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TAR NEWS

Lhuntse County conducted three consciousness education meetings for the religious community

January 6, 2022

Lhuntse (Ch: Longzi) County, Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) held a meeting to promote the "Three Consciousnesses" education of the religious community. Norbu Tashi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Lhuntse County Party Committee and Director of the Lhuntse UWFD and Ye Cuoji, Executive Vice Minister of the County UWFD, presided over the meeting. It was attended by members of the county "Three Consciousnesses" Education Leading Group, the Party Secretaries of eleven Temple Management Committees, cadres, and staff of various cooperatives and industrial units.

The supervision team had successive in-depth discussions with the eleven Monastic Management Committees and reviewed how the monastic community understands the development of the "Three Consciousnesses" education campaign. The supervision team told the Temple Management Committees to implement the following strictly:

1. The foremost thing is to unify the ideological understanding. All Monastic Management Committees should fully understand the significance of the in-depth "Three Consciousnesses" education campaign in the religious community, resolutely shoulder their political responsibilities, and earnestly unify their thoughts and actions into decision-making and deployments.
2. They should strengthen theoretical learning. Party members and cadres of the Temple Management Committees should conscientiously study and understand the spirit of the

"Three Consciousnesses" education-related meetings and leadership instructions, study and master ethnic and religious-related policies and regional publicity outlines.

3. They should strengthen the implementation of the work. The focus should be on the main points of monthly work, taking the regular promotion of the "Four Standards" education practice activities as an opportunity, implement multiple measures to educate people in the religious community to enhance national awareness, citizenship and the sense of the rule of law, and promote religious obedience, social harmony and national harmony.

Gongkar County conducted an evaluation meeting for the Party Secretaries of the Temple Management Associations

January 5, 2023

Gongkar (Ch: Gongga) County, Lhoka, held a debriefing and evaluation meeting on grassroots party-building work for the Secretaries of the Monastic Management Committees of last year on January 2023. It was attended by members of the Standing Committee of Gongkar County Party Committee, Ministers of the UWFD Department, and Secretaries of the party organisation of the Temple Management Committee. The evaluation meeting was mainly to review the work of the Monastic Management Committees in 2022.

At the meeting, the Party Branch Secretaries of the 12 Temple Management Associations submitted a written record of their grassroots party-building work. Dawa Tsering, a Minister of the County UWFD, reviewed and commented on each report. The meeting pointed out that in 2022, the Party Organization Secretaries of the Monastic Management Committees had conscientiously studied, publicised and implemented Xi Jinping's Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the spirit of the 19th NPC and 20th NPC and studied and implemented General Secretary Xi Jinping's work on Tibet. Dawa Tsering told them that “it is necessary to instruct others on the Party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era, promote the continuous development of all the work of grassroots party organisations, and ensure religious obedience, social harmony and national harmony”.

The meeting also required them to take learning, publicising and implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China as their primary political tasks, effectively arm their minds with the Party's theory, and constantly improve the ability of the Party members to perform their duties. They were reminded to:

1. Unswervingly strengthen the leadership of party-building by coming up with an annual plan for party-building work for 2023
2. Unswervingly strengthen political construction. Party members and leading cadres should be good at analysing and grasping political problems, show a firm political direction, and guide towards a stable political position, always keeping the original aspiration and mission in mind.
3. Unswervingly strengthen ideological construction. All the cadres should continue to improve the style of work and pay close attention to the implementation, more consciously arm the mind, guide practice and promote work with Xi Jinping's Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and constantly improve the theoretical literacy and entrepreneurial skills of Party members and cadres.
4. Unswervingly strengthen team building. They were told to understand further and master the performance of Party members and cadres of the Monastic Management Association in all aspects of Monastic Management and further encourage and guide the majority of party members and cadres to complete various tasks actively and in a more pragmatic manner.

Nyingtri approved the reconstruction of the Municipal Road Reconstruction of Dolmala
January 5, 2023

The Dolmala (Ch: Zhuomala) Municipal Road Reconstruction and Expansion Project, Metok County, Nyingtri, completed its inspection on January 4. Dhondup Tsering, Deputy County Mayor and an Inspection Team from the County Development and Reform Commission, Housing and Construction Bureau, Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, Natural Resources Bureau, and Urban Management Bureau inspected and accepted the project survey, design, supervision and construction plan. The road reconstruction plan met the design requirements and passed the acceptance in principle. The team allotted ten days for the rectification of minor problems,

The estimated total investment of the Dolmala municipal road reconstruction and expansion project is 25.69 million yuan. The initial project implementation started on April 18, 2021, and the preliminary inspection was carried out on December 15, 2022. The commissioning of the project is expected to improve the municipal road pipe network further, smoothen the

circulation of municipal roads, optimise the travel conditions of the masses, and significantly improve the problem of large vehicles hindering urban traffic.

TAR winter tourism promotion meeting held in Nyingtri

January 2, 2022

Despite a significant surge in Covid infections and related deaths in Tibet, the TAR Tourism Development Department, in collaboration with Nyingtri, conducted a winter tourism promotion meeting in Nyingtri on December 31. The conference was intended to accelerate the full-time development of tourism in Tibet and restore the tourism industry. The promotion event was attended by Wang Songping, Deputy Secretary of the Party Group, Director of the TAR Tourism Development Department and the relevant officials from the Nyingtri Municipal government. The event unveiled two preferential policies to boost winter tourism in Tibet from January to March.

1. All tickets for scenic spots in the region are free except for scenic temple spots.
2. All frontline workers for epidemic control and prevention in Tibet will enjoy the policy of free tickets for travelling throughout Tibet for life.
3. All flight tickets, hotels, restaurants, international brands, and boutique hotels will implement off-season prices. The TAR government will release 20 million yuan to all A-level scenic spots, travel agencies, and three-star hotels as compensation.

Nyingtri was given special attention for promoting its winter tourism. Some highlighted tourist spots are Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon, Pangong Tso, Lulang Huahai Ranch and Aligang Rinpoche-Masang, Yadro Yutso Scenic area etc.

TAR intends to complete a series of significant projects from the 14th Five-year plan in 2023

January 6, 2022

In terms of infrastructure, TAR intends to accelerate the construction of key projects such as the Lhari Expressway, Indus town (Tib: Sangey Kha-bab Drongkyer)-Kunsha Airport Expressway, the Nagchu Section of the Beijing-Tibet Expressway, the quality improvement and renovation of the G318 Line, and the new reconstruction project of the Metok-Zhayu

section of the G219 Line, and operationalise the Purang airport in Ngari. TAR also intends to promote more heating and oxygen supply and improve sewage and garbage management in high-altitude counties. The construction of the Bomi section of the Yunnan-Tibet railway will begin, and Sichuan-Tibet Railway construction will be the priority.

To improve the quality and efficiency of agriculture and animal husbandry, the focus will be given to the construction and revitalisation of the seed industry, and "two rivers and four valleys" economic belt, and building high-standard production bases and industrial belts for agricultural and livestock products such as high-standard barley and yaks to ensure that grain output reaches 1.07 million tons and meat, eggs and milk output reach more than 910,000 tons.

As for the county's economic and regional development, various counties in TAR are designated to perform well in a specialised field for coordinating new urbanisation, rural revitalisation, and optimising their development layout. The counties are as follows:

Panam County (in Chinese: Bailang) - Shigatse; Dranang County (in Chinese: Zhanang) Lhoka; Lhorong County (in Chinese: Luolong); Nagchu and Dingri County, Ngari for agricultural development.

For animal husbandry, Damshung County (in Ch: Damxiong) Chamdo; Lhari County (in Ch: Jiali), Nagchu; Drongba County (in Ch: Zhongba) Shigatse; and Gertse County (in Ch: Gaze) Ngari.

For Tourism, Metok County, Nyingtri; Markham County, Chamdo; Tsona County, Lhoka; and Bome County, Nyingtri

Chairman of TAR People's Governments meets Zijin Mining Head in Lhasa

January 9, 2023

On January 4, Yan Jinhai, Deputy Secretary and Chairman of TAR People's Government welcomed a delegation led by Chen Jinghe, the Chairman of Zijin Mining Group Co. Ltd, in Lhasa. In a meeting with the board, Yan Jinhai hoped that the Zijin Mining Group would implement Xi Jinping's thoughts on ecological civilisation, strive to build a benchmark for "green mines", and strike a balance between mining and environmental protection. He reported

that 2022 was a “tough” year for Tibet. He said that any resource development in Tibet must consider political and national security implications as the bottom line.

Chen Jinghe said the Zijin Mining Group would earnestly implement corporate responsibilities and consolidate cooperation between TAR and the group.

TAR Party Secretary Inspects Monasteries in Lhasa

January 11, 2023

On January 9, TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng inspected monasteries in and around Lhasa and met Monastic Management Officials, Cadres, Public Security Officers and Firefighters.

Wang Junzheng emphasised the need to thoroughly implement Xi Jinping’s instructions on Tibet work and the Party’s strategy of governing Tibet for the new era. He told Officials to unite as one, work together and make persistent efforts to implement and abide by the decisions and deployments of the CCP Central Committee with practical measures and actions.

Party Cadres, Police Officers and Firefighters reportedly welcomed the Party Secretary near the Stone Pillar signed between the Tibetan empire and Tang Dynasty in 821, located outside the Jokhang temple in Lhasa. Wang Junzheng met them individually and listened to work reports about social stability and work in the temple.

Wang Junzheng also inspected Ramoche temple, a ‘contact temple’ for him, which he had visited many times for research. He said that taking “good care of the temples” is essential to consolidating the foundation of social stability from the root in Tibet. He urged the monks to be patriotic, have a clear mind over right and wrong, and safeguard national unity. Wang Junzheng also told the monks to come forward and set an example of maintaining social harmony and stability. He extended advance greetings for Chinese Police Officers Day (January 10) and thanked them for ensuring “long-term peace and stability.” At the same time, Wang Junzheng urged the police officers to be constantly vigilant, accurately grasp the current situation, implement the tasks assigned to maintain stability, and severely crack down on “illegal and criminal activities” by the law.

The TAR Party Secretary was accompanied for the inspection by TAR leaders Liu Jiang, Phurbu Dhondup, Karma Tsetan, Dawa Tsering, Norbu Dhondup, Zhang Hongbo, Pema Wangdui, Yonten and Fang Hongxiao.

TAR Procurator Department claims to have severely cracked down on crimes endangering National Security

January 15, 2023

In his work report presented during the first session of the 12th TAR People's Congress, Xia Keqin, the Chief Procurator of TAR People's Procuratorate, said the TAR Procuratorial organs had dealt with 59,108 cases in five years, two times more than the previous years. Xia reported that to create a higher level of 'safe Tibet' in the past five years, the TAR Procuratorial organs had severely cracked down on "crimes" that endanger national security and stability. He further added that 6,478 people were arrested and 12,920 prosecuted.

All Procuratorial Organs in TAR will resolutely maintain national political security and social stability in the next five years, crack down on serious crimes, and provide a robust legal guarantee for the construction of a socialist modern Tibet, Xia Keqin concluded.

12th TAR PPCC Concludes its First Session

January 16, 2023

The four-day first session of the 12th TAR People's Political Consultative Conference (PPCC) concluded on January 15 in the presence of TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng and other leaders, namely: Lobsang Gyaltzen, Yan Jinhai, Chen Yongqi, Liu Jiang, Wang Weidong, Wang Haizhou, Lai Jiao, Ren Wei, Phurbu Dhondup, Karma Tsetan, Xia Youcai, Dawa Tsering, Lie Que, and Pasang, among others.

In his concluding speech, Wang Junzheng said the TAR PPCC members at all levels had thoroughly studied and implemented General Secretary Xi Jinping's "important thoughts on improving and strengthening the work of the PPCC, firmly grasped the two themes of unity and democracy." He thanked TAR PPCC Officials and members for contributing to long-term stability in Tibet and pointed out that the next five years will be "critical" for building a modern socialist Tibet in an all-around way. He hoped the leadership of the new members of TAR PPCC would adhere to Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, implement the spirit of the 20th Party Congress, Xi Jinping's instructions and the Party's strategy of governing Tibet in the new era. Wang Junzheng further urged the Party Officials and Cadres to firmly support "Two Establishments" and resolutely achieve "Two Maintenances", implement "Two Safeguards", and strengthen "Four Consciousness." He

added that the TAR PPCC should put efforts into creating Tibet as a model for national unity and progress.

Phakpa Lha Gelek Namgyal, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative (CPPCC) and Chairman of TAR PPCC, also spoke at the closing session of the TAR PPCC Session and emphasised that TAR PPCC should stick to the Party's original mission, improve ideological and political leader and work under the guidance of the CPPCC and TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng.

The session was attended by Standing Members of the TAR People's Congress, Standing Members of the TAR People's Government, Representatives from the TAR People's Court, TAR Procuratorate Bureau, and Members of the Tibet Military Region.

PLA Border Patrol Roads alongside LAC in Arunachal Pradesh

China National Highway 219 is a highway which runs along the entire western and southern border of the PRC, from Kom-Kanas Mongolian ethnic township in Xinjiang to Dongxing in Guangxi. This highway also runs parallel to the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh which is 15-20 km apart. There are 11 roads identified between the tri-junction of India-Myanmar- China to Milin County in 391 km of LAC. These roads connect the G219 highway to the LAC at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh. Eleven Roads have been bifurcated to secure the Arunachal border at four points. The points where these 11 roads connect the G219 Highway have a PLA Rear Base with large and modern military infrastructures. These Eleven border patrol roads vary from 15 to 20 km and have at least one PLA Camp and border defence villages along the route. Six of these 11 border patrol roads run along the two banks of the Brahmaputra River, Milin River and Lohit River. A large size PLA Radar station is identified as located 10 km away from Fishing village, which is the most densely populated village in Northern Arunachal. The Eleven Border Patrol Roads are as follows:

- 1st Border Patrol Road: It connects the LAC at the tri-junction of India-China-Myanmar to the G219 Highway.
- 2nd Border Patrol Road: It connects the eastern border of Arunachal to the G219 and runs along the north bank of the Lohit River that enters Arunachal Pradesh.

- GLEI Pass Patrol Road / 3rd Border Patrol Road: This road connects the eastern side of Arunachal at the LAC to G219, and there is a village along this road which is not a modern border defence village.
- 4th Border Patrol Road: It connects the eastern side of Arunachal at the LAC to the G219. A PLA Base is identified along this Road, and a PLA Rear Base is also seen at the point on the G219 highway from where this road starts.
- X502/ 5th Border Patrol Road: It connects the LAC at the Northeast point of Arunachal near Andra Pass to the G219 Highway. A PLA Base is located at 12 km away from the LAC along this road.
- Xijianghe Road/ 6th Border Patrol Road connects the G219 Highway to the LAC northeast of Arunachal. There are 3 PLA Bases along this road. This road bifurcates into two roads connecting the LAC at two points. A PLA Rear Base is located at the G219 from where this road starts.
- DELGON Highway/ 7th Border Patrol Road: It connects the G219 highway to the LAC northeast of Arunachal. The DELGON Highway bifurcates into two roads to join the LAC at two different points. A PLA Rear Base is located on the G219 Highway, where the DELGON Highway starts. Terraced farmland and Border Defense Village can be seen along this road. There is a large radar station along the DELGON Highway 10 km from the LAC northeast of Arunachal near Fishing Village. Three PLA Bases are located along this road that touches the LAC from where the Tsangbo River enters India.
- The JIANXIN Highway/ 8th Border Patrol Road: This Highway connects the G219 Highway to the Northeast of Arunachal. A PLA Rear Base is located at the point on the G219 highway from where this road starts. A PLA Base and Border Defense Village are identified along this road. The JIANXIN Highway runs along the south bank of the Brahmaputra River and ends at a point 8 km away from the LAC.
- The BASICA Highway/ 9th Border Patrol Road: This road connects the LAC to the G219 Highway at the Liberation bridge that connects the North and South banks of the Brahmaputra River. This road runs along the north bank of the Brahmaputra River. This highway ends nearly 2.2 km from the LAC, and a PLA Base is located at that point. Along this highway, 28 significant buildings can be used as military infrastructures. There are four Border Defense Villages along this road.

- 10th Border Patrol Road: This road is 17.25 km long that connects the G219 to the LAC in the North of Arunachal. This road ends at a point 1 km away from the LAC. A large PLA Base is located at the point on the G219 highway from where this road starts.
- Milin River Highway/ 11th Border Patrol Road: This road connects the G219 highway to the LAC in the North of Arunachal. The Milin River Highway bifurcates into two roads and touches two different points at the LAC. A PLA Base is located at the point of bifurcation of this road. A PLA Rear Base is located at the end of G219 Highway from where this border road starts.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR

First Expressway connecting Qinghai and Sichuan opened

January 1, 2023

The first express highway, G0615, from Chik Dril County (Ch: Jiuzhi) Golog Tibet Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai to Markham (Ch: Malkang) County in Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, is under construction. After the trial operation, the Jiuma Expressway of the Chik Drill section (50KM) was formally opened to traffic on December 31, 2022. This marks the first expressway connecting the Qinghai province and Sichuan province, mainly covering Tibetan areas in the region.

G0615 Chik Dril-Markham Section starts at the Border of Qingchuan, Chik Dril County, Qinghai Province, passing through Ngaba County, Gekog (Ch: Hongyuan) County and Markham County of Haixi Mongolian and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The route is 219.085 kilometres long, and the construction period is five years. The project is part of the "National Expressway Network Planning (2013-2030)" and the radial line from Beijing to Lhasa. The vital connection line of the expressway (G6 Beijing-Kuming expressway) can connect with the G6 line in Dulan County, Haixi Prefecture, Qinghai Province, through the expressway of this project to the northwest. It can pass through the Wenma Expressway, Duwen Expressway, and Chenggong Expressway in Sichuan Province to the southeast. The irrigation expressway is connected to Chengdu and connects with another radial line from

Beijing to Kunming (G5 expressway). The construction of this project is expected to play an essential role in improving the national expressway network.

Chen Gang was appointed as the new Party Secretary of Qinghai

January 4, 2023

Xu Qifang, Deputy Director of the Organisation Department, announced the appointment of Qinghai's new Party Secretary, Chen Gang, at Qinghai's leading cadres meeting on January 3. Chen Gang previously served as the Party Secretary, Vice Chairman, and first Secretary of the Secretariat of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. Xu Qifang said that the leadership adjustment is based on the overall situation of the Central Committee and as per the needs of the work and the actual situation of the leadership team in Qinghai Province. Chen Gang had no previous experience or associations with working in minority areas. He had worked in Beijing, Guizhou and Guiyang.

Ganzi carries out ethnic unity grassroots campaign activities

January 10, 2023

Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture recently carried out an extensive grassroots campaign called "practical actions of "building a solid Chinese nation community consciousness and national unity into the family". The propaganda team reminded the masses that Ganzi Prefecture has been where various ethnic groups have exchanged and blended since ancient times, gathering 35 ethnic groups such as Tibetan, Han, Yi, Hui, Qiang, Naxi, and Mongolian.

The Ganzi Prefecture Government Office has conducted various educational activities to learn about the party's policies, national laws, the party's love, and the Chinese culture through door-to-door visits, WeChat meetings, telephone calls etc. They were mainly advised to study, publicise and implement Xi Jinping's critical exposition on strengthening and improving ethnic work, insist on maintaining the unity of the motherland and strengthening ethnic unity as the main focus and make overall plans to deeply promote the "building a solid Chinese nation", Community awareness and national unity into each family. The cadres were told to conscientiously fulfil their roles as "liaison officer, preacher, instructor, rescuer, helper" and become a bridge between the masses and the government.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

US envoy urges Nepal to take its own humanitarian decision on the Tibetan refugee issue.

January 13, 2023

Following the assumption of power by a pro-China communist-led coalition government, the US ambassador to Nepal on January 12 said his government was keenly watching the country's initiatives on several significant issues, including the implementation of the \$630 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Nepal Compact, which China has vehemently criticised as a geopolitical challenge to it, and resolving the issue of Tibetan refugees which, he asserted, is humanitarian, not a political one.

Other significant issues the ambassador, Dean R Thompson, mentioned included the transitional justice process and others like defence cooperation, climate change, and strengthening the democratic process.

He told the *kathmandupost.com* (January 12), "We are not going to be involved in any political process in Nepal." He thanked the government of Nepal for taking in thousands of Tibetan refugees. However, the country is not part of the Refugee Convention of 1951.

The report noted that Nepal hosted over 15,000 Tibetan refugees on humanitarian grounds but had stopped issuing them identity cards since 1995. It added that the UN refugee agency, the US government and the Western bloc had been lobbying with successive Nepali governments for the issuance of identity cards to the remaining Tibetan refugees in Nepal who remain deprived of fundamental rights like school and college admissions, opening bank accounts, and doing business, among other things.

The report noted that due to intense pressure from Beijing, successive governments in Kathmandu had declined to distribute refugee identity cards to Tibetans who entered the country after 1995 and their children.

"Nepal should be able to make its own decisions," he said during an interaction with a group of journalists in Kathmandu on January 11.

Thompson noted, “they are facing a very abnormal situation due to the lack of a refugee identity card. Their children are deprived of basic facilities, including healthcare and others”. He added, “This is not a political issue; this is a humanitarian issue. The United States is benefitted from refugees coming across the globe. We support them to integrate into society. We will work with the UN agency and others to find a lasting solution for the refugees. They are also human; they need respect. We want to help them.”

China accused on social media of misinformation in seeking Sri Lanka ban on Dalai Lama.

January 18, 2023

The Chinese embassy in Sri Lanka has on January 17 launched a second attack on a move by a section of the country’s high-ranking Buddhist monks to seek a visit by Tibet’s exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, while hurling profanities on the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate. However, it has been met with a public meltdown on social media, reported the *swarajyamag.com* on January 17.

A Chinese embassy statement on Twitter was stated to have referred to the Dalai Lama as a “political exile disguised as a religious figure” who has been engaging in “anti-China separatist activities” and attempting to split Tibet from China. It invoked a strong relationship between the two countries, particularly their Buddhist communities, to insist that Sri Lanka must prevent the Dalai Lama’s visit – which would be tantamount to promoting ‘Tibetan independence’ – and, instead, safeguard China-Sri Lanka relations from being damaged.

“The Chinese government and people strongly oppose any foreign country to receive the Dalai Lama in any name, because the 14th Dalai Lama is not a ‘simple monk’ as he self-claimed,” the Twitter statement was quoted as saying. However, the report said, the statement and its strong language had been met with backlash on social media, with many accusing the embassy of using misinformation to target the Dalai Lama and other Tibetans seeking autonomy and independence from Chinese Communist Party rule.

On January 16, the Charge d’Affairs of the Chinese embassy in Colombo, Hu Wei, made the same point in an interview with *Sri Lanka Mirror* at the Nellligala Temple, Kandy, after the conclusion of the Fa Xian charity project in Kandy district for Buddhist monasteries. He was

stated to have received assurances from the Buddhist monks at Kandy, including the Maha Nayaka Theros, that none of them had invited the Dalai Lama to visit Sri Lanka.

The *swarajyamag.com* report noted that in 2015, China had expressed appreciation for Sri Lanka's stance of not issuing a visa for the Dalai Lama. Sri Lanka has been dealing with a difficult economic situation since 2020 and requires the backing of China and India, its biggest bilateral lenders, to reach a final agreement with the IMF on a \$2.9 billion loan that is essential to put its economy back on track, the report said.

The China Africa Research Initiative estimated that the country owed Chinese lenders \$7.4 billion – nearly a fifth of its public external debt – by the end of last year.

The report said Sri Lanka also owes India around \$1 billion, which will come under the debt restructuring plan. New Delhi separately provided Sri Lanka with about \$4 billion in rapid assistance between January and July last year, including credit lines, a currency swap arrangement, and deferred import payments.

