



TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 MAY, 2022

TAR NEWS

Nyingtri Party Secretary Ao Liuquan inspected monasteries in Nyingtri

May 10, 2022

Ao Liuquan, Party Secretary of Nyingtri (Ch: Linzhi) accompanied by Yan Shiqin, Secretary of the Milin County Party Committee inspected the monasteries in Nyingtri. In Qiangna Gonpa, he met Wangdue, Deputy Director of the Qiangna Temple Management Committee and inspected the protection of cultural relics, hidden dangers of fire safety and the implementation of epidemic prevention and control in the monastery. He asked about the progress in strengthening and innovation of temple management in recent years, and the implementation of the three functions of "education, service and management" in monasteries and other policies favourable to monks. He said it is necessary to focus on understanding the progress of party building in the monastery, comprehensive governance and stability maintenance, and ideological work.

He affirmed the achievements of Miling County's work in the monastic management, and emphasized that Milin County will focus on "welcoming the 20th National Congress, always follow the party, and defend the "two establishments", strengthen the "four consciousnesses", and be firm in "Four self-confidences" and achieve "two maintenance".

Dranang County conducts political education training in Mindrolling Monastery

May 11, 2022

The party group of the Mindroling Temple Management Committee in Dranang (in Chinese: Zhanang) County, Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) held a "three consciousness" learning and education

deployment meeting. Li Shineng, Deputy Secretary of the County Party Committee and Secretary of the party group of the Minzhulin Temple Management Committee, Sherab Woenser (Ch: Xi Ruoweise,) Chairman of the County PPCC, Tashi Dorjee, Deputy Secretary and Director of the Party Group of the Temple Management Association, Tenzin, Director of the Mindrolling (in Chinese: Minzhulin) Monastery, Damchoe Tenzin, and Youten Tashi (Ch: Yundan Zhaxi), and other cadres of the Monastery Management Committee Representatives of the police and monks attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the monks were asked to learn the spirit of Secretary Wang Junzheng's speech during his visits to Tashilhunpo Monastery and the essence of the "Three Consciousness". The three consciousness are Political Consciousness, Civic Consciousness, and Rule of Law Consciousness. The monks were advised also:

To uphold the leadership of the party and enhance political determination by carefully organising the monks to study Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and educate and guide the monks to firmly support the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

To support the socialist system and enhance the monks' deep understanding of "drinking water without forgetting the well diggers, and happiness without forgetting the Communist Party", and build up the confidence of monks to always appreciate the party's gratitude, listen to the party's words, and follow the party in both political and ideological.

To adhere to plans and measures to improve political standards. The Monastery Management Committee should take measures according to the conditions of the monastery and promote "four standards" educational practice activities, and earnestly allow the monks to be "a benchmark in politics, religion, model in moral character, and the main force at critical moments".

To adhere to the exchange of experience and improve political literacy. The monks should learn from past cases and model citizens such as Yangzom and Dolkar (Ch: Zhouga), the most 'beautiful' border guards, who have cemented the consciousness of the community of the Chinese nation, and make the monks fully realize that Chinese culture is the emotional bond and spiritual belonging of all ethnic groups in Tibet.

To adhere to supervision and guidance for enhancing political responsibility. The monastic management committee should establish a supervision and guidance group with the Secretary

of the Party Committee as the team leader, the Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee as the Deputy team leader, and the monastic leaders and department heads as members. It should effectively let the monks have a good sense of the country, learn a good sense of citizenship, and have a good sense of the rule of law.

Nyingtri systematically pushes for Mandarin learning at all levels of society

May 20, 2022

Nyingtri Municipal Bureau of Ethnic and Religious Affairs conducted training to deepen the national common language (Mandarin) learning and speaking for the grassroots cadres in Dongga, Langxian County, Nyingtri. The training conveyed that “Learning and using the common speaking and written language of the country is a citizen responsibility stipulated in the constitution, and it is an important way to consolidate the consciousness of the Chinese nation as a community”. For the success of the promotion of education of the national common language, they were told to deepen the exchanges and integration of various ethnic groups, and implement the following measures;

Ensuring detailed implementation of education and training in the national common language

Improving the leadership role of the ‘two committees’ in each village as the national common language learning and education work manager and supervisor. They need to pay more attention to detailed working mechanisms and carry out timely inspections and rectifications.

Ensuring full coverage of the education and training of the national common language

The training should focus on covering towns, counties, and villages at all levels. It should implement centralised teaching, paired learning, and practical exercises. The focus should be to achieve 100% installation of ‘The Tibetan Yitong’ APP, an online teaching platform by all the grassroots cadres. So far, in Dongga town, it has carried out more than 40 education and training sessions, more than 20 sessions of night schools, and trained more than 200 village leaders and 1,200 villages ‘two committees’ party members. As part of the promotion and practical use of the national common language, they conducted a 2022 national common language test for village cadre was organised, and the test covered daily conversation language, party building knowledge, and the party’s ethnic and religious policies.

The County will focus on building the awareness of the community of the Chinese nation and increase the promotional activity of the national common language. They were told to build a strong publicity team, and continuously carry out ideological awareness and training on the creation of a well-off village.

TAR Party Secretary meets China appointed Panchen Lama

May 21, 2022

Wang Junzheng, the TAR Party Secretary met China appointed Panchen Lama, Gyaltsen Norbu upon his return to Lhasa from Beijing to perform his “duties” and conduct “inspections” in Tibet. Wang Junzheng explained to Norbu how the CCP Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core has attached “great importance” to Tibet work since the 18th Party Congress. He recalled President Xi Jinping’s visit to Nyingtri and Lhasa in July 2021 and the guidelines the President had put forward as blueprint for Tibet work. Wang Junzheng commended the China appointed Panchen Lama for adhering to the Party’s instruction on Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism through his role at the Tibet Branch of Chinese Buddhist Association, and for actively promoting the adaptation of Tibetan Buddhism to socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Wang also congratulated Gyaltsen Norbu for attaining “Gachen” degree at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery last year and expressed his “happiness” on Panchen’s “growth and progress”.

The Party Secretary reported that the 10th TAR Party Congress had focussed on implementing the four major areas of focus: development, ecology, stability and consolidation of Tibet’s borders as instructed by President Xi Jinping. At present, the religious figures and representatives are focussing on propagating the “three consciousness” campaign, an important decision of the Seventh Work Forum on Tibet and is related to maintaining stability and social harmony. Wang Junzheng explained the motive of the ‘Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism’ to Gyaltsen Norbu, saying it is an important foundation for long-term stability and development of Tibet. He hoped that Norbu will keep in mind General Secretary Xi Jinping’s trust in mind and strengthen his political stance, deepen his understanding of the ‘Two Establishments’, implement ‘Two Maintenance’ and follow the party wholeheartedly. He further told the China appointed Panchen Lama to take a “clear-cut stance against separatism, safeguard unity of the motherland” and actively promote Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.

TAR Party inspects Purang, Tsamda and Gar Counties of Ngari

May 24, 2022

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, inspected Purang (Ch:Pulan/Burang), Tsamda (Ch:Zanda) and Gar Counties of Ngari (Ch:Ali) from May 19 to 22, and met party cadres and people of all “ethnic groups” in these counties. Wang Junzheng reiterated Xi’s thoughts on ecological protection and the party’s strive to build Ngari as the “Pearl of the West”.

Apart from inspecting the Langchen Khabab (Ch: Xiangquan), Singye Khabab (Ch:Shiquan) and Mapcha (Ch: Shiquan) Rivers and evaluating protection mechanisms of Mapham Yumtso (Lake Manasarova), and Tsamda Forest National Geopark, the TAR Party Secretary, emphasized ecological protection and the need to establish the concept of protecting Ngari’s natural resources. Wang Junzheng also visited Khejar village, a “characteristic village of ethnic minorities of China” and the capital city site of Guge Kingdom located in Tsamda county wherein family hotels and characteristics industries were built at the foot of Zaphurang village to increase income of the people living there. He inspected people’s households including Tsering Dorjee’s, an elderly Tibetan in the village and told him the importance of nurturing and educating children well and of protecting the frontiers.

Wang Junzheng next inspected the Ngari Power Grid operation point, a joint project of Ngari and Tibet-China Power Grid which was completed at the end of 2020. He went to the 220 kV substation of the Baer military station to learn about the operation of the power grid. He stressed that “electricity is the foundation of economic and social development and that it is therefore, necessary, he said to promote the extension of the main power grid to remote farming and pastoral areas, help rural revitalization projects and promote economic development”.

The TAR Party Secretary also visited Kong Fansen Primary School to reiterate his “glorious deeds” and told the officials to follow Kong Fansen’s example in contributing to the country.

(Comment: Kong Fansen (1944-1994) spent two periods working in Tibet; from 1979 to 1981 and from 1988 to 1994. He died in November 1994 in a “traffic accident”. In November 1994 he was killed in a traffic accident. He was appointed as the Deputy Mayor of Lhasa in 1988, and said to have visited all public schools in and around Lhasa.

In 1988, Kong was appointed deputy mayor of Lhasa. He became the Party Secretary of Ngari in 1992. He is often presented as a model for other leaders and communist functionaries in Tibet and across China”).

Chairman of TAR People’s Government examines food security and reserves

May 25, 2022

Yan Jinhai, Chairman of TAR People’s Government inspected a food security reserve in Lhasa on May 24 as instructed by the CCP Central Committee and State Council to ensure food supply, stabilize prices and protect the “interest” of the people. He was accompanied by Chen Yongqi, Deputy Secretary and Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee and Gyaltsen, Vice Chairman of TAR People’s Government. At the Lhasa National Grain Reserve Warehouse, Yan Jinhai and his team examined the storage condition of barley, rice and wheat and learnt about grain rotation and management in detail from the concerned officials. Yan Jinhai emphasised that food is the first priority for people and that food security therefore must be ensured. He emphasised the importance of ensuring food security especially during times of “danger to peace” and said that one must gauge the national and international situations. He stressed the importance of adapting to local climate conditions while storing food and focussing on expansion of grain reserve and the necessity of taking advantage of aid to Tibet, build food security, store food for Tibet and strengthen emergency reserves and risk prevention capabilities.

At the Grain and Oil Store in Khada Shopping Plaza of TAR, Yan Jinhai met the sales staff and inquired in detail about supply and prices of oil, grains and other commodities. He demanded strengthening of monitoring, supervision, information release, and control measures in ensuring “zero-tolerance” for food safety issues and to ensure sufficient market supply.

Yan Jinhai and his team also inspected Tibet Agricultural and Sideline Products Purchase and Sales Co.Ltd, Tibet Plateau Food Cold Chain Commercial and Logistics Port and examined their reserves. He urged concerned officials and staff members to expand and improve market competition, and accelerate chain of production, purchase, storage, transportation and sales of grains, and ensure food security.

TAR Party Secretary inspects Human Resources and Social Security Bureau

May 25, 2022

On May 24, Wang Junzheng, Party Secretary of TAR inspected the Human Resources and Social Security Bureau of TAR, and emphasised thoroughly studying Xi Jinping's "important instructions" on Tibet work and the Party's Strategy of Governing Tibet in the new era. He was accompanied by TAR leaders Zhuang Yuan and Dawa Tsering.

Wang Junzheng met Intelligence Talent Recruitment Officers at the Employment Service Centre of TAR located on the Drayibchu (Ch:Bayi) road, and colleague graduates who were applying for employment.

At a meeting held after the inspection, Wang Junzheng listened to the work report of the Human Resources and Social Security Bureau and praised the bureau for their "conscientiously implementing the decision and work arrangement of the CCP Central Committee and TAR Party Committee". He urged Officials to the need to focus and employ "key groups" and college graduates.

Lhasa announces 5,354 new ethnic intermarriage families

May 25, 2022

The Tibetan Autonomous Region held a press briefing on May 24 on the TAR's development in national unity, people's living standard, and economic and infrastructure development since 2012. The briefing highlighted that the number of ethnic intermarriage families in Lhasa has increased from 1,891 in 2015 to 7,245 in 2021, an increase of 5,354 in six years. Pan Wenqing, Deputy Mayor of Lhasa said that 'the city showed a good trend of deepening exchanges and integration of various ethnic groups'.

He added that Lhasa has formulated the "Regulations on the Progress of Ethnic Unity" to resolutely resist narrow ethnic consciousness and crack down on illegal and criminal acts that undermine ethnic unity as per the law. It also launched various literary and artistic works like the Princess Wencheng theatre to promote ethnic unity and introduced various projects like Aid to Tibet, and national unity education bases to cast a strong sense of 'community of the Chinese nation'.

He said that in the past 10 years, the people's well-being in Lhasa has been greatly improved. For improving people's living standards, it invested 9.6 billion Yuan and implemented 485 industrial projects, and lifted all 44,400 people out of poverty. The press briefing announced that in the past 10 years, Beijing and Jiangsu Province have strongly supported the development of Lhasa. The two successively selected 478 cadres and skilled personnel (including professional and technical personnel) to aid Tibet and disbursed 7.084 billion yuan of aid to Tibet.

Metok County inspected Delgon border defence village

May 26, 2022

Nyima Tsering, Deputy Head of Metok County, and a member of the County Party Committee went with a team to investigate over the relocation project and relocated people's living conditions at Delgon village, Beibeng town, Metok. The main purpose of the research investigation was to understand the current situation of people's production, and living standards, and to know people's true feelings and wishes. Nyima Tsering pointed out that implementation of the relocation is an important political task entrusted by Xi Jinping in his important exposition on Tibet work and a major decision-making arrangement of the Party Central Committee. The farmers and herdsman were told to earnestly study and understand the policies related to the relocation of the border areas, obey the party and government's arrangement, appreciate the party's gratitude, listen to the party's words, and follow the party.

Party Secretary of Shigatse inspects Dingri County

May 27, 2022

Penpa Tashi, Standing Member of TAR Shigatse Municipal Party Committee and Head of the United Front Work Department of Shigatse (Ch:Xigaze) conducted in-depth inspections for three days from 23-25, May 2022, in Dingri county to rectify and address problems found during "national forest inspections", and to evaluate the progress of Dingri airport construction. As part of the inspections, Penpa Tashi met "special groups" such as monks and nuns in monasteries and nunneries in border areas and "destitute and disabled" people in Chuthang (Ch:Qudang) Town. Penpa Tashi also inspected villages, other monasteries, and

instructed guidelines for border guarding and border protection work for monasteries located in the border areas.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Wang Yang visits Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture

May 26, 2022

Wang Yang, Politburo Standing Committee member and Chairman of the CPPCC, visited Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu from May 23 to 25. He inspected the nomadic area, schools, monasteries, and various other places in Kanlho. He also met important religious personages and groups to learn about the work related to ethnic and religious affairs in prefectures and counties with large Tibetan populations.

Wang Yang emphasized the necessity of thoroughly studying, understanding, and implementing the spirit of the Central Ethnic Work Conference, the National Religious Work Conference, and the Seventh Central Tibet Work forum, and fully implementing the party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era. He told them to improve their political position and adopt forward-looking strategies and ensure national security, social stability, national unity, and religious harmony. He told them to take practical actions to welcome the victory of the 20th Party Congress by ensuring the improvement of people's livelihood and cohesion of people's hearts.

Wang Yang said “Tibet-related work is of great importance, and the contradictions, risks and challenges on the way forward should not be underestimated. It is necessary to carry out in-depth anti-separatist struggles, and rely closely on the masses of all ethnic groups to build an iron wall for national security. It is necessary to solidly promote the cause of national unity and progress with the main line of consolidating the consciousness of the Chinese nation's community, deepening party history learning and popularising the common national language”. He further added that it is necessary to adhere to the direction of sinicization of religion in China, strengthen the management of religious affairs in accordance with the law, and improve the long-term mechanism for the management of Tibetan Buddhist temples. He asked them to strengthen building of a ‘team’ consisting of the party, government cadres and representatives of religious circles, who will be responsible for studying and guiding how Tibetan Buddhism can be better adapted to socialist society.

(Comment: (The names of the religious personages were not highlighted).

Drago County further faces the wrath of CCP, Sichuan

May 26, 2022

The Chinese government demolished a 99-foot tall Buddha statue in Drago County, Sichuan in December 2021, with several arrests related to the incidents. Monks were coerced to sign confession letters stating that they were responsible for demolishing the statues. The Drago people were called to give information about their relatives abroad, about their Covid vaccination status, phone number and social media account. They were told that if they fail to hand over required information, they will be removed from household registries and denied any state assistance they may be receiving from the government.

New information on the local security facilities in Drago County was also revealed. Drago is surrounded by three new security facilities as per the satellite image. One of these is an army base near the Shingchu River in the northern outskirts of Drago that was previously a Forestry Nursery Bureau. The second facility is an extra-legal detention centre known as a “re-education centre” that lies in the north-eastern suburbs of Tropa. This is where groups of detainees are taken by Chinese authorities and beaten. The third security facility is a prison in the southern area of Chigrey which appears to have been constructed to replace the county prison located in the centre of Drago.

China to electrify section of Qinghai-Xizang railway

May 25, 2022

China plans to electrify the Golmud-Lhasa section of the Qinghai-TAR Railway, starting from June 2022 with a total investment of 14.84 billion yuan (\$2.22 billion), as a major step to improve the railway’s efficiency. The project is expected to be completed within three years and the investment in the TAR section will be 7.21 billion yuan. The plan is expected to enhance the transportation capacity and service quality of the railway, while lowering costs and improving safety, reliability, and risk resistance, which will support China’s carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals.

The turnout replacement and signal system transformation for the section, a sub-project of the electrification, is going through the bidding process and other procedures with construction set to start in late June. The length of the Golmud-Lhasa section is 1,136 kilometres. There will be an up-gradation of passenger facilities in the Amdo, Nagchu and Damshung stations. Zhao Jian, a professor at Beijing Jiaotong University, told the Global Times that electrifying the line is expected to make the trains more efficient, as the electric locomotives will have more traction on the Tibetan Plateau than the current internal combustion locomotives, and they will reduce pollution.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

China condemns US Under Secretary's Tibetan meetings in Dharamsala

May 20, 2022

China (May 19) condemned the United States for what it said amounted to supporting Tibetan independence following reports that its Under Secretary and Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, Ms Uzra Zeya, had met with exile Tibetan leaders in Dharamsala, India.

Speaking at a daily news briefing on May 19, when asked to comment on a report that Ms Zeya will meet with the Dalai Lama as well and visit Tibetan communities in Nepal, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian urged the United States to take concrete actions to honour its commitment of acknowledging Tibet as part of China and stop meddling in China's internal affairs under the pretext of Tibet-related issues. Zhao has called the "Tibetan government-in-exile" an out-and-out separatist political group and an illegal organization violating China's Constitution and laws. He maintained that it is not recognized by any country in the world.

He was equally critical of the Dalai Lama, saying "The 14th Dalai Lama is a political exile disguised as a religious figure. He has long been engaging in anti-China separatist activities and attempting to split Tibet from China." Zhao called the appointment of the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues an interference in China's internal affairs. He has demanded that the United States take concrete actions to honour its commitment of acknowledging

Tibet as part of China and not supporting “Tibetan independence.” He has vowed that “China will continue to take necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and development interests.”

Ms Zeya spent three days in India, beginning May 17, including two in Dharamsala, and visited Nepal for three days in her capacity both as the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights and as the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues.
