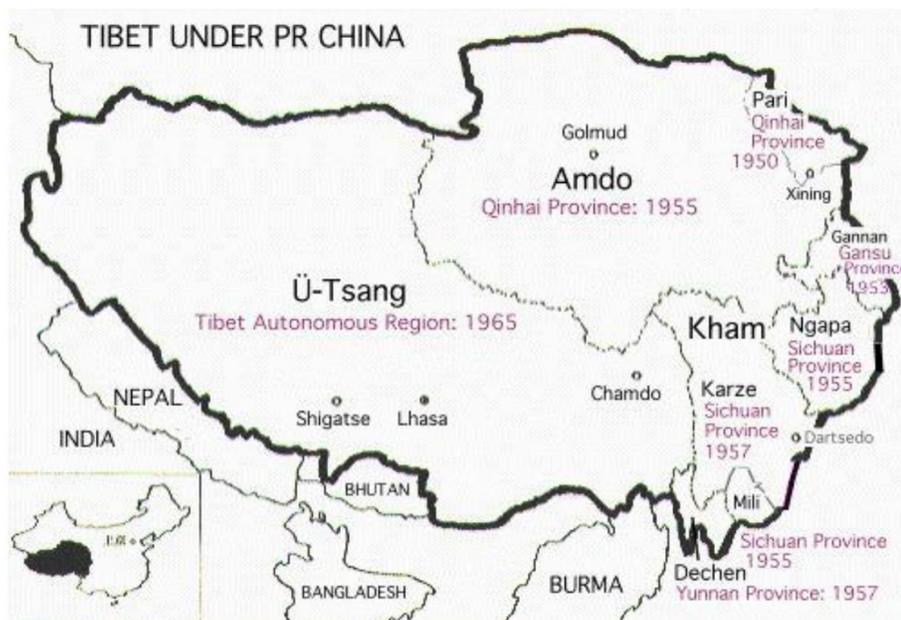
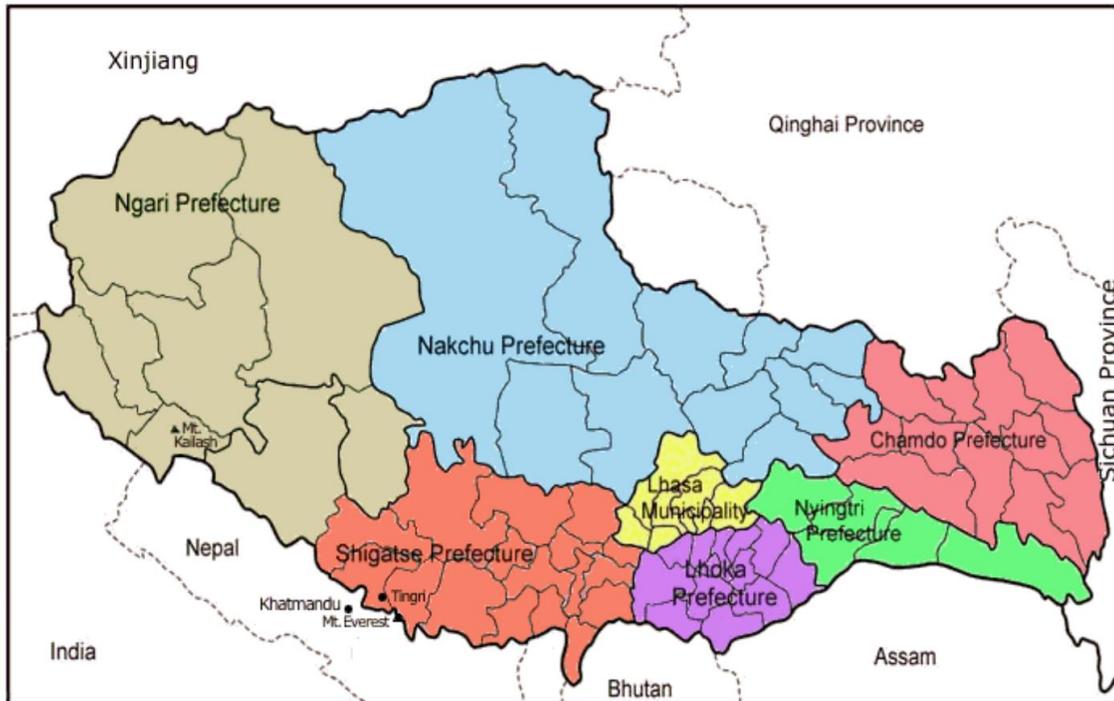




**TIBET INSIGHT, 1-15 MAY 2020**



## TAR NEWS

### **‘Expert’ invited to speak on Reincarnation in Tsurphu Monastery in Tibet**

May 11, 2020

The Tsurphu Monastery Administrative Committee located in Dueolong Dechen District, about 70 kilometers from Lhasa, invited Wang Jia, Deputy Director of the Policy Theory Research Office of the TAR Religious Bureau and a part-time Professor of the Tibet Institute of Socialism, in early May to speak as an “Expert” on ‘Managing religious affairs according to national law and promote adaptation of religious into socialism.’ He was invited also to speak to the monks on the reincarnation process of ‘Tibetan Living Buddhas’.

During the ‘teaching’ session, the Professor spoke on the historical origin of the reincarnation system of the ‘Tibetan Living Buddhas’ and the Party and State’s regulations on the system. Wang Jia said as the first sect of Tibetan Buddhism to adopt the reincarnation system, the monks should actively act and lead the way, strictly abide by the various religious policies, actively support and resolutely implement the management methods of reincarnation of Tibetan Buddhist Living Buddhas, and consciously maintain national unity, support the leadership of the Party, and be role model monks for ‘patriotism.’

### **Party Secretary of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs visits Tibet**

May 14, 2020

Qi Yu , Secretary of the Party Committee of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs accompanied by Chen Xiaodong, Assistant Foreign Minister was in Tibet on May 13 and met TAR leaders including TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, Chairman of TAR People’s Government Qi Zhala/Chedak la, Chairman of TAR People’s Congress Lobsang Gyaltsen, Secretary of TAR PPCC Ding Yexian, Head of TAR UFWD Danke, and Members of the TAR Party Committee Standing Committee Jiang Je, Penpa Tashi, He Wenhao, Pema Wangdui, Liu Jiang, Wang Weidong and Chen Yongqi.

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie welcomed the ‘Tibet-Research Group’ and expressed ‘gratitude’ to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the central Ministries and Commissions for their ‘support’ for Tibet. He said Tibet being a special ethnic area, the CCP CC has always given it special ‘care’ and support especially after the 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress. He added that “under the strong leadership of the CCP CC with Xi Jinping at the core, the TAR Party Committee, TAR People’s Government, TAR People’s Congress, TAR PPCC have strengthened the ‘four consciousness’ and ‘four self-confidences.” Wu Yingjie reported that the two ‘safeguards’ which are, to adhere to ‘Xi Jinping’s Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era’ and to implement his expositions on stabilizing Tibet’s border, are being thoroughly implemented in Tibet. He said his government is working to develop and consolidate border security, and motivate people living in the border areas to be the ‘guardians of the sacred land.’ He added that the ‘achievements’ of Xi Jinping’s visits to India and Nepal are also being earnestly discussed and implemented. Wu Yingjie assured the delegation that Tibet will continue to “take cognizance of the importance of Tibet’s foreign affairs to the overall standing of the Party, and to the State and that adherence to a unified ideology is of utmost importance.” He said we will strive to stabilize Tibet and make positive contribution to the overall affairs of the country.

Qi Yu replied that since the 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress under the “leadership of the CCP CC with Xi Jinping at the core, Tibet has achieved historic social and economic development.” He echoed TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie’s observation that Tibet’s foreign affairs is important to the Party and the overall diplomacy of the country. Qi Yu emphasized the need to further improve political positions, carry forward the fighting spirit and continue to promote Tibet-related affairs, national sovereignty, unity, security and build a secure ‘southwestern barrier for China.’

### **Heads of TAR People’s Congress meet in Lhasa**

May 14, 2020

Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR People’s Congress, Lobsang Gyaltzen chaired the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of Directors of the 11th TAR People’s Congress on May 13. The Deputy Directors of TAR People’s Congress, Doto, Chime Tsering, Ju Jianhua, Li Wenhan, Nyima

Tsering, Ji Guogang, Wang Jun and Secretary General Liu Guangxu were among those attending the meeting.

The meeting concluded that the 11<sup>th</sup> People's Congress will be held in Lhasa in early June. The proposed agenda for the meeting is to study the main content of the 13th National People's Congress; 17th Session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress; to review the '*Regulations on the Management of the Construction of TAR's market*,' and to approve '*Regulations on Urban and Rural Greening in Lhoka (Ch:Shannan)*, discuss the TAR People's Government's progress report on poverty alleviation projects in the whole of TAR, discuss the Financial report of funds distributed for the agricultural and rural sector in the past three years, assess implementation of the 13th Five-Year Plan and the 6th Tibet Work Forum reports on the construction of major projects, and to propose and review the TAR budget for 2020.

The Agenda also included reviewing the TAR People's Higher Court's criminal trials across the region, legal measures on strengthening of civil litigation and the enforcement process by the TAR procuratorial organs, and the appointment and dismissals of representatives.

The meeting heard the completion report of the TAR People's Government's environment targets for TAR in 2019. The report will now be sent to the concerned Departments in TAR People's Government for further revision.

### **The New WeChat Regulation warns people of up-to eight years of imprisonment in Tibet**

May 5, 2020

A WeChat platform, Buddhist Platform in Tibet, earlier this month announced China's new regulations. The regulation was addressed to all administrators of WeChat groups with more than 10 people. It said that under the National Cyber Law and surveillance system any group with more than 10 people would be under regular state surveillance and inspection. It stated that if people are 'not careful in what they write and what they say', they could face up to eight years imprisonment. Offensive comments will include anything against ethnic unity, national security, and any unnecessary publicity on conflicts between villages or any other internal issues.

It reiterated the 10 regulations announced in September 2019:

1. Do not share any political sensitive information;
2. Do not believe in rumours and do not post/share them;
3. Do not send internal information to outsiders;
4. Do not send threatening information related to internal security;
5. Do not share information related to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan before the government confirms it;
6. Do not share information related to military affairs;
7. Do not share documents related to state secrets;
8. Do not collect any kinds of donations unless verified;
9. Do not send any kinds of photos and videos of the government officials; and
10. All must abide by the constitutional law.

### **TAR investigates over 4,000 households with ties outside Tibet**

May 6, 2020

Tibet Watch reported that authorities in Shigatse investigated between 4,000-5,000 households in Dingri county who have members of families outside Tibet in India, Nepal or other places outside the country. Investigations began from April with local officials visiting homes without any prior notice. The officials forced Tibetans in the area to register their names and identification numbers of their WeChat and other social media accounts.

Tibet Watch said the Chinese government targets individuals and social groups who it sees as possible destabilising influences, labelling them “black categories” or “underworld forces,” with black-listed families kept under constant surveillance. An exiled Tibetan whose family was also investigated said these families were told to inform their families outside to be careful of what they do as it could harm their families inside Tibet.

(Comment: There has been independent confirmation of this policy being implemented in TAR.)

## **TAR suspends tourist fee for medical workers at tourist sites**

May 13, 2020

TAR has waived tourist fees for all medical workers from across China as a tribute for their contribution in the fight against the Corona virus. The policy is also applicable to tourists from Chinese, Hong Kong and Macau and the facility is available till December 31, 2020. There are more than 86 tourist sites in Changdu city, 8 in Shigatse, and 19 in Lhoka that implement this policy for medical personnel. The lists includes some of the well-known tourist sites in Tibet such as the Everest National Park, Tashi Lhunpo Scenic spots, Yadrung Yutso, Yumbhu Lhakang fortress, Khora-la Glacier in Gyantze, Sakya monastery scenic area in Shigatse, Yarlung Tibet dynasty in Lhoka etc. TAR has tried to promote ecological tourist in Tibet as part of the poverty alleviation project particularly from this year.

## **TAR authorities offer up to \$85,000 to ‘citizen informers’**

April 0, 2020

According to Tibet Watch, TAR authorities issued a notice in April offering rewards of up to 600,000 yuan (around US\$ 85,000/-) to citizens who report information about the spread of “illegal” content in the Region. Titled “Measures for Reporting and Rewarding on the Campaign for Eliminating Pornography and Illegal Content in the Tibet Autonomous Region”, it promises cash rewards to citizens who report on illegal activities. The government has promised to pay between 1,000 to 600,000 yuan (RMB) for information on activities considered to be illegal.

The notice said the personal information of informants will be kept confidential and the offenders reported by them “shall be held accountable according to law and discipline.” Citizen informants are able to report information to the government by phoning, sending emails, letters or faxes and the amount paid depends on what the information relates to. The notice listing possible offences includes “endangering national unity, sovereignty and integrity, for example, advocating ‘Great Tibet’, ‘a high degree of autonomy’ and ‘the Middle Way’.” It also listed to “oppose the basic principles stipulated in the constitution by attacking and defaming the Communist Party and Party

leaders” as another offence. The list of crimes includes conventional crimes such as gambling, violence and instigating others to commit crimes.

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

### **Nyingchi promotes Ethnic Unity law in schools and monasteries**

May 7, 2020

The UWFD of Nyingchi (in Chinese: Linzhi) carried out propaganda educational activities in schools and monasteries in Nyingchi as part of May Fourth Youth day celebrations. Lobsang Choephel, the Deputy Director of Bayi UWFD visited schools in Bayi district and distributed copies of the Ethnic Unity Law referred to as ‘Regulations’. He stressed that Nyingchi should strive to achieve the ‘regulations on the establishment of a model area for national unity and progress of TAR. The achievement should come both in terms of knowledge of the Chinese nation and practical contributions’. He emphasised ‘the importance of cultivating the sense of Chinese national community as protector and spiritual homeland from a young age’. He said the activity was ‘to enrich the moral education, enhance student’s national pride and national self-esteem’.

In monasteries, the regulation was promoted through theme-education of ‘four stresses and four loves’ along with need to strive to become ‘advanced’ monks and nuns. The monks and nuns were told to take a more active role in patriotic education, disseminating rule of law and knowledge of Buddhism.

### **Nyingchi held a meeting to conduct poverty alleviation survey**

May 8, 2020

A meeting to evaluate progress of the poverty alleviation census of Nyingchi province was held in Nyingchi City on May 5. Wangdue, Deputy Director of the Municipal Party Committee and Mayor of Nyingchi City accompanied by Cui Xiaodong, Vice Chairman of the Municipal CPPCC and Deputy Head of Municipal Poverty Alleviation Committee presided. Wangdue stressed that 2020 is a decisive year for poverty alleviation and making Tibet a comprehensive well-off society. The

census is to focus on the quality of the ‘two worry free and three guarantees’ and assess the current status of population, income and number of people involved in the infrastructure project. He emphasised that the survey will have great significance for establishing the cardholder system in the entire region and mapped out important measures to meet the requirement of the national poverty alleviation census.

To implement this, the Municipal Poverty Alleviation Headquarter was ordered to work closely with all relevant departments and in-charges at all levels and inspect the issues concerning poverty alleviation and standard screening of ‘two worry-free and three guarantees’.

### **Metok County launched K52 Traffic Meteorological Observation Station**

May 11, 2020

The first traffic meteorological observation station in Metok (in Chinese: Mutuo) County, Nyingchi was completed and put into operation this month. The device integrates real-time monitoring, road conditions, air temperature, air pressure, precipitation, humidity, wind direction, and wind speed along the Pomo Highway. It was reported that operation of this station will effectively guarantee the safety of foreign vehicles in bad weather.

According to the County Meteorological Bureau, the K52 is covered with snow all the year round, especially in winter and spring, with frequent rain, severe road icing and snow accumulation, and geological disasters such as avalanches due to snow melt. Through real-time monitoring, timely release of meteorological service information such as traffic meteorological special reports and road icing warnings to remind drivers to pay attention to road traffic safety and provide scientific decision-making meteorological service information for county committees, county governments, emergency management bureaus, and transportation bureaus, it will reduce road accidents in the area.

## NGARI NEWS (CH:ALI)

### **‘Education’ training of Tibetan Buddhist Teachers in Ngari**

May 11, 2020

The United Front Work Department under Ngari (Ch: Ali) Municipal Party Committee organised an Education and Training session for Tibetan Buddhist Teachers from May 10. The inaugural session on May 10 was presided over by Wang Jiu, Deputy Minister of Ngari United Front Work Department (UFWD) and Secretary of Regional People’s Religious Affairs Bureau. The training session was themed ‘Education and Training of Tibetan Buddhist Teachers in 2020 specifically on the four standards.’ Wang Jiu emphasized at the inaugural meeting that the focus of the training is “to enhance awareness of the Chinese national consciousness, legal and civic outlook of the monks and nuns, and to urge monks and nuns to abide by laws and regulations particularly concerning religious affairs of the state.” He added that “the monks and nuns should disentangle and disassociate from the ‘Dalai Clique’ and be politically reliable, religiously accomplished and morally capable of serving the public.” Specifically, Wang Jiu pointed out the following:

- “it is of utmost importance to unify thoughts and improve political standpoints of all cadres and officials of the UFWD before implementing the educational training of the monks and nuns, and for any other publicity activities”.
- it is important to develop a thorough methodology for the training, be familiar with the process and not dismiss the main ‘targets’.
- concerned officials were urged to take into account the epidemic control measures whilst training and avoid gatherings of excessive numbers of people.
- Trainers were told to maintain strict discipline and ensure practical results during and after the training.

(Comment: The admonition that “monks and nuns should disentangle and disassociate from the ‘Dalai Clique’” and reference to the ‘Dalai Clique’ has been noticed after a long time.)

## LHOKA NEWS (CH: SHANNAN)

### **National Unity and Progress Propaganda Campaign starts in Lhoka**

May 09, 2020

Following other counties in TAR, the Tangpo Monastery in Lhoka (Ch:Shannan) also launched the propaganda campaign themed ‘National Unity and Progress’ for monks and nuns on May 7. The Campaign, which was officially launched by the TAR Party Committee in January 2020, is to be implemented across TAR from May 1. Deputy Director of Tangpo Monastery in Lhoka, Tsering Choesang presided over the inaugural meeting while the Director of the Lhoka Buddhist Association, Phurbu Tsering – who also happens to be a monk of the monastery – made a presentation on the theme.

The Director of the Buddhist Association of Lhoka, Phurbu Tsering urged monks in the monastery to learn the ‘Regulations on the Establishment of National unity and Progress in TAR’ and described these regulations to the monks in ‘easy-to-understand’ language. This Propaganda Campaign requires monks and nuns to enhance their understanding and implementation of the ‘four consciousness’ and to abide by belief in “the Family of the Chinese nation.” This includes disassociating from “separatist forces”, safeguarding national unity and stability and making positive contributions to national unity. The campaign is being implemented by counties of other prefectures such as Nagchu (Ch:Nagqu), Shigatse (Ch:Xigaze), Ngari (Ch:Ali), Chamdo (Ch:Changdu), Nyingtri (Ch:Linzhi) and Lhasa.

(Comment: Another campaign targeting specifically monks and nuns is the ‘adherence to the four standards’ intended to make monks and nuns ‘exemplary’ models. This campaign is spear-headed by the United Front Work Departments of the respective Prefectures.)

## DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

### Ngaba exposed five Party officials for failing to perform their duties

May 1, 2020

On April 29, the Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Prefecture Discipline Inspection Committee publicly exposed five officials for accountability and failing to perform their duties for the State's poverty alleviation project.

Lu Yingxu, former Director of the Heishui County Statistics Bureau was charged for failing to perform his duties and violating the requirement of the eight central regulations. During his tenure from 2012 to January 2017, the bureau violated regulations and failed to perform public tourism employment generation and misused the subsidy funds. He was fined and removed from his position in July 2019.

Cai Xiangyu, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and Mayor of Jialuo Town, Aba County was charged for not following the proper protocol for the implementation of the poverty alleviation project. In 2018, the collective yak breeding project was implemented in Rialuo village of Jialuo town and there was an economic project cooperation between the east and the west town for poverty alleviation and excellent forage cultivation. Cai Xiangyu submitted inconsistent project publicity timing reports, cattle purchasing records and fake names of sellers. It said his actions had caused a negative impact on the county's poverty alleviation efforts. He was punished and warned in October 2019.

Hu Xueying, former Director of Jiuzhaigou County Employment Bureau was found to have performed poorly in his duties and also embezzled funds. During his directorship he helped two employees from his unit to get unemployment insurance benefits, which was described as serious violations of rules for alleviation of unemployment in the county. He was warned in November 2019.

Yeshe Gyatso, Director of Ruoergai County's Land and Resources Bureau was charged with

inadequately inspecting the industrial project construction in the county, where a private real estate company was given the land use right for commercial purpose. This violated the nature of land use right. He was warned for lack of supervision and inadequate inspection.

Zhang Changhua, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Director of Hongyuan County Health Bureau was charged for failing to supervise the business project construction of the County's Maternal and Child Hospital. He did not carry out on-site verification and also did not follow the proper filing procedure for verification. The project exceeded the allocated fund. He was warned for violating the project regulation and poor performance of his duty.

### **Songchu County conducts public opinion survey on 'Party style and clean government'**

May 9, 2020

Songchu (in Chinese: Songpan) County, Ngawa Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture conducted a public opinion survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the building of Party style and clean government and the masses' satisfaction. It aims to promote the social evaluation system to enhance building a corruption free government. All Party cadres and the masses were instructed to participate in the public opinion survey and strengthen their political position and sense of responsibility. The authorities distributed more than 1500 copies of the announcement. The survey was carried out online and offline, and each village head was instructed to reach out to the maximum number of people through online platforms like QQ and WeChat and visit each house. Around 2,900 people participated in the survey. The survey also enabled people to directly address their problem or complaints relating to Party style and clean governance.

### **Ganzi Tibetan Prefecture held plenary meeting to discuss Governor's Report to NPC**

May 11, 2020

The Ganzi Tibetan Prefecture held the third meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> Provincial People's Congress to discuss the Work Report prepared by Governor Lin Yin to be presented at the national NPC meeting. The delegation will be headed by Liu Chengming, Party Secretary; Xiao Youcai (Tibetan), Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and Governor as Deputy Head of the delegation; and Li

Kang, Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress and the Deputy Head of the delegation. Deng Xiaogang, Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee briefed the meeting on the Work Report and pointed out the need to strengthen 'four consciousness', 'four self-confidences', achieve 'two safeguards' and study and implement Xi's socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics'. He also said, "Ganzi should conscientiously implement the central government's strategy for Tibet, in-depth planning for controlling the epidemic, find ways to turn crisis into opportunity and focus on the economic development and stability of Tibetan areas".

Liu Chenming agreed and praised the Work Report for high maintenance of the political position, accurate analysis of the current situation and clear and practical measures to tackle the current situation. He highlighted that Ganzi has succeeded in removing poverty in all 18 designated counties and performed well in epidemic control and prevention. The Work Report stated that there were zero infections for medical staff, zero deaths and zero incidents of social instability despite Ganzi being the most affected area of Tibet during this epidemic and that more than 100 Tibetans were infected.

### **Ganzi promotes party loyalty at Cordycep harvesting area**

May 12, 2020

Cordycep mining has started from beginning of May this year in Tibet except in some areas due to heavy snow fall. Ganzi officially began cordyceps mining from May 9, as per the regulations for a uniform system of harvesting. During the harvesting the people were compelled to carry the flags of the Chinese Communist Party and People's Republic of China. They also had to affix the Party flag on their makeshift tents. The mining areas are guarded by the public security personnel ostensibly because of the large number of people at the mining area, hidden dangers, and possibility of conflict between two areas due to lack of clear demarcation of the border.

In each area, a county level leader, five resident working cadres of the political and legal team and a town cadre representative accompanies the farmers. The team is responsible for investigation of possible conflicts and signing border cooperation agreements with neighbouring counties. They also hold night or evening classes for the cordyceps harvesters on the rule of law and party

propaganda, and show propaganda films. Party members stay with the harvesters throughout the mining period, and say this is to get familiar with farmers and herdsmen and make them truly feel the concern and care of the Party and government. A medical team has also accompanied them due to fear of a resurgence of the Coronavirus.

## **DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS**

### **US State Department urged to fill long-pending Tibetan policy post**

May 13,2020

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) on May 12 reiterated its call to the US State Department to fill the long-pending appointment of a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues. The appointment is mandated under the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 but the position has been vacant since Jan 20, 2017.

The USCIRF said the Special Coordinators had played a ‘crucial role’ in raising the profile of religious freedom issues in Tibet and mobilizing government resources to address the issue. Noting that the Chinese Communist Party was attempting to erase the unique identity of Tibetan Buddhism, USCIRF Commissioner Gary Bauer said “We need to utilize all of the policy tools available, including the position of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, to confront this grave threat to religious freedom.”

The USCIRF called on the US Administration in its 2020 Annual Report to use its authority under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and the International Religious Freedom Act to impose targeted sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for severe religious freedom violations, especially Chen Quanguo, former Communist Party chief of the Tibet Autonomous Region and now of Xinjiang.

## **Dalai Lama Trust donates PPE, to give essentials to the poor**

May 13, 2020

The Dharamshala-based Dalai Lama Trust donated a consignment of 500 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College and Hospital (Tanda) in Kangra district, one of only two Covid-19 testing centres in the state of Himachal Pradesh on May 12. A senior official told the media that the Trust's task force, which includes Dr. Tsetan Dorji Sadutshang, personal physician to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chief Medical Officer of the Delek Hospital in Dharamshala, suggested the donation. A senior official of the Dalai Lama Trust said it also plans to donate rations and other essentials to underprivileged members of the community like slum dwellers and migrant workers who are especially distressed due to the nationwide lockdown. A total of 200-300 households of nearly 2000 people in 10 different areas in the district will be given rations and 'other essentials in the coming weeks.

The Dalai Lama earlier contributed donations to the state CM's fund and the Indian PM's fund dedicated to relief operations. In April the Dalai Lama advised: "Eventually, this virus will pass, as I have seen wars and other terrible threats pass in my lifetime, and we will have the opportunity to rebuild our global community as we have done many times before. I sincerely hope that everyone can stay safe and stay calm."

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