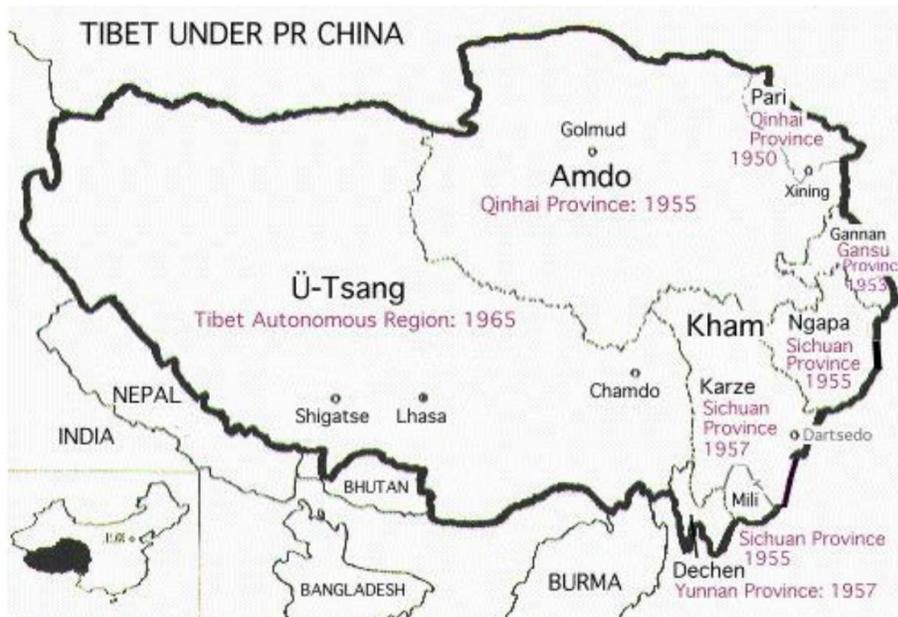
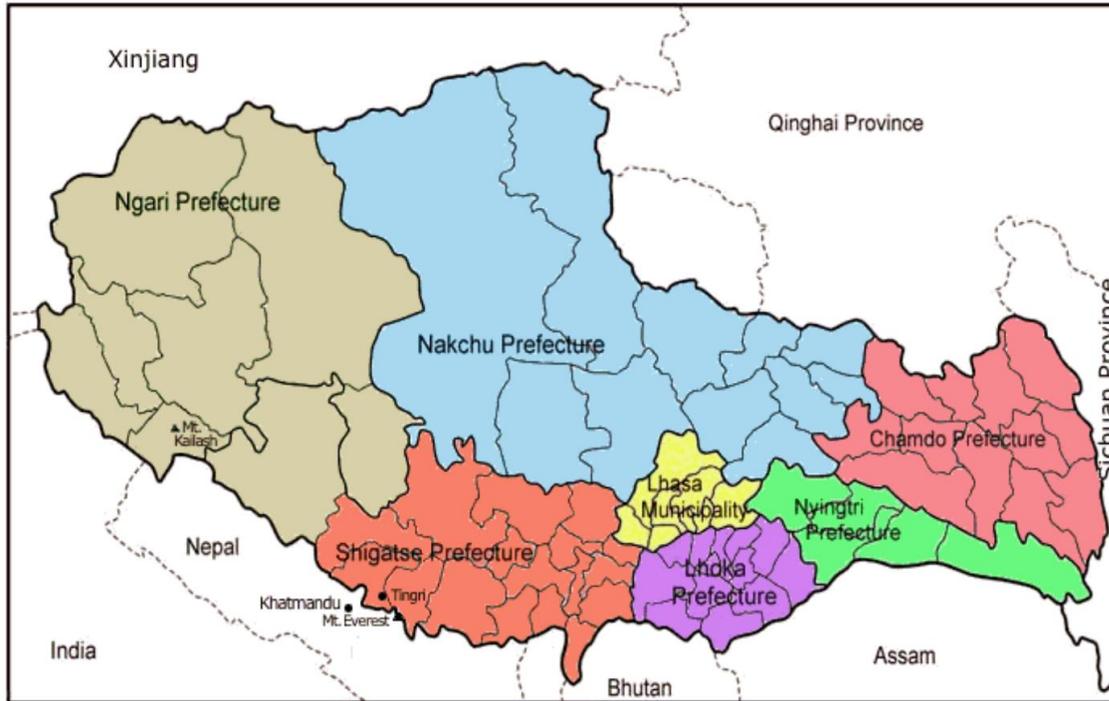




**TIBET INSIGHT, 1-15 MARCH 2020**



## TAR NEWS

### **Village Cadres of Lhasa report their work Progress**

March 18, 2020

The eighth batch of Village cadres based in Lhasa reviewed their work progress and charted the ‘Seven New Key Tasks’ ahead at a meeting held on March 17. The Village Cadres proposed strengthening of political leadership and propagation and implementation of Xi Jinping’s Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new Era as their foremost important task in the year ahead. As part of this agenda, the Village cadres of Lhasa plan to advocate the thematic propaganda campaign ‘keeping old heart and remembering new mission’ and also carry out “four consciousness” and “four stresses” in simple and “easy to understand” language for farmers and herdsmen. Over the past year, the Village cadres extensively propagated ‘Xi Jinping thoughts’ including his exposition on governing Tibet’s borders. The eighth batch of Village cadres carried out 4,448 ‘in-home teachings,’ delivered 2,089 ‘lectures,’ distributed 285,000 copies of publicity material, and disseminated 1310 special publicity virtual columns reaching 462,000 people in total.

They also resolved to continue to work towards poverty alleviation through collaborative programs. The Tselgunthang (Tib: ཚེལ་གུང་ཐང) subdistrict Village Cadres of Chengguan District established a Commercial station in collaboration with the Urban Investment Bureau on arable but unused land, under the Urban Development Corporation thus increasing the village’s collective income by 3 million Yuan. Similarly, Village cadres in Chushul County’s Nyemu District (opposite Chushul in Ladakh UT) assisted with establishment of the Nanjia Jinghong Industry Co., Ltd which employs 1,686 people in the district. Overall, the eighth batch of Village cadres in Lhasa said they had reached 2,446 households, 9573 ‘poor people,’ and set up 102 collective economies and 62 professional cooperative organisations. The Cadres also claimed to have held 273 intensive skill training sessions.

The meeting decided that the Village cadres will continue to focus on the organisational and political functions of grass-root party branches, strengthen their capabilities, and strengthen weak

and ‘scattered’ grassroots organisations. At the same time, the Village Cadres will assist village-based party organisations to carry out 2299 campaigns on the theme ‘keeping old heart and remembering new mission’, improving 825 internal party systems, and enrolling 225 new party members.

### **TAR holds Standing Committee Meeting to discuss Xi’s visit to Wuhan**

March 19, 2020

On March 18, TAR Party Secretary and Leader of the Leading Group to fight against COVID-19 in Tibet, Wu Yingjie convened a meeting of all Standing Committee members and discussed Xi Jinping’s recent visit to Wuhan and his talk to medical professionals. Wu Yingjie pointed out that “at a critical juncture in the fight against the COVID-19, General Secretary Xi Jinping went to Wuhan and acknowledged the achievements of the epidemic control and prevention phase.” He claimed, “General Secretary Xi outlined clear guidelines to win the fight against the virus, and economic and social development.” Wu Yingjie stressed that all departments at all levels in the region must implement and strengthen “four consciousness” and “four self-confidences” to achieve “two safeguards.” He asserted that “the CCP Central Committee cares about people of all ethnic groups in the region, and the responsibility of everyone therefore, is to adhere to external security guidelines, recognise shortcomings, resume work, resume production, help industries being affected by the pandemic, intensify anti-secession struggles and ensure social harmony and stability.” Wu Yingjie also emphasised the importance of “strengthening the Monastic Management System” and religious affairs of the monastic institutions.

The meeting also discussed Xi Jinping’s letter to all “Post-90s” party members of the Peking University Aid E-Med Medical Team where he “extended sincere greetings to them and the young people struggling on various fronts of the epidemic prevention and control. Xi Jinping encouraged the majority of young people to take on heavy burdens, contribute to winning the fight against epidemic prevention and control, and let the youth bloom in the places where the party and the people need them most.” Wu Yingjie reiterated that young people should take cognizance of the essence of Xi Jinping’s message and affirm their ideals, convictions, and maintain and unify the ‘core position’ of the General Secretary and the CCP Central Committee. He added, “under the

current circumstances, everyone especially the “Post-90s” Party members should remain firm with the CCP CC with Xi Jinping as the core, and further strengthen the stance that Tibet has been an inalienable part of the “great motherland” since ancient times, and must have a clear banner with the purpose of eliminating all negative impact of the 14th Dalai Lama’s use of religion.” The TAR Party Secretary further advocated “the sense of Chinese nation, promotion of Chinese culture, and national unity.”

(Comment: Addition of the phrase “strengthen the stance that Tibet has been an inalienable part of the great motherland since ancient times” in such an exhortation by Chinese leaders appears new.)

### **Discipline Inspection and Supervision Team tightens grip**

March 18, 2020

The Discipline and Supervision Committee under the TAR Human Resource and Social Security Bureau issued a notice on “strengthening political supervision in times of COVID-19 pandemic” and asked Discipline Inspection and Supervision authorities at all levels in the region to work closely with, and in alignment to, the CCP Central Discipline Inspection Commission, National Supervision Commission and TAR Party Committee. The notice emphasised three key responsibilities of the concerned officials, including strictly fulfilling responsibilities of the concerned ‘subject,’ with due diligence, focussing on key responsibilities, and promoting rectification. The ‘key’ responsibilities require all team members to convene a group meeting, set up a special supervision and inspection team, then delegate the team with specific responsibilities, and send them off to “in-depth and unannounced inspections to the frontline.” The team is mandated to be on duty during holidays and carry out inspections.

During the Tibetan New Year (Iron-Mouse Losar), the TAR Discipline Inspection and Supervision Team conducted 13 inspections, inspected 11 epidemic prevention and control functionaries, visited 11 hotels and guesthouses, airports, 20 railway stations, shopping malls, hospitals, tea houses, monasteries and 3 public security inspection sites. The Discipline Inspection and Supervision Team was said to have acted proactively and in time, and uncovered 16 cases of

“embezzlement, delayed reporting, concealment, misappropriation and corruption of epidemic prevention and control funds and materials.”

### **TAR promises to fulfil ‘poverty alleviation’ target**

March 18, 2020

TAR Standing Committee Member, Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People’s Government and Head of TAR Poverty Alleviation Bureau, Norbu Dhondup presided over the second meeting of the TAR Poverty Alleviation Bureau on March 18 in Lhasa. At the meeting, he conveyed Xi Jinping’s speech at the Symposium on Decisive Victory and Poverty Alleviation and Poverty Alleviation, Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua’s teleconference speech in which he spoke on actively combating the COVID-19 and poverty alleviation and TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie’s initiatives on poverty alleviation measures. Vice-Chairmen of TAR People’s Government, Jian Sen and Jampa attended the meeting.

Norbu Dhondup pointed out that “General Secretary Xi Jinping launched with care, the strongest mechanism to overcome poverty for the benefit of the poor and that departments of all levels must implement his important speeches on poverty alleviation as guide, and accordingly, fight against poverty and win for a well-off society by 2020.” He said resumption of work and production are necessary for overall poverty alleviation and that it is important to strengthen leadership, job security, improve role of grass-root party organizations to win the fight against the epidemic and against poverty.

### **NYINGTRI NEWS (CH: LINZHI)**

### **Nyingchi held a conference for PSB work maintenance and March Stability**

March 3, 2020

The Nyingchi (in Chinese: Linzhi) PSB held a conference on public security work and stability maintenance deployment in March on March 2. The conference summarised the public security work of Linzhi in 2019, analysed the current situation, and making careful arrangements for public

security work and stability maintenance work in March 2020. Zhu Jiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee, Director of the Local National Security Office, Secretary of the Party Committee of the Municipal PSB, and Ren Weidong, Deputy Mayor and Deputy Party Secretary of Municipal PSB presided over the meeting.

The meeting highlighted that in 2019 the Nyingchi public security organs worked on the new mission of "Not forgetting the origin and remembering the new mission" for the 70th anniversary. Nyingchi is said to have achieved remarkable results in the practice of the theme education. The meeting emphasised that at present the overall social situation in Nyingchi city is harmonious and stable and well under control. It said that due to the complex domestic and international situations, there are complex and profound changes and various types of hidden risks that exist before us. The maintenance of national political security and social stability is also facing significant risks and challenges.

The meeting focused on stability work in 2020 March as the month coincides with the Tibetan National Uprising. All levels of PSB were advised to focus on preventing and defusing a significant risk to win the tough fight, have a solid grasp of the implementation of political measures to safeguard national security and social stability. There was emphasis also on the modernization of PSB work, strengthening the overall national concept and the fight against anti-terrorism, in-depth investigations on risks and network information supervisors, and vigorously improving the ability to maintain national political security and the fight against secession. Improving the modernization of the public security social governance system and governance capacity, and actively building a new model of municipal social governance were discussed with the meeting saying that a new breakthrough should be made in improving the grid police mechanism, early warning and prevention system, emergency response system, social security prevention and control system, road traffic management grid police, and intelligent public security construction.

Finally, it said Nyingchi must adhere to the party's leadership and focus on forging the "Four irons" Nyingchi public security team. The meeting exhorted the Nyingchi PSB to always adhere to the party's absolute leadership over the primary political requirement of having a clean government as

the starting point, and strengthen team building and team cadres. It said it is necessary to continuously expand the channels for preferential treatment of police, enrich the cultural life of police camps, improve facilities and relieve the physical and mental pressure for police.

Members of the Party Committee of Municipal PSB, the heads of various departments of the Bureaus, Linzhi Municipal Border Management Detachment, Anti-Terrorism Special Investigation Detachment, Civil Aviation Public Security Bureau, Forest Public Security Bureau and heads and members of the County (district) public security bureau attended the meeting.

### **Nyingchi initiates Women WeChat Group to Preach Party Propaganda**

March 10, 2020

In order to effectively understand and implement the "four confidences and four loves," a grassroots initiation was carried out in Nyingchi (in Chinese: Linzhi) recently. The Nyingchi city constituted a Women's WeChat group under the Jindong township Civilization Practice Institute for the purpose. The group is to promote and preach awareness to the masses on the spirit of the 19th Party Congress, Central Party's policies and its benefits to the people, and information on preventing the spread of the Coronavirus. The in-charge of these WeChat groups will speak to the villagers in the group each day at 8:30 am. Till now 54 New Era Civilization Practice Centers and 492 Stations have been created. The priority of the entire county at present is preventing and controlling the corona epidemic.

### **LHOKA NEWS (CH: SHANNAN)**

### **Lhoka encourages private companies/enterprises to provide annual dividends to the poor households**

March 3, 2020

As part of poverty alleviation, Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan) has pushed the model of pairing up large companies with poor households under which the company has to distribute dividends of its annual profit to the poor households of the region. The Shannan Yongchuang Development and

Construction Co. Ltd recently acted upon it and distributed 1.062million RMB to 8,252 families of poor households who are in the poverty list from six townships in Lhoka. This model increases the income of the poor families and ensures they get to enjoy the bonus of development.

Bhakdro, Chairman of the Shannan Yongchuang Development and Construction Co. Ltd issued the company's end year dividends and said that the company made full use of their profit and actively participated in the targeted poverty alleviation and promoted industrial poverty alleviation.

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

#### **Municipal Party Committee convenes special meeting for “self-correction(s)” and Poverty alleviation assessment**

March 17, 2020

Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government and Party Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Zhang Yanqing convened a 'special meeting' on March 17 to assess poverty alleviation progress in Shigatse and do 'self-correction' and 'self-examination.' The meeting was attended by Liu Hushan, Deputy Secretary of Municipal Party Committee and Mayor of Shigatse City, Zhang Yunbao, Deputy Major of Shigatse along with officials of Shigatse Municipal Statistics Bureau, Medical Insurance Bureau, Education Bureau, Poverty Alleviation Office, Health Commission, and Water Conservancy Bureau.

After listening to the work reports and data analysis on poverty alleviation progress of concerned departments in the city, Zhang Yanqing put forward a further course of action to be followed. He gave space for 'self-correction and examination' of the officials especially in the area of poverty alleviation initiatives. He asked officials to recognize outstanding problems and said that all poverty-related works should be completed on time and without impediment. He urged all concerned departments to pool their energy, time, precision and pragmatism. He added that issues and problems emanate out of self-correction and examination and need to be rectified and counties and districts must learn from each other in the process. The Municipal Party Secretary said, 'skill

training’ of farmers and herdsmen can be integrated through special funds. However, it is the duty of the concerned officials of poverty alleviation projects to garner their interest.

## **Gyantse Propaganda Department unveils ten initiatives in the county**

March 02, 2020

In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Propaganda Department of Gyantse County, Shigatse claimed to have launched ten measures to contain and spread awareness of the virus. These ten measures are:

- i) *Hoisting of big banners:*** The Propaganda Department of the County pasted big-bilingual banners stating/warning the general public to take preventive and control measures stipulated by the higher authorities. A total of 697 banners were hung in villages and Townships in the County.
- ii) *Volunteers to make door-to-door visits:*** The Propaganda Department arranged 82 Volunteers to make door-to-door visits and distribute masks, explain preventive measures etc. A total of 41 activities were organized to spread awareness about government guidelines
- iii) *Arrangement of Special Propaganda vehicles:*** A total of 96 propaganda vehicles were dispatched in the County to tend to cases of health emergencies of the public, to carry publicity materials etc.
- iv) *Distribution of Flyers:*** Flyers containing information and illustrations on/or about the COVID-19 pandemic were made and distributed to households, at road intersections, office spaces etc. A total of 13,887 copies of publicity pictures, posters and guidelines have been distributed.
- v) *Big Screen Displays of videos and Quotes:*** Large LED Screens are displayed at main squares and streets, departments and units, to play videos and motivational quotes. 1806 publicity videos and quotes were displayed so far.
- vi) *Village Radio:*** High-frequency village radios covering 155 villages and 3 relocation sites were installed to broadcast information and “make announcements, notices, proposals” to the public.
- vii) *Installation of Public Speakers:*** Propaganda Officers in 19 towns of Gyantse County “lecture” through the speakers about the pandemic and “guide the people about party policies and

implementation of decision-making of the party”. So far 226 sessions on “how to live life, build confidence, overcome difficulties” were broadcast through the speaker.

**viii) *One-Village, One WeChat Group:*** The Propaganda Department created a ‘One-Village, One-WeChat Group’ and claimed to use it to disseminate information of the CCP CC, TAR Party Committees, County Party Committees, about health and science knowledge through the village WeChat Group. The Villagers can also share videos, ‘civilized initiatives’ etc, said the Propaganda Department.

**ix) *To spread awareness through County Art Troupe:*** The County Art Troupe has been asked to create a series of public welfare short-films, videos and spread preventive measures through art.

**x) *Increased role of Media:*** To strictly “observe the disciplines of news outlets and monitor public opinion, Gyantse County Radio and Television mandated public WeChat accounts to work together (by/through sharing resources) in publicising epidemic preventive and control measures”.

**(Comment:** In addition to spreading awareness to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Gyantse County Party Committee is utilising its Propaganda Department to propagate the TAR Party Committee’s new campaign of “zero-distance” between the Party and Public by harping on all aspects of people’s life at the grassroot level, both virtually and otherwise.)

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

#### **Key ‘Educational Project Constructions’ resumes in Chamdo**

March 07, 2020

Chamdo Municipal Party Committee’s ‘Educational Project Constructions’ are said to have resumed after a halt due to the COVID-19. Deputy Mayor of the Party Committee and Deputy Head of the Education Committee, Hu Dengfu led an inspection team on March 7 to oversee the resumption of construction and ascertain the attendance of construction workers. He met the Construction heads and asked them to follow work arrangements diligently and complete the works on schedule so as to present these projects as ‘gifts’ on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “liberation of Chamdo” by the Chinese Communist party (CCP)’s PLA.

Some of the key projects under construction are the Chamdo No.6 Senior Middle School in Kharochu (Tib: མཁའ་རོ་རྒྱལ་); Chamdo No.2 Vocational and Technical School; a Gymnasium at Chamdo Economic Development Zone; and the Chamdo No.4 Middle School in Bhoemay Township of Zogang County. Hu Dengfu directed the construction workers to resume construction of these projects while protecting themselves against the pandemic. He said these two tasks “should be priorities at present.” He added that “the Chamdo Municipal Education Bureau should also consolidate its responsibilities, implement party policies and start the orderly resumption of key projects.”

The Deputy Mayor was accompanied by Zhang Jun, Deputy Secretary-General of Chamdo Municipal Party Committee and Sherab Dorjee, Deputy Director of the Municipal Education Bureau. The team also inspected Chamdo No.3 Senior Middle School’s stability maintenance work, met officials on duty, and oversaw COVID-19 prevention and control measures at the school.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR**

### **Major WeChat crackdown in Mungdzong, Qinghai**

March 4, 2020

On the eve of Tibetan National Uprising day, there was a major inspection and crackdown on WeChat users, including groups and individuals. There was a household to household inspection at MungDzong County. The inspection team listed 298 suspected WeChat groups and forced suspension of 75 groups. Another 223 are under investigation. There is an increasing restriction on the general flow of information and particularly of WeChat users for the last two months due to Covid-19.

Individual WeChat accounts of more than 16 villages and five monasteries in MunDzong were inspected on March 3, and the admins of the groups were made to sign promissory notes agreeing not to spread, believe and invent false rumours. To strengthen their party positions, the Inspection Committee also targeted people working in the local government, PSB, online handlers during the inspection. Quoting an un-named “inside” source, the Tibet Times (February 22) said three admins

of Wechat groups were arrested on charges of spreading false rumours. The source added there are no indications of what rumours were shared or spread in these groups by the Tibetans.

### **Ngaba Prefecture provides special subsidies for early resumption of the key projects**

March 6, 2020

On March 4, the Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Prefecture Development and Reform Commission and Aba Finance Bureau issued a "letter relating to the application of special subsidy funds for epidemic prevention and control of the key state projects" (excluding provincial key projects). It said if the company or organization resume their work before the corresponding deadline, the state-level finance will provide special subsidies for epidemic prevention and control to that enterprise/company.

The specific subsidies are given according to three standards: (1) for projects with a total investment of less than 20 million RMB, a subsidy of 30,000 RMB for epidemic prevention and control; (2) for projects with a total investment of 20-50 million RMB, a subsidy of 50,000 RMB; (3) a subsidy of RMB 100,000 for epidemic prevention and control for projects with a total investment of RMB 50 million and above will be provided. The subsidy application requirements must meet three conditions: the project must be included in the list of 2020 state key projects; the project has not been suspended or has been substantially resumed before March 31, 2020; and the Development and Reform Bureau under which the project is located has issued a substantive resumed construction confirmation opinion.

According to Project Management Section Chief Li Xinhua of the Aba Development and Reform Commission Coordination of Fixed Assets Investment, "In 2020, there are 52 Aba prefecture-level key projects. Preliminary estimates indicate that state-level finance will provide special state epidemic prevention and control subsidies to key state projects that will eventually exceed 4 million yuan." He said if the projects which are included in the list of key projects in the province in 2020 are, or have, resumed before March 10, 2020 they will receive a capital budget from the provincial budget with a subsidy of 500,000 Yuan for epidemic prevention and control.

## **Ngaba Prefecture has the second largest number of nature reserves in Sichuan Province**

March 9, 2020

The Ngaba Prefecture Forestry and Grass Bureau said Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Prefecture has established 62 nature reserves of various levels, till March 2020, including 25 nature reserves, ten forest parks, six wetland parks, ten scenic spots, five geological parks, and six natural heritage sites. It ranked second in Sichuan province.

Ngaba County is investing 58.52 million yuan in 2020 in implementing four projects to strengthen poverty alleviation through tourism. 3.5 million yuan for a rural tourism promotion project at Shenzuo Village in Aba County; 16.2 million yuan to implement the tourism poverty alleviation industry construction project in Lianbaoye Scenic Spot of Aba County; investment of 38.12 million yuan to implement the poverty alleviation infrastructure construction in Manzetang village, Aba County; and investment of 700,000 yuan to implement various kinds of tourism to promote collective economic enhancement and expansion project at Se'ergu Village, Hezhi Township, Aba County. Construction of this project is expected to begin in May 2020.

## **Tieiyuan Institute won the bid for survey and design of the China-Nepal Railway**

March 12, 2020

The First Railway Institute of China Railway Survey and Design Institute Group Co. Ltd (Teiyi Institute), a subsidiary of the China Railway Construction Cooperation, won the bid for the survey and design project of the China-Nepal railway from Shigatse to Kyirong port. According to the announcement by the First China Railway Institute, the China-Nepal railway corridor includes the China section and Nepal section of the railway, and the Institutes' winning bid is for the 443.8 Kilometres China section of the railway.

Shigatse to Kyirong port railway starts from Shigatse West Station passes through Shakya County to the west, crosses Zhongla mountain in Dingri county along the Menchu River valley, and then to Kyirong, where it is planned to set up a railway port station. The National Development and Reform Commission has previously announced that the Shigatse to Kyirong railway and the

Xinjiang-Tibet Railway was planned and studied in the "medium to long term railway network plan and will jointly form a railway corridor in western and southwestern China along with the Qinghai-Tibet Railway and Sichuan-Tibet railway, a foundation for accelerating the construction of a cross-Himalaya three-dimensional interconnection network. However, there is no mention of how the Nepal section of the railway will proceed and its funding.

(Comment: The First Railway Institute was established in 1953. It was originally the Northwest Design Branch of the Design Bureau of the Ministry of Railways. It was based in Lanzhou. Tieiyuan has been investigating the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau for many years. The survey and design of Qinghai-Tibet Railway, Sichuan-Tibet Railway, and other projects are under the same.)

### **Construction of Lijiang-Shangri-La railway resumes**

March 13, 2020

Construction of the Lijiang-Shangri-la railway resumed on March 13 after it was suspended due to Covid-19. The 139.7 kilometres railway is an important part of the Yunnan-Tibet railway. It goes through some famous tourist attractions like Yulong Snow Mountain, Haba Snow Mountain, and Tiger Leaping Gorge. The railway is going to be built as a single electric railway with a target speed of 120 kilometres per hour. It has a total of 34 bridges and 20 tunnels along the line. The project was launched at the end of 2014 and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. This railway line is expected to upgrade transportation in the north-western part of Yunnan province. The railway will also contribute to the stability and economic and social development in northwest Yunnan's ethnic minority regions.

## **DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS**

### **Nepal restricts observance of March 10, Tibetan National Uprising Day**

March 6, 2020

The Tibetan Welfare Office sent a notice to Tibetans living in Nepal not to celebrate and protest the 10th March commemoration of the Tibetan National Uprising day. The notice stated that

Tibetans must follow the law of the land and avoid a severe crackdown by the Nepali police. Instead, Tibetans were encouraged to perform religious ceremonies or prayers on the date of the anniversary. The Nepal government's severe restrictions on any political activities continue and, in the past, Tibetans have experienced brutal crackdowns on peaceful protest and even confiscation of ballot boxes during the election of the Tibetan government in exile. According to local Tibetans, police are deployed to various Tibetan refugee settlements around the Kathmandu Valley to inspect and keep a watch on their activities. Security officials called upon key figures in the refugee communities to ask about political events that may be planned.

### **Tibetan parliament in exile passes annual budget in one-day sitting**

March 18, 2020

The 16th Tibetan Parliament in Exile began and concluded its 9th session on March 16 by adopting the budget of the Central Tibetan Administration for the financial year Apr 2020 – Mar 2021 and passing resolutions of mourning and solidarity. The brevity of the session was necessitated by the growing COVID-19 global pandemic. The parliament was initially scheduled to be held from Mar 17 to 27. Members of the parliament from abroad could not attend the session due to travel restrictions imposed in the host countries hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. The budget was passed with voice votes as there was no time for debate. The parliament passed two official resolutions mourning and condoling the passing away of Tibet self-immolator Yonten and former parliament member Geshe Lharampa Tashi Gyaltzen. An official resolution expressing solidarity with the Tibetans in Tibet struggling under Chinese rule was also passed. As part of efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Himachal Pradesh Government has imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which bans gatherings of four or more people.

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