

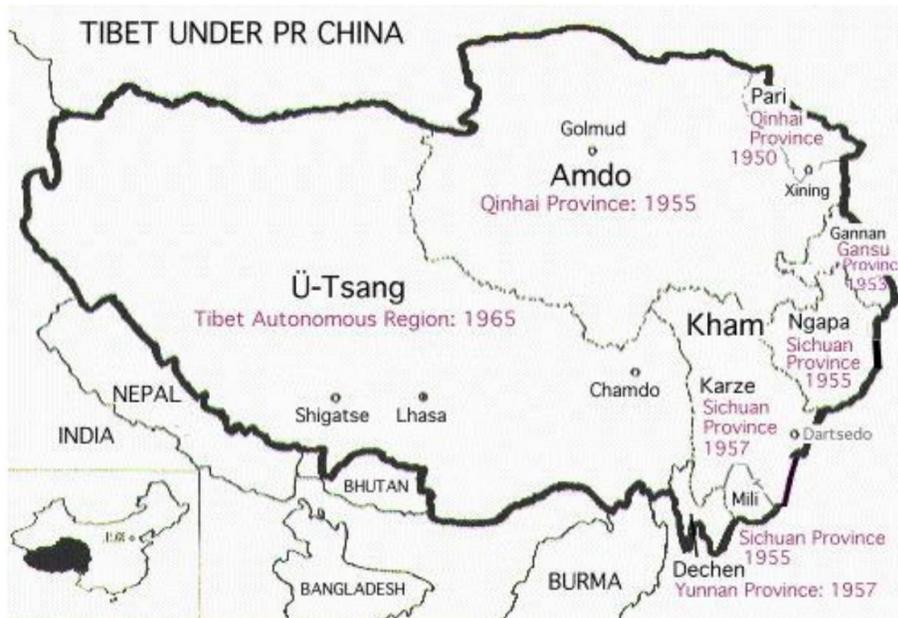
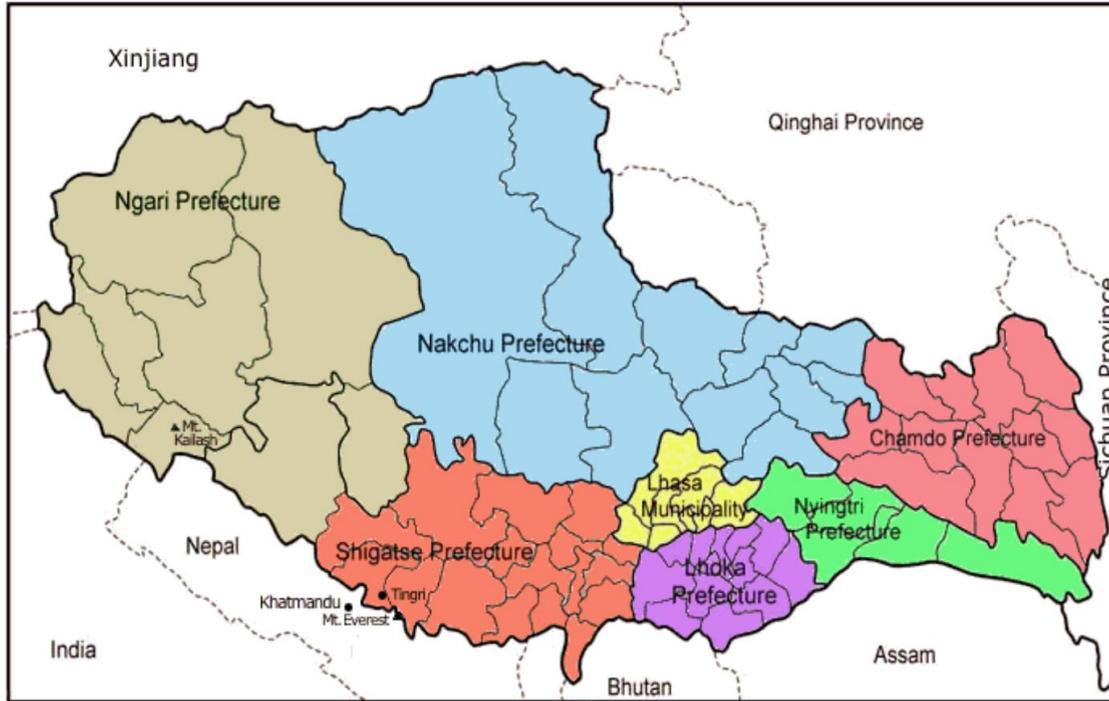


**CCAS**

**Centre for China Analysis & Strategy**

**中国分析及策略中心**

**TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 MAY 2020**



## TAR NEWS

### TAR Officials inspect Tashi Lhunpo Monastery

May 29, 2020

Head of TAR Propaganda Department and TAR Supervision Team for Stability Maintenance, Sonam Rigzin and the Vice-Chairman of TAR PPCC and Secretary of the Tibet Branch of Chinese Buddhist Association, Penpa Tashi inspected the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, seat of the Panchen Lamas in Shigatse recently. They were accompanied by Serong Phunla, Minister of Shigatse Propaganda Department and Nyima Chungla, Director of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery Management Committee, Shigatse. The monastery's inspection was to assess 'security maintenance' and see if 'the four loves and four stresses' are being implemented.

Penpa Tashi and Sonam Rigzin Officials from TAR Party Committee apparently commended the Director of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery Management Committee for carrying out the 'four stresses', 'four loves' and the 'four standards' campaigns to become exemplary monks and nuns. They told the monks of the Monastery that the key to stability is ideological education and guidance, but that the "four stresses and four loves are the foundation." They urged Monastic officials to organise more trainings for monks and lecturers and consolidate the campaigns for a 'harmonious environment.' Penpa Tashi urged the Monastic Management Committee to maintain stability specially during the month of Sakadawa- a month honouring the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha.

Serong Phunla, Director of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery Management assured the Inspecting Officials that he will continue to strengthen these propaganda campaigns and make sure that the monks carry out the 'fine tradition of patriotism.' He added "the monks will play a bridge between the Party and lay people and the rejuvenation of the 'Chinese nation' will require their contribution." He also presented his work report. The Inspection Team later visited the Patriotism Education Base of the Monastery and Exhibition Hall.

(Comment: May 17, 2020 marks 25th Anniversary of the enforced disappearance of the 11th Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima recognised by the Dalai Lama. He was abducted by the Chinese Government on May 17, 2020 when he was six years old and his whereabouts are unknown. CTA and Tibetan organisations in the diaspora, including the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in southern India have appealed to the international community to urge China for information about Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's whereabouts. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on China to immediately 'make public the Panchen Lama's whereabouts and uphold its International commitments to promote religious freedom, saying he is one of the most important figures in the Tibetan Buddhism with spiritual authority secondly only to the Dalai Lama. Similarly, 32 members of the European Parliament urged the European Commission to call upon China to release Gedhun Choekyi Nyima without any conditions. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on May 19 that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima "received free compulsory education when he was a child, passed the college entrance examination and now has a job." Zhao Lijian added that the 31-year-old man and his family do not wish to be disturbed in their "current normal lives.")

### **Zhao Kezhi participated in the deliberations of the Tibetan delegation**

May 23, 2020

State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi participated in the plenary meeting of the Tibetan delegation at the Third Session of the 13th National People's Congress on the afternoon of May 22, deliberated with the government work report on behalf of the State Council, and listened to the State Council's suggestions on government work.

Zhao Kezhi pointed out that Premier Li Keqiang's government work report adhered to the guidance of Xi Jinping's new era socialism with Chinese characteristics as a guide, fully implemented the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Party and the Second, Third, and Fourth Plenary Sessions of the 19th CPC Central Committee. Since the economic and social development and the achievements made in this year's epidemic prevention and control work, the goals and tasks of this year's economic and social development have been clearly stated, focusing on giving priority to employment and people's livelihood, resolutely winning the battle against poverty, and deploying concentrated efforts to focus on "Guarantee" fully embodies the scientific

judgment of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core of the current situation and the decision-making and deployment of this year's work, which fully conforms to the reality of China's economic and social development.

Zhao Kezhi pointed out that under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, Tibet has achieved remarkable achievements in economic and social development since last year, and the overall social situation has remained stable. Work in Tibet is related to the overall situation of the party and the country, and security and stability in Tibet is related to national security and stability. We must conscientiously study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions on Tibet's work and the Party's central strategy for governing Tibet. We must concentrate our efforts on poverty alleviation, and we must do our best to implement the anti-secession struggle and maintain various measures for stability.

### **TAR Deputies to NPC speak of 'national unity' during NPC session**

May 26, 2020

TAR Deputies to the NPC reiterated their support for the 'Regulations on the establishment of National (ethnic) Unity and Progress in TAR' which was officially launched as a propaganda campaign on May 1. Phuntsok, former Deputy Secretary of Ngari Municipal Party Committee and former Commissioner of the Ngari Administrative Department, echoed Xi Jinping's speech given at the launch of the campaign in 2019 that "it is necessary to solidify consciousness towards the Chinese community to achieve the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." The Deputies also added that "since the 18th Party Congress, Ngari has been implementing Xi Jinping's expositions on governing Tibet's border and stabilising Tibet including strengthening unity." Phuntsok said for five consecutive years since 2017, five million Yuan were allocated for promoting 'national unity through different propaganda activities on themes such as 'family members of the Chinese nation build Chinese dream together' and 'Cadres and soldiers enter Monasteries/nunneries while monks and nuns enters military camp.' He said more than 80,000 copies of Xi Jinping's speeches, 35,000 copies of propaganda campaign materials and 1,500 films on 'patriotism education' were published and distributed.

Kalsang Dolker, a Deputy from Lhasa and also the first Secretary of Tama Village of Chengguan District echoed the importance of ‘ethnic unity.’ Kalsang Dekyi, Deputy head of the TAR Delegation to the NPC and Headmaster of Metok County Primary School in Nyingtri Prefecture reported that her “school always focuses on ideological education of teachers and students, has incorporated ethnic unity education as one of the courses on moral class, special focus is being paid to make elementary school children love the ‘motherland’ and appreciate the Chinese national flag and Chinese anthem making it a point to let them sing the Chinese anthem on important occasions such as on ‘Liberation of the Serfs Day’ every March 28th.” Another NPC Deputy and winner of the ‘individual role model’ of ethnic unity in entire TAR, Kunchok Choedhen said, “I will implement the Regulations on the establishment of model region for national unity and progress in TAR in my region in Ngari.”

The TAR Delegation proposed a draft of the Civil Code to be implemented in TAR.

**Delegates from TAR for the ‘Two Sessions’ included:**

- Wu Yingjie, Head of the Delegation and TAR Party Secretary
- Lobsang Gyaltsen, Chairman of TAR People’s Congress
- Qi Zhala/Chedak la, Chairman of TAR People’s Government
- Wang Weidong, Secretary of Disciplinary Committee of TAR and Director of TAR Supervisory Committee
- Sondak, President of the TAR Higher People’s Court
- Zhu Yapin, Procurator of People’s Procuratorate of TAR
- Lobsang Sherten, Member of TAR PPCC
- Phapalha Gelek Namgyal, Honorary President of Chinese Buddhist Association and Former Vice-Chairman of CPPCC
- Tashi Gyatso (Ethnic Grassroot Party Cadre of Layu village, Qiongjie county, (the youngest Deputy)
- Nyima Tashi, Commissioner for TAR poverty alleviation
- Tsering Yangzom, Deputy Chief of Changdu Tibet Hospital, Lhoka
- Phuntsok, Deputy Secretary of Ngari (Ali) Party Committee
- Migmar Kunchok, Deputy Director of Monitoring State Grid Shigatse Power Company

## **Tibet Emergency Rescue Base Lhasa General Airport expected to begin construction in June**

May 26, 2020

The Tibet Development and Investment Group Co.Ltd. announced that the Tibet Emergency Rescue Base Lhasa General Airport, with an estimated investment of 475.6 million Yuan, is scheduled to begin construction in June. Construction is expected to be completed in 22 months and the project should become operational by 2022. The total land area of the airport is about 771.43 mu, including 212 mu of flight area. It is located 15 kilometres away from Lhasa city centre and 20 kilometres from the highway in the Dazi District of Lhasa City. The total land area of the airport is about 771.43 mu, including 212 mu of flight area.

According to the Tibet Development and Investment Group Co., Ltd., the purpose of constructing the airport is to implement the national navigation industry policy and promote the economic and social development of Tibet. The General Aviation Development Plan of TAR (2014-2030) proposed to build the general airport of Lhasa as the emergency rescue main command centre and Changdu, Nyingchi, Ali, Shigatse, Shannan, Naqu and other places as connecting points. Construction of the emergency rescue general airport will enhance TAR's emergency rescue capability where each emergency rescue point can take advantage of the flexibility of helicopters to carry out major disaster emergency rescue, air patrol, medical rescue and other services. A team will be also selected from public security, civil affairs, firefighting and other departments to form a general aviation emergency rescue team. There will be regular exchanges and training to improve the capacities of the general rescue team. A team will oversee construction of the airport.

## **Drupkhang Thupten Khedup asks to integrate 'Red education' in schools**

May 26, 2020

Drupkhang Thupten Khedup, a member of the TAR PPCC and Director of Tibet University's Research Department wrote on the implementation of 'Regulations on National Unity and Progress' and stated that "National unity is a progressive force for the development of the country. School education and training should be the core for this promotion. Kindergarten and elementary school education are the key for the development of children's good habits."

He stressed that basic education at all levels in ethnic areas should serve as a basis for cultivating and maintaining the unity of the motherland, harmonious coexistence and harmonious development among all the ethnic groups. They should be aware of the Chinese nation, culture and the road to socialism with Chinese characteristics. He said there are an increasing number of parents who want to send their children to the mainland, but the opportunity is limited. He suggested localising 'Red culture' and education and integrating the 'Red culture' in school activities, classroom presentation and school ideology. He stressed that 'Red culture' as part of the campus culture will enhance campus diversity and will, in turn, enhance the student's sense of the Chinese national community as one.

### **UWFD introduces gym and sports complexes in the monasteries**

May 19, 2020

To meet the national standard of fitness, the UWFD and TAR Sports Bureau have introduced gymnastics and sports complexes in monastery compounds. Since 2019, TAR has listed almost 150 monasteries as part of the project to improve public sports services of Tibetan monasteries and invested more than 75 million RMB in the project. According to the TAR Religious Affairs Bureau, the 150 monasteries were selected based on the availability of space for installation of indoor and outdoor equipment and facilities. Gymnastics and sporting events will be part of the monastery curriculum after the morning and evening classes of monks and nuns, who will exercise or play for 1-2 hours.

(Comment: Tibetan monasteries have their own set of physical exercises like meditation, prostration, circumambulation etc.)

## **NGARI NEWS (CH: ALI)**

May 27, 2020

### **Ngari's United Front Work Department (UFWD) checks 'stability maintenance' work in Ngari**

The United Front Work Department of Ngari (Ch:Ali) conducted an inspection tour (May 21-23) to oversee 'stability maintenance' work in the wake of the NPC and CPPCC Sessions and at the start of the 'holy month-Saka Dawa' of Tibetan Buddhism.

### **Ngari Public Security Bureau personnel complete "intensive real combat training"**

The Municipal Public Security Bureau of Ngari organised a three-stage intensive 'real combat training' of all Public Security organs in Ngari.

### **Village Committee of Ngari Procuratorate spearheads campaign promoting 'China Dream'**

The Village Committee of Ngari Procuratorate spearheaded the 'Two Committees' of Tongna Village to carry out a campaign themed, 'Join the Party and build the Chinese Dream together' in the Memorial Hall of the village.

### **Ngari Education Bureau promotes 'Red education'**

The Education Bureau of Ngari mandated all teaching staff of the Ngari-Shaanxi Experimental School to visit the 'Red Patriotism Education Base' and organise 'educational activities' while the Party Branch of the Experimental School in Lhasa carried out 'bilingual learning' activities.

### **Deputy Chairman and Head of Pangong Lake Governance inspects Pangong Tso**

April 21, 2020

Dorjee Tsedup, Deputy Chairman of the TAR People's Government and the Head of Pangong Lake Governance went to Rutok County of Ngari to conduct 'on-site inspections of the water level of Pangong lake and overall environment of the lake.' Deputy Commissioner of Ngari Municipal Administrative Office, Lhakpa Tsering, District Chief of Pangong Lake, District Level Staff Unit of Pangong Lake, and officials and cadres from the concerned Departments accompanied Dorjee

Tsedup for the inspection. At the Inspection site, the regional and county-level Pangong Lake Leaders presented detailed reports of the past and current status of the lake to Dorjee Tsedup and officials of the TAR People's Government.

Dorjee Tsedup told the officials: "Pangong Lake, being an international lake, must be paid special care and attention for the maintenance and improvement of the ecological environment of the lake." He instructed that "daily cleaning of the lake and the implementation of various 'special projects' must be strengthened, and the Lake Leaders should continue to improve their efforts in investigating problems concerning the lake and that cooperation between Departments must be increased." Dorjee Tsedup added that law enforcement and protection of the lake with strong work ethics would ensure lake protection and is important for long-term work.

### **Rutok County conducts propaganda Campaign in Border villages**

April 30, 2020

The Judicial Bureau of Rutok County and Ngari Regional Customs and Commerce Bureau conducted propaganda campaigns in the border villages of Deru and Jaggang also known as Chagkang village, not far from Demchok in Ladakh, India. The theme of the campaign was 'constitutional border lines', or the study of borders. Campaign materials were published in easy-to-understand language and were about the rule of law, constitutional regulations, village rules and laws to alleviate poverty. 500 copies of publicity materials in both Tibetan and Chinese languages with the contents of the Chinese Constitution and precautions against the Coronavirus were distributed. 80 propaganda bags, 100 aprons filled with printed letters on rule of law, regulations on border travel, 500 posters, 50 medical masks were distributed to 300 people.

(Comment: In August 2019, the Chinese appointed Panchen Lama, Gyaltzen Norbu in his first ever visit to a village bordering India, spent some time in Jaggant village, southern part of Rutok County and met several families in the village. Jaggang is near Demchok, Ladakh).

## NYINGTRI NEWS (CH: LINZHI)

### **Nyingtri Public Security held Military Training for soldiers**

May 25, 2020

To build combat and shooting capabilities and the ‘psychological strength’ of policemen and soldiers and to ensure, lawful and effective use of weapons and equipment, the Public Security Bureau of Nyingtri (Ch: Linzhi) conducted ‘military training’ of the soldiers including live ammunition shooting on May 22. The Trainers explained to police officers and soldiers the code for the use of guns, Regulations on the administration of guns prescribed for Public Security Organs, Regulations on the use of Police Arms and weapons and their daily handover, and Regulations for guns and gun inspections.

### **Nyingtri held 5th meeting on theory learning of 2020**

May 22, 2020

Nyingtri held the 5th meeting of 2020 on ‘theory learning’ on May 21. Dorji Tsering, Deputy Director of the Nationalities and Religious Affairs Overseas Committee of TAR was invited for the meeting. Zhang Xiuwu, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; Liu Xingping, Deputy Director of Municipal People’s Congress Standing Committee; Xiao He, Deputy Mayor; and Tamding, Vice Chairman of the local PPCC attended the meeting. Zhang Haibo, Minister of Publicity and member of the Municipal Party Standing Committee chaired the meeting. He pointed out that the “Regulations for the establishment of a model Area for National Unity and Progress” in the TAR was unanimously passed by the 11th TAR People’s Congress for the first time promoting national unity in the region through legislation. The meeting said Xi Jinping’s socialism with Chinese characteristics and his exposition on national unity, governance and stability are an urgent need to consolidate the achievements of national unity and progress in Tibet for the last 60 years.

Dorji Tsering emphasised the need to improve the political position, deepen ideological understanding, and use the ‘new regulation’ to guide Nyingtri to do national unity work under the

new situation. He said the actions and ideology of all the cadres and ethnic groups should be combined to create a national demonstration city for national unity and progress.

### **China is building a military training base at Lhodrak, TAR**

May 25, 2020

According to the information provided by locals to the Tibet Times, China started building a new military training base at Drowa village, Lodrak, Lhuntse County from May 8. Construction of the base was to begin in February but was delayed till now due to Covid-19. The new base is on the same axis and the same route to the Indus military base and will be able to assist it in future. Construction of this base is planned for completion in 2022.

On May 14, four fighter jets and 21 military buses left from Gongga Airport for the construction site of the base (base no 32) at Lodrak, Lhuntse County. Another 100 army buses are expected to reach the site next month. Lodrak is located in Lhuntse County, Lhoka (Shannan) and borders Bhutan.

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

### **Border Control Police Force conveys the spirit for the ‘Two Sessions’ to people in border areas**

May 29, 2020

As part of the recently launched ‘One million Police into 10 million households’ campaign of the TAR Party Committee, the Border Control Police Force in Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) propagated and promoted the spirit of the just concluded NPC and CPPCC sessions to people living in the border areas in Lhoka.

In Tsari Town of Lhuntse County, Lhoka, the People’s Police carried video recordings of the ‘Two Sessions’ and “crossed rivers and mountains to convey the spirit” to nomads living in the border areas. In one video, Kunchok Choedon, NPC Deputy from Tsari Town was shown presenting the

work report of the Town including on the development of the border defence village, and Yan Tang, a People's Police explained this to nomad Tsering Phuntsok.

In Legpo Lungmar Border Town of Tsona County, Lhoka, female Police Officers visited peoples' homes and shops with a prepared summary of the sessions and spread awareness. Similarly, in Phuma Changthang Town in Nargaze County, Dronpa Town in Lhuntse County and Ser Town in Lhodrak County, the People's Police met the people to convey the "spirit" of the 'Two Sessions' and spread awareness about them.

(Comment: 'One million Police into ten million households' is a new propaganda campaign of the Ministry of Public Security and TAR Public Security Bureau to create a 'Maple Bridge Experience' in the new era. The 'Fengqiao Experience', or Maple Bridge Experience, was created by cadres and masses in Fengqiao Town of Zhuji City, Zhejiang Province in the early 1960s. The core content of the 'Fengqiao Experience' is the local solution of contradictions. It is the way of resolving contradictions and disputes and is also an important embodiment of carrying out the Party's mass line. This campaign has become an important in resolving social conflicts and maintaining social stability in the new period particularly in Tibet. It requires Police Officers to visit peoples' homes, deliver food items, mediate disputes and to 'guard and spread happiness.')

### **Lhoka Municipal Party Committee rendering all measures to maintain social stability**

May 27, 2020

The Lhoka Public Security Bureau, Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) has mandated all Departments to render measures necessary to strengthen organisational leadership, shoulder responsibilities and strictly enforce disciplinary mechanism to maintain social stability in the city. There was special emphasis on managing religious affairs and settling 'contradictions' and 'disputes' for overall 'harmony' and stability. Close attention is also being paid to the prevention and control of the epidemic especially in border areas and in the wake of Cordyceps digging season, and there was also mention of "taking responsibility in territorial management".

## DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

### **National Demonstration Park to be built on lake Kokonor area**

May 19, 2020

China is building a national demonstration park on lake Kokonor to enhance eco-tourism in the region. Kokonor (*Mtso Sngon-po*) is located in the Amdo Tibetan region of Qinghai. The building of a national demonstration park was approved in 2019 with the purpose of beautification, eco-tourism and revenue generation of the local people. The project is scheduled to be completed within three years. The planning and on-site survey is to be conducted in 2020, construction will actually begin in 2021 and it will be opened for tourists in 2022.

Qinghai also announced that construction of the Sanjiangyuan National Park (Tsa-sum-chu-duo) will begin this year. It is the source of the three rivers, Yangtze, Yellow, and the Lancang River, and is an important ecological security barrier on the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau. He Wancheng, Secretary of the Party Committee and Director of Sanjiangyuan National Park Administration issued the "Working Plan for Promoting the Establishment of Sanjiangyuan National Park" on May 9 based on the pilot project of the Sanjiangyuan National Park. According to him, the National Development and Reform Commission announced the "Three Rivers National Park Master Plan" on January 26, 2018 and scheduled its official construction to begin in 2020. As per the instruction of the Party Central Committee and State Council to accelerate the pace of construction of national parks, Qinghai will deepen its research and construction work.

### **Ngaba released a report on poverty alleviation**

May 22, 2020

Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) released its poverty alleviation report during the week. The report stated "Ngaba State Party Committee and State Government have always regarded poverty alleviation as the greatest political responsibility, the biggest livelihood project, and the greatest development opportunity. They led 940,000 Tibetan and Qiang Hui and Han cadres and people to fight hard and declare war on poverty".

The provincial government approved 31 counties (cities) to withdraw from poverty-stricken counties this February, including the three counties of Yangtang, Heishui and Aba in Aba Prefecture. So far, all 13 poverty-stricken counties (cities) in Aba Prefecture have been lifted from poverty. Ngaba has taken a total 606 villages out of the list of poverty stricken villages that account for 103,400 people. The annual per capita net income of the poverty-stricken people whose income was 2625 Yuan in 2015 has increased to 8503 Yuan in 2019, with an average annual growth rate of 34.2%.

For in-depth poverty alleviation, Ngaba carried out more than 7000 mass education activities, established 1352 night schools for farmers and herdsmen, and engaged nearly one million people in studying policies, culture, science and technology. Five organisations and 14 individuals from Ngaba won national and provincial awards for their work in poverty alleviation. The state has also dispatched more than 35,000 cadres and employees to join the famers and herdsmen under the campaign of ‘two joints and one advancement’.

### **Yunnan Governor Qi Jianxin proposes zero distance between Yunnan, Sichuan and TAR**

May 25, 2020

Qi Jianxin, Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and Governor of Yunnan, who is a Deputy to the NPC, proposed ‘zero distance’ between Yunnan, Sichuan and TAR. The border area between Yunnan, Sichuan and TAR comprises Dechen (Diqing) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (TAP) in Yunnan, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, and Changdu City in TAR. He stressed that despite this corridor having some world-class tourism spots, it still lags in inter-state border connectivity infrastructure. Due to broken roads, seasonal damage and blockades, the Shangri-la eco-tourism has been greatly affected as has its expansion and outreach to other ethnic groups in Sichuan and TAR.

He proposed including the Yunnan-Tibet Railway and Yunnan-Tibet Expressway (G0613) in the Fourteenth Five-Year development plan and beginning their construction at the earliest. He further said that as Yunnan strives to achieve the goals of the China’s western region in the new era as set by the Party Central Committee and State Council, the Yunnan-TAR border area will create a big

Shangri-La economic corridor by integrating into the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle along with improving the transportation infrastructure in the Yunnan-Sichuan Tibetan border area for comprehensive economic development and social stability.

To develop world-class tourism brands such as the ancient road “Tibetan and Qiang Yi Cultural Corridor” and strengthen communication and common development in Yunnan, Sichuan and Tibet, Qi Jianxin, Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and Governor of Yunnan said that the first step is to connect transportation.

### **Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson reacts to Pompeo’s tweet on Panchen Lama**

May 19, 2020

Reacting to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s tweet (May 18) demanding that China reveal the whereabouts of the 11th Panchen Lama and allow believers of all religions to practice their faith freely without state interference and US Ambassador-at-large Sam Brownback’s warning to Beijing not to see the Panchen Lama episode as a model for the Dalai Lama's reincarnation, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson . Zhao Lijian claimed that the Dalai Lama-appointed Panchen Lama has finished his university education and is working now. He emphasised that “He and his family do not want to be disturbed by anyone and hope that the relevant parties can fully understand and respect their wishes”. He rejected his description as the 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama saying, ‘the designation is illegal and invalid, this so-called 'soul boy' designated by Dalai Lama is just an ordinary Chinese citizen living normally’.

(Comment: The Chinese government on May 17, 1995 had abducted Panchen Gedun Choekyi Nyima alongwith his family members. The Tibetan government-in-exile dedicated the whole month of May this year for a month long campaign to demand his release and mark the 25th anniversary of his disappearance.)

## DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

### **US House Bill seeks to recognize independence of ‘Tibet Autonomous Region’**

May 26, 2020

A bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives on May 19 by Representative Scott Perry [R-PA], which seeks to recognize the “Tibet Autonomous Region as a separate, independent country.” The bill, if passed, would “authorize the President to recognize the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China as a separate, independent country, and for other purposes.” The bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs the same day.

The title suggests this is the first time a bill in the US Congress seeks to recognize Tibet Autonomous Region as a separate country, rather than a Tibet that includes Tibet Autonomous Region plus other historical Tibetan areas that now constitute Qinghai province and those that form parts of China’s Sichuan, Gansu and Yunnan provinces. Previously, on May 24, 1991, the US Senate passed a resolution which stated: “Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that Tibet, including those areas incorporated into the Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu, and Qinghai, is an occupied country under the established principles of international law whose true representatives are the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in exile as recognized by the Tibetan people”.

This was referred to in Foreign Relations Authorization Acts for successive Fiscal Years of the US Congress.

### **Global Tibet movement expresses solidarity with Hong Kong people over China’s national security legislation move**

May 27, 2020

Members of the International Tibet Network, a coalition of 170 Tibet-related campaign organisations, on May 25 expressed solidarity with the people of Hong Kong “as they confront an imminent threat to their freedoms and autonomy with the imposition of a new draconian national

security legislation.” The coalition criticised the proposed national security legislation moved by the Chinese Communist Party to take full control over the Hong Kong SAR.

The ITN has criticized the proposed legislation’s aim to ban acts of “splittism, subversion, foreign intervention, and terrorism” as vague and added that they had frequently been used to crackdown on peaceful dissent in Tibet, East Turkestan, Southern Mongolia and mainland China.

It criticized Beijing for bypassing the territory’s elected Legislative Council to enact a national security legislation law as it dismantled the ‘One Country, Two Systems’ policy. Expressing “solidarity support to all those protesting in Hong Kong right now”, the ITN said the people of Hong Kong, Tibet, East Turkestan, Southern Mongolia and China shared a common desire for basic human rights with them. The statement, signed by the members of the network, called on governments across the world, but especially the US and the UK, to pressure the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities to respect all obligations under international law, in particular, the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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