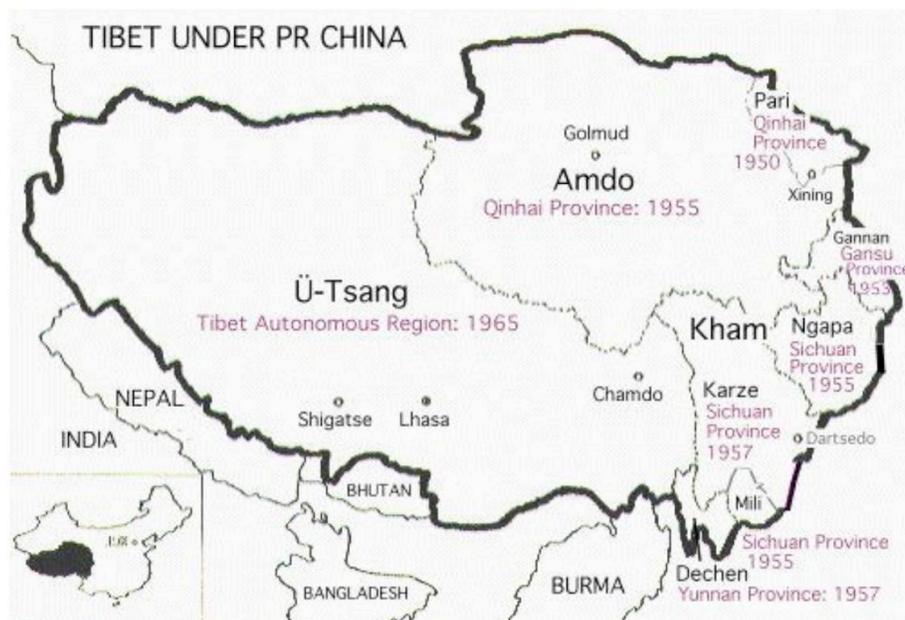
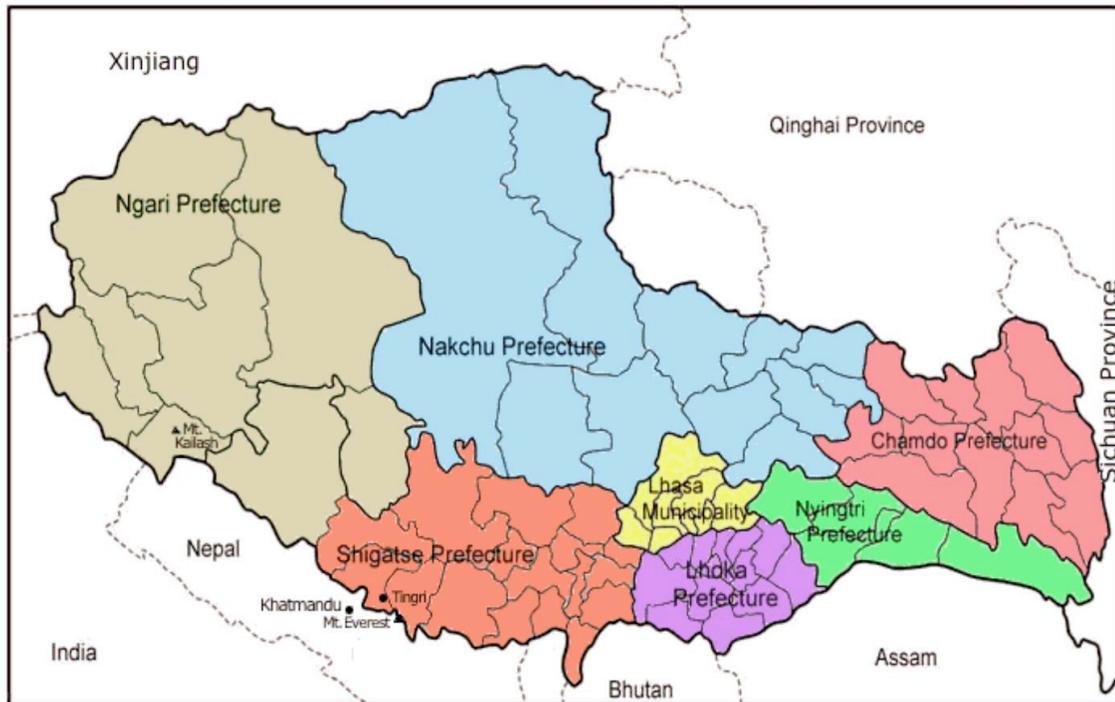




**TIBET INSIGHT, FEBRUARY 15-28, 2018**



## TAR NEWS

### **NPC Preparation Sessions for TAR Delegates**

February 26, 2018

A ‘study and learning’ session was held in Lhasa on February 24, 2018 for the TAR’s delegates to the NPC and CPPCC meetings being held in Beijing from March 2. The meeting was presided over by Zhen Wanming, member of the TAR CP CC Standing Committee and Minister of the TAR Organization Department and also spoke to the TAR delegates. Pasang Tashi, Member of TAR Party Committee and Propaganda Department, Duo Tuo, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of NPC, and Lobsang Gyurme, Vice Chairman of TAR Political Consultative Conference spoke on the spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress and relevant issues concerning TAR. The study session was held also to study the implementation of relevant laws/articles associated with the NPC and CPPCC, the Chinese Constitution and political system under the leadership of CCP. The session emphasised the role, responsibilities, and obligations of the delegates.

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie also spoke at the study session. He pointed out that one should hold the “banner of Xi Jinping’s Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new era high”, ensure loyalty and unity to the party, and perform duties with the correct political attitude and according to law. The Party Secretary exhorted the delegates to “safeguard the authority of the CCP CC with Xi Jinping as the core” and promote concrete actions for a “unified leadership.” He stressed the importance of creating a “good image” of the party among the masses, strengthening of “confidentiality mechanisms” and presentation of a “good image of Tibet” at the meetings in Beijing. He urged the delegates from Tibet to stress the development of Tibet and “present the etiquette that Tibet has shown immense” and the “earth-shaking positive changes” since the 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress and under the leadership of Xi Jinping.

### **Security Vigilance Conference ahead of tenth anniversary of 2008**

February 22, 2018

The TAR Security Maintenance Headquarters held a videoconference on February 21 to finalise security

work arrangements. All departments in TAR were mandated to maintain a high degree of vigilance, order and stability. The Member of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of TAR Politics and Law Committee, He Wenhao, chaired the meeting and directed the PLA soldiers and officers, armed police officers, political police officers and cadres stationed in the monasteries/nunneries and villages to give priority to social stability and security maintenance rather than to family reunion gatherings, festivals etc as, he said, “at present, the stability maintenance work is fragile.” He specifically emphasised the need to maintain political vigilance.

### **TAR Public Security Bureau Officials Inspections**

February 17, 2018

Ahead of the Tibetan New Year (Losar), on February 14, 2018 Liu Jiang, Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee, Deputy Secretary of TAR Political and Legal Committee, Director of TAR Public Security Department and Lobsang Tendar, Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee and Deputy Secretary of TAR Public Security Department, along with an entourage of officials inspected public Security Checkpoints and the Potala Palace Square and met police officers on duty.

Liu Jiang and team inspected the attendance of on-duty officers, police arrangements, public and personal vehicles. He urged duty officers to strictly follow party discipline, speed up inspections and strengthen party credibility.

A day prior to the inspection on February 13 Liu Jiang and Hong Li, Director of the TAR Political Department and member of the TAR Public Security Bureau went to meet four retired members of the Bureau. Wu Jin, (ethnicity: Han) Former Deputy Director of TAR Public Security Department, Ma Jin Shan (ethnicity: Chinese), former Deputy Director and member of TAR Public Security Bureau, Pasang (ethnicity: Tibetan) and Lobsang Tashi (ethnicity: Tibetan). Liu Jiang wished them for Losar and thanked them for their contributions for the maintenance of public security in Tibet and continued support in maintaining public order.

### **Inspections and Quarantine Department told to remember Xi's response to a letter from Yumai**

February 22, 2018

Lobsang Tenzin, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government and a team of TAR officials inspected Gonggar Airport and met concerned officials on February 21. After examining their work report, the Vice Chairman reiterated the responsibilities of the entry-exit and quarantine department at Gonggar Airport and emphasized the importance of economic development embedded with security and stability maintenance. He told the officials on duty to remember General Secretary Xi Jinping's reply to a letter sent by a Tibetan family (two daughters and a father) during the 19th Party Congress from Yumai township of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan). He added, "Like the family, be the guardian of Tibet, safeguard the country from "epidemics, pests" and other nuisances".

Gonggar airport is about 62 kilometres (39 mi) southwest of the city in Gonggar County of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan).

### **Tibet opened the first military and civilian share all cargo routes**

February 11, 2018

On January 27, a B757 all-cargo passenger aircraft landed at Gonggar Airport in Lhasa, marking the first cargo-to-cargo route officially put into operation and operated jointly by the Tibet Military Region's Security Department and local logistics enterprises.

Military units of the Tibet Military Region's Protection Department are carrying transportation missions to and fro the two "sky roads" of Qinghai-Tibet and Sichuan-Tibet all year round. In the case of avalanches and mudslides, post-loading replenishment is prone to delay. Earlier this year, the Department of Transportation and Shipping Department affiliated to the ministry actively negotiated with the local logistics enterprises and signed the "Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation for the Integration of Peasants and Men." The two sides conducted in-depth cooperation in the fields of "transportation of living materials and distribution of military supplies" and other fields so as to ensure the timely delivery of replenishments to the plateau after land transport has been delayed or interrupted.

According to reports, after the civil-military common-cargo route was put into operation, military supplies and materials transportation and distribution efficiency has effectively improved, and fruit and vegetables are delivered to some units the next day.

### **TAR Party Secretary in Nyingtri**

February 24, 2018

From February 21 to February 23, TAR Party Secretary and the First Secretary of the Tibetan Military Region Wu Yingjie went to Metok county in Nyingtri for conducting field investigations on the implementation of the ‘spirit of the 19th Party Congress’, construction of well-off villages in the border area, safeguarding social stability, building grassroots organisations, promoting economic development, ecological conservation and implementation of decision-making by the Central Party Committee and the district party committees. He personally visited people living in the most remote areas in the region, grass-roots cadres, workers who stayed for duty during the Losar holiday season, the border guards and soldiers stationed in Metok County and celebrated the New Year with them. Deputy Director of the TAR People’s Congress and Nyingtri Party Secretary Ma Shengchang accompanied the investigation team.

While visiting the border guards and soldiers in Metok, Wu Yingjie said he hopes that all frontier defence officers and soldiers will “arm their minds with Xi Jinping's strong military ideology” and inherit and carry forward the fine traditions. All actions should follow the instructions of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the Central Party Committee and the Central Military Commission. The army should be strengthened to build its armed forces faithfully, perform its duties faithfully, strengthen national unity and promote integration of civilians and civilians, consolidate mass foundation, guarantee harmony and stability, and earnestly build a solid foundation for safeguarding the harmonious and stable border areas and become a loyal guardian of the motherland and the people.

Briefly, the main points of his speech in the area were as follows:

- • First, “we must consistently accord with the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core in the political stance, political direction, political principles and political path.”
- • “We must unswervingly promote economic and social development.”
- • “we must go all out to ensure the overall social stability and harmony.”
- • “we must unswervingly strengthen ecological civilization, and
- • “we must speedily and strictly promote the party”.

### **State Ethnic Commission’s Tibet Research Group investigates border counties**

February 01, 2018

The Tibet Research group led by the Vice Head of the State Ethnic Commission Shi Yugang thoroughly investigated the border regions of Longzi and Metok County of Nyingtri Precture. The Regional Party Organization Vice Secretary and government consultant accompanied the investigating team along with the TAR Religion Committee Party Organization Secretary.

**Spare no effort to frame new chapter of Aid Tibet work** (a narrative on the cadre's aid Tibet work in 2017)

February 01, 2018

A narrative by a cadre on the aid Tibet work in 2017 was publicised by the official Tibet media. His main points were:

- • Grasp ideological responsibility, strive to be powerful catalyst for harmony and stability
- • Integrate resources and create “New engine” for social and economic development
- • Improve people’s livelihood and bring their hearts together, focus on the starting point and present the foothold of Aid Tibet work

**More than 400 college students who joined police force rush to frontier region**

February 23, 2018

College students who joined Public Security Border Forces in 2017 recently rushed to the frontier regions after completing their training in the Xinjiang training centre. After over five months training more than 400 recent graduates from more than 100 higher institutions successfully accomplished the transformation from a ‘local youth’ to a ‘qualified border defense police officer’, and they will be at the frontier basic units to make contribution.

These students have reported to 10 border units in Xinjiang, Yunnan, Tibet, Inner Mongolia, Jilin and 10 other border corps. During the 5-month training, these college students have mastered basic border security law enforcement and frontier inspection and acquired knowledge in the aspects of ideological politics, military training, border management, frontier inspection and police combat skills.

**TAR Public Security Department appeals to masses to inform against evil forces having**

## connection with Dalai Lama group

February 10, 2018

The TAR Public Security Department circulated the 'spirit' of the "Notice on the special struggle of sweeping out and eradicating evil forces", issued nationwide by the CCP CC and State Council on January 11, 2018. People were requested to enthusiastically report cases and clues of evil forces and crimes in order to further promote the special struggle to eradicate crime, to ensure that people live and work in peace and contentment, to ensure social harmony and stability and to achieve national stability. Hongkong's Ming Pao separately reported on February 13, 2018 that the CCP Central Committee and PRC State Council issued a circular in January month urging the entire nation to launch a "special campaign to eliminate the evil in black" and move rapidly around the country. It said Tibet's public security authorities had a week earlier begun collecting reports, including on the "evil forces" associated with the Dalai Lama group.

(Comment: Earlier on July 7, the Tibet Public Security Bureau issued a circular titled "Clues to Report Illegalities and Crimes by Sinister Persons," which listed the contents of 22 reports, of which 3 related to the "Dalai Clique". These referred to "colluding with the Dalai Clique to accept control and participate in the separatist activities; speaking "In the name of economy, people's livelihood, environmental protection, folklore and culture but actually serving as the so-called" spokesperson "of the masses and "spokesperson "of the Dalai clique and the hostile forces outside China; and illegally collecting funds, raising funds, imposing fines and imposing mandatory sacrifices on the people to take the opportunity to accumulate wealth and provide funds to the Dalai clique." The CCP CC and State Council circular described demands such as "the middle road" and "mother tongue protection" as reactionary thinking and narrow-minded nationalist ideologies. The report also referred to "threats to political security, especially regime security, institutional security and the infiltration of the evil forces into the political sphere" and "using the temple as a backyard, using religious control, demagoging, instigating and holding hostages against the government and the evil forces at the grassroots level such as administration, judiciary and education". It said compared with other places, the public security in Tibet places more emphasis on crimes that threaten political security.)

## **Protest by Tibetan intellectuals on legal and political issues affecting Tibetans**

117 Tibetan intellectuals published a letter on Trimleng, an important forum for discussion particularly on legal and policy issues affecting Tibetans in Tibet, on January 11, 2018, pointing out that: "The failure to use the Tibetan language by the People's courts at various Tibetan autonomous levels violates the obligation for autonomous regions to use the Tibetan language in their offices as laid out in the Constitution of the country, the Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law, regulations on learning and use of the Tibetan language by the Tibet Autonomous Region, and regulations of the ten Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures on the issue of Tibetan language." The Hongkong-based South China Morning Post cited the letter as saying that China's Constitution states "all nationalities have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages." The appeal also highlighted their concern over the case of Tashi Wangchuk and said that for "merely voicing his opinion that the judicial and administrative offices like the Yulshul People's Court and government are not using Tibetan, Tashi Wangchuk has been arrested by judicial office and levelled charges" and that "there is not a single Tibetan word on the websites of the of the Intermediate People's Court and the government of the Yulshul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture."

Separately, a group of 15 internationally known scholars and professors on Tibet, from France, the UK, US, Czech Republic, Canada and Australia called for clemency for Tashi Wangchuk in a letter published in the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong on February 8 (2018). This follows expressions of concern and support for Tashi Wangchuk from German and Latvian Parliamentarians, and an emergency resolution by the European Parliament.

(Comment: A new generation of Tibetan intellectuals, particularly in the eastern Tibetan area of Amdo, are seeking to counter this threat, and finding new ways to do so by framing their arguments within the context of Chinese laws and regulations. 90 per cent of the Tibetans who wrote the letter are from Amdo, with 10 per cent from Kham, and none listed as being from central Tibet, or U-Tsang.)

## **First batch of 203 Tibetan and Chinese bilingual personnel to serve in mainland China**

February 23, 2018

On completion recently of exams for Tibetan-Chinese bilingual civil servants held recently by Tibetan

provinces and some central authorities in Tibet, the first batch of 203 Tibetan and Chinese bilingual talents will go to the mainland to serve as civil servants. This is the first time that Tibet has set up a special examination system with the mainland for civil servants so that Tibetan college graduates build a platform for employment in mainland.

### **National Development and Reform Commission provides 800 Million Yuan as support to ethnic groups**

February 16, 2018

The National Development and Reform Commission recently provided 800 million Yuan in the central budget for 13 provinces to support infrastructure, basic public service facilities, ecological environment protection and human settlements in administrative villages inhabited by ethnic groups with low populations. The funds are also for the construction of 4 territories of the ethnic minority's cultural inheritance.

The 13 provinces are Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Fujian, Jiangxi, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang. With the completion of related projects, using the investment and following implementation of the "Thirteenth Five-Year plan" for promoting the development of ethnic areas and ethnic minorities of low populations, it is hoped to ensure more coordinated development, more enriched life, better environment and more harmonious society in the ethnic minority regions.

### **CHAMDO NEWS (CH: QAMDO/CHANGDU)**

#### **Party Secretary meets retired cadres and briefs on development in Chamdo**

February 06, 2018

Party Secretary of Chamdo, Abu (ethnicity: Muslim), held a forum for one hundred and fifty retired cadres and workers' representatives residing in Lhasa, and briefed them on recent economic and social developments and future prospects for Chamdo. Chamdo Municipal Party Committee's Mayor Chen Jun presided over the forum. Chamdo Municipal People's Congress Chairman Kunchok Gyaltsen and Chamdo Municipal Committee members Li Bin and Xu Huirong attended the forum.

Party Secretary Abu thanked the retired cadres and workers' representatives for their long-term contributions to stability and development in Chamdo. He added that the year 2017 was an unusual and tough year for Chamdo but despite that the Chamdo Municipal Party Committee and People's Government was able to lead the 780,000 cadres and people of all nationalities satisfactorily with "care and concern of the strong leadership of CCP Central Committee President Xi Jinping and TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie." He asserted that Chamdo is further determined to study, publicize and implement Xi Jinping's Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new era vigorously and his strategic thinking concerning Tibet.

Abu added that the total output value of entire Chamdo was 18 billion Yuan, an increase of 21.7% over the previous year and investment in fixed assets reached 28.2 billion yuan. He said the per capita income of farmers and herdsmen has increased. Abu listed the achievements as: major developments to improve traffic bottlenecks, second runway for Bomda Airport in Chamdo has been completed and put into operation, and a large number of transport infrastructures/projects such as Sichuan-Tibet Railway, Airport Expressway, Zhujiao-Loashan tunnel are being constructed or about to be implemented. Airports, highways and airlines transport networks are being given priority. He said there other achievements in Chamdo in education and healthcare undertakings. Enrolment of primary and high schools have skyrocketed, number of students appearing for college exams has reached a record high, health and medical services covering both urban and rural areas have intensified, grassroot organizations have been further strengthened, and living conditions have improved.

Abu emphasised that the veteran cadres and old party comrades are "precious assets" for the Party, and said their loyalty and dedication are always important and urged them to organize "meaningful activities."

The veteran cadres and representatives issued a statement after the forum saying they will continue to support the principles and policies of the CCP Central Committee, TAR authorities and for long term peace and stability.

**NGARI (Ch: Ali)**

**TAR Discipline Inspection Committee in Ngari**

January 26, 2018

Member of TAR Discipline Inspection Committee Pasang Dolma and her entourage conducted an inspection tour of Ngari's Burang and Tsaza (Ch: Zanda) County, met local authorities and held discussions and listened to work reports on the pilot projects and gave guidance to the "problems and difficulties facing them."

Pasang Dolma stated that all levels of Departments in Ngari Prefecture should be aware of the decision-making arrangements of the TAR Party Committee, CCP Central Committee and especially the rules and responsibilities mandated by the Discipline Inspection Commission. She strongly spoke against corrupt practices and urged officials to lead in implementing the spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress. She further added that it should be of utmost importance for the local authorities to get acquainted with rules and regulations of the discipline inspection committee and improve "overall ability", strengthen Party building in grassroot levels and anti-corruption practices and punish those indulging in corruption.

## **SHIGATSE NEWS (CH: RIKAZE/XIGAZE)**

### **TAR People's Government head visits Shigatse**

February 24, 2018

From February 22 to February 23, Qi Zhala aka Chedak la the Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman TAR People's Government, went to Shigatse to conduct research on the construction of irrigation and water conservancy facilities. TAR People's Government Vice Chairman Jian Shen and the Party Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Zhang Yangqing accompanied the Chairman.

The team visited and consulted front-line cadres and workers who stayed on duty during the Losar festival. They visited the largest water conservancy projects in the region namely the Laura Water Control Project. The project integrates farmland irrigation and power generation in one, which the authorities say is conducive for "promoting ecological protection, power supply and flood control".

The team later convened a meeting with city officials in which Qi zhala aka Chedak la emphasised the need to hold high the great banner of Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era

and study and implement the spirit of the 19th Party Congress in depth. He asked them to work in line with the work requirements of the Central Committee's decision-making and deployment and the autonomous region and vigorously implement the "sacred land guardian and happy home builder" strategy and pull up their sleeves to work hard and make concerted efforts to create a new situation in the development of various undertakings in the new era so that all ethnic groups will live a happier and healthier life.

Shigatse Party Secretary Zhang Yanqing briefed them on the work report of Shigatse and said that in the next step, the Municipal Government will always adhere to Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics as a guide. In accordance with the requirements of the party committees and governments in the autonomous region, they should unite and lead the 800,000 cadres and people of all ethnic groups in the city, strive to overcome difficulties, tackle three major issues concerning development, stability and ecology of Shigatse and further strengthen measures to eliminate poverty.

## **ACTIVITIES OF TIBETANS INSIDE AND ABROAD**

China's state media said a fire broke out on February 16, at one of the most sacred sites for Tibetan Buddhism in Lhasa, the 1300-year old Jokhang temple, but no casualties were reported. The extent of damage remains unclear. The state-run Tibet Daily added that Tibet's Party Secretary Wu Yingjie had rushed to the scene. The official Xinhua news agency said the fire began at 6:40pm but was soon put out.

Images of the blaze posted on social media showed the eave roof of a section of the building alight with roaring yellow flames and emitting a haze of smoke. But on Twitter, which is blocked in China, Tibetans abroad noted that photos and posts about the fire were quickly being censored. Robert Barnett, a London-based Tibetologist, tweeted that sources in Lhasa "claim police have threatened anyone distributing pictures or unofficial news about the fire."

Interestingly, Jamyang Tashi, Deputy Party Secretary Party of TAR Party Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government; Pema Wangdue, Minister of TAR United Front Work Department; the Party Secretary of Lhasa and Li Shizhong, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Tibet Military

Region along with some other officials inspected the implementation of stability maintenance and service management measures in Lhasa in the wee hours of the first day of Losar before the outbreak of the fire.

(*Comments:* Tsering Wooser, a poet/blogger and activist based in Beijing who is a frequent blogger on Tibet issues responded sarcastically to CTA accounts of the incident. She said sarcastically that “due to long years of exile, the Tibetans in the Diaspora including CTA has forgotten what/how Jokhang is look like or structured”. She implied the, “Jokhang was destroyed by the fire”.)

**India’s Ministry of External affairs claims no change in policy amid report of leaders and senior officials being asked to avoid Tibetan ‘Thank You India’ events**

March 02, 2018

The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated on March 02 that India's stand on Tibet remains "clear and consistent." The clarification follows reports that the Centre had advised senior ministers and bureaucrats to stay away from the 'Thank You India' events being organised by Tibetan leaders. The MEA official said, "India's position on the Dalai Lama is clear and consistent. He is a revered religious leader and is deeply respected by the people of India. There is no change in that position. His Holiness is accorded all freedom to carry out his religious activities in India,"

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