



CCAS

Centre for China Analysis & Strategy

中国分析及策略中心

TIBET INSIGHT FEBRUARY 1-15, 2024

TAR NEWS

TAR Leaders Visits Listed Companies in Lhasa

February 04, 2024

On February 2, a Research Team of TAR leaders led by Wei Xiuchang, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government visited Tibet Tianlu Co., Ltd. in Lhasa and held discussions with concerned persons in charge of Tibet Tianlu Co., Ltd. and Tibet Tourism Co., Ltd. to understand the development of listed companies, current situation and difficulties, overall planning and on-site Office work.

During the meeting, the Research Team told them to strengthen their positions, boost confidence, and actively promote enterprise listings and refinancing. They highlighted the need to establish a distinctive "Tibet sector" within the capital market, characterized by regional characteristics, high quality, and strong competitiveness. This includes adhering to new developments, prioritising core business activities, innovation and optimizing services to improve service quality.

The team called for increased investment in Tibet, support for industrial transformation and upgrading, intensified efforts to address social employment issues, and assistance in rural revitalization efforts.

TAR Party Secretary and First Secretary of the Tibet Military Region's speaks to troops during his visit ahead of the Spring Festival and Tibetan New Year

February 06, 2024

Before the Spring Festival and Tibetan New Year (Losar February 10-13), TAR Party Secretary and First Secretary of the Party Committee of the Tibet Military Region Wang Junzheng on February 6, emphasized the importance of treating the place of residence (soldiers' place of

deployment) as one's hometown and the people as one's parents during his visit to the troops. He spoke to armed police officers and soldiers stationed in Tibet and retired military personnel. He encouraged the “continuation of glorious traditions and exemplary conduct, as well as dedication towards making more contributions to Tibet’s long-term stability and high-quality development.”

Wang Junzheng “personally greeted and shook hands with each officer and soldier” and presented a white khata (Tibetan scarf). During a visit to a specific unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Tibet and a specific detachment of the Tibetan Armed Police Corps, Wang Junzheng inspected the army barracks, received a briefing on the army's development, engaged in friendly conversations with the officers and soldiers, and inquired about their military experiences and “other related matters.” He encouraged the officers and soldiers to uphold their exemplary conduct, intensify their studies, fulfill their duties, strive diligently, and consistently achieve new and greater advancements.

Wang Junzheng stressed the importance of 2023 as an important year for comprehensive implementation of Xi Jinping’s “crucial instructions on Tibet work and the Party’s strategy for governing Tibet in the new era under the strong leadership of the CCP Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core”, to lead and unify cadres and the masses of all ethnic groups to be truthful, pragmatic, and diligent. He added: “this collective effort aims to ensure sustained harmony and stability of the overall social situation, drive high-quality economic and social development, and strive to enhance the well-being of people from all ethnic backgrounds, resulting in a sense of increased satisfaction, happiness, and security.” He stated that there is “overall prosperity and stability in the society at present due to steadfast support, active involvement and selfless dedication of the troops stationed in Tibet, armed police officers, and soldiers.”

Wang Junzheng further highlighted TAR’s tradition of supporting the army, cherishing subordinates, backing the government, and caring for the people, and emphasised the unshakeable bond between the military, the government, and the people. He said the troops stationed in Tibet and armed police officers and soldiers have consistently considered their station as their hometown and the people as their parents. They have actively engaged in Tibet's economic and social progress, playing a crucial role in maintaining stability, undertaking emergency rescues and disaster relief, exemplifying their role as soldiers of the people. He said

their contributions have been pivotal in promoting Tibet's enduring peace, stability, and high-quality development. He also emphasized the need for all levels of government to wholeheartedly support the development and building of the army, address the practical needs of army personnel, and firmly stand as the reliable support for the people's army.

Wang Junzheng hoped that in the new year the troops stationed in Tibet and the armed police officers and soldiers would fully grasp and apply Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and implement Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Army and the military strategic guidelines for the new era. He encouraged them to uphold the glorious tradition, focus on their core tasks, fulfill their mission of securing borders and stabilizing Tibet, and consistently create new achievements in strengthening and revitalizing the army. Additionally, he urged them to actively serve and ensure the success of key initiatives, strengthen their mission responsibilities, and contribute to the coordinated development of national defense and local construction, ultimately making further contributions to Tibet's long-term stability and high-quality development.

A Symposium of Religious Representatives held in Thoelung Dechen District, Lhasa
February 07, 2024

A symposium of religious representatives was held on February 5, in Thoelung Dechen District in Lhasa. Shi Yunben, Party Secretary of the Thoelung Dechen District Party Committee, attended and delivered a speech, while Dawa Tsering, member of the Standing Committee of the Thoelung Dechen District Committee and Minister of the United Front Work Department, presided over the event. Representatives from various religious sects and key leaders of the Monastic Management Committee of the Thoelung Dechen District were present.

The meeting emphasized the importance of religious representatives and figures embracing national consciousness (Chinese nationalism) and prioritising nation (China) over religion. It stressed the need to strengthen the "five identities," which include fostering deep love for China, integrating patriotism into daily life, and serving the nation (China) with dedication. The meeting highlighted the importance of understanding and adhering to the rule of law, with national law taking precedence over religious rules, respect for the constitution and active participation in legal education.

Religious figures were urged to uphold the "four standards" and strive to be "four good monks and nuns," meaning they should be politically reliable, morally convincing, effective in critical times, and committed to safeguarding national unity. Cadres in religious fields were directed to enhance their understanding of Marxist religious views, prioritise political capacity building, and adhere to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. They were encouraged to address misconceptions, guide religious believers in aligning with Chinese culture, and promote unity around the party and government.

Head of TAR Supervisory Commission and TAR Discipline Inspection Commission inspects Party Cadres

February 07, 2024

Ahead of the Spring festival and Tibetan New Year, Wang Weidong, Member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee, Party Secretary of the TAR Discipline Inspection Commission and Director of the TAR Supervisory Commission met and extended greetings to TAR Disciplinary and Supervisory cadres in various departments across the TAR and inspected their operations.

During his interactions, Wang Weidong emphasized the critical need for self-revolution, particularly emphasizing the importance of political responsibility in the current era. He urged continuous enhancement of the quality and efficacy of disciplinary and supervisory works.

Reflecting on the past year's achievements, Wang Weidong said the TAR Discipline Inspection Commission and TAR Supervisory Commission had made great progress in "clean governance" and combating corruption with strong "guidance from the CCP Central Committee and TAR leadership bodies." He emphasised the need to abide by "guiding principles" stipulated in party directives, particularly to "self-revolution" and political responsibility. He added that the "nine requirements" outlined by the CCP Central Committee must be considered as a roadmap for future action.

Wang Weidong also emphasized the importance of cultivating a culture of accountability and ethical conduct among leading cadres. He said this includes vigilance against manifestations of excess and complacency, such as extravagance and bureaucratic inertia. He added that the

principles outlined in the Eight-point Regulations of the CCP Central Committee must be a guiding blueprint to ensure disciplined conduct and adherence to party's directives.

Head of TAR United Front Work Department exhorts ‘Improve quality of United Front Work and declare 2024 as the “year of improving efficiency” at Annual meeting

February 11, 2024

At the Annual meeting and Commendation function of the TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD), Karma Tsetan, Head of the TAR UFWD, stressed the need to foster a “strong sense of national unity” and said that should be one of the main focus of the UFWD. He said there must be collective efforts to improve efficiency and quality of the UFWD while stating that the TAR UFWD had adhered to the directives of the CCP Central Committee, focussed on learning and implementing the principles and proceedings of key party meetings. He reported that the TAR UFWD had conducted trainings on Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a new era, strengthened ideological and political trainings, built strong teams, and improved work quality and efficiency. These efforts, he said, had resulted in positive outcomes.

Looking ahead, Karma Tsetan declared 2024 as the “year of improving efficiency” for TAR UFWD and said: “the main goal should be consolidating national unity, enhancing political responsibility, and improving efficiency especially of institutional reforms.” He added that efforts will be made to enhance learning, refine methods, implement strategies, and innovate to boost efficiency and uphold the responsibilities of UFWD and of the cadres. Karma Tsetan stressed that there will be focus on capacity building training of the UFWD cadres and teams, effective supervision and management, and maintaining the correct approach including, providing platforms and opportunities for diligent and capable cadres to excel, fostering a culture of responsibility and dedication among all members.

The Annual Meeting also recognized “outstanding groups and individuals” who had contributed to the TAR UFWD.

NGARI (CH:ALI) NEWS

Report on the Regional Federation of Industry and Commerce Symposium

February 04, 2024

On February 4, the Ngari Federation of Industry and Commerce held a symposium as per instructions of the Ngari UFWD, which was attended by, among others: Wei Dong, Vice Chairman of the Ngari PPCC and Chairman of Ngari Federation of Industry and Commerce and Shu Zhiyong, Deputy Director of the Ngari UFWD. The meeting focused on reviewing the work in 2023, discussing challenges, and outlining strategies for 2024.

Representatives from the seven counties of Ngari presented their work reports for 2023 and presented work proposals for 2024. The symposium highlighted the following key points:

1. Crucial role of the Federation in fostering the healthy growth and development of the private economy
2. Advocated cultivating a team that is aligned with the Party, promoting "two health," and incorporating Xi Jinping Thought
3. Stressed enhancing foreign relations, optimizing the business environment, and addressing barriers
4. The Ngari Federation of Industry and Commerce's role as a bridge for communication between the Party, government, and private enterprises. It also urged regular visits, addressing concerns, building policy platforms, financial support, rule of law initiatives, and talent cultivation

In his speech, Shu Zhiyong, Deputy Director of the Ngari UFWD, stressed the need to deepen understanding of the significance of the Federation and strict adherence to Xi Jinping's '12 Must' requirements. He emphasised the importance of maintaining stability and conducting "anti-separatist" education, widespread dissemination of policies including those related to religious affairs, and mitigating "negative influences"

Tsada County Of Ngari Holds Fourth Standing Committee Meeting

February 08, 2024

The Fourth Standing Committee Meeting of the Tsada (Ch:Zanda) County Party Committee of Ngari (Ch:Ali) was chaired by Chen Daijun, Deputy Commissioner of the Ngari Administrative Office and Secretary of the County Party Committee, who delivered a speech. He reported that the County had focussed on studying the recent speeches by Xi Jinping and TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, in addition to the key directives concerned with the Spring festival and Tibetan New Year.

The meeting also emphasised promoting high quality development, enhancing ideological work, grassroot party building work, production safety, comprehensive planning for the festivals and continued 'self-revolution' within the Party, for an overall success in ensuring stability, development, and social governance.

NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI) NEWS

Nyingtri Party Secretary visits troops and soldiers

January 31, 2024

On January 31, on the occasion of the Spring Festival and ten days ahead of the Tibetan New Year, Ao Liuquan, Party Secretary of Nyingtri (Ch:Linzhi) visited and met officers and soldiers of the PLA and Armed Police Force stationed in Nyingtri. On behalf of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee, Nyingtri People's Congress, Nyingtri People's Government, Nyingtri PPCC, and the people, he extended greetings to the officers, soldiers, and their families.

Deputy Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee Norbu Tsering; Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Congress Zhou Chuanfeng; Deputy Mayor of the Nyingtri Municipal People's Government Qin Songmao; and Vice Chairman of the Municipal PPCC Yang Zong also visited along with the Nyingtri Party Secretary.

After presenting white scarves (Khatas) to each and every soldier and officer and conversing with them, Ao Liuquan pointed out that for a long time the officers and soldiers stationed in Nyingtri have resolutely implemented Xi Jinping's military strengthening ideology, stayed on the frontline, and dedicated themselves to the border regions. They have completed a lot of

work, worked hard, and successfully completed various tasks, making outstanding contributions to Nyingtri's social stability, economic development, national unity, and border consolidation. In particular, he said, they have always been at the forefront of urgent and dangerous tasks such as disaster rescue, emergency response, and epidemic prevention and control, and they have fully demonstrated the political responsibility of soldiers who obey the Party's commands, win battles, and have excellent work ethics, making them the most admirable people in the new era.

Thanking the soldiers and troops on duty, Ao Liuquan said even during times of family reunion during the Spring Festival and Tibetan New Year, soldiers and troops sacrifice their own families to take care of everyone else, "steadfastly guarding the borders of the great motherland and the tranquility of people of all ethnic groups".

Ao Liuquan further said that "2024 is a critical year for implementing the "14th Five-Year Plan," advancing the "Four Creations," and promoting high-quality development in Nyingtri." It is a year of breakthroughs with many significant events, joyful occasions, and many arduous tasks. He hoped that in the new year, the officers and soldiers stationed in Nyingtri will not forget their original aspirations, keep their missions in mind, carry forward traditions, and make persistent efforts. He called for unity and concerted efforts with the entire city of Nyingtri to implement Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, thoroughly implement Xi Jinping's thoughts on strengthening the military, and fully implement Xi Jinping's important instructions on Tibet work and the Party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era. He stressed the need to steadfastly grasp the "four major events" and "four creations," strengthen military-political unity, promote in-depth military-civilian integration, and promote reform and opening up to continuously achieve new results and create a new situation in the city's work of supporting the military, prioritizing their families, supporting the government, and caring for the people.

He urged party committees and governments at all levels to fully support national defense and military construction, implement policies of supporting the military and prioritizing soldiers, provide various service guarantees wholeheartedly, enthusiastically solve problems for officers and soldiers, and continuously consolidate the close military-civilian relationship, providing strong support for the troops stationed in the country to guard the borders and protect the territory.

Head of the Nyingtri UFWD inspects monasteries ahead of the Tibetan new year (Losar)

February 09, 2024

Dawa, Standing Member of the Nyingtri (Ch:Linzhi) Municipal Party Committee and Minister of the Nyingtri UFWD, on February 5, inspected two Monastic Management Committees in Drayibchu (Ch:Bayi) district, eight Towns and five monasteries including Lama ling monastery along with a team of party officials.

During the inspection, the team meet Monastic Management cadres, representatives of religious circles, monks and nuns and distributed 21,000 yuan as part of the Tibetan Losar (new year) greetings. While inspecting the Monastic Management Committees, Dawa and his Team evaluated the Committees' preparation and stability maintenance work during the festivals, told them to uphold the Party's principles, carry out their management, education, and service duties, and ensure stability, fire safety, and daily operations during the festivities. Monks and nuns were also told to ensure a "stable and harmonious atmosphere" during 'losar'.

During their inspection of the monasteries, Dawa and his team spoke with representatives from religious communities, monks and nuns, assessed their living conditions and Nyingtri's achievements in economic and social development. He urged them to adhere to the Party's guidance, remember Xi Jinping's directives, actively engage in patriotic education, align their identity with the nation (China), promote patriotism and service, and guide Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to socialism with Chinese characteristics, maintain stability and promote harmony.

As a preparatory measure, the Nyingtri UFWD till February 5, conducted eight rounds of inspections, covering 121 Monastic Management Committees, meeting 226 non-party representatives, "patriotic" United Front Workers, monks, nuns, and distributed 468,000 yuan, conducted training 27 training sessions for an audience of more than 420 people.

SHIGATSE (CH:RIKAZE)

Tibet Jincheng Group Co., Ltd holds Dividend and Pension Distribution Function in Gyantse, Shigatse

February 09, 2024

Three days ahead of the Tibet New Year on February 7, the Tibet Jincheng Group Co., Ltd., a Chinese state-owned enterprise primarily involved in construction projects, organized the 2024 Tibetan New Year greetings and the fourth batch of a dividend ceremony in Ri-Shing Township, Gyantse County, Shigatse.

Lodhen, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Shigatse People's Congress of Gyantse County, spoke at the event. Also present were Tenzin Sangpo, General Manager of Tibet Jincheng Group; Phuntsok, Deputy General Manager; Kelsang Choedon, the Head of Ri-Shing Township; Dalha, the Director of the People's Congress of Ri-Shing Township and all cadres, workers, elderly people over 70 years old, and beneficiaries from various villages of Ri-Shing Township totaling more than 200 people.

At the event, pensions totaling over 319,200 yuan were distributed to 130 elderly individuals over 70 years old in Ri-Shing Township. Additionally, 50,000 yuan in industrial dividends were distributed to 36 needy households in Ri-Shing Township. A "collective birthday" event was also organized for the elderly, as part of "fostering a Communal sense of the Chinese nation."

Head of Shigatse UFWD inspects Tashi Lhunpo Monastery

February, 2024

During his inspection of Tashi Lhunpo monastery, Penpa Tashi a member of the Standing Committee of the Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Minister of the United Front Work Department and Deputy Secretary of the Party Group of the Shigatse Municipal People's Political Consultative Conference (PPCC), attributed the "positive developments" at Tashi Lhunpo monastery to the "special attention" of the CCP Central Committee led by Xi Jinping and the leadership of the TAR Party Committee and Shigatse Municipal Party Committee.

He urged a thorough study and implementation of the Party's religious policies in the new era, along with the spirit of key party meetings. He called for leveraging the unique strengths of the religious community to unite believers around the Party and government, thus contributing to the development of various endeavors in Shigatse in the new era.

Zhongka Aten, Deputy Director of the Management Committee of Tashi Lhunpo monastery, pledged to continue the monastery's tradition of patriotism and religious devotion. He emphasized the importance of strengthening national consciousness, and enhancing Monastic management. He committed to maintaining social harmony and stability while firmly opposing “separatism.”

LHOKA (CH:SHANNAN)

Tsona holds rural work meeting

February 14, 2024

The Tsona Municipal Party Committee held its Rural Work Conference on February 1. Passang Woedup, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Lhoka Municipal People's Congress and Party Secretary of the Tsona Municipal Party Committee, attended and delivered a speech. The meeting stressed the need for unified ideological understanding.

In his speech, Passang Woedup urged all towns and departments within Tsona to refine their work strategies, accelerate agricultural modernization, and promote farming practices that ensure prosperity and sustainability in rural areas. He said key priorities should include increasing income, ensuring food security, improving rural infrastructure, and industrial efficiency. Those attending the conference were told to improve implementation of their responsibilities.

Rural Work Conference held in Nakar-tse County

February 04, 2024

On February 3, the Rural Work Conference of Nakar-tse (Ch: Långkäz) County, Lhoka was held in the presence of Phurdor, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Lhoka Municipal People's Congress and Party Secretary of the Nakartse County Party Committee.

The conference stressed the importance of improving work related to “agriculture, rural areas and farmers” through dedicated efforts to achieve tangible results. The conference also emphasised strengthening inspections, building capacities of the cadres and upholding a correct view of performances. Party Cadres concerned with rural revitalization work were also told to acquire business knowledge and skills that benefit “both cadres and the general population.”

Notice from Lhoka Municipal People's Government Office Regarding Holiday

Arrangements

February 03, 2024

The Lhoka Municipal People’s Government issued a notice stating that “In accordance with the "Notice of the General Office of the State Council on the Arrangements for Certain Holidays in 2024" (State Office of the People's Republic of China [2023] No. 7), it is hereby announced that there will be an 8-day holiday for the Spring Festival and Tibetan New Year of 2024. The holiday will commence from February 10th and extend until February 17th”.

The notice added: “During this holiday period, the general public is advised to heighten their awareness of preventive measures and strengthen self-protection. All government departments are required to make appropriate arrangements for duty, safety, and security. The on-duty system for leaders and personnel must be strictly implemented, and unauthorized absence or absence from work is strictly prohibited. In the event of any major emergencies, they must be promptly and properly handled in accordance with regulations.”

Lhoka launches “Smart Broadcasting and Television+ ” Project as part of “Rural Revitalization”

February 07, 2024

Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) recently launched a “Smart Broadcasting and Television+ initiative as part of its “rural revitalization” project. The new initiative aims to play a significant role in rural revitalization, education and border security. According to the Lhoka Municipal Party Committee, the introduction of new technologies and resources, increasing high-definition programmes and establishing demonstration villages, empowers Lhoka. Apparently a “smart radio and television teaching assistant system” and creation of “air classrooms” for schools were also launched to “enhance education quality.” Another project was the investment in

smart radio and television fixed-border project to improve “quality services for border residents.”

Chu-sum County holds ceremony to cashout rewards and subsidies for “separating” animals and farmers

February 08, 2024

On February 6, the Chu-sum County Party Committee organized a ceremony to distribute the first batch of reward and subsidy funds for the centralized separation of humans and livestock construction in Chudorgyang village, in Chusum town of Lhoka.

The ceremony began with a tour of human and animal separation construction sites in Chudorgyang, where attendees learned about the construction methods and achievements. At a symposium held later awards were presented to representatives of the first 10 farmers who had voluntarily organized the construction of centralized separation points for humans and livestock. A reward of 150,000 yuan was distributed to them.

It was emphasized that all townships and villages should follow the example of Chudorgyang.

Sangri County Propaganda Department launches “Three Rural Visits” and “Our Chinese Dream - Literature and Art into Ten Thousand Households”

February 08, 2024

On February 5, the Propaganda Department of the Sangri County Party Committee, along with the Lhoka Federation of Literary and Art Circles, the Nuka Community of Sangri Town, and other member units, initiated a series of cultural, scientific, and health campaigns called “Three Rural Visits” and “Our Chinese Dream - Literature and Art into Ten Thousand Households.”

During these events, the Sangri County People's Court organized fraud prevention propaganda activities using the “Sangri Highland Barley Lecture Hall.” They explained various fraud methods and tactics to the public, aiming to raise awareness and protect people's property. Following the lecture, a cultural performance titled “Service Warms People's Hearts and Culture Enters Thousands of Households” commenced. The performance featured various

programs such as the dance "Beautiful Sangri" and songs like "Tashi Delek", "Auspicious Sangri", and "Go Home Often".

The Literature and Art workers of the Municipal Federation of Literary and Art Circles organized a theme activity titled "Spring Festival Couplets to Welcome the New Year and Sending Blessings to Ten Thousand Households."

NAGCHU (CH:NAGQU)

Nagchu UFWD Leaders meets Religious Representatives, urges Sinicisation of Tibetan Buddhism, told to follow the party

February 09, 2024

On February 8, Li Chengtong, Party Secretary of Driru County, Nagchu (Ch:Nagqu) held a meeting with representatives of religious circles including Zama Kunchok Tenzin and Kelsang Thupwang. During the meeting, Li Chengtong inspected monks and nuns in monasteries and their study, practice, and living conditions. He commended the work of Monastic Management Committees and party officials for their work in the past year and their contributions for Driru County's Economic and Social Development. Zama Kunchok Tenzin, Kelsang Thupwang and other "religious figures" shared their experiences of "participating" in patriotic education trainings and campaigns, and emphasized the importance of learning and using "the national common language" (Chinese language).

In his speech; Li Chengtong stressed the need for 'firm positions' and enhancing national consciousness, promoting the idea that the nation (China) is greater than religion, and stressed the importance of fulfilling political responsibilities. He emphasized obeying and implementing all Party and government arrangements regarding religious work, supporting Monastic Management Committees, and maintaining consistent action and beliefs. He also urged religious figures to participate actively in community-building initiatives and to focus on improving their lives while promoting ethnic unity and progress.

(Comment: Driru has been a hotbed of protests against China's rule in Tibet. At least three self-immolations have occurred in Driru.)

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR

Rawu Tunnel Reconstruction facing geological challenges

February 10, 2024

Rawu Tunnel, a renovation and reconstruction project of (National) Highway 318, undertaken by the 20th China Railway Bureau, is located in Rawu Town, Pashoe County, Chamdo and has a total length of 4.31 kilometers and an average altitude of 4,200 meters. The tunnel is reportedly threatened by disasters such as plateau geological fault fracture zone, rock explosion, soft rock deformation, mud and water surge. Due to geological complications, the reconstruction is facing difficulties and has high safety risks and a huge impact on environment. However reconstruction and renovation is to be completed within seven months. A Xinhua report said workers endure temperature differences of nearly 30 degrees Celsius and high-altitude hypoxia. To overcome these challenges, construction operates on a double-shift system, with workers rotating every 4 hours to ensure rest in oxygen-deficient environments. Upon completion in 2024, the journey from Pashoe to Rawu will be halved to one hour.

Senior Kirti monk secretly sentenced to prison in eastern Tibet

February 06, 2024

A senior Tibetan buddhist monk was secretly sentenced to three years in prison a few months after his detention on June 10, 2021. Lobsang Tashi, 43, former head of the prayer session at Kirti monastery is known to be in Mianyang prison which is reputed for releasing Tibetan political prisoners in extreme poor health and traumatised state, and where Tibetan writers, monks, and public intellectuals had previously been sent following sentencing by Chinese courts.

A source confided “Lobsang was summoned suddenly by Ngaba County police personnel from his residence in Kirti Monastery and then arbitrarily detained somewhere out of the county before he was jailed for three years imprisonment following a secret trail. Kirti Monastery and his family knew that Lobsang was summoned by Ngaba County police personnel but they didn’t know that he was arbitrarily detained. Later his brother found out that Lobsang was already sentenced to three years imprisonment and serving in Mianyang prison. Recently, only some family members were allowed to meet Lobsang in the prison.”

According to the same source “The Chinese authorities arrested and jailed Lobsang Tashi for conducting general prayer sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic without following orders of the concerned office in Ngaba. He steadfastly refused to hand over the management of monastery property to the authority from prefecture level as demanded by the authority. Moreover, he was accused of keeping in touch with Tibetans in exile". He further stated that "he was accused of obstructing the hoisting of the Chinese flag in Kirti monastery, not cooperating with the Ngaba prefectural officers several times and making offering [money offering to pray] for the deceased to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Kirti Rinpoche”.

The same source mentioned "his family were aware about his detention from the beginning, but they were not able to share or reach out to anyone else due to the fear of retribution and they might have been warned of serious consequences by the Chinese authority".

Lobasang Tashi hails from Village Six Upper Nomad Town, Ngaba County, in eastern Tibet. He enrolled at the Ngaba Kirti Monastery when he was young and completed his duty as a chant master in Kirti Monastery, Kirti Tashi Lhundup Ling Monastery, and Dhongre Kirti Monastery as a monk vocalist.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Exile administration to compile database of Tibetan households in India, Nepal

February 4, 2024

The Tibetan Administration in exile at Dharamshala, India, is to compile a database of exiled Tibetan households in a project that will be launched after the Tibetan New Year, Losar which began on February 10. This was announced at a press conference on February 2. The project is to be jointly undertaken by four departments of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), namely the departments of Health, Education, Religion & Culture, and Home.

The first of its kind, the project to be launched by the CTA will cover Tibetan households in India and Nepal and is meant to facilitate informed initiation and implementation of social-economic welfare and benefit programmes.

“As we currently lack a proper household list of the Tibetan communities in India and Nepal, this forthcoming survey would provide us with accurate statistics and help us efficiently

formulate future projects. In the past, because of the dearth of actionable data, our high-cost projects have sometimes been ineffective, the CTA-run Tibet.net February 2 quoted Palden Dhondup, Secretary of the Department of Home, as saying at the press conference.

The “CTA Household Listing Survey 2024” will be launched with a 2-day training of the project’s enumerators beginning on February 17. This will be followed by the trained enumerators visiting the Tibetan households in the different settlements and other communities, with the compilation exercise continuing up to the end of March 2024.

CTA has hired the professional services of the Sambodhi Research and Communications Pvt Ltd. for carrying out the survey exercise. The settlement heads will take the main responsibility in the exercise.

