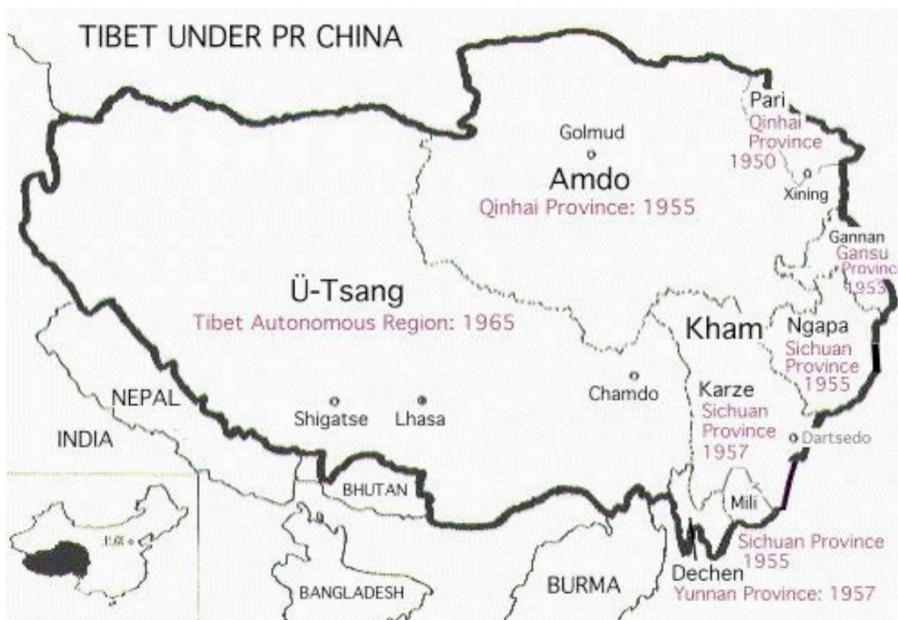
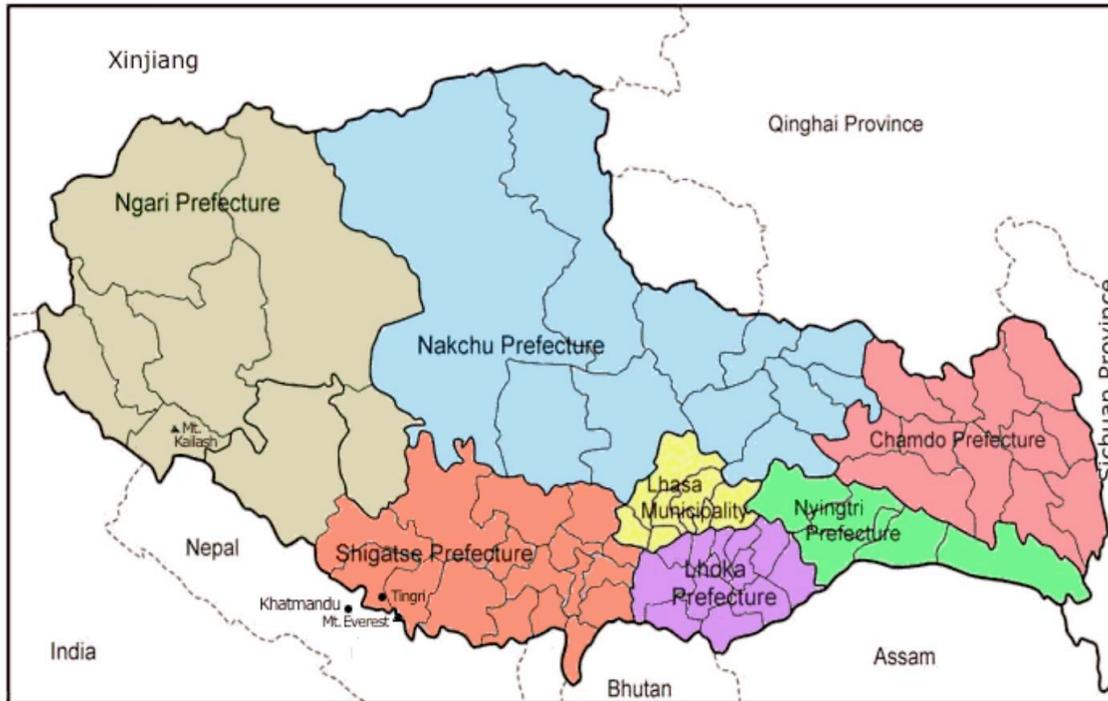




CCAS

Centre for China Analysis & Strategy
中国分析及策略中心

TIBET INSIGHT, 15 MAY-30 JUNE, 2019



TAR NEWS

President Bidhya Devi Bhandari meets top leaders of Tibet Autonomous Region

May 30, 2018

President Bidhya Devi Bhandari was received by Jiang Jie, Executive Vice-chairman of the Government of TAR and Consul General of Nepal Gobinda Bahadur Karkee on her nine-day visit to TAR at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Party Secretary of the Communist Party of China Committee of TAR of the People's Republic of China Wu Yingjie called on President Bhandari in Lhasa and discussed Nepal and TAR relations.

The President thanked the Government of TAR of China for its cooperation in resuming the Tatopani- Zhangmu border port next month, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

While expressing happiness over the signing of Protocol to the Agreement on Transit Transport recently, the president stressed the need to open more border points including Korala-Lizi, Hilsa-Burang and Kimathanka-Chentang for implementation of the agreement.

The party secretary thanked the Government of Nepal for its consistent One-China policy and also stressed the need to enhance practical cooperation in advancing projects under the Belt and Road initiative. He also assured the TAR Government's continued support for livelihood improvement in the northern districts of Nepal.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Chief Minister of Province 3 Dorman Poudel, Ambassador of Nepal to China, and members of the delegation were present from the Nepali side.

From the Chinese side, Chairman of the Government of the TAR Qi Zhala, Ambassador of China to Nepal and senior officials of the CPC and TAR Government were present.

TAR Chairman meets with US Ambassador to China

May 27, 2019

On May 22, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie met the US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad. Chairman of TAR People's Congress Lobsang Gyaltzen, Chairman of TAR People's Government Qizha la, Deputy Secretaries of TAR Party Committee, Ding Yexian, Lobsang Phuntsok, Pema Wangdui and Liu Jiang also attended the meeting.

The U.S. ambassador to China reportedly urged Beijing to engage in substantive dialogue with exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader the Dalai Lama and also “expressed concerns regarding the Chinese government’s interference in Tibetan Buddhists’ freedom to organize and practice their religion,” according to an embassy statement.

Branstad was reportedly given access to important religious and cultural sites, including the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple, Norbulingka, and Sera Monastery in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa. He also met with senior Tibetan religious and cultural leaders.

Tibetan Delegation to Sri Lanka

June 20, 2019

A Tibetan delegation of TAR People's Congress (NPC) paid a visit to Sri Lanka from June 12th to 14th. The delegation was headed by Cheng Siqu, Chairman of Shigatse Municipal People's Congress and TAR People's Congress. The Delegation held talks with Sri Lankan parliament members including the speaker of the Parliament, Karu Jayasuriya, Deputy Speaker J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri. Cheng gave an introduction of the “remarkable achievements made in Tibet’s political, economic, religious and social development since the Democratic Reform of Tibet in 1959.” He said that China and Sri Lanka should continue to cement friendship and strengthen beneficial cooperation to push forward the strategic cooperation between the two countries.

China-Nepal railway: fantasy or reality?

June 18, 2019

Rail route from Kyirong in Tibet to Kathmandu, has not been able to take off due to growing fears of debt, earthquakes and benefits bypassing local communities.

The border here only opened after the devastating Nepal earthquake in 2015 led to China closing the badly damaged Kodari route. It is also where the new railway – proposed as part of China’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – will enter Nepal from Tibet.

China prepared for Nepal a pre-feasibility study of the railway in 2018 and it suggested it was an extremely hard project, but not impossible. The Chinese study has not been made public despite the intense debate over what’s happening. The report lists “six extremes”: including topography, weather, hydrology and tectonics that will make the project hugely challenging, said Parajuli, who shared the findings of the report.

The proposed route also cuts through the mountains near a major fault line – where the Indian plate meets the Eurasian plate to form the Himalayas – so the area is very susceptible to earthquakes. Mitigating these risks means the project will cost far more than normal railways, Parajuli explained.

Timeline: Nepal’s BRI railway

2017 – Nepal and China signed a memorandum on Belt and Road cooperation ahead of first Belt and Road Forum.

2018 – Nepal formed two committees headed by the foreign secretary and finance secretary to propose projects for China to fund under BRI.

2018 – Nepal’s prime minister, K.P Oli, visited China and signed 14 bilateral agreements including on railway cooperation.

2018 – China conducted a pre-feasibility study for the cross border railway from Kerung to Kathmandu.

2019 – The Nepal-China cross-border railway was listed as part of the Trans-Himalayan connectivity network in the leaders' issued at the second BRI Forum in Beijing in April.

2019 – Nepal's government declared railway construction will start in the next two years during its budget speech, without allocating appropriate budget for a detailed study.

China 'dissatisfied' over comments on Kerung-Kathmandu Railway

June 23, 2019

China has expressed dissatisfaction over comments being made in Nepal over the Kyirong-Kathmandu Railway, Kantipur Daily reported. Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Hou Yanqi had expressed similar discontent at a press meet held in Kathmandu a few days back.

Nepal Army chief meets China's Defence Ministry; discusses plans to upgrade military ties

June 21, 2019

Nepal Army chief General Purna Chandra Thapa met China's Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe on June 20 and discussed plans to upgrade the military ties between the two neighbouring countries. Thapa was on a week-long official tour to China. He arrived in Beijing on June 16 on the invitation of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Nepal signed a transit treaty with China to use Chinese ports for its foreign trade in a bid to reduce dependence on Indian ports. Under the "one China" policy, Nepal for its part has been cracking down hard on Tibetans crossing into India through Nepal to meet their spiritual leader Dalai Lama. Wei stated the Chinese military's willingness to work with

the Nepalese side to maintain sound development momentum of bilateral military ties, step up long-term planning and top-level design of military cooperation and promote continuous consolidation, deepening and upgrading of the ties between the two militaries, the report said.

On 19th, he met the member of the Central Military Commission of China, Li Zuocheng, at the PLA headquarters in Beijing. During the meeting, an agreement was signed under which the PLA would provide a heavy mechanical bridge, explosive ordinance disposal equipment and rescue kits, worth 150 million Yuan, to Nepal under the humanitarian assistance and disaster management, Defense Ministry sources said in Kathmandu. The Chief of Army Staff of the Nepal Army also inspected the military structures of the PLA.

TAR to integrate “anti-separatism” drive with gang crime crackdown

June 18, 2019

China has intensified its crackdown on gang crimes in TAR as the country enters a key year in its strictest national campaign, while analysts said such crimes are usually related to separatist forces in the region.

Zhu Weiqun, leader of an inspection team sent to Tibet, said at a briefing that the campaign against gang crimes in Tibet had made progress, according to a statement released on the Lhasa government website on June 18. The inspection team to Tibet was among the ten sent by central authorities from late May to early June to provincial-level regions, including Beijing, Shaanxi and Heilongjiang, marking the inspection coverage of all provincial-level regions in China, the Xinhua News Agency reported. China launched a three-year campaign against gang crimes in January 2018.

Nyingchi Inaugurates Retired Military Service Centre

May 28, 2019

On May 28, Nyingchi held the unveiling ceremony of the retired military service centre. The Vice Mayor and Municipal Public Security Director Ren Weidong attended the unveiling ceremony.

According to Ren Weidong, the establishment of the service support agency for retired military personnel is a major strategic decision made by the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core for the country's overall cause. It is a powerful means of strengthening the service guarantee of retired military personnel and bringing together their dreams with the national dream.

Lhoka held its first National Security Work Meeting

May 16, 2019

Lhoka (Shannan) held its first meeting of the National Security Committee of the Municipal Party Committee to convey the spirit of the first meeting of the 19th Central National Security Committee and the first plenary meeting of the National Security Committee of the District Party Committee.

The meeting stressed that all counties, districts and departments should firmly adhere to the "four consciousness", strengthen "four self-confidence", and achieve "two maintenances", and all should earnestly study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's and the Party Central Committee's important exposition on national security work. The District Party Committee decided to deploy and implement the overall national security concept, and unify the thoughts and actions of the Party Central Committee, and District Party Committees. The meeting stressed that the political security is the foundation of national security, and it is paramount importance to strengthen the sense of governance, carry out anti-separatist struggles in-depth, strictly guard against and resolutely crack down on various separatist activities that could sabotage the political security.

Forty Monks received Thorampa title from China's Tibetan Buddhism College

May 20, 2019

On May 20th, the 15th 'Geshe Thorampa' advanced academic title and the 5th teacher certification ceremony was held in Beijing by China's Senior Tibetan Buddhism College. This year it has 40 applicants from three different sects of Tibetan Buddhism (Gelug, Sakya and Kagyu sect). It is the 15th advanced academic title since its inception in 2004. The ceremony was attended by the leaders of the Central United Front Work Department, the State Administration of Religious Affairs, and the Chinese Buddhist Association and, Higher Buddhist College of the Chinese Department of Tibetan Studies.

Jia Mu, the Vice President of China's Buddhist Association, conferred the certificates, and he also delivered a speech. On the same day, the Higher Buddhist college of China, Tibetan Language Department awarded eight monks of the title of seniors teachers qualified to take any religious teachings in higher Buddhist Colleges.

In 15 years, the Senior Tibetan Buddhism College conferred 'Thorampa' title to 208 monks from three sects. Thorampa is the highest level of degree in Buddhism in the practice of Gelug sects. On May 21st, they were given a special audience with Panchen Gyaltzen Norbu.

Zhu Weiqun reacts to U.S ambassador's remarks on Negotiation with Dalai Lama

May 29, 2019

The United States' ambassador to China Terry Branstad visited Qinghai Tibet area and the Tibetan Autonomous Region. The media from China highlighted that Branstad made positive remarks on the economic and social development in TAR. The Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said, "The ambassador has also been briefed about the central government's policies concerning contact and dialogue with the 14th Dalai Lama, as well as foreigners' access to Tibet". He also reiterated China's firm opposition to any foreign interference in Tibet related affairs and China's international matters to Ambassador

Branstad remarks that Beijing should engage in substantive dialogue with exiled Tibetan leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

China orders to change Tibetan architecture Monastery and Temples

May 30, 2019

With increasing restrictions and surveillance in monastery inside Tibet, on May 13th, the National Bureau and Religious Affairs Bureau of Du'an Yao county warned that the 'main hall should meet 'Han Buddhist principles' within ten days'. And the authorities said that the architecture of the main hall in Anfu Buddhist temple in China violates "Han Buddhist principles" and must be "rectified," reported Tibet Watch after obtaining a local government order stating the same.

On 23 May the Weibin District Buddhist Association of Weibin District in Shaanxi Province, north China, issued a similar notice to monasteries under its jurisdiction with backing from the government. The order in Weibin called for Buddhist objects of worship with Tibetan designs like the Tibetan Vajra Bell, prayer wheels with Tibetan mantras and Tibetan prayer flags to be banned in the district. The Chinese government tries to Sinicize Tibetan Buddhism in every aspect.

The TAR Discipline Inspection reports three cases of violation of the eight central provisions

June 8, 2019

On the onset of the dragon board festival, the authorities imposed stricter rules for the implementation of the eight central provisions. To clean up a festive atmosphere, the TAR Discipline Inspection Committee reported three typical cases of party members for the violation of the said provisions.

Liu Chengli, a former Party Secretary of the Nyingchi city's Science and Technology Bureau, was charged for illegally distributing the subsidies. From December 2012 to

December 2016, Liu Chungli was the Deputy Secretary and the Director of the Party Committee of the Science and Technology Bureau of Linzhi. There was an overdue of 270,420,000-yuan subsidies in the village from January 2013 to December 2016. In 2013, the illegal reimbursement of reception fees and scenic spot ticket fees was 130.89 million yuan; from June 2014 to September 2016, the use of labour union funds was illegally paid to pay for unit work and reception of meals, totalling 12.32 million Yuan. Apart from this, they said that he was also charged with several other disciplinary actions. In December 2018, Liu Chengli was severely punished by the party and the disciplinary funds were charged.

Migmar Dorjee, the Director of the Ali National Bureau, was also charged with the illegal use of the subsidies.

Sonam Tashi, the Deputy Director of the (Lhoka) Shannan Center for Disease Control and Prevention was also accused of issuing illegal subsidies and benefits to the people.

Lhokha progresses on Zhouyu Water Reservoir

June 6, 2019

According to the latest report, the Lhoka (Shannan) Zhuoyu Reservoir Project Department updated that the dam construction is progressing smoothly. This 190 million Yuan project was inaugurated in September 2018.

Zhouyu reservoir is located at the left tributary of Zhanang of Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo), Zhuoyu Village, Lhoka. The project claims to bring tangible economic, social, and ecologically sustainable development, said Passang, the Deputy Director of Shannan Water Resource Bureau and head of the project.

Gongduoding tunnel completed for Sichuan-Tibet Railway, Nyingchi

June 9, 2019

The construction of Gongduoding tunnel, the third-longest tunnel on the Sichuan-Tibet Railway's Lhasa-Nyingchi section was completed in June 2019. The Lhasa-Nyingchi railway section, 435.48 kilometres in length, is an important section that will link Tibet's capital of Lhasa and Chengdu, capital of neighbouring Sichuan Province.

Gyaltsen Norbu, the Chinese Panchen Lama's first visit abroad

June 11, 2019

Gyaltsen Erdi Norbu, the Chinese appointed Panchen Lama made his first visit to Thailand. This is his second visit outside Tibet and China. He gave a speech at a Buddhist University in Bangkok and attended some other religious events and exchanges.

The Panchen Lama said in an interview that the trip made him “feel the greatness of the motherland and the profound cultural heritage of the Chinese people,” and expressed gratitude to the CCP for leading China to greatness and prosperity. The article also reported that when he saw the Buddha's compassion promoting social harmony in Thailand, the Panchen Lama stressed his role and responsibility to guide Chinese and especially Tibetan Buddhism to “better and more quickly adapt to socialist society with Chinese characteristics, continuously adhere to the sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism, maximize the positive role of religion, and contribute to safeguarding the motherland's reunification and national unity.”

Exhibition held on Living Buddha's Reincarnation, Lhasa

June 13, 2019

On 12th June' the Tibet Cultural Museum of the Tibetology Research Center of China, the Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association, and the TAR carried out a special session on “four standards”. Drupkhang Thupten Khendrup, and Sonam Renzeng, the Vice-chairmen of the Tibet Autonomous Region, CPPCC, attended the meeting.

According to reportage of China Tibetan News Network, it was to deepen further the education practices of 'adhering to four standards and striving to become advanced monks and nuns'. The Office of the Educational Practice Activities Group jointly held a special exhibition on the reincarnation of living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism at the Tibet Buddhist College.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Wang Yang visits Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan

May 28, 2019

Wang Yang, a member of Politburo Standing Committee and Chairman of CPPCC, visited Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture on 28th May 2019. During his three day visits, he stressed on the need to curb separatists, maintain normal religious practices and alleviate poverty in Sichuan province.

He visited various places under Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture including Serta Larung Gar. This is his second visit to Tibet after August 2018 when he visited capital Lhasa, and Chamdo and inspected major monasteries. He also met with Panchen Lama last week in Beijing.

Golog imposes Chinese as medium instruction in Schools, Qinghai

May 22, 2019

According to a new order issued in may 2019 by the authorities of Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, the medium of instruction in the primary and middle school would be Chinese instead of Tibetan.

Qinghai province tried to introduce a similar policy in 2010, which was halted after protests by school students in Golog, Chabcha, and Rebgong counties. As per minority policy rule, teaching is allowed in he minorities ethnic language in order to encourage

preservation of the regional ethnic languages and this order is in violation of the earlier policy.

Golmud Airport opens the first freighter charter transport

June 12, 2019

On June 1, Air China B757-200F freighter landed at Golmud Airport, marking the opening of a new chapter in the transport of a freighter charter flight. On the same day, Golmud Airport's peak hour guarantee flights exceeded four sorties, a record high.

Yushu Airport Reconstruction and Expansion Project receives approval

June 13, 2019

The National Development and Reform Commission approved the feasibility study report of the reconstruction and expansion project of Yushu Airport. The project is designed to meet the target of 130, 000 passengers, 2,600 tons of cargo and mail throughput in 2030. The project intends to expand station platform, construction of a vertical contact road, construction of a 5,700 square meter terminal and two boarding bridges, supporting communication, meteorology, supply station of water, heat, power, oxygen, and other auxiliary facilities.

Karze Gesar Airport completes flight test verification

June 13, 2018

The Karze Gesar Airport's construction started in June 2017 is one of the major projects of Ganzi Prefecture's 'Traffic First' strategy. The airport is located at the junction of Lima town, Ganzi county and Dege county. It is about fifty-two kilometres from Ganzi and 152 from Dege and is situated 4,068 meters above the sea level.

On 13th, Sichuan Airlines Verification Test Aircraft Group carried out its test. The verification test confirmed that the airport now has the capability and conditions to ensure

normal operation, and had laid a solid foundation for smooth navigation. The test aircraft type was Airbus A319, and the test flight route was from Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport to Ganzi Gesar Airport.

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

Taiwanese President accused of denying a visa to Dalai Lama

June 06, 2019

Taiwan News reported on June 5 that Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and Uyghur activist Rebiya Kadeer had been denied a visa to attend a conference organized by the Taiwan International Religious Freedom Forum in Hsinchu. The report said that while several religious groups had confirmed the news of the Dalai Lama and Kadeer being denied entry into Taiwan, the country's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) denied receiving a visa application for the Dalai Lama.

The report also said that in an attempt to explain to the Dalai Lama why his invitation was revoked, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had sent representatives to visit him in Dharamshala, India, in mid-May.

Two Nepali MPs' Express Regret for Attending International Lawmakers' Tibet Conference

May 21, 2019

Subjected to overwhelming pro-China battering by the government and media, two Parliamentarians of Nepal; Mr Ekwel Miyan and Mr Pradip Yadav, have expressed regret for having attended the 7th World Parliamentarians' Convention on Tibet, which was held in Latvia's capital Riga on May 7-10. The event was organized by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile in association with Latvian Parliamentary Support Group for Tibet and International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet.

-----END OF REPORT-----