.

### **TAR Propaganda Head inspects Jokhang Temple and other places in Lhasa ahead of 70th-year celebrations**

May 20, 2021

Zhang Yuan, Executive Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Secretary of TAR PPCC and head of TAR Propaganda Department, inspected Jokhang Temple, Potala Palace, Barkhor street and other places in Lhasa with the Party Secretary of Lhasa Municipality, Yan Jinhai. He emphasised the importance of studying Xi Jinping’s important expositions on governing Tibet in the new era.

When inspecting Jokhang temple and its cultural relics, Zhang Yuan reiterated that the cultural relics in the temple indicate that Tibet has been an inseparable part of China since ancient times. Hence, making good use of these cultural relics in promoting traditional Chinese culture and long-term stability is important.

TAR Provincial military-level leaders Wang Yalin, Feng Xinqiao, and Liu Wei participated in the inspection.

### **Head of TAR People's Congress convenes meeting to examine one-year implementation progress of TAR "ethnic unity" regulation**

May 21, 2021

On instructions of the TAR Party Committee, the standing committee of TAR People's Congress headed by Lobsang Gyaltzen convened a meeting on May 20 to assess implementation of the 'Regulations on the establishment of TAR as a model for ethnic unity'. Speaking at the meeting Lobsang Gyaltzen emphasised the need to study and implement Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, his expositions given during the seven work forum, and his thoughts on the party's strategy of governing Tibet in the new era. Lobsang Gyaltzen summarised that the implementation of TAR's ethnic unity regulation had achieved great results due to the joint efforts of all the prefectures. In the process, the sense of national unity, and consciousness of the Chinese nation as a community has progressed well. He added that building a strong sense of the Chinese nation as a community is the foundation of national security and unity.

Woeser, Xu Guang, Chime Rinzin Nima Tsering all Deputy Directors of the Standing Committee of TAR People's Congress, and Tang Mingying, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Congress, and Awang, Deputy Director of the Political Department of Tibet Military Region attended

Among others attending to report, examine and share the highlights of the implementation process for the past one year were: representatives from the TAR Propaganda Department, Legal and Political Committee of TAR, Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee, TAR Agriculture and Animal Husbandry College, Tibet Construction Building Materials Group Co., Ltd., Hebalin Community, Jiri Street, Chengguan District, Lhasa City, Jampaling Monastery

(Chamdo), 10 representatives from Yushagang village and Xiasima Town of Dromo Yatung (Ch: Yadong), and representatives from the Ngari prefecture.

### **Nyingtri held the first leading group meeting for the creation of a model city for National Unity and Progress**

May 20, 2021

Zhang Xiuwu, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; Dawa, Deputy Mayor and a member of the Municipal Standing Committee; Nyima, Minister of the UWFD; and Xiao He, Deputy Director Municipal People's Congress, attended a meeting of the first leading group for the creation of a model city for National Unity and Progress .

The meeting discussed how to create a plan for making Nyintgtri one of the TAR's national unity and progress model areas from 2021- 2025 and implement the Autonomous Ethnic Affairs Commission's feedback on the creation of Nyingtri as a trial ground for the national model city. It said Nyingtri must create a National Unity and Progress Demonstration city in 2021 and several other 'red education bases'. For building a National Unity and Progress Demonstration city, cadres at all levels were asked to 'carry out the concrete practice of Xi Jinping Thought, and show national spirit and feel the sense of Chinese national community and shared future.' At the village level, a team must be formed consisting of party cadres, trade unions, Communist Youth League, the Women's Federation, and other group organizations. They will guide the party members and cadres, inspect villages and people's homes, and encourage the 'pairing up' system. Along with the team, the party committees were asked to consider creating a national demonstration city for national unity and progress as a political task and give utmost importance and make arrangements according to actual conditions on the ground.

### **"Plateau 5G Happiness Road" conference held in Nyingtri**

May 20, 2021

On World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on May 17, Nyingtri convened a 'Plateau 5G Happiness Road' conference. It was co-sponsored by the Chinese Institute of Communications and the Nyingtri Government. The China Industrial Development Research

Institute, the Ninth Batch of Guangdong Aid Tibet Task Force, and the China Civil Aviation Emergency Rescue Alliance participated in the conference.

Song Tong, Deputy Secretary of both, China Institute of Communications and Guangdong Provincial Government, Liu Guangming, Deputy Secretary of Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee and Deputy Mayor, Shi Zhuoqi, Executive Director of China Industrial Development Research Institute, Xu Longhai, Deputy Mayor of Nyingtri, and other relevant persons in charge of the Ministry of Education, Health Commission, and Emergency Management Department attended the event.

The conference's agenda was to discuss and formulate Nyingtri's future development plans for 5G medical care, emergency rescue, forest and grass protection, and border defence construction. It also discussed how to further promote the digital transformation of Nyingtri and improve the application of 5G in the spirit of the Seventh Tibet Work Forum. From the 14th Five Year Plan, a budget of 56.02 million Yuan will be allocated for 5G medicare in Nyingtri, smart tourism, and smart classrooms. Furthermore, China Industrial Development Research Institute intends to coordinate with multiple parties and integrated domestic and foreign leading artificial intelligence and 5G resources, for Nyingtri's economic development.

### **The State Council's Information Office held a press Conference on socio and economic development of Tibet**

May 24, 2021

The State Council held a press conference on May 22 a day ahead of the 70th anniversary of the "peaceful liberation of Tibet" in Beijing to share Tibet's "economic and social" development in the last 70 years. TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie and Chairman of TAR People's Government Chedak, aka Qi Zhala, represented TAR while Chen Wenjun, Director of the Information Bureau and Spokesperson of the State Council Information Office presided.

Wu Yingjie echoed the Party's propaganda and explained that "democratic reforms" were carried out in Tibet, that the Party has established socialism in Tibet, implemented ethnic and religious policies, and held seven work forums on Tibet. He also shared that people of ethnic groups in TAR enjoy "democratic rights as per the law, participate in the management of the State and social affairs following law and love Xi Jinping from the bottom of their hearts.

Wu Yingjie also said the CCP Central Committee's policies on countering the "Dalai Clique" and anti-separatist activities were implemented under his leadership. In that process, the TAR Party Committee and its various party branches have continuously "exposed and critiqued the reactionary nature of the Dalai Clique and their attempt to disturb national security". He further added that under the leadership of the TAR Party Committee, sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism was also carried out including, but not limited to, eliminating the "negative influence" of the Dalai Lama. He claimed the GDP of TAR has increased from 129 million yuan in 1951 to 190.274 billion yuan in 2020; the per capita disposable income of rural residents is 14,598 yuan, an increase of 416 times from 35 yuan in 1959; grassroots party organizations have increased from 57 in 1952 to 21,900; and the number of party members increased from 877 to 410,000. Among them, the 'ethnic minority' party members accounted for 81.36%, and party cadres grew in number from 1,792 to 204,700.

Wu Yingjie said that the "brilliance of the party shines on the frontiers, and the people in the frontiers cherish the party". 40 domestic and foreign media reporters including China Central Radio and Television, China Daily, and Russia Today participated in the press conference.

### **Ma Shengchen inspects border villages in Metok County, Nyingtri**

May 26, 2021

Ma Shengchang, Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee, inspected the border villages and duty stations in Medok County on May 18 and 19. He emphasized that it is necessary to thoroughly implement the spirit of the Seventh Tibet Work Forum, especially the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important speech. The strategy of "home builders" is to educate and guide people of all ethnic groups to take root in the snowy borders like Gesanghua, protect the sacred land, build a happy home, and practice the "two maintenances" with practical actions.

The local party committee and government were told to integrate the construction of well-off villages on the border with the promotion of rural revitalization, vigorously improve infrastructure such as water, electricity, roads, and information, continue to improve the level of border public services, accelerate the development of characteristic and advantageous industries, and further promote the in-depth development of military-civilian integration.

He asked them to build a wall of steel to protect their home and the country, particularly in response to the difficult situation of the spread of the epidemic in neighbouring countries. To continue to put prevention of imports in the first place, strengthen border patrols, severely crackdown on illegal entry and exit, accurately perform epidemic monitoring, vaccination and other tasks, and rely on village broadcast stations. He also urged them to intensify publicity and education of epidemic prevention and control measures, guide the masses to increase their self-protection awareness and protection capabilities, and build a strict defence line for mass prevention and control in border areas.

### **Lhoka forces monks and nuns to sign their names on the banner of model monks.**

May 24, 2021

The local authorities carried out a series of propaganda activities in Dorjee Drak monastery in Gongkar (in Chinese: Gonggar) County, Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan). They distributed bilingual party history books to every monk and nun. Dengbo, Deputy Secretary of the County Party Committee and Sheng Jiumei, Director of the Propaganda Department, observed the event. The monks, nuns, and cadre representatives were ordered to keep firm faith and follow the Party line.

They brought a huge red banner titled ‘Model monks and nuns who favour, listen and follow the party’. Everyone in the monastery was compelled to put their name and signature on the banner and monks and nuns were encouraged to participate more in such patriotic signature campaigns, learning party history, and reciting classics, and look back at past sufferings and reflect on the party's contribution and love.

### **Hubei PSB Anti-epidemic delegation held a meeting with TAR PSB**

May 27, 2021

Hubei Province sent their PSB Anti-epidemic model delegation to Lhasa for a propaganda and exchange program with TAR PSB. The two sides held a meeting on the morning of May 26 in Lhasa. The delegation is to showcase the friendship between the Hubei Public Security and the Tibetan Public Security and convey the anti-epidemic spirit and strength. At the exchange meeting, five models from Wuhan, Xiangyang, Jingzhou, Enshi, and Hong'an County, Hubei Province, were presented. They mainly spoke on how successfully these places had controlled

and prevented spread of the epidemic and how public security personnel were at the forefront. They said that the police officer's role was heroic and touched the hearts of people.

The TAR PSB extended their tribute to the Hubei PBS and expressed their willingness to learn and transform their responses like Hubei and other provinces had done. TAR PSB mentioned that their primary mission and tasks of the new era are 'defending national security, maintaining social stability, and safeguarding people's peace'. The actual actions of this job are to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the party and the 70th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet with new responsibility for maintaining security and stability and a new image satisfactory to the party the people.

### **Minister of Chamdo's United Front Work Department inspected 22 monasteries in Chamdo**

May 28, 2021

Awang Choephel, member of Pashoe County Party Committee and Minister of the United Front Work Department of Chamdo Municipal Party Committee, along with officials from the Ethnic and Religious Bureau of Chamdo conducted investigations in 22 monasteries across Chamdo. During the investigations, Awang met monastic management cadres, listened to their work reports, inspected the monastic ledger, and examined the overall implementation of the monastic management guidelines.

He also oversaw the progress in implementation of the four standards to become exemplary monks and nuns, asked the Monastic Management Committees to strengthen their political function including educating party members and cultivating new and innovative ways of managing monastic affairs.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR**

### **China seizes the land ownership of caterpillar fungus-rich supply areas in Tibet**

May 20, 2021

For the last several years, China has increased restrictions and interventions in caterpillar fungus harvesting in Tibet. This year, the Chinese government in many parts of Qinghai and

Yushul seized the land rights ownership of those areas which have rich caterpillar fungus supply. The provincial authorities have built police encampments and taxed the caterpillar fungus harvesters, completely ignoring the residents' right to land ownership as it is part of their grassland. Instead, it has given access to Chinese wishing to collect caterpillar fungus and who earlier acted as intermediaries between local Tibetans and rich Chinese business people. Any person willing to pay the fee and tax is allowed to pick the fungus under the supervision of the local authority. All harvesters have to register themselves every morning and evening at these police makeshift stations on the mountain and, in some areas, report their collection for the day.

### **17th Geshe Lharampa (Post-Doctorate) debate of 33 monks held in Beijing**

May 18, 2021

The 17th Geshe Lharampa, equivalent to the Post-Doctorate degree examination in Buddhist Philosophy, was held in Beijing on May 17, 2021, for 33 prospective Lharampas. They included 14 Gelugs, 13 from the Sakya and six of the Jonangpa sects of Tibetan Buddhism. A new academic title system was established in 2004 and with the aim of cultivating high-quality Tibetan Buddhist monks who are political reliable, are learned, can mould public morals and can play a critical role during “crisis”. The monks who pass the debate are required to pass a “strict qualification review” before attaining the Lharampa degree.

### **Chinese appointed Panchen Lama visited Shanghai and Anhui**

May 21, 2021

Gyaltzen Norbu, the Chinese appointed Panchen Lama reached Shanghai on May 13. Li Qiang, Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Party Committee, received him. He briefed him on Shanghai's economic and social development and its close ties with Tibet. He also briefed him on Shanghai's aid to Shigatse and how it had forged a deep friendship with people of all ethnic groups in TAR.

Li Qiang described the Panchen Lama as "the living Buddha of Tibetan Buddhism who firmly supports the leadership of the Communist Party and has played an important role in promoting the adaptation of Tibetan Buddhism to the socialist society. I believe that under the leadership of the Panchen Lama, the glorious tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, patriotism, and love will be

further carried forward and will better guide the broad masses of religious believers to maintain national unity, ethnic unity, and religious harmony".

Gyaltzen Norbu reached Anhui province on May 18. Li Jinbin, Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee, and Wang Qingxian, Governor, met him in Hefei. Cheng Lihua, Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee, and Zhang Ximing and Guo Qiang provincial leaders also attended the meeting. They mainly talked about the Anhui-Tibet aid task force and their commitment to the 7th Tibet Work Forum. Li Jinbin praised Gyaltzen Norbu's contribution in promoting the sinicization of religion in China and the adaptation of Buddhism to socialist society.

Gyaltzen Norbu and the Jiuhuashan Buddhist community jointly held a symposium on "Sinicization of my country's Religion" on May 18. He reassured that 'he will diligently study the teachings of Xi Jinping, serve the believers, always uphold the original intention of patriotism, commit to the mission of protecting the country, and safeguard national unity and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation'.

### **Yunnan Tibetan Buddhist College makes monks sing the red song**

May 25, 2021

The Yunnan Tibetan Buddhist College, Department of Tibetan Language, launched a series of activities celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China on May 24. They asked the monks and faculty members to sing old communist propaganda songs while holding the Chinese flag. They were asked to say that 'without the Communist Party, there would be no new China and should always unswervingly follow the party's command.' A Tibetan calligraphy competition and Buddhist doctrine interpretation and speech contest were held the same day.

Tamdin Thinley, Director of the college, said that the Yunnan Tibetan Buddhist College has comprehensively strengthened the study and education of party history and listed 'Four History' education as a key course for Tibetan Buddhists. The four history Education are

- i) Xi Jinping's expositions on religious affairs and adaption of Tibetan Buddhism to socialism
- ii) Strengthening the "four consciousness" to enhance ideological consciousness of the party's care and warmth

- iii) Ideological and political guidance for people following Tibetan Buddhism
- iv) To encourage people following Tibetan Buddhism to be political reliable and religiously accomplished

### **Tibetan Buddhism 'Living Buddha' reincarnation system tour exhibition held in Ngaba prefecture**

May 28, 2021

The United Front Work Department of the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee and the Tibet-related Office of Sichuan and the Sichuan Tibetan Buddhist Institute hosted an exhibition tour of the 'Tibetan Buddhism Living Buddha' reincarnation system. The exhibition tour began on May 26, at the Cultural Palace Square of Malkang city. Liu Ping, Secretary of Ngaba Prefecture Party Committee, made a special trip to the exhibition site to observe the exhibition on the morning of May 26.

According to the report, the exhibition tour focused on seven aspects: the emergence, development, institutional norms, policies and regulations, historical customization, religious rituals, and basic procedures for the reincarnation of 'Living Buddhas' in Tibetan Buddhism. Special experts explained the exhibition. The exhibition is expected to guide the monks and laypeople on how to treat religion rationally, to take a correct view of the reincarnation system of living Buddhas, to strengthen the 'five identities' of the monks and laypeople, and to build a sense of the community of the Chinese nation.

#### **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

### **Penpa Tsering assumes office as the Sikyong of Central Tibetan Administration**

May 27, 2021

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, on May 27 thanked outgoing Sikyong Lobsang Sangay and greeted the new Sikyong Penpa Tsering. The oath was administered by the Chief Justice Commissioner Sonam Norbu Dagpo of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission (TSJC).

In his acceptance speech, Sikyong Penpa Tsering reiterated his commitment to direct all his energy to find a lasting solution to the Sino-Tibet conflict and looking after the welfare of the Tibetan people.

Lawmakers from various countries including Canada, the UK, Australia, the Baltic States, Chile, France and the European Parliament have congratulated Penpa Tsering. They included the Tibet Interest Group in the European Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Group Italy–Tibet, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet (UK), Tibet Support Groups in the parliaments of Baltic States, The Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, the Parliamentary Friends of Tibet (Canada), as well as groups and individuals in the parliaments and the Chilean MP Vlado Mirosevic Vergudo and French Senator André Gattolin, the Vice-chair of the international study group on Tibet at the French Senate and Co-chair of the Inter-Parliamentarian Alliance on China (IPAC). Martin Bursik, former Czech Deputy Prime Minister and former Environment Minister and current president of the 'Czechs Support Tibet' was the latest to offer his congratulations.

---

