



# TIBETAN BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

VOLUME 20 - ISSUE 4

JULY - AUGUST 2016

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His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking during the first day of teachings at the Main Tibetan Temple in Dharamsala, HP, India on August 29, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

His Holiness the Dalai Lama with five oracles of Tibet during celebrations of Guru Padmasambhava's birth at Orgyen Herukai Nyingma Monastery at Tso Pema, (Rewalsar) HP, India on July 14, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Phuntsok/OHHDL



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with local religious leaders cutting the cake presented to him during celebrations honoring his 81st birthday at Drepung Monastery in Mundgod, Karnataka, India on July 6, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

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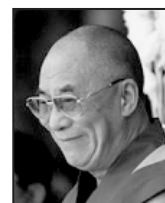
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**TIBETAN BULLETIN**

*Tibetan Bulletin* is an official bi-monthly journal of the Central Tibetan Administration.



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Tibetan Bulletin is distributed free of charge. To subscribe please email the circulation manager or see back cover.

Editor  
Jamphel Shonu  
Email: tibbul@tibet.net

Asst. Editor  
Tenzin Phende  
Tenzin Saldon

Layout & Design  
Tenzin Phende

Circulation Manager  
Tenzin Rabka  
Email: circulation@tibet.net  
Tibetan Bulletin is published by:  
Department of Information and International Relations,  
Central Tibetan Administration,  
Dharamshala - 176 215 H.P. India  
Tel: +91-1892-222510 / 222457

Vol. 20, Issue 4  
**JULY-AUGUST 2016**

## 28th Task Force Meeting on Negotiation Held

The 28th meeting of the Tibetan Task Force on Negotiations was held in Dharamshala from 15 - 16 July.

The two-day meeting included candid discussions on the political developments in China and on issues relating to the future of dialogue with the PRC leadership. It also noted the developments in the international political landscape

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay, who chaired the two-day meeting, reiterated the Tibetan leadership's commitment for the peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue through dialogue. "The Tibetan leadership remains firmly committed to the Middle Way Approach, and strongly believes that the only way to resolve the issue of Tibet is through dialogue," he said.

The Task Force on Sino-Tibetan Negotiations was constituted to help recommend policy matters and strategies to find a peaceful and mutually acceptable negotiated resolution to the issue of Tibet.

## Second International Diplomacy and Advocacy Training Concludes

A five-day training in International Diplomacy and Advocacy was organised by Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) for a select staff of the Central Tibetan Administration from 18 - 22 July at Manesar, Haryana.

About 35 participants, representing the Offices of Tibet, staff of the Department of Information and International Relations and other departments of CTA, took part in the training.

The five-day training extensively covered some vital topics including India's role in Sino-Tibetan issue, United Nations, Chinese outreach diplomacy, Ti-

bet's role in Sino-Indian security and relations vis-à-vis Tibet to explore the 'tricks and trade' of international diplomacy and advocacy in the face of China's growing economic and political leverage in international politics.

Dr Shashi Tharoor, former Foreign Secretary Lalit Mansingh, Nirupama Rao, Shyam Saran and Shivshankar Menon are among the prominent Indian political figures who shared their expertise in international diplomacy in general and in China dealing in particular with respect to the Tibetan issue.

Mr Thupten Samphel, Director of Tibet Policy Institute, Former Kalons Tashi Wangdi, Dongchung Ngodup and Tempa Tsering, Information Secretary Tashi Phuntsok and International Relations Secretary Sonam Norbu Dagpo are Tibetan resource persons for the training and covered topics such as China's interpretation of ancient Tibetan history, Tibet in UN and EU, Relations between Tibetans in Tibet and CTA, 17-point agreement, Indo-Tibetan relations, CTA's presence in South Africa, and Core responsibilities of Office of Tibet.

The training also covered media management strategy, Introduction to Buddhism, CTA's fiscal efficiency and budgetary management and the resource persons include Indian media personalities Mr Karma Paljor and Ms Indrani Bagchi, Ven Dorje Damdul, Director of Delhi-based Tibet House and Mr Kelsang Lhundup, senior accountant of Department of Information and International Relations.

The interactive sessions that followed the presentation by the resource speakers widely reflected concerns pertaining to mobilizing and winning international opinion in favor of 'Tibetan narratives' against China's aggressive propaganda on its Tibet policy in various international forums.

Underscoring the significance and timely relevance of the training, Ms Tsering Tsomo who is soon to be posted as a staff in one of the Offices of Tibet said, the training is highly "empowering" in that it helped her understand different

diplomacy practices through the talks of Indian and Tibetan experts and hoped the knowledge will come handy when she starts her job.

DIIR earlier organised a similar training in Washington DC in 2015 with a special focus on diplomacy practices in the United Nations and other international organisations. The current training is specially designed in keeping with the dynamics of international diplomacy vis-à-vis Tibet's standing in the current international political landscape.

## Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's Niece Nyima Lhamo Speaks to Press

The UN, EU & Human Rights Desk of Department of Information and International Relations, facilitated a press conference for Ms Nyima Lhamo – late Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's niece, at Lhakpa Tsering hall on 28 July.

Nyima Lhamo, 26, who recently escaped to India from Tibet, spoke about the situation before and after the death of Rinpoche, and the ongoing grim situation in Lithang pertaining to Rinpoche's case.

Addressing the press conference, Nyima Lhamo said she confronted many challenges and problems in order to share the suffering of her late uncle Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and of Tibetans inside Tibet. "Despite all the challenges and hardships, I managed to escape Tibet. My uncle Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche suffered immensely and passed away in Chinese prison. Likewise many Tibetans have suffered and continue to suffer under the repressive Chinese rule. My hope is that the Chinese allegation against Rinpoche be thoroughly investigated in accordance with Chinese and International law, and the Chinese authorities to reveal the true circumstances that led to Rinpoche's death."

Recounting the details of circumstances during the time of Rinpoche's death, Nyima Lhamo narrated, "Soon after we were informed of Rinpoche's death,

around 300 Tibetan people gathered at the Lithang county office to demand for return of Rinpoche's body to perform final rituals. After repeated appeals, the local Lithang county officials finally allowed nine people to appeal at Chengdu county office."

Although Nyima was not among the nine people, who were allowed to appeal at Chengdu, she somehow managed to reach Chengdu and staged protests against the local police authorities demanding for the return of Rinpoche's body. Nyima revealed that only after she attempted suicide by hang herself with a scarf outside the Chengdu Prison, the Chinese prison authorities stopped her and gave access to see Rinpoche's body. "I noticed Rinpoche's lips were black. But his body was covered. Following which, we accused authorities of having killed Rinpoche by poisoning." After making the accusations, Nyima and her mother were detained for 18 days in Chengdu on charges for "leaking state secrets to the outside world."

While in detention, they were repeatedly interrogated by the Chinese authorities. The authorities also demanded that Nyima and her mother sign a document, containing three conditions for their release. The conditions were: no information on Rinpoche shall be shared in Tibet and China, no accusations shall be made against the Chinese authorities that Rinpoche had died of poisoning and no discussion on Rinpoche's death at any public gathering and to the outside world.

Nyima and her mother categorically refused to sign the conditions. They were informed later that the village leader had signed the conditions on their behalf and were strictly instructed to follow his directions on their release.

Addressing the ongoing situation in Lithang, she disclosed that Chinese authorities have issued legal orders in a covert attempt to discredit Rinpoche and his position as a revered Tibetan spiritual master.

Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was a highly respected Tibetan spiritual figure

and one of the most prominent Tibetan political prisoners. He died under mysterious circumstances on Sunday, 12 July 2015, while serving a life sentence in Chuandong prison in the southwestern Chinese Provincial city of Chengdu. Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was widely revered by Tibetans for his efforts to protect the degradation Tibetan culture and religion from the onslaught of repressive Chinese policies. He was also known for his efforts to safeguard Tibet's fragile environment by advocating against illegal mining and pollution of river waters in Tibet.

He was arrested by Chinese authorities in 2002 in a politically motivated charge accusing of being involved in a bomb blast that occurred in Chengdu city. The real reason for his arrest by Chinese authorities is believed to be his growing popularity among the public and for his staunch loyalty to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve on 2 December 2002 even though Rinpoche has maintained innocence in all the Chinese allegations. Rinpoche's death sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment on 24 January following massive campaigns by Tibetans in exile and appeals from international human rights organisations for his release.

## Sikyong Inaugurates Sambhota Tibetan School Heads' Special Meeting



*Heads of various Sambhota Tibetan schools with Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay, Education Kalon Mr Ngodup Tsering, Director of STSS Mr Karma Chungdak and executive staff of Department of Education, CTA, 27 July 2016.*

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay inaugurated the first 'Sambhota Tibetan School Society (STSS) 'Special School Heads

Meeting' organised at Sherab Gatsel Lobling, Dharamshala.

Education Kalon Mr Ngodup Tsering of Central Tibetan Administration, Mr Karma Chungdak, Director of Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society (STSS), Mr Tenzin Dorjee, head of Academic section of Department of Education, executive staff of Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society and Department of Education along with heads of various Sambhota Tibetan schools were present at the inaugural ceremony of the meeting. A total of 21 principals and headmasters participated in the three-day special meeting.

The meeting focussed on improving students' education and enhancement of the efficiency of Tibetan schools administration.

In his inaugural address, Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay emphasised the importance placed on the role of school administrators, including principals and headmasters, in promoting welfare of students and facilitating a holistic environment for learning and growth.

Sikyong urged the school heads to focus on moral development of students by introducing His Holiness the Dalai Lama's thoughts on secular ethics and human values in the school curriculum.

Expressing concerns over the administration of newly transferred Tibetan schools – previously under the CTSA – Education Kalon urged the concerned school heads to discharge their responsibilities with highest efficiency and address the important areas of improvement in respect to students' education and growth.

Mr Karma Chungdak, Director of STSS extended greetings to all participants and introduced the aims and objectives of the meeting. "One of the objectives is to provide guidance for newly appointed school heads in execution of their duties." He added that out of 21 school heads participating in the meeting, around 13 have been recently appointed as heads of their respective schools.

## Tibetan Parliamentary Delegation Meets Indian Leaders at New Delhi

As resolved during the standing committee meeting of the Tibetan Parliament, a delegation of the Tibetan Parliament visited New Delhi from 25 July to meet leaders of the Indian government and members of the Indian parliament.

The Tibetan parliamentary delegation was comprised of Ms Dolma Tsering and Mr Lobsang Choejor and led by Ven Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok, Deputy Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile.

The delegation met Indian lawmakers from both houses of the parliament and apprised them about the current situation inside Tibet, the wave of Tibetan self-immolation protests and the state-sponsored environmental destruction taking place inside Tibet.

The delegation also urged the Indian leaders to pass a resolution in the Indian parliament in support of the Middle Way Approach urging the Chinese Government to resume dialogue with the representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration. They further urged the Indian Government to make Tibet issue a priority in India-China relationship and make India's position on Tibet more pronounced.

In the last three days from 26 to 28 July, the delegation met with five Union Cabinet Ministers and 29 parliamentarians from eight different political parties. The delegation also met top police officers of the city and scholars and political analysts.

## USAID Awards Letter of Appreciation to Health Department, CTA

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to the Tibetan

Medicare System (TMS) team of the Department of Health, Central Tibetan Administration for its effective and efficient management of funds and implementation of TMS projects.

The certificate was presented by Mr Jonathan Addleton, Mission Director of USAID to India at a ceremony held at Nyatri hall, Gangchen Kyishong to launch the assessment report of the Tibetan Health System Capacity Strengthening Project.

Mr Addleton was accompanied by Mr Xerses Sidhwa, Director of Health Services, USAID and Mr Arvind Kumar, Agreement Officer Representative (AOR).

In his remarks, Mr Addleton said that this certificate is recognition of the quality health service being provided by the health department, and reaffirmed USAID's deep commitment to helping the Tibetan community improve their education, economic as well as their health status.



*Mr Jonathan Addleton, Mission Director of USAID, presenting a certificate of appreciation to Health Kalon in recognition of CTA's exemplary work.*

He lauded the Tibetan Medicare system, a community based health insurance scheme, initiated by the department to serve the health care needs of the public by creating a more sustainable financing source. "Tibetans certainly deserve the healthcare they need at the right time without struggling to pay medical bills that they cannot afford," he said, referring to TMS.

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay thanked the USAID for their continued assistance and expressed that the certificate of appreciation would further inspire the staff to work harder.

"This Certificate of Appreciation is a reaffirmation of the fact that the staff of

the Central Tibetan Administration particularly the health department has been doing good work," he said.

"This is a first such letter of appreciation that the Central Tibetan Administration has received from a foreign organisation. Moreover, to receive it from a person of stature like Ambassador Jonathan Addleton means so much to the CTA as a whole and particularly to the health department," he added.

Health Kalon Mr Choekyong Wangchuk delivered a brief introduction of the health department and its various projects. He emphasised the importance of preventive healthcare initiatives to enhance the overall Tibetan public health.

USAID is a US governmental aid organisation that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realise their potential. It is also one of the primary donors of CTA's health and education projects.

## New Representative of Delhi Bureau Takes Charge



*Mr Tempa Tsering greeting Mr Ngodup Dongchung, the new Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the ceremony at New Delhi, 10 August 2016.*

A brief ceremonial session of handing over of the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Kasur Ngodup Dongchung was held at Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi on 10 August.

A customary Tibetan butter tea and sweet rice was served to all the staff of Bureau. Kasur Tempa Tsering, the outgoing Representative introduced his successor Kasur Ngodup Dongchung and then

thanked his staff for their dedication and commitment for the service of the Tibetan people.

The New Representative, Kasur Dongchung Ngodup appreciated his predecessor for his elaborate guidelines in handling the Bureau affairs. He assured his commitment to do the best for the service of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetans.

Mr Sonam Norbu Dagpo, International Relations Secretary of the Department of Information and International Relations witnessed the handing/taking of the two Representatives and acknowledged the importance of Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He thanked Kasur Tempa Tsering for his mentorship and the successful accomplishment of his lifelong services in the Central Tibetan Administration. He also wished the new Representative great success and good health.

Later, the staff of Bureau greeted in line by offering Khatag to both the outgoing and the new Representatives.

Kasur Ngodup Dongchung is a senior bureaucrat who served more than 40 years in Central Tibetan Administration. Since September 2007, he remained as the Kalon of Department of Security until his recent resignation from the post on 6 April 2016.

## New Representative Tashi Phuntsok Takes Charge of OOT Brussels



*Mr Tashi Phuntsok formally taking charge of OOT Brussels from Mr Kelsang Gyaltzen, former special envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Europe.*

Mr Tashi Phuntsok, who has been appointed as the new representative for Office of Tibet, Brussels, formally took charge from Acting Representative of Office of Tibet, Brussels, Mr Kelsang Gyaltzen.

A brief ceremony of handing over was held at Office of Tibet in Brussels on 24 August. Mr Ngodup Dorjee, Representative of Office of Tibet, Geneva, attended the ceremony as the official witness. Mr Tsering Dhundup, Secretary, Bureau du Tibet, Paris was present to hand over the charge of that office as well.

Guests at the ceremony included president of the Tibetan Community, and representatives from the various Tibetan associations as well as the staff members of the office of Tibet, Brussels.

During the ceremony, a customary Tibetan butter tea and sweet rice was served to all the guests. Later, the staff and the guest greeted the outgoing and the new Representatives by offering scarves.

Mr Tashi Phuntsok has dedicated more than 35 years in service of Tibetan community since 1977. He has served in various capacities in CTA, notably as the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in South Africa from 1997 – 2001. He then served as the Representative for Office of Tibet in Brussels and Paris from 2001 – 2005, and as the Chief Representative of the Southern Tibetan Settlements, Bangalore from 2010- 2012 and as the Secretary of Department of Information and International Relations, Dharamsala on 8 February 2013.

## New Representative Mr Penpa Tsering Takes Charge of OOT, Washington

Mr Penpa Tsering, former Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament, formally took charge as the new Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Office of Tibet, based in Washington DC, from outgoing Representative Mr Kaydor

Aukatsang.

A brief ceremony of handing over was held on 26 August 2016. Mr Tsewang Phuntso, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Office of Tibet, Brazil, attended the ceremony as the official witness. The Tibetan community of Washington also organised a farewell cum dinner reception for both the outgoing and the new representative.

The new Representative was greeted by the staff of the office of Tibet and delegations of the Tibetan community and associations.

In his farewell remarks, Mr Kaydor Aukatsang, expressed his gratitude to the staff and public for their cooperation during his time in office and urged them to extend the same towards the new Representative.

He also emphasised Tibetan unity and urged them to unitedly work for the Tibetan cause with wholehearted dedication. Mr Aukatsang will leave for India to serve in the Social And Resource Development desk of the Department of Finance.

Mr Penpa Tsering, in his inaugural remarks, said, “Every representative of the Office of Tibet hold office in the name of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and have special responsibility to uphold the reputation.” He paid gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s constant guidance and blessings towards the Tibetan people and movement.

Mr Kaydor Aukatsang will take his new charge in Department of Finance under SARD in October 2016.



*New representative Mr Penpa Tsering and outgoing Representative Mr Kaydor Aukatsang exchanging pleasantries at the event.*

## Sikyong Inaugurates 2nd Tibetan Entrepreneurs' Game Changers Conference 2016



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 2nd Tibetan Entrepreneurs GameChangers Conference, 30 August 2016.*

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay inaugurated the second Tibetan GameChangers Conference organised by Tibetan Entrepreneurship Development (TED), an initiative of the Department of Finance, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) on 30 August 2016.

At least eighty Tibetan entrepreneurs and budding businessmen including clothing designers, cycling tour managers, photographers, coaching institute managers, retailers, tour operators, etc participated in the two-day conference.

Inaugurating the conference, Sikyong urged the Tibetan public to cultivate ideas of economic development through entrepreneurship and investments. He also recalled a statement His Holiness the Dalai Lama made in San Francisco a few years back where His Holiness expressed a desire to see self-made Tibetan millionaires and billionaires in the future.

Sikyong therefore – to fulfill His Holiness the Dalai Lama's noble vision – reaffirmed the CTA's full assistance through seed funding and investment awards and guidance through comprehensive training and workshops to promote entrepreneurship and economic development in the Tibetan community.

Sikyong further emphasised the importance of generating creative business ideas to start a business. "It

is not money that starts a successful business, it is an idea that creates the spark for a successful business," he said, adding that if the idea is there, the CTA, through the Finance Department, will render whatever assistance is required in terms of training and capital loans.

Sikyong further gave a rough outline of the financial structure of the Tibetan people as a whole. "Around 526 crores (in INR) are deposited in banks as savings by the Tibetan people and over 1570 crores are available in liquid assets. At the same time, the Tibetan people have taken 620 crores as loans from banks to start businesses," he said.

"It is an interesting scenario," he noted. "If you look at the disposable assets and the savings deposits, it is a huge amount as compared to the loans taken by the Tibetan people to start businesses. Therefore, it goes on to show that the Tibetan people are generally risk averse and that we are content with the minor interest rates being provided by banks as opposed to taking risks to start businesses."

"We Tibetans also suffer from a chronic imitation business culture. If one individual succeeds in a particular business, others follow suit expecting similar results. However, a healthy economy doesn't work like that. We need to be diverse and creative," he added.

Sikyong further emphasised business with ethics and Corporate Social

Responsibility (CSR) among Tibetan businesses and entrepreneurs. "If Tibetan entrepreneurs succeed, it would help in developing the macro Tibetan economy. Successful Tibetan businessmen could also contribute towards social causes like businessmen in the west do," he said.

Sikyong also expressed optimistically that in the next 15-20 years time, the Tibetan community should be entirely self-reliant without depending on foreign funds and contributions.

Finance Kalon Mr Karma Yeshe, in his address, explained the aims and objectives of the conference and underlined self-reliance as one of the most important goals to achieve based on the three guiding principles of the Kashag.

He also gave an introduction of the Tibetan Entrepreneurship Development and the initiatives taken by the section to boost entrepreneurship in the Tibetan community.

"We have introduced many initiatives through TED to bolster the entrepreneurship knowledge such as Pre Incubation training for budding entrepreneurs, legal and advisory support to entrepreneurs, business plan competitions, incubation support, nurturing youth entrepreneurs and TED Nepal initiatives, etc," Kalon said.

"TED has also sent six Tibetan students in the last three years to participate in the Global Scholar's Program in South Africa," he added.

The two-day GameChangers conference, in line with the objectives of TED, is aimed at creating an annual platform for collaboration, innovation and networking between Tibetan Entrepreneurs and the world. It enables Tibetan entrepreneurs to build networks, enrich knowledge, and connect mentors and investors to pitch their business ideas on the given platform.



## Celebrations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st Birthday

On the occasion of his 81st birthday His Holiness the Dalai Lama joined a large assembly of monks from Tibetan monasteries of all traditions across India, who had gathered to make a Long Life Offering to him. The event was organized by representatives of the Gelug Order of Tibetan Buddhism and the Doeguling Tibetan Settlement where His Holiness has been a guest for nearly a week.

The Long Life Offering was followed by a public celebration in front of Drepung Monastery's main assembly hall. The entire local Tibetan community of 14,000 congregated under an enormous awning. They were joined by local dignitaries, as well as local Christian, Hindu and Muslim leaders who paid their respects to His Holiness, presenting him traditional gifts of shawls and garlands and wishing him a happy birthday. In his words of thanks His Holiness praised India's longstanding tradition of religious tolerance and harmony. He remarked,

“Inter-religious harmony is something I



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama with local religious leaders cutting the cake presented to him during celebrations honoring his 81st birthday at Drepung Monastery in Mundgod, Karnataka, India on July 6, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

have been working hard to support; I urge you too to join me in this effort.”

When His Holiness was presented with a birthday cake, a group of young school children broke into peals of “Happy birthday to you.”

In addition to marking His Holiness's birthday the day also saw celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Doeguling Tibetan Settlement. In a brief address His Holiness recalled the hardships faced by monks who had escaped Tibet in 1959. They had initially been housed in a

former Prisoner-of-War Camp at Buxa Daur, West Bengal, where unhealthy conditions led to many deaths. He was full of praise for the hard work of the initial settlers due to whose efforts a thriving settlement eventually emerged. During a formal inauguration of Drepung Loseling Monastery's new Debate Court His Holiness noted the unique approach to study that Tibetans have pursued:

“We don't merely read the commentaries, each word of the text in hand is considered and analyzed, and what is understood is further explored and reinforced in formal debate. This approach, employing logic and reason, is unique to the Tibetan tradition of Buddhist practice.”

Finally, His Holiness met with senior members of the Tibetan community at the Old People's Home. He praised the devotion and hard work they shown in their lives and encouraged them to keep up their religious observances.

His Holiness drove to Goa, from where he flew to Delhi and on to Dharamsala.

## Birthday Wishes to His Holiness the Dalai Lama from the European Parliament



Mr Thomas Mann, a German MEP from the European People's Party, the biggest Political Group in the European Parliament and the Chair of the Tibet Interest Group (TIG) extended his warmest birthday wishes to His Holiness the Dalai Lama as he marked his 81st birthday.

“You are and you will be a role model of a peaceful human approach in every situation of life. For your 81st birthday, we promise to continue our work here in

the European Parliament in Brussels and of course in Strasbourg”, said Mr. Mann.

“Since 15 years, I am privileged to be leader of European parliamentarians who support your middle way approach, Your Holiness the Dalai Lama. Every year we celebrate your birthday in Brussels last week in the very famous Albert Hall. I am happy to say that our work as a cross party group reaches visible results. In February 2014, we celebrated our 100th TIG meeting with 300 participants all over the world. We fight against torture, suppression and illegal imprisonment. In December 2015, the European parliament passed a report on the EU China relations. We successfully integrated a large number of amendment about the human rights situation, environmental pollution and the law on counter terrorism. We published statements about the Tibetan uprising on the 10 March 2016 and we were present dur-

ing the demonstration on the Schuman square in Brussels.”

“As president of Tibet Interest Group, I was a member of a International Election Observing Mission to Dharamshala, together with parliamentarians from three different countries. I spent one week in the political capital of the Tibetans in exile. The overall impression was that the Tibetans hold their elections democratically, professionally and with great passion. A personal high was of course, the private audience of our team with you holiness.”

“For your 81st birthday, we promise to continue our work here in the European Parliament in Brussels and of course in Strasbourg. Again, Happy birthday Holiness and Tashi Delek,” Mr Mann said in a video message to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his 81st birthday.

## Celebrations Mark 81st Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Dharamshala

Tibetans, friends and devotees of His Holiness the Dalai Lama gathered in large numbers at the Tsuglagkhang, the main Tibetan temple in Dharamshala, to participate in the official 81st birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 6 July.

The celebration was attended by Tibetan Justice Commissioners, Kalons, members of the Tibetan Parliament along with staff of the Central Tibetan Administration and representatives of Tibetan non-governmental organisations. Other dignitaries include Mr Ajai Singh Mankotia, President of the Indo-Tibetan Friendship Association.

As Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel are both in Mundgod, the official statements of the Kashag and Tibetan Parliament were read out by officiating Sikyong Kalon Sonam Topgyal Khorlatsang and Deputy Speaker Ven Acharya Yeshi Phuntsok respectively.

Expressing warm greetings to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Kalon Sonam Topgyal Khorlatsang said: "On this joyous occasion of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama's 81st birthday, on behalf of Kashag and Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, I would like to express our deepest reverence to His Holiness the Dalai Lama."

"On this very day in 1935, following numerous auspicious signs and symbols, Lhamo Dhondup was born to father Choekyong Tsering and mother Dekyi Tsering in Taktser village, located in the Amdo region of Tibet. We owe deep gratitude to the great parents for blessing us with their precious son. His Holiness' birth at the fringes of the Tibetan plateau is similar to previous great Lamas and several Dalai Lamas who have chosen specific birthplaces to signify unity in Tibet," he added.

Applauding and paying gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's vision for a democratic Tibetan polity, the officiating Sikyong explained the efforts exerted by His Holiness the Dalai Lama over the



*School children performing a group song to celebrate His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st birthday at Tsuglagkhang, 6 July 2016. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

years to democratise the Tibetan administrative system.

"His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama, even at a young age, had the vision of a strong united Tibet. Enthroned as the 14th Dalai Lama at the age of five, he had to take over the spiritual and temporal authority of Tibet at the tender age of 16, at a time when the People's Republic of China illegally occupied Tibet. The young Dalai Lama immediately formed the Reform Committee to cater to the welfare of poor Tibetans, irrespective of their provincial or religious affiliations. This committee intrinsically helped strengthen Tibetan unity," he said, reading from the Kashag's statement.

Delivering the statement of the Tibetan Parliament, Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshi Phuntsok highlighted the achievements of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the unique, indispensable leadership provided by His Holiness the Dalai Lama during one of Tibet's most tragic periods.

"In 1949, communist China began its invasion of Tibet from its eastern borders; as a result, the political situation in the country became highly precarious. The country was plunged into a situation of emergency and insurmountable difficulty. Such being the criticality of the situation, the deities and subjects of Tibet, without any exception, acted as one, making a spontaneous appeal to His

Holiness the Dalai Lama with utmost earnestness. Accordingly, despite being only sixteen years of age at that time, he assumed his position as the temporal head and spiritual leader of the religiously and politically governed Snowland of Tibet. He then at once set up a Reform Bureau as a separate office in an effort to transform the prevailing political and administrative system in Tibet in all their aspects into one based on democracy and liberty. He thereby initiated a process to enable the citizens of Tibet to carry on their lives in an atmosphere of freedom."

Mr Ajai Singh Mankotia, President of Indo-Tibetan Friendship Association, expressed his heartfelt greetings and birthday wishes to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on behalf of the local Indian community. He extolled the efforts of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to bring peace and foster harmony in the world and urged everyone to practice the values embodied by His Holiness.

He also appealed everyone to exert efforts towards making Dharamshala a truly spiritual destination which reflects the blessings and teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Born on 6 July 1935 to a peasant family in Takster village in the Amdo region of Tibet, His Holiness the great 14 Dalai Lama was recognised as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama when he was two years old.

## Monks in Ngaba Warned Against Staging Peaceful Protests in New State-issued Handbook

In a newly issued handbook, local Chinese authorities in Ngaba county (incorporated into China's Sichuan province) have warned monks of Kirti monastery against staging any form of peaceful protest and sharing of information from inside Tibet to abroad via social media platforms.

On 28 July 2016, the Chinese authorities in Ngaba district issued a handbook, containing a set of decrees, criminalising all forms of peaceful protest, silent march, self immolation and the use of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's portrait during protest as an act of "disrupting social stability".

Another provision in the handbook prohibited the monks from sharing information on social media to the outside world, declaring it as an illegal act of "leaking state secrets" and "engaging in separatist activities."

The bilingual handbook, written in Tibetan and Chinese, was circulated among all monks of Kirti Monastery. Each monk was given strict instructions to abide by provisions in the handbook.

The Chinese authorities have reportedly conducted a meeting of representatives of all the monasteries in Ngaba to declare enforcement of the handbook in each of the monasteries.

Tibetans inside Tibet describe it as a conspicuous move by the Chinese government to justify its brutal repression of peaceful dissent.

Since 2009, a total of 144 Tibetans have set themselves on fire in protest against the Chinese government's repressive policies in Tibetan areas. Many such protests have taken place in Ngaba region, especially by the monks of Kirti monastery.

However, Chinese authorities have responded to such protests with heightened repression and severe punishments to the family members of the self-immolators.

Last year in August, Dolma Kyab, 32, was sentenced to death by an intermediate people's court in Ngaba (Ch: Aba) prefecture for allegedly killing his wife, Kunchok Wangmo. Kunchok Wangmo, aged in her 30s, was believed by Tibetans to have set herself on fire in protest against the repressive policies of the Chinese government.

In a similar case, Lobsang Tsundue, who is a paternal uncle and teacher of the deceased Phuntsok (who self-immolated on 16 March 2011) was sentenced to 11 years in prison on charges of "intentional homicide for hiding Phuntsok and preventing him from getting medical treatment after he set himself on fire".

## Senior RSS Leader Calls on China to Officially Recognise the Central Tibetan Administration

Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary and convener of Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch Shri Indresh Kumar reaffirmed his continued support for the cause of Tibet at a press conference held at Hotel Centre Point in Lower Dharamshala, 20 August.

He also called on China to officially recognise the Central Tibetan Administration and urged the Chinese government to engage in constructive dialogue with Tibetan representatives.

The press conference was organised by the Tibetan Parliamentary Secretariat and attended by Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel and Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok along with officials of the Tibetan Parliament.

Shri Indresh Kumar emphasised the historical independence of Tibet and the role played by Tibet as a peaceful buffer between the two nations prior to its

occupation.

"Historically, Tibet was never a part of China. It was only because of China's aggressive occupation that Tibet and a slew of other nations like Mongolia became a part of China," he said.

"Most of the colonised countries including India got their independence around 1940s in the aftermath of the Second World War. Unfortunately, Tibet lost its independence around that time. However, the Indian government has never accepted that Tibet was historically a part of China," he added.

"Tibet used to be a peaceful buffer between the two Asian nations. India and Tibet used to share a 4000km-long border but there were never any skirmishes along the border. However, since Tibet's occupation, the peaceful border has been heavily militarised with soldiers, air force bases and missile launchers.

Therefore, it is clear that China wants to occupy the entire Himalayas for its nefarious ambitions," he noted.

The RSS leader also pointed out that China should respect the Tibetan people's aspirations and should not undertake activities to annihilate Tibet's cultural heritage, its pristine environment or violate their fundamental rights in the name of development.

He further expressed his gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for making Dharamshala an international destination known for its peace and tranquility.

Acharya Yeshe Phunstok, Deputy Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament, thanked the RSS leader for his support to the Tibet cause and called him 'a long time friend' of the Tibetan people.

The press conference was followed by a brief question-answer session.

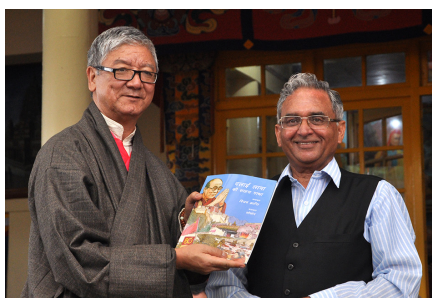
## Indian Writer Pays Tribute to His Holiness the Dalai Lama

As a tribute to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, on his 81st birth anniversary, Journalist and Tibetologist Vijay Kranti released the Hindi edition of his comic book Dalai Lama – The Soldier of Peace.

The Chief Justice Commissioner of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission, Mr Kargyu Dhondup inaugurated the book at the official ceremony held at the main temple Tsuglagkhang, to mark His Holiness' birthday.

In Hindi, the book is titled “Dalai Lama ki Saahas Katha” (“Thrilling Story of Dalai Lama”). It tells the story of His Holiness the Dalai Lama through an interesting sequence of comic-style sketches, drawn and painted by Tibetan illustrator Sodhon. The book tells the story of how China occupied Tibet and His Holiness' escape to exile in India.

“The focus audience of my book is In-



*Chief Justice Commissioner Mr Kargyu Dhondup inaugurating the launch of the Hindi version of Vijay Kranti's comic book 'Dalai Lama – Soldier of Peace'.*

dian students and communities living around Tibetan settlements and in the neighbourhood of Tibetan establishments across India. I sincerely believe that if the Indian neighbourhoods of Tibetan settlements know the true story of the Dalai Lama and Tibetan refugee community, they will be more sympathetic towards their Tibetan neighbours and will be more forthcoming with their support for the cause,” said Kranti.

Mr Vijay Kranti is a senior Indian journalist and an internationally-renowned photographer. During the past four decades he has written frequently on various aspects of Tibet, and extensively photographed the cultural and social life of the Tibetan community — in exile as well as inside Tibet. He was the founding editor of Tibbat Desh, a magazine in Hindi which he edited for its first 30 years, until 2010. Currently, he is Chairman of the National Union of Journalists (India) School of Journalism and Communication. NUJ(I) is the largest body of working journalists in India, and the School focuses on upgrading professional skills of working journalists and also functions as a think tank on profession-related issues, especially professional ethics.

For detailed news visit:  
[www.tibet.net](http://www.tibet.net)

## Shillong Celebrates 81st Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama



*Mr Choekyong Wangchuk, Kalon, Department of Health is addressing the audience during the auspicious occasion on the dais.*

The hilly town of Meghalaya observed for the first time a grand celebration of 81st Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Tibet festival at Auditorium, Shri Aurobindo Ashram, Shillong.

The program commenced with the lighting of butter lamp by the Chief Guest Dr D.D.Lapang, former Chief Minister of Meghalaya and Kalon Choekyong Wangchuk, Dept. Of Health, CTA, Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh. Followed by offering Khatak (silk scarf) in

front of the portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the golden throne while the monks of Gaden Choling monastery recited the Mangalacharan.

Students of Sambhota Tibetan School led the national anthem of Tibet and India with their school band and later beautifully sang a tribute song of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Gathering of more than 700 people comprising Tibetans, Nepalis, Garo, Khasi, Jainti, Bhutanese and other tribal communities and also representation from college and school students observed 1 minute silence in honor of Tibetan martyrs who selflessly sacrifice their life for the Tibetan cause and those who still suffer on day to day under the communist Chinese rule inside Tibet.

Shri R.K.Khrimey, National Convener, Core Group for Tibetan Cause-India delivered the introductory remarks and said that 6th July is not only celebrated by the Tibetans, but also by the Buddhists com-

munities and peace loving people around the world.

Mrs Yangchen Dolkar, Member of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, delivered the Statement of Tibetan Parliament-in-exile.

Representing Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay, Guest of Honor, Mr Choekyong Wangchuk, Kalon, Department of Health, Central Tibetan Administration delivered the Kashag Statement in English as most of the audience speaks English. The honorable Kalon further brief the statement in Tibetan, in gist he said that the Kashag calls for unity amongst the Tibetan people and focus on bringing forth unified front to resolve the issue of Tibetan cause.

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay was not able to take part in the festival due to his prior engagement to attend His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st birthday's official celebration held at Mundgod, Karnataka on the same day.

Dr D D Lapang, the Chief Guest is a former Chief Minister of the State and he mesmerise the crowd with praises for His Holiness life struggle of exile at the young age of 25, building the exile community from nothing to one of the most successful exile community in the world. Further, said that in these difficult times of intolerance and terrorism he is promoting a culture of freedom and dialogue for a better world.

Other dignitaries present during the program are Mr James A Sangma, Member of Legislative Assembly, Meghalaya, Shri Manas Chaudheri, renowned Social Activist and Prof B B Dutta, Chairman of Sri Aurobindo Ashram also graced the occasion and delivered memorable speeches.

Later, the limelight of the celebration was a cultural program where people and



*Tibetan community in Shillong performing the Tibetan cultural dance on 81st birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.*

guest all cheer to the cultural dances and songs by the students of Sambhota Tibetan school Shillong, and also traditional Tibetan dances from Tibetan community of Shillong and Miao (Arunachal Pradesh), Bhutanese cultural troupe, traditional Tamang dances by Tamang college students, people also enjoyed Bharatnatyam dance (Indian classical dance) by Ms Jordan Kargunka, Tukmen Lomeykhara dance group from Rupa Arunachal Pradesh presented

different Chams (religious dance).

Mr Tsering Dorje, office secretary, Shillong Tibetan Settlement office gave the thank you note.

Guest and the audience also enjoyed the grand photo exhibition of Tibet Museum, under Department of Information and International relations, CTA, Dharamsala. The travel exhibition showcase, 'Biography of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama' and 'The Three commitments of His Holiness the Dalai Lama'. It also aims to create awareness about the unique Tibetan history and culture to the local public of Shillong.

Staff of ITCO, Delhi and Tibet Museum, Dharamsala distributed Tibet related books, leaflets and comic book on His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to the participants.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st Birthday Celebration in London

The Office of Tibet, London hosted a reception at the historic St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, central London, on 6 July to celebrate the joyous occasion of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st Birthday.

More than 90 guests joined in the celebration, including London based diplomats, two former Representatives, Heads of religious organisations, Tibet charities and Tibet Support Groups based in London, representatives from the regional chapters of Tibet Support Groups, academicians, donors linked to Tibet House Trust and long-time friends of Tibet, as well as Chairman of Tibetan Community in Britain.

The celebrations began on a spiritual note with a short Tibetan Buddhist prayer. A representative from the Centre briefly spoke about the history behind the venue and mentioned how the work at the Centre is very much aligned with Buddhist values of peace, compassion and tolerance.

Mr Chonpel Tsering, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Northern Europe, Baltic States and Poland,

in his address welcomed the guests and thanked them for joining in the celebration. He mentioned about the three commitments of His Holiness the Dalai Lama: promotion of basic human values, promotion of inter-religious harmony and the preservation of Tibet's rich Buddhist cultural heritage which His Holiness is totally committed to.

Mr Tsering called upon all the guests to join him in wishing His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama "a long and healthy life."

A short video clip containing His Holiness the Dalai Lama's message urging all his friends and well-wishers to be more compassionate in their daily lives, which he considers as the best birthday gift, was played for the guests.

A young Tibetan singer from Bristol, Tashi Dhundup, performed two solo-songs in tribute to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st birthday; while the cultural group of Tibetan Community in Britain, led by its three experienced artists, performed dranyen-shabdro, much to the delight of everyone present.

The Tibetan Community in Britain observed the 81st birthday celebration of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama at a magnificent venue in north east London, attended by more than 300 people. On behalf of the Office of Tibet, London Mr Tenzin Kunga in his address, called for unity and preservation of Tibetan language and culture. He also distributed Community Awards to four individual Tibetans – for their invaluable contributions to the Tibetans community in UK.



*Guests listening to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's message*

Likewise, Tibetans and friends from the other countries under the jurisdiction of Office of Tibet, London celebrated the 81st Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with Events to mark the special occasion.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st Birthday Celebrated in Russia



*Telo Tulku Rinpoche, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Russia, Mongolia and CIS countries, speaking at the 81st birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, at the Moscow Institute of Aviation, Russia,*

Over 1300 people attended the celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st birthday celebrations in Moscow, the capital city of Russia.

The event held at big concert hall of the Moscow Institute of Aviation was jointly organized by the Moscow Tibet Office and Save Tibet Foundation.

Among the high dignitaries who attended the celebrations were Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kalmykia to the President of the Russian Federation Mr Baatr Lidzhiev; Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tuva to the President of the Russian Federation Mrs Svetlana Namchak (Republic of Tuva); Deputy Permanent Representative of the Zabaikalsk Region to the President of the Russian Federation Mr Ochir Damdinov, Mongolian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation Mrs B Delgermaa and representative of Ulan-Bator on Moscow Mrs M Munkhtsetseg.

In his opening remarks Telo Tulku Rinpoche, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's representative to Russia, Mongolia and CIS countries, talked about the importance of His Holiness message of love, kindness and compassion for today's world torn apart by wars, conflicts and misunderstanding among people.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama has been traveling unceasingly around the globe giving lectures and teachings, speaking at various conferences and forums, bringing blessings and consolation to thousands of people", said Telo Tulku stressing that every follower of His Holiness should consider spreading his message of love, kindness and compassion to be his or her personal responsibility.

"Commitment to love, kindness and compassion is the best birthday present each of us could give to His Holiness" concluded Telo Tulku addressing both traditional Buddhists of the Russian Federation (people from Kalmykia, Tuva, Buryatia and Transbaikalia) as well Russian admirers of His Holiness.

All of them joined the visiting Tibetan Buddhist and Bon monks praying together for the long life and fulfillment of the great deeds of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The participants of the celebratory event had a wonderful chance to see a musical play "I am the Buddha" staged by the B Basangov National Drama Theater (Elista, Kalmykia). The troupe of

26 talented artists traveled all the way from Kalmykia, Elista, to show their exquisite performance in Moscow as a heartfelt offering to their spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The play was staged by acclaimed theater director Boris Mandzhiev with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Kalmykia and the main Kalmyk temple "The Golden Abode of Buddha Shakyamuni".



*More than a thousand people gathered at Moscow Institute of Aviation to mark His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 81st birthday.*

At the end of performance Telo Tulku Rinpoche offered each artist a white khata and a newly realized two volume edition that includes two major recent books by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, "Beyond Religion" and "Towards the True Kinship of Faiths". Yulia Zhironkina, Director of Save Tibet Foundation publishing the books, mentioned that a new two volume edition reflects two main commitments of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the promotion of basic human values or secular ethics in the interest of human happiness and fostering of inter-religious harmony.

### Thank you from His Holiness the Dalai Lama!

My dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to thank you for your greetings and good wishes on the occasion of my 81st birthday.

What would make me happier still would be if these good wishes were transformed into a wider sense of warm-heartedness; if people acted more out of a genuine concern for each other's well being. Simply put, this means: Be of help to others if you can. If you can't, at least avoid causing harm to others.

On 8th July, I returned to Dharamsala after a week's stay in Tibetan settlements in South India, preceded by a three-week visit to the USA. I have always been deeply touched by the affection and friendship shown to me by people from all walks of life.

With my prayers and good wishes,  
Dalai Lama

## Kashag's Statement on the Eighty First Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama

On this joyous occasion of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama's 81st birthday, on behalf of Kashag and Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, I would like to express our deepest reverence to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

On this very day in 1935, following numerous auspicious signs and symbols, Lhamo Dhondup was born to father Choekyong Tsering and mother Dekyi Tsering in Taktser village, located in the Amdo region of Tibet. We owe deep gratitude to the great parents for blessing us with their precious son. His Holiness' birth at the fringes of the Tibetan plateau is similar to previous great Lamas and several Dalai Lamas who have chosen specific birthplaces to signify unity in Tibet.

The three Great Dharma Kings of Tibet united the land like no other kings did before them. After Tibet disintegrated into small kingdoms, the Great Fifth Dalai Lama united the whole of Tibet under a single administration of the Gadhen Phodrang government.

His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama, even at a young age, had the vision of a strong united Tibet. Enthroned as the 14th Dalai Lama at the age of five, he had to take over the spiritual and temporal authority of Tibet at the tender age of 16, at a time when the People's Republic of China illegally occupied Tibet. The young Dalai Lama immediately formed the Reform Committee to cater to the welfare of poor Tibetans, irrespective of their provincial or religious affiliations. This committee intrinsically helped strengthen Tibetan unity.

At the age of 24, when His Holiness' efforts for a peaceful resolution with China did not materialize, he declared the continuation of the Gadhen Phodrang government as the legitimate government of Tibet and its temporary establishment at Lhuntsedzong. After His Holiness sought refuge in India, it was in the hilly Indian town of Mussoorie that His Holiness instituted the



*Home Kalon Sonam Topgyal Khorlatsang delivering the statement on the 81st birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

Kashag of the Tibetan Administration-in-exile affirming their commitment to fostering unity among Tibetans. In May 1960, the Central Tibetan Administration was moved to Dharamsala and to ensure administrative effectiveness, His Holiness announced the portfolio of the Kalons.

On November 17, 1959 in Mussoorie and on July 1st, 1960 in Dalhousie, His Holiness shared his vision of democracy. He said, "It is wrong and very dangerous to harbor prejudices between U-Tsang, Amdo and Kham. You should continue to develop.

internal harmony and be as firmly united as an iron ball." With a steadfast commitment to represent unity among Tibetans, leaders of all three provinces, monastic institutions and former staff members of the Gaden Phodrang government in Tibet gathered at Bodhgaya and took the Nagen Chenmo (great oath) and pledged iron-like unity under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

On September 2, 1960, Tibetans elected the members of parliament and subsequently the first parliamentary meeting was held on the very same day now being commemorated as the Tibetan Democracy Day. The very formation of the parliament on the basis of the three traditional provinces and four religious sects and Bon was to institutionalize the unity of Tibetan people. By the same token, the

members of the parliament are referred to as Chithue (people's representative) – delineating their representation of Tibet and the common aspirations of Tibetan people devoid of regional and sectarian biases.

His Holiness from the early years of exile history sensed the imperative of creating able leaders both in the secular and monastic communities, who would provide able leadership to the cause of Tibet. Accordingly, education was given the top priority and Tibetan schools were established discarding any preference for regional or sectarian connections. Tibetan settlements were set up, allowing people from all provinces and sects to be common Tibetan citizens and coexist peacefully. Monasteries and nunneries were established so that monks and nuns could be educated and be foremost Tibetans. His Holiness has worked hard to ensure that unity is the thread that ties Tibetans together during trying times.

Our exile history tells us that for the first few decades, there have been instances of regional and sectarian discord but they have been diluted overtime. Since the 90s, for two decades, harmony and unity among Tibetans was widespread and were at its peak. Hence in 2011, His Holiness believing in Tibetan unity and political maturity accordingly devolved his political authority to the elected leadership.

However, during the final round of the

2016 election of Sikyong and the members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, traits of regionalism was raised. His Holiness was hurt as made clear from his speech during the 2016 swearing-in ceremony of Sikyong. "I was pained to see the degradation of morality and the overtones of regional biases during the election campaign. It is very unfortunate. The unity of the three traditional provinces of Tibet is of primary importance. Therefore, we should do away with this warped sense of biases to regions and move on as one. If you consider me your friend, please pay attention to what I have said."

This remark by His Holiness the Dalai Lama bears a disconcerting resemblance to the ones given in 1959 and 1960. Instead of progression, the final elections witnessed regression. Regional biases were not only expressed, but acted upon, thereby creating disharmony. However there is a window of opportunity for us to rectify our mistakes and redefine our destiny. Mahatma Gandhi had said, "Your beliefs become your thoughts, thoughts become words, words become actions, actions become habits, habits become values and values become your destiny." Therefore, we urge Tibetans everywhere to remove their regional and sectarian partisanship from their thoughts, words and actions because we cannot afford to churn them into our destiny.

His Holiness has graciously bestowed upon us an opportunity to start fresh. On June 19, 2016 at a gathering of Tibetans living in California, he said, "In the recent election, although there have been a little dust storm, the sky and the earth is now clear and pure." Every Tibetan should not only pay heed to His Holiness' precious advice but also channel it into action. Now that the dust has settled, let us take a moment to look forward to our future with a renewed sense of conviction, purpose and action.

Tibetans inside Tibet revere His Holiness as manifestation of Chenrezig (Buddha of Compassion) and as the life and soul of Tibet. The spate of self-immolations in Tibet saw Tibetans calling for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet. Tibetans across the length and breadth of the three

provinces of Utsang, Kham and Amdo, risking arrest and imprisonment celebrated His Holiness's 80th birthday in the grandest manner possible. They continue to gather in droves to offer prayers for His Holiness' long life. On the other hand, exile Tibetans are fortunate to be in close proximity to His Holiness. The least we can do is to heed to his advice by upholding the principles of unity and preserving our unique language, religion and culture. Unity is the only way to move forward.

We vehemently condemn the fringe group of extremists who bear the name of Shugden and have been making concerted efforts to denigrate the work and accomplishments of His Holiness. While we deplore the planned demonstrations orchestrated by the Chinese government against His Holiness, we avow to take the strictest possible action to confront and challenge these matters. Likewise, we admonish the acts of few individuals using social media and other networks to engage in irresponsible acts of staging baseless and malicious attacks against leaders of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). We urge the public to remain cautious and vigilant and not be gullible to these anti-social behaviors of few people with vested interest.

When US President Barack Obama met His Holiness at the White House on 15 June this year, he discussed the critical political situation of Tibetans inside Tibet and the implications of environmental degradation on the Tibetan plateau. The President encouraged meaningful and direct dialogue between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his representatives with Chinese authorities to lower tensions and resolve differences. The President also welcomed His Holiness' leadership on climate change issues, and expressed support for his efforts to raise awareness of the importance of limiting global warming, including to protect the Himalayan glaciers and the environment on the Tibetan plateau.

President Obama emphasized his strong support for the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural, and linguistic traditions and the equal protection of human rights of Tibetan people. The

President lauded His Holiness the Dalai Lama's commitment to peace and nonviolence and expressed support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's "Middle Way" approach. The CTA profoundly thank President Obama and the US Government. We remain firmly committed to the Middle Way Policy and will take concrete measures to ensure that dialogue with China takes place in the near future.

Globally, His Holiness the Dalai Lama is recognized as a messenger of peace and harbinger of hope and harmony for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He was awarded the Templeton Prize for his fervent advocacy of religious harmony. The US Congressional Gold Medal was conferred on him for his efforts towards realizing a one world, one humanity and one environment. The UN Earth Prize was awarded to His Holiness for his efforts to preserve the global environment. Over the last few decades, His Holiness has visited 67 countries spanning 6 continents and authored over 100 books, advocating global peace and harmony. His Holiness' magnanimity and his pioneering accomplishments have provided a firm support for the cause of Tibet.

On this most special occasion we extend our deepest gratitude to the citizens and Government of this great country India for their continued hospitality and unflinching support towards the Tibetan people. We also express our sincere thanks to all the Governments, Parliamentarians, friends of Tibet and freedom loving people across the globe who support the cause of Tibet.

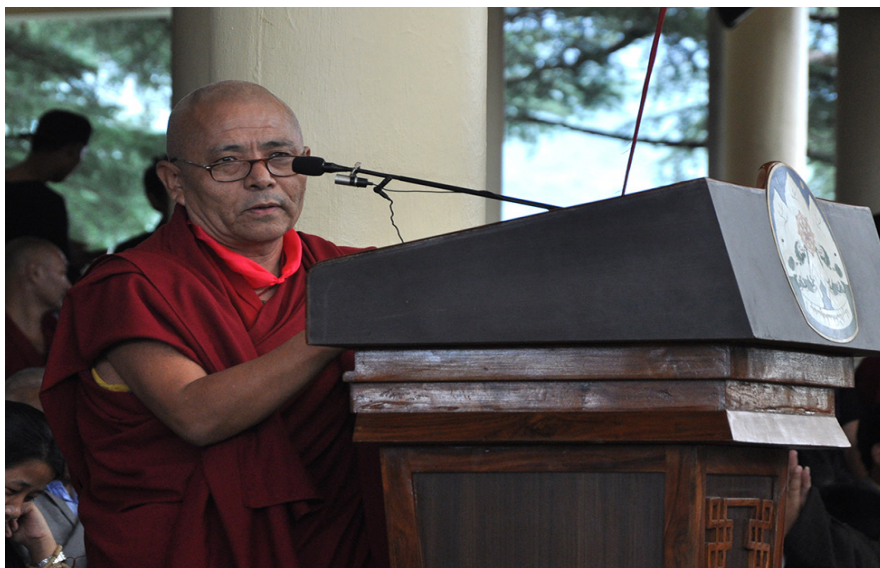
I once again express my deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama for his benevolent presence amongst us. With immense respect, we pray for his long life, to the age of one hundred and thirteen as graciously expressed by him. We reaffirm our unwavering loyalty and devotion to him. May all his wishes be fulfilled. May the non-violent cause of Tibet prevail.

KASHAG

July 6, 2016



## Speech of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile on the Occasion of Celebrations Marking the 81st Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama



*Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok delivering the statement of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the occasion of 81st birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

knowledge in both the general and specialized fields, including in the aspects of hearing, thinking and contemplating, and in the aspects of teaching, debating, and composing, becoming the apex ornament in Buddhist learning in the Snowland of Tibet.

In 1949, communist China began its invasion of Tibet from its eastern borders, as a result, the political situation in the country became highly precarious. The country was plunged into a situation of emergency and insurmountable difficulty. Such being the criticality of the situation, the deities and subjects of Tibet, without any exception, acted as one, making a spontaneous appeal to His Holiness the Dalai Lama with utmost earnestness. Accordingly, despite being only sixteen years of age at that time, he assumed his position as the temporal head and spiritual leader of the religiously and politically governed Snowland of Tibet. He then at once set up a Reform Bureau as a separate office in an effort to transform the prevailing political and administrative system in Tibet in all their aspects into one based on democracy and liberty. He thereby initiated a process to enable the citizens of Tibet to carry on their lives in an atmosphere of freedom. Unfortunately, however, because the invading army of communist China took control of the whole of the Snowland of Tibet, His Holiness the Dalai Lama had no option but to leave his homeland in 1959 and seek political asylum in neighbouring India. Immediately after setting foot on Indian soil, His Holiness met with leaders of the government of India at the various different levels and requested their help. These led to the establishment for the first time of a Central Tibetan Administration in exile in order to look after the well being of the many tens of thousands of Tibetans who had arrived in exile in his footsteps with a great sense of caring. In this milieu, religious centres were set up without any sectarian bias and wherein the followers of the four great schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the followers of the Bon religion could

Today marks the 6th day of July in 1935, which corresponded to the 5th day of the 5th month of the Tibetan Wood-Hog Year, when His Holiness the Dalai Lama took birth at Tagtser Village in the Kumbum area of Domey as foretold in unmistakably discernible terms by enlightened deities and Lamas alike, with his actual birth being indicated by wondrously miraculous appearances of numerous auspicious omens. This joyous occasion is the fruition of the accumulated merits of the sentient beings of the snowland of Tibet on the one hand and compassion-driven prior prayers of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the other hand, who is the designated deity of Tibet Chenresig, the supreme embodiment of compassion in human bodily manifestation among the pantheons of bodhisattvas, the spiritual lord of The Three Realms, a champion of global peace, the master on this earth of all the teachings of the Buddha, the patron-protector of all Tibetans, and the unexceptionable leader of Tibet. This is a grand occasion celebrating his 81st birthday according to the universal calendar year system and his 82nd birthday according to the Tibetan calendar system. On this happy occasion we remember him with infinite fondness for his kindness and the limitless amounts of grati-

tude we owe to him. With offering of prostrations, we on behalf of all Tibetans in Tibet and in exile, offer our greetings and felicitations to His Holiness with feelings of joy, faith, and contentment. It bears no mentioning that by reincarnating in unimaginable range of births as kings, ministers, scholars, yogis, and so on, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has guided infinite numbers of devotees to the noble path of becoming exalted and enlightened beings, with those who follow him in his all-pervasive, timeless noble deeds being extant across all The Three Realms of existence. The instituting by His Holiness the Great Fifth Dalai Lama of the system of governance which combined both the temporal and spiritual aspects ensured that under the comfort of a common administrative canopy, the happiness and well-being of all sentient beings of the Snowland of Tibet was ensured. In particular, His Holiness the Great Fourteenth Dalai Lama took birth to assume command at a time when the humanity in general lived in a degenerate period and the religiously imbued Tibet, in particular, was plunged in such critical situation as today. Endowed with all the symbols of a noble being in his perfect physical attributes, His Holiness became an accomplished bearer of all

carry on their own traditions in their own places of practice, worship, and study. Likewise, settlements, schools, handicraft centres, places of business, and so on were set up in keeping with the perceived requirements under different circumstances. They all flourish today with stellar vibrancy owing to the nobility of purpose and kindness of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

With regard to the Middle Way Policy for resolving the issue of Tibet, which is mutually beneficial to China and Tibet alike, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has, since 1974, held discussions on successive occasions with the speakers and deputy speakers of the Tibetan parliament in Exile, the Kalons, the officials of the Central Tibetan Administration, and delegates representing the Tibetan public. In 1979, Deng Xiaoping, the leader of communist-ruled China at that time, put forward the condition that anything except independence could be discussed and resolved. And on 18 September 1997, the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile unanimously passed a resolution to adopt the Middle Way Policy for the resolution of the issue of Tibet. This has become a policy of the Central Tibetan Administration and has been repeatedly reaffirmed as such. The policy has also received support from the international community, both from collective bodies and at individual levels, including from many governments. Besides, and in particular, a truly great number of intellectuals and others in China extend support for it with gladness and this remains a continuously growing trend. Developments such as these are results of adhering with fundamental importance to the wishes of His Holiness the Dalai Lama whose practical approach to resolving the issue of Tibet is based on the reality of the current situation.

In order especially to transform the political system of Tibet into one that is based on the noble democratic way, His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 1960 newly established a Tibetan parliament in Exile with its members being elected by the people. In 2011, out of exceptional concern and keeping solely in view the im-

mediate as well as long term fundamental interests of the Tibetan people, His Holiness the Dalai Lama devolved all the political and administrative powers held over the past nearly 400 years by the Ganden Phodang to the leaders directly elected by the Tibetan people. Throughout the above period, His Holiness the Dalai Lama strived to, and succeeded in, transforming the Central Tibetan Administration into a modern democratic setup which is both outstanding and stable. The above are but some examples of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's outstanding accomplishments in boundless fields both spiritual and political. There is no way we the entire people of Tibet can ever repay His Holiness for the gratitude we owe to him.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has received hundreds of globally famous awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize. Likewise, he has also undertaken – as he continues to – numerous trips for noble and admirable causes to a number of countries. In this respect, he has, for the benefit of the sentient beings across the world in general and for the sake of Tibet and the Tibetan people in particular, set for himself three main commitments: That as a human being, he undertakes to promote human values; that as a practitioner of the Buddhist religion, he undertakes to promote harmony and friendship among the followers of the different religions in this world; and that as a Tibetan in general and especially as someone who is greatly looked up to and trusted by all Tibetans both in Tibet and in exile, he undertakes to work for the fundamental cause of Tibet and to act as a free spokesperson for the Tibetans suffering repression under alien domination in their homeland. He has hence become an outstanding symbol of admiration by all for acting true to his noble commitments of universal concern in this world.

Another highly admirable deed of His Holiness the Dalai Lama has been his initiation of a hitherto non-existent interaction between Buddhism and modern science in an era when the strength of the influence of science has become unavoidable in this world. As a result

of his taking of initiatives to organize on successive occasions discussions based on indepth research in their respective fields, unbiased scientists who are experts in their fields have taken to undertake indepth research in Buddhist science. And they have concluded that in order to ensure a happy society in this world, the main requirement is for one to be warm-hearted within. And they have come to understand that Buddhism, or, rather, Buddhist science can help accomplish the realization of such a society. On this basis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's deeds of immense benefit have been aimed at transforming this world into a peaceful and compassionate one.

Recently, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited cities in five states of the United States of America, during which he carried forward his noble mission of promoting peace, love and compassion, and universal responsibility in this world. In particular, while visiting the capital Washington, DC, His Holiness was honoured and praised while meeting with top congressional leaders and other lawmakers, as well as other prominent leaders both in the government and in the opposition. In the Congress, a call was issued emphasizing the importance of supporting the struggle of the Tibetan people if their religion and culture, language and script and so on were to be protected. Through actions such as these, the Tibetan issue received strong and meaningful support. In particular, on 15 June 2016, despite strong objections and pressure from the government of China issued through various channels of communication, President Barack Obama of the United States of America and His Holiness the Dalai Lama met in the White House. And in that meeting the United States president expressed respect, praise and admiration for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's efforts to promote compassion. The two leaders discussed the situation in Tibet and on Tibetan religion, culture, and human rights of the Tibetan people. The president, in his turn, expressed support for the middle way policy and called for the resumption of dialogue between the government of China and representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in

a message directed at Beijing. This was a result of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's perseverance in continued efforts to achieve the just cause of Tibet. In view of this fact, we take this opportunity to express limitless thanks and gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on behalf of all Tibetans in Tibet and in exile.

Also, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has continued to show great concern about the environmental situation across the world in general and especially on the situation in Tibet. In this connection, it is understood that the environmental situation in Tibet has a direct effect on the well being of the situation in neighbouring India as well as across the whole of the Asian continent, particularly in China. For many thousands of years, Tibetans in Tibet had nurtured their country's environment to protect it from harms in keeping with their tradition, custom, and culture. However, ever since it was invaded and occupied by communist China, the whole of Tibet's environment has suffered devastating and irreparable destruction to limitless extents and this situation continues today. Recently, the local Tibetans in Domey Sangchu Dzong staged a series of protests against mining activities being carried out at a sacred site called Gong-Ngon Lari located in Amchok Township. The government of China responded by sending a large number of army troops to the mining site to carry out a violent suppression of the protestors, resulting in many of the protesting Tibetans getting serious injuries. Some of them had to be rushed to hospital in urgent efforts to try to save them from life-threatening injuries. Also recently, the government of the so-called Tsoilho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai Province had, in an action smacking of ethnic discrimination, issued a dictatorial order, banning the local Tibetans from pitching tents along a stretch of the Qinghai Lake which they were using to cater to visiting tourists for their livelihood. Army troops and police forces were sent in to carry out indiscriminate beating of the Tibetan people, resulting in serious injuries. Likewise, when local Tibetans learnt that Chinese businesspeople had been setting traps to

catch antelopes in a forested mountain area at a place called Dege Menshoe, they at once complained to the local government authorities. However, the officials did absolutely nothing. In fact, the government of China has been cracking down violently on Tibetans who campaign to protect the environment, or who engage in activities to preserve the Tibetan culture, or who involve themselves in similar kinds of other initiatives by subjecting them to arbitrary arrest or detention. It was in keeping with this situation that on 25th June, the Chinese police took away without any clear reason the prominent Tibetan film director and writer Mr. Pema Tsenden from the Xining airport and subjected him to detention and beating. It resulted in Pema Tsenden being required to be taken to hospital for treatment because of the seriousness of his physical conditions. To sum up, for all the numerous kinds of projects the government of China carries out in Tibet in the name of development, the end result invariably remains that there is inevitable devastating destruction of the environment which has effects not only across the world in general but also especially across Southeast Asia and, in particular, in Tibet whose territory and human inhabitants and natural resources suffer. It is therefore of utmost importance that everyone pay sufficient attention to this critical situation and we reiterate our appeal to this end accordingly on this occasion of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's birthday.

During the course of the recently concluded elections for Sikyong and Members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, there has been a fair amount of internal bickering rooted in parochial concerns which were not in keeping with the ethics of being Tibetan. However, the Sikyong and parliamentary elections are now behind us and everyone gets on with his and her duties. The Tibetan public also carries on its concerned cooperative role in keeping with the requirements of the democratic principles. Tibetans at the grassroots level have united as one like a single pointed chisel. And because this fact had become manifest, His Holiness the Dalai Lama told the Tibetans living

in California state of the USA during his recent meeting with them that all the discordant issues which cropped up during the recently concluded Tibetan general elections had now completely subsided, like the sky being cleared of all tarnish and the earth of all dust. He assured them that they could all now afford to be at ease. Receiving this comforting assurance has filled our hearts with infinite joy. At the same time, we deem it important that all Tibetans vouch to henceforth continue to adhere without any cause for degeneration to their ethics of Tibetanness and preserve their unity and on that basis move forward with confidence and in accordance with the great wishes of His Holiness the Dalai Lama without any let-down and violation of this oath. In this period of such critical situation for Tibet, it is of the essence of the matter that all Tibetans strongly adhere to this requirement and we reiterate our appeal to everyone to bear in mind the importance of appreciating the need for it.

It has now been more than 57 years since Tibetans who fled their homeland sought refuge in foreign countries, including especially India. In particular, India has been like a second home to us. Governments both at the centre and the states, as well as people across India have all provided us wide-ranging help, protection, and fraternal friendship. In appreciation at all times of the rendering of these help, we take the opportunity provided by this festive occasion to express our thanks and gratitude to the government and people of India and, likewise, also to the governments, political leaders, the Tibet Support Groups community, and the individual supporters across the world.

Finally, we pray that His Holiness the Dalai Lama live for a hundred aeons, that all his desires may be seen fulfilled spontaneously, and that the just cause of Tibet may be definitely achieved.

Tibetan Parliament in Exile

Dharamshala

6 July 2016

## Monkey Year Tse-chu Ceremony Observed at Tso-pema

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Celebrations of Guru Padmasambhava's birth, which is observed on the 10th of the 5th month of the Tibetan calendar, began at 4 am at the Orgyen Herukai Nyingma Monastery in the presence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Booming horns announced the start of a ganachakra or tsog offering based on the Rigzing Dungdrub cycle. This was followed, after a brief interval nearly three hours later, by an invocation of oracles, commemorating the occasion in the 8th century CE when the Great Abbot Shantarakshita, Acharya Padmasambhava and Dharma King Trisong Detsen bound the Dharmapala Pehar by oath to protect Tibet's spiritual and temporal traditions.

The five oracles variously invoked within the temple by monks chanting to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals included the State Oracle Nechung, Nyenchen Thangla, Dorje Yudronma, Gyalchen Karma Trinley and an as yet unidentified female presence whose medium comes from Zanskar. They each approached His Holiness and paid their respects to him. He in turn reminded them of their pledge to protect the Buddhist traditions of Tibet and called on them to redouble their efforts to fulfil it at this critical juncture.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking to over 5,000 gathered at the teaching ground at Tso Pema, Rewalsar, HP, India on July 14, 2016.  
Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

Emulating a ceremony that used to be observed at Nechung Monastery in Tibet, the energetic oracles in trance left to make a procession around the temple accompanying a statue of Guru Padmasambhava carried on a palanquin. They returned and approached His Holiness

once more. As their trances came to an end the mediums were swiftly carried out and relieved of their elaborate costumes. Restored to their normal state, the mediums re-entered the temple and received



*The State Oracle Nechung invoked as part of celebrations of Guru Padmasambhava's birth at Orgyen Herukai Nyingma Monastery at Tso Pema, Rewalsar, HP, India on July 14, 2016.  
Photo/Tenzin Phuntsok/OHHDL*

silk scarves as a gesture of gratitude.

In the afternoon, the crowd that had grown to an estimated 10,000 gathered at the teaching ground beside the lake. On his way there His Holiness stopped briefly to give his blessings to the Padmasambhava Public Library Society, founded by a former student of TCV, which presently has a collection of 7000 books. Arriving at the venue he climbed onto the platform, greeting and teasing old friends as he came and sat before the mandala to perform the preparations for the Rigzin Dungdrub empowerment. When he was ready he took his seat on the throne and addressed the assembly.

"It's through our body, speech and mind that we create good and bad karma. Once you gain control of your mind, you'll be able to discipline your acts of body and speech. Generally, although we don't want suffering, we willingly engage in acts of harm that give rise to it. We think that if we have health and wealth they're enough to be happy, but actually happiness depends on the state of our minds. In tackling the negative emotions that disturb our minds we need to overcome our misconception of reality.

"The Buddhas don't wash beings' unwholesome deeds away with water, nor

do they remove their sufferings with their hands. Their kindness is to reveal reality and the path to liberation. Ignorance can be merely not knowing something or it can involve having a wrong view of reality. It is this wrong view that the Buddhas help us correct. Our pervasive misconception of reality is that things have intrinsic existence. We tend to think of a self that is the ruler or controller of our body and mind. No such intrinsically existent self exists apart from the self that is merely designated on the basis of our body and mind. What the Buddhas reveal is the Dharma by which we will be liberated.

"When things are going well we easily remember the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, but we forget them when things go wrong. There's a story I heard and repeated to Karmapa Rinpoche of a nomad from Kham bringing his yaks to Lhasa. When they had to cross a river he called on the blessings of the Karmapa saying 'Karmapa khyen-no', but after losing



*Some of the over 5,000 attending His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teaching at Tso Pema, Rewalsar, HP, India on July 14, 2016.  
Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

one of the yaks in the water he changed his tune muttering 'Karmapa to hell with you' instead."

His Holiness remarked that it's the unwholesome actions and negative emotions that arise as a result of our misconception of reality that give rise to suffering. However, if there were no way out of suffering the Buddha would not have talked about it. The wisdom realizing selflessness is one of the factors that put an end to ignorance and once that is clear we see that the Buddha's teaching is based on reason. His Holi-

ness reported another story from Kham of someone visiting the abbot of a monastery and, finding him absent, being told that he had gone to the village to frighten the old people. His Holiness stressed that there is no place for fear in teaching the Dharma.

“Much more effective is knowledge and understanding, which is why I’ve been encouraging friends to transform even small temples into libraries and places of learning. The more than 300 volumes of the Kangyur and Tengyur should be read to form the basis of study rather than stored on shelves and treated as objects of veneration.

“In the ‘60 Stanzas of Reasoning’ Nagarjuna says ‘May I complete the two collections that give rise to the two bodies of the Buddha’. Those two collections don’t just involve accumulating merit, but wisdom too. It’s by understanding the Two Truths that we enter into the path to



*Parliament Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenpe and Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay tossing flowers into the mandala as part of the Rigzin Dungdrub empowerment at Tso Pema, Rewalsar, HP, India on July 14, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Phuntsok/OHHDL*

enlightenment. When we enter into Tantra, this can also involve introducing the disciple to the mind of clear light.

“I received this empowerment from Trulshik Rinpoche who, in addition to adopting a genuinely non-sectarian approach, was a truly great practitioner. This Rigzin Dungdrub cycle was revealed by Rigzin Godemchen, a forerunner of the Chang-ter Northern Treasure tradition that was later maintained by Dorje Drak

Monastery and in which the Fifth Dalai Lama participated.”

As a preliminary to the empowerment, His Holiness led the assembly in a ceremonial generation of the awakening mind of bodhichitta. At the point in the empowerment where it is customary to toss a flower into the mandala, His Holiness called on the Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, who also happens to be a Nyingma Deputy, Khenpo Sonam Tenpe, to represent the monastics in the audience. He then called on Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay to represent the lay-people.

His Holiness’s motorcade was slowed as he drove round the edge of the lake to return to the monastery because of the number of people lining the road to catch a glimpse of him. Several times he stopped his car to give blessings from the vehicle to people in wheelchairs waiting to greet him.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Two-day Teaching at Rewalsar



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the monks of Orgyen Herukai Nyingma Monastery in Rewalsar, HP, India on July 13 2016. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

His Holiness the Dalai Lama arrived at Rewalsar (Tso-Pema) in the morning of 13 July. More than thousand Tibetans and Himalayan Buddhists lined the streets to express their reverence and delight to His Holiness’s visit.

He was escorted to Ogyen Heru-kai Nyingma Monastery Phodrang for luncheon before starting the teaching.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama began his teaching in the afternoon. He briefly introduced the four noble truths, emptiness and prajnaparamita hradaya sutra.

He said, “One must study and have thorough knowledge on prajnaparamita as it is one of the important in Tibetan Buddhism.”

He emphasised all sentient beings’ common want of happiness, including even the tiniest of creatures. After brief introductory, His Holiness started the

teaching of Za Patrul Rinpoche’s Heart Treasure of the Saints, The Practise of View, Meditation and Action: Speech that is Virtuous in the Beginning, Middle and End. (thog tha bar sum du ge bai tam ta gom chod sum nyam len dam pai nyang nor).

He related to one of Za Patrul Rinpoche’s verses with emptiness, “He who hold on to the word ‘I’ clings to everything. Which will lead to fear of doubting everyone near you.

In the end you will end up alone. So it is better be friendly and equal to everyone without any sense of hierarchy or highness.”

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## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Visits Ngagyur Dragthok Monastery in Ladakh

As requested by the monastic authorities, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Ngagyur Dragthok monastery, located about 40 kms away from Shiwatsel Phodrang, the official residence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Ladakh.

His Holiness was invited by the monastery to inaugurate its new prayer hall and confer teachings to the monks and public of the locality.

Upon arrival at the monastery, His Holiness was accorded a rousing reception by the monks and lamas. His Holiness was then offered the traditional Mendrel Tensum representing the Buddha's body, speech and mind.

His Holiness then recited prayers of blessings before addressing the devo-



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama offering prayers to images of Guru Padmasambhava, Guru Dorje Drolo and Guru Pema Gyalpo at Dragthok monastery, Ladakh on 5 August 2016.*

tees, numbering over a hundred, who have gathered outside the monastery.

In his address, His Holiness urged the public to study the Buddhist texts and called for a faith based in logic and reason. His Holiness further spoke about the need for inner development such as

warm-hardheartedness and compassion alongside material development.

Ngagyur Dragthok monastery is a branch of the Thupten Dorje Drak Evam Chogkar Choekhor Namgyaling monastery of Ngagyur Nyingma lineage based in Shimla, HP. The patron lama of the monastery was the late Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche who passed away in December 2015. The monastery currently has 28 resident monks.

The main attraction of the monastery is a giant statue of Guru Padmasambhava with Guru Dorje Drolo on its right and Guru Pema Gyalpo on its left. Guru Dorje Drolo and Guru Pema Gyalpo are two of the eight manifestations assumed by Guru Padmasambhava at different points in his life.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Visits the Villages of Saboo and Stok

Participating in the opening ceremony of the Ngari Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was warmly received by the Director of the Institute, Geshe Tsewang Dorje, Ganden Tripa Rizong Rinpoche, invited guests, and local people from the village of Saboo.

In his welcoming remarks, Geshe Tsewang Dorje reminded His Holiness that when the school was founded 11 years ago a group of 25 students was selected from families facing economic hardship. Today, the school has 49 students from all over Ladakh, including Changthang and Zaskar. He said the school, which aims to provide educational opportunities to the underprivileged, will continue to be guided by His Holiness's advice.

A group of 5th grade students then recited the 'Eight Verses for Training the Mind'

In his response, His Holiness expressed appreciation of the opportunities the

Director and staff of the Institute are providing the students under their care. His Holiness stressed the need for knowledge in the 21st century.

"As Buddhists," he said, "we need to study Buddhism. We need to use our intelligence to understand what the teachings mean. It's not enough just to rely on rituals and recitations. As human beings, we have a wonderful intelligence, which we should use to the full. However, we must also be careful to use it effectively for the benefit of others rather than causing them problems.

"Many educationalists from the United States, Europe and India have realized that modern education, with its material goals, is not adequate. There is also a need for inner peace. What we need to do is take a more holistic approach to combine an education of the heart with an education of the mind.

"Whether we believe in religion or not, there's no denying the importance of love and compassion. We all began our

lives in the shelter of our mother's love and affection. Today, scientists are finding evidence that basic human nature is compassionate and that giving in to negative emotions brings us harm.

"Despite differences in their philosophical outlook, all the world's major religious traditions teach the importance of love, compassion, forgiveness and tolerance. It's because of this common purpose that religious people should develop respect and admiration for each other."

In conclusion, His Holiness reiterated the importance of education. He presented a statue of the Buddha to the school's French sponsor, planted a sapling to commemorate his visit and posed for a photograph with the students.

His Holiness drove on to the village of Stok, where his first stop was the Sid-dhartha High School. He was received by the school's founder, Khenpo Lobsang Tsetan of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. On his way to the podium, His Holiness observed three groups of

students engaged in Buddhist philosophical debate.

On behalf of all the staff and students, Director Geshe Tsewang Dorje welcomed His Holiness to the school, remarking that this was the third time they had been able to receive him. He thanked His Holiness for his continued interest and guidance. In his turn, His Holiness expressed deep appreciation of all those who for years have worked tirelessly at the school, as well as those who have given the school financial support. He continued:

“We need to work to create a more compassionate humanity. This is not a religious aspiration, but a question of the survival of the 7 billion human beings alive today and to some extent the very survival of our planet. We can no longer be short-sighted, thinking only of temporary rewards. We all want to live a happy life and seek to avoid suffering, but unfortunately, a great deal of our suffering is our own creation.

“The violence we see and hear about in many parts of the world today is rooted in our seeing people in terms of ‘us’ and ‘them’. If we don’t overcome this way of thinking, it’s possible the 21st century will be an era of violence like the century before it. It is time for us to change this. The realistic way to create more peaceful human beings is not through prayer and religious teaching, but through education. We must use common sense to understand the destructive consequences of anger and stress. A sense of concern for others is what compassion means. It’s not something sacred; it’s a simple sense of concern for the well-being of others, including animals and insects.”

His Holiness urged the students to study hard. He commended them for learning about logic and debate, suggesting it would help them in their academic careers. He told them they were the hope for the future and completing a full education would enable them to build a happier world.

At Stok Monastery His Holiness was re-

ceived by the young reincarnation of the late Bakula Rinpoche, who had earned a Geshe Lharampa degree from Drepung Loseling College before 1959 and later was of great support to Tibetan exiles in India. His Holiness advised the young monk to engage well in his study of the classics.

Entering the main temple, His Holiness paid his respects and took his seat. He



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking at Stok Monastery in Stok, Ladakh, J&K, India on August 8, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

asked about the origin of the monastery and what was studied there. The monks replied that it was founded by a direct disciple of Khedrup Gelek Palsang (1385-1438), one of the principal disciples of Je Tsongkhapa (1357-1419), the founder of the Gelug tradition. They explained that the monks learn to perform the Preliminary Practices, study the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment, and follow the practice of Vajrabhairava. The fifteen resident monks of Stok Monastery join their mother monastery of Spituk for the bi-monthly monastic Confession Ceremony and when entering the Rainy Season Retreat.

His Holiness advised the monks to study the classic scriptures, as is done in the Tibetan Monastic Institutions re-established in South India, to which Spituk Monastery is sending its monks.

“In the meantime,” he continued, “you

should start by studying and discussing the Four Noble Truths and the view of emptiness as explained in Tsongkhapa’s ‘Great Stages of the Path’. Bakula Rinpoche too should study well and not just be content with having the name of a Lama.”

The entire populace of Stok had assembled around a newly constructed statue of Shakyamuni Buddha. This construc-

tion was mainly funded by Ladakhi ex-servicemen, who proudly saluted His Holiness as he arrived. His Holiness advised the gathering to regard the statue as a reminder of the Buddha’s principal teaching: to treat others with love and compassion and keep in mind the interdependent nature of things.

He said the first part of that advice is held in common with all other major religions, but the second is unique to Buddhism.

He said that as Buddhists training our minds, understanding the dependent nature of things helps us counter our disturbing emotions as we work to achieve the goal of enlightenment.

His Holiness was invited to lunch with the Ladakh royal family at the Stok Palace before returning to Shiwatsel Phodrang.

## Fourth Great Summer Religious Council at Thiksey Monastery

His Holiness the Dalai Lama drove from his residence in Choglamsar to Thiksey. On the way, he made a brief stop in Shey Village to bless a new memorial stupa. His Holiness was received at the Thiksey Monastery teaching ground by Thiksey Rinpoche, the head lama of the monastery and 9th reincarnation of Jangshem Sherab Zangpo, a disciple of Je Tsongkhapa. Thiksey Rinpoche studied at Drepung Monastery in Tibet from 1953 until 1959.

His Holiness had been invited to Thiksey Monastery to inaugurate the 4th Great Summer Religious Council (Yarchö Chenmo) that is being held 9th- 22nd August. The first such council was held in 2012 and His Holiness advised that it should become an annual event. Buddhist monks and nuns from all traditions, school children from twenty participating schools in Leh, as well as members of the public are attending the Council this year.

Before entering the newly constructed teaching hall, accompanied by Ganden Tripa, Rizong Rinpoche and Thiksey Rinpoche, His Holiness cut the ribbon at the door to signify its inauguration while auspicious prayers were recited. Taking his seat inside, His Holiness was presented with a medal by Thiksey Rinpoche in celebration of his 80th birthday. Thiksey Rinpoche, Dr. Sonam Dawa, Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Sheikh Javed of the Shia Muslim Community, the Molvi of the Sunni Muslim Community, Tsering Dorjee, Jammu & Kashmir State Minister, and Ganden Tri Rinpoche addressed the gathering. Between their speeches, groups of students as well as monks and nuns engaged in debate. His Holiness was requested to present a certificate and medal to Thiksey Rinpoche to mark the people of Thiksey's gratitude.

His Holiness opened his remarks by observing that as human beings we are all fundamentally the same. Unfortunately, he said, we create many problems for

ourselves by focusing instead on secondary differences between us such as race, colour, religion or whether we are rich or poor. Much more important are the ways in which we are the same.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the opening session of the Fourth Great Summer Religious Council at Thiksey Monastery in Ladakh, India on August 9, 2016.*

*Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

“As I travel the world and meet people, I always consider myself just one of the seven billion human beings alive today. I don't think of myself as a Tibetan or a Buddhist or even as the Dalai Lama. I have lots of friends because I treat everyone equally as another human being. If I were to think of myself as something special or as the Dalai Lama, I would have no friends.

“These days the world is witnessing more frequent natural disasters. We are adding to these problems by adopting a negative attitude. This might be understandable if we were animals, but we are intelligent human beings with the ability to discriminate what is helpful from what is not. Only by extending help to each other will we be able to make the 21st century an era of happiness.”

Observing how sad it is that religion has become a cause of conflict in the world, His Holiness said:

“All religions teach love, compassion, forgiveness and tolerance, so there is no basis for conflict between them. As a Buddhist monk I have for many years tried to promote religious harmony and understanding. Since in practice we have so much in common, we should treat each other with respect.

“Here in Ladakh, I am happy to see that Buddhists and Muslims have good relations and live together in peace and that Shia and Sunni Muslims also live together in harmony. This is something very precious about Ladakh that you must preserve. It's a treasure that others in India and the world at large may admire. You show by example that a multi-religious community can live together in peace and harmony.”

Addressing Buddhists in particular, His Holiness said:

“It is your choice whether to be a Buddhist or not, but if that is what you choose, you should be a 21st century Buddhist. You should study and learn what it means to be a Buddhist. Blind faith alone is not sufficient.”

He urged the monks to study hard, advising them to use logic and debate as a tool to extend their understanding, remarking that this is not some new advice, but something he has been saying for the last nearly 60 years. We exhorted them not to be narrow-minded, but to broaden their outlook.

After lunch His Holiness returned to the Thiksey teaching hall to answer questions from among 350 school children from Leh. A student from Jamyang School asked how we could achieve real peace when there is so much violence in the world. His Holiness replied that we have to remember that, despite differences of race or religion, for example, we are all the same as human beings. Focussing on secondary differences creates barriers between us. We must remember instead what we have in common. We all want to be happy and just as we don't want to come to harm, we shouldn't do harm to others. Whether we have a religious faith or not, we are all human beings.

“Scientists have demonstrated that constant fear and anger undermines our immune system. They have also found evidence that basic human nature is compassionate. When I learned this it gave



me real hope and confidence. If it was our basic human nature to be angry there would be no hope. Unfortunately, education today tends to focus on external goals. But if its purpose is to create happier, healthier human beings, it should also focus on warm-heartedness. This is common sense.”

Asked what students can do when facing obstacles in their studies, His Holiness said this is not unusual. He reported

that at the age of 6-7 years old, he had no interest in studying. His lack of enthusiasm because he did not know the value of education was an obstacle.

“My elder brother and I studied together,” he recalled. “My tutor kept two whips—an ordinary one for my brother and a yellow one, a ‘holy whip’, for me. However, I knew that the ‘holy pain’ would be just as bad as ordinary pain, so to start with I paid attention to my studies

out of fear. Eventually, however, I came to understand how important education is.”

His Holiness advised the students that when they feel stressed they should relax. He said it’s important not to study for too long at one go, but to take rest in between. He told them that Shantideva says that when you’re studying seriously and become exhausted, it’s important to take some rest.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Teaches ‘A Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life’

Almost thirty thousand devotees thronged the Shiwatsel ground to attend teachings by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Four days of teachings, with sessions in the mornings only, have been organized by the Ladakh Buddhist Association of Leh in collaboration with various volunteer organizations.

As a prelude to His Holiness’s teachings, monks and scholars from various monasteries participated in formal debates with each other, employing dialectical methods to explore the niceties of the doctrine.

Beginning his explanation of the 8th century CE Nalanda master Shantideva’s ‘Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life’ (Bodhicharyavatara; spyod-jug), His Holiness addressed the congregation on the importance of learning and understanding what the Buddhist scriptures actually teach. “Faith without understanding the essence of what the Buddha taught is merely maintaining tradition as a kind of social custom,” he advised.

“We are not gathered here to witness some sort of performance nor even just to hold a meeting together. We are here to explore the teachings of the Buddha. Therefore, if our endeavours are to be

fruitful, both teacher and students must generate a pure motivation. Otherwise we’ll just be wasting our time.”



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama reading from ‘A Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life’ during his teachings in Leh, Ladakh, J&K, India on August 19, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

Under the harsh Ladakhi sun, the crowd, consisting of Ladakhis, Tibetans, Western devotees and tourists, listened to His Holiness call for harmony between all religious traditions. In discussing the benefits of the awakening mind of bodhichitta, he said it is this spirit of awakening, the aspiration to attain enlightenment to benefit all sentient being that motivates the Bodhisattva’s way of life. The text he is teaching explains how to cultivate and sustain this altruistic aspiration. There are two aspects to the awakening mind—the aspiration, the wish to awaken and actually engaging in practices that

lead to that awakening. These bodhisattva practices are commonly known as the Six Perfections and first among them is the perfection of generosity.

“Every sentient being, including animals, seeks happiness,” His Holiness remarked. “Therefore, showing others respect and trying to understand and help them solve their problems is a source of happiness.”

“We have two enemies, the self-cherishing or self-centred mind and the misconception of self. Crucial to Buddhism in general, but especially the Nalanda tradition, is the need to use our intelligence and transform our emotions. This will be a far more effective source of happiness than resorting to the short term pleasures of drinking alcohol or taking recreational drugs.”

His Holiness highlighted the verse in the first chapter of ‘Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life’ that describes sentient beings’ predicament:

Although seeking to avoid pain,  
They run headlong into suffering.  
They long for happiness, but foolishly  
Destroy it, as if it were their enemy

We can live without religion and meditation, but we cannot survive without human affection -

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

For detailed news visit:

[www.tibet.net](http://www.tibet.net)

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Visits Islamia Public School, Buddhist Nunnery and Shia Shrine at Leh Ladakh



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama answering questions from the audience during his talk at Islamia Public School in Leh, Ladakh, J&K, India on August 17, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

His Holiness the Dalai Lama spoke to students and staff of Islamia Public school, local Muslim community members of the Imambargah Chuchot Gongma and Buddhist nuns of Ladakh Nunnery Association at their respective institutes at Leh Ladakh, J&K.

In the morning, His Holiness visited the Islamia Public school and spoke to an audience of 600 students and staff on the role of younger generation in build-

ing compassion, friendship and brotherhood among the various religions, nationalities and diverse communities in the world. He emphasized the urgency of action towards shaping a more peaceful 21st century, devoid of violence, war and destruction of human lives.

As a token of respect and gratitude, the staff of Islamia Public School presented a memento and a Tajweed Qur'an, digital book of Qur'an to His Holiness.

Following the function, His Holiness paid a short visit to the Thupten Choekhorling nunnery at the request of Ladakh Nunnery Association, where he was received by senior nuns and executive members of the Ladakh Nunnery Association.

Speaking to a huge assembly of Buddhist nuns, His Holiness explained that the essence of Buddha's teaching can only be understood through realization based on

logic and reason and not on mere faith or devotion. He encouraged the nuns to study the classical Buddhist texts and the canons of Tibetan Buddhism accompanied by rigorous practice and investigation.

His Holiness announced that he will be taking part in a ceremony to award Tibetan nuns with Geshema degree soon this year.

Later at Imambargah Chuchot Gongma, members of Chuchot Gongma Muslim community hosted a lunch in honour of His Holiness the Dalai Lama where His Holiness was greeted by hundreds of Muslim friends.

Gaden Tri Rinpoche, Thiksey Khen Rinpoche, Bakula Rinpoche, leaders of the Shia and Sunni communities and members of Ladakh Muslim communities attended the event to honour His Holiness.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Began Four-day Teaching on Nagarjuna's The Precious Garland of the Middle Way

His Holiness the Dalai Lama began a four-day teaching on Chapter II of Nagarjuna's The Precious Garland of the Middle Way (uma rinchen trengwa) at the request of a group from Asia including Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam at the Tsuglagkhang. Over 5000 devotees from 57 countries had come to attend the teaching, of which 1200 were Buddhist monks and nuns. The remaining include devotees from Mainland China, India and local Tibetans along with 1500 from south east Asian countries of Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia.

The teaching began with a recitation of Sherab Nyingpo or Heart Sutra in different languages.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama greeted all the devotees who come from different part of the world.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama greeting audience members gathered from over 57 countries as he arrives at the Main Tibetan Temple on the first day of his four day teaching in Dharamsala, HP, India on August 29, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

Emphasising the importance of moral ethics, His Holiness said: "Years of discussions with many scholars and educationist friends have led to the decision of coming up with a curriculum on moral ethics without touching any religious

aspect." His Holiness even mentioned a few Universities in western countries that have started a curriculum on it and suggested the practice of compassion and sense of oneness of humanity.

His Holiness added that friendship is built on trust, and that trust can only be gained through love and compassion in the absence of pride, jealousy and malicious thoughts. "We should all keep our identity and religion aside and consider ourselves humans first. At the fundamental level, we all seven billion human beings are the same wishing for a happy life," he said.

"It is matter of great sadness and loss if religion becomes a tool of these negative afflictions," His Holiness noted.

## Still Young at 81, It's to do with Peace of Mind, says Dalai Lama

By Vishal Gulati, IANS

Eighty-one and still young. The Dalai Lama believes it's to do with peace of mind.

Turning 81 on July 6, his age is no bar to campaign for global peace, happiness and, of course, saving the small blue planet from the effects of climate change.

His Holiness, an honorific given by his followers, starts his day as early as three in the morning with prayers and meditation, say his aides.

After that, he takes a short morning stroll in his official palace or even loves to trudge on a treadmill to stay fit.

"He attends his office from 12.30 p.m. until around 3.30 p.m. He normally retires in the evening by 7," Tenzin Taklha, joint secretary at the Dalai Lama's office, told IANS.

For breakfast, the Dalai Lama typically has hot porridge, tsampa (barley powder), bread with preserves, and tea. Lunch is served at 11.30 a.m.

Strictly vegetarian, when in Dharamsala, the globetrotting Buddhist monk, known for wearing his trademark maroon robes, drinks a cup of tea at 5.30 p.m. He does

not have dinner. Before retiring for the night, he prays and meditates for two hours.

Taklha says his daily schedule changes if he's travelling out of Dharamsala, the headquarters of the Tibetan government-in-exile he once headed.

"When I was on my way to the US, at Heathrow airport, someone told me that although I'm now 81, my face looks only that of a 60-year-old and asked what's the secret," a post on his website quoting the Dalai Lama said.

"I first teasingly said 'It's my secret and I don't want to tell you', but then explained that it's to do with having peace of mind," the post added.

"I personally find analytical meditation more effective and more satisfying," the elderly monk told US pop diva Lady Gaga in an interview for her Facebook live broadcast in the US last week (June 26).

At a public talk in the US last week, he jokingly said: "Sometimes I tease young women who go to such lengths to make themselves beautiful. But the important

thing is that while it's fine to look good, what's even more important than external beauty is the inner beauty of having a warm heart."

But the Dalai Lama, who chuckles throughout his talks and often slaps visitors on their back, says he gets angry too.

"You never stop getting angry about small things. In my case, it's when my staff does something carelessly, then my voice goes high. But after a few minutes, it passes," the high priest of Buddhism told Times magazine last year.

The Dalai Lama, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, believes in the "middle-path" policy that demands "greater autonomy" for the Tibetans. He's viewed by the Chinese as a hostile element bent on splitting Tibet from China.

The office of the Dalai Lama, based in this north Indian hill station, said His Holiness would participate in the concluding ceremony of his yearlong 80th birthday celebrations in Mundgod in Karnataka on July 6.

The Dalai Lama has lived in exile in India since fleeing Tibet during a failed uprising in 1959.

## US Condemns Demolition of Tibetan Buddhist Institute by China

Indian Express

Larung Gar is said to be the biggest Tibetan Buddhist institute in the world.

The US has condemned demolition of Larung Gar Tibetan Buddhist Institute, one of the largest centres of Buddhist learning in Tibet, by China.

"We are concerned that Chinese authorities initiated the demolition of residences at Larung Gar Tibetan Buddhist Institute without the consent of the institute's leaders," State Department spokesperson Elizabeth Trudeau told reporters at her daily news conference on Monday.



*A photo of Larung Gar valley  
(Representational image). Source: Flickr*

"We urge authorities to cease actions that may escalate tensions and to pursue forthright consultations with the

institute's leaders to address any safety concerns in a way that does not infringe on the right of Tibetans to practice their religion freely," she said in response to a question.

Larung Gar is said to be the biggest Tibetan Buddhist institute in the world. Chinese officials began demolishing many of the monastic homes last month.

Human Rights Watch has demanded that China suspend plans to demolish buildings at Larung Gar.

## A Writer's Quest to Unearth the Roots of Tibet's Unrest

By Luo Siling, New York Times

Generations of Chinese have been taught that the Tibetan people are grateful to China for having liberated them from “feudalism and serfdom,” and yet Tibetan protests, including self-immolations, continue to erupt against Chinese rule. In “Tibet in Agony: Lhasa 1959,” to be published in October by Harvard University Press, the Chinese-born writer Jianglin Li explores the roots of Tibetan unrest in China’s occupation of Tibet in the 1950s, culminating in March 1959 with the People’s Liberation Army’s shelling of Lhasa and the Dalai Lama’s flight to India. In an interview, she shared her findings.

### **You’ve drawn parallels between the killings in Lhasa in 1959 and the 1989 military crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Beijing.**

China was better able to cover up its actions in Lhasa in 1959, before the advent of instantaneous global media coverage, but the two have much in common. In both, the Chinese Communists used military might to crush popular uprisings, and both involved egregious massacres of civilians. But for Tibetans, what sets the Lhasa massacre apart is their bitter sense of China as a foreign occupying power. The Tibetans were subjugated by force, and they are still protesting today.

### **What happened in 1959?**

The crisis began on the morning of March 10, when thousands of Tibetans rallied around the Dalai Lama’s Norbulinka palace to prevent him from leaving. He had accepted an invitation to a theatrical performance at the People’s Liberation Army headquarters, but rumors that the Chinese were planning to abduct him set off general panic. Even after he canceled his excursion to mollify the demonstrators, they refused to leave and insisted on staying to guard his palace. The demonstrations included a strong outcry against Chinese rule, and China promptly labeled them an “armed insurrection,” warranting military action. About a week after the turmoil be-

gan, the Dalai Lama secretly escaped, and on March 20, Chinese troops began a concerted assault on Lhasa. After taking over the city in a matter of days, inflicting heavy casualties and damaging heritage sites, they moved quickly to consolidate control over all Tibet.

### **Why did the Dalai Lama flee to India?**

Mainly he hoped to prevent a massacre. He thought the crowds around his palace would disperse once he left, robbing the Chinese of a pretext to attack. In fact, not even his departure could have prevented the blood bath that ensued, because Mao Zedong had already mobilized his troops for a “final showdown” in Tibet.

When the Dalai Lama left, he didn’t plan to go as far as India. He hoped to return to Lhasa after negotiating peace with the Chinese from the safety of the Tibetan hinterlands. But once he heard about the destruction in Lhasa — several days into his journey — he realized that plan was no longer feasible.

### **Why were the Tibetans afraid the Chinese would abduct the Dalai Lama?**

For Tibetans, he is a sacred being, to be protected at all costs. He had traveled to Beijing to meet Mao in 1954 without setting off mass protests. By 1959, however, tensions had risen, and Tibetans had reason to fear the Chinese theater invitation might be a trap.

The trouble actually started in the Tibetan regions of nearby Chinese provinces — Yunnan, Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu, home to about 60 percent of the Tibetan population. When the Chinese Communists forced collectivization on these Tibetan nomads and farmers in the latter half of the 1950s, the results were catastrophic. Riots and rebellions spread like wildfire. The Communists responded with military force, and there were terrible massacres. Refugees streamed into Tibet, bringing their horror stories into Lhasa.

Some of the most frightening reports had to do with the disappearances of Tibetan leaders in Sichuan and Qinghai. It was party policy to try to pre-empt Tibetan rebellion by luring prominent Tibetans from their communities with invitations to banquets, shows or study classes — from which many never returned. People in Lhasa thought the Dalai Lama could be next.

### **You’ve documented the massacres of Tibetans in the Chinese provinces in the late 1950s.**

In 2012, I drove across Qinghai to a remote place an elderly Tibetan refugee in India had told me about: a ravine where a flood one year brought down a torrent of skeletons, clogging the Yellow River. From his description, I identified the location as Drongthil Gully, in the mountains of Tsolho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. I had read in Chinese sources about major campaigns against Tibetans in that area in 1958 and 1959. About 10,000 Tibetans — entire families with their livestock — had fled to the hills there to escape the Chinese. At Drongthil Gully, the Chinese deployed six ground regiments, including infantry, cavalry and artillery, and something the Tibetans had never heard of: aircraft with 100-kilogram bombs. The few Tibetans who were armed — the head of a nomad household normally carried a gun to protect his herds — shot back, but they were no match for the Chinese, who recorded that more than 8,000 “rebel bandits” were “annihilated” — killed, wounded or captured — in these campaigns.

I wondered about the skeletons until I saw the place for myself, and then it seemed entirely plausible. The river at the bottom of the ravine there flows into a relatively narrow section of the Yellow River. In desolate areas like this, Chinese troops were known to withdraw after a victory, leaving the ground littered with corpses.

### **The Tibetans in Sichuan, Yunnan,**

## **Gansu and Qinghai were already under nominal Chinese administration when the Communists took over in 1949. How was Tibet annexed?**

It was Mao's goal from the moment he came to power. Tibet "is strategically located," he said in January 1950, "and we must occupy it and transform it into a people's democracy."

He started by sending troops to invade Tibet at Chamdo in October 1950, forcing the Tibetans to sign the 17-Point Agreement for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, which ceded Tibetan sovereignty to China. Next, the People's Liberation Army marched into Lhasa in 1951, at the same time — in disregard of the Chinese promise in the agreement to leave the Tibetan sociopolitical system intact — smuggling an underground Communist Party cell into the city to build a party presence in Tibet.

Meanwhile, Mao was preparing his military and awaiting the right moment to strike. "Our time has come," he declared in March 1959, seizing on the demonstrations in Lhasa. After conquering the city, China dissolved the Tibetan government and — under the slogan of "simultaneous battle and reform" — imposed the full Communist program throughout Tibet, culminating in the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region in 1965.

### **How did Mao prepare his military for Tibet?**

Mao welcomed the campaigns to suppress minority uprisings within China's borders as practice for war in Tibet. There were new weapons for his troops to master, to say nothing of the unfamiliar challenges of battle on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau.

## **Support Dalai Lama for Return to Tibet: Lawmakers to Barack Obama**

The letter asks Barack Obama to publicly and regularly call for the immediate and unconditional release of all Tibetan political prisoners held by the People's Republic of China

A group of 72 American lawmakers have asked US President Barack Obama to

The new weapons included 10 Tupolev TU-4 bombers, which Stalin gave Mao in 1953. Mao tested them in airstrikes at three Tibetan monasteries in Sichuan, starting with Jamchen Choekhor Ling, in Lithang. On March 29, 1956, while thousands of Chinese troops fought Tibetans at the monastery, two of the new planes were deployed. The Tibetans saw giant "birds" approach and drop some strange objects, but they had no word for airplane, or for bomb. According to Chinese records, more than 2,000 Tibetans were "annihilated" in the battle, including civilians who had sought refuge in the monastery.

Mao used his most seasoned troops in Tibet. Gen. Ding Sheng and his 54th Army, veterans of the Korean War, had gained experience suppressing minority uprisings in Qinghai and Gansu in 1958 before heading to Tibet in 1959.



*The Dalai Lama meeting with Mao Zedong in Beijing on Oct. 13, 1954.*

### **How often was the Chinese military used against Tibetans, and how many Tibetan casualties were there?**

We don't have an exact tally of military encounters, since many went unrecorded. My best estimate based on official Chinese materials — public and classified — is about 15,000 in all Tibetan regions between 1956 and 1962.

Precise casualty figures are hard to come by, but according to a classified Chinese

military document I found in a Hong Kong library, more than 456,000 Tibetans were "annihilated" from 1956 to 1962.

### **How does this history relate to recent Tibetan self-immolations?**

I think they're a direct consequence. I've compared a map of the self-immolations with my map of Chinese crackdowns on Tibetans between 1956 and 1962, and there's a striking correlation. Most of the self-immolations and the worst cases of historical repression are in the same spots in the Chinese provinces near Tibet.

### **How did you get interested in this?**

Like everyone in China, I was raised on the party line. I never thought to question it until I came to the U.S. for graduate study in 1988 and discovered how differently people here think of Tibet.

Since 2007, I've been making annual research trips to Asia, where I've recorded interviews with hundreds of Tibetan refugees in India and Nepal, including the Dalai Lama and his brother. In 2012, I explored Tibetan historical sites in Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan and interviewed people there. I crosscheck what I learn in the field with written data: official annals of the Tibetan regions, Chinese documents, and Tibetan and Chinese memoirs.

### **How has the Chinese government responded to your work?**

The only official response to my books has been to ban them, but I've been denied a visa since my trip to sensitive Tibetan regions in 2012. This has been painful because my 84-year-old mother still lives in China.

publicly support the right of the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet and call for an immediate and unconditional release of all Tibetan political prisoners languishing in China.

"We write to ask that you redouble ef-

orts in support of the Tibetan people during your remaining months in office. We believe it is critically important to move beyond words to actions," the lawmakers said in a letter to Obama.

"The Tibetan people view the US as their

friend. It is time to honour that friendship with new, creative strategies to encourage meaningful dialogue, protect Tibetan rights, and preserve their unique cultural, religious and linguistic identity,” the three-page letter, dated August 17, said.

The letter, organised by Congressman Jim McGovern, urged Obama to invite the Dalai Lama to every event, on every occasion, where his knowledge and decades of reflections would be helpful for addressing the world’s problems.

The letter, released on Thursday, call for the US government to facilitate the involvement of the Dalai Lama or his representatives in the global debate on climate change and its potential conse-

quences given Tibet’s fragile environment, rapid warming and critically important reserves of freshwater.

Urging the US government to publicly support the right of the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet, the letter asks Obama to publicly and regularly call for the immediate and unconditional release of all Tibetan political prisoners held by the People’s Republic of China whose cases have been documented by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China.

It seeks establishment of a US consular office in Lhasa, Tibet to help the US observe and address the obstacles to freedom of movement that affect both Tibetans within China, and US citizens,

including Tibetan-Americans, who seek to travel to Tibetan areas of China.

The letter also seeks enforcement of norms of reciprocity to ensure that senior Chinese officials responsible for restricting the access of US officials, journalists, Tibetan-Americans and other citizens to Tibetan areas of China are themselves restricted in their travel when they are in the US.

Prominent among those who signed the letter are Congressman Eliot Engel, Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee Nita Lowey among others.

## China’s Communist Party Names New Chief for Tibet in Party Reshuffle

The Canberra Times

replaced Li Jiheng, while in Hunan, Du Jiahao has assumed the party’s top job, Xinhua said.

Both Chen and Du worked with President Xi Jinping when he ran China’s commercial capital, Shanghai, as its Communist Party chief for a year in 2007, according to their resumes.

The party will hold a once-every-five-years congress next autumn where Xi is expected to further cement his hold on power by seeking to appoint close allies into the party’s ruling inner core, the politburo and the politburo standing committee.

The year leading up to that will see Xi appoint more new people into major provincial and government positions, sources with ties to the leadership say.

China’s ruling Communist Party appointed a new senior official on Sunday to run Tibet, considered one of the country’s most politically sensitive positions due to periodic anti-Chinese unrest in the devoutly Buddhist Himalayan region.

The official Xinhua news agency named Wu Yingjie as Tibet’s next party secretary. New leaders were also appointed in two other key provinces, part of a broad reshuffle ahead of an important party meeting next year.

Wu has worked almost his entire career in Tibet, according to his official resume, having previously served as a deputy governor and propaganda chief, among other roles.

Wu, like his predecessor Chen Quanguo, belongs to China’s majority Han Chinese ethnic group. Xinhua said Chen would

be taking another position, without giving further details.

Communist troops marched in and took control of Tibet in 1950 in what Beijing calls a “peaceful liberation”. Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 following a failed uprising against the Chinese.

China says its rule has brought prosperity and stability, rejecting claims from Tibetan exiles and rights groups of widespread repression.

Xinhua said new party bosses had also been appointed to serve in the strategically located southwestern province of Yunnan and the populous southern province of Hunan.

In Yunnan, which sits of the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, Chen Hao

### Tents and Plywood Rooms for Rent During Kalachakra

The Tent Committee of the upcoming 34th Kalachakra at Bodh Gaya has invited the public to book tents and plywood rooms available for rent during the teachings. .

Those interested can submit their names to the local settlement officer which in turn should send the list to the Kalachakra Tent committee not later than 10 October 2016.

For more details: visit [www.tibet.net](http://www.tibet.net) announcement

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Central Tibetan Administration,  
Dharamshala 176 215, H.P., India

## Contacts for the Central Tibetan Administration

### INDIA

Department of Information & International  
Relations, Central Tibetan Administration,  
Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamshala - 176 215  
H.P., India Tel: +91-1892-222510/222457  
Fax: +91-1892-224957 Email: diir@tibet.net  
www.tibet.net

Bureau of H.H. the Dalai Lama, 10-B Ring Road,  
Lajpat Nagar IV, New Delhi 110 024, India  
Tel: +91-11-26474798, Fax: +91-11-2646-1914  
Email: rep.in@tibet.net www.tibetbureau.in

Chief Representative (South Zone), No. 7,  
Sampangiramaiah Garden, Srinivagalu Tank,  
Viveknagar Post, Bangalore-560047  
Karnataka, India Tel: +91-080-5506842 / 5506843  
Fax: +91-080-5506966  
Email: chiefrep@bgl.vsnl.net.in

### NEPAL

The Office of Tibet, Tibetan Refugee Welfare Of-  
fice, Gaden Khangsar, Narayan Gopal Marg-270.  
Lazimpat, Ward 2, P.O.Box No. 310,  
Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4419903/4420799  
Fax: +977-1-4411660 Email: rep.np@tibet.net

### UNITED STATES

The Office of Tibet, 1228, 17th Street NW, Wash-  
ington, DC - 20036, U.S.A. Tel: +1-212-213-5010,  
Fax: +1-703-349-7444  
Email: rep.us@tibet.net www.tibetoffice.org

### BRAZIL

Tibet House  
Alameda Lorena, 349 Jardim Paulista,  
Sao Paulo, SP, 01424-001 Brazil, South America  
Tel: +55(11)989635128  
Email: latin@tibet.net

### SWITZERLAND

The Tibet Bureau, Place de la Navigation 10  
1201 Geneva, Switzerland Tel: +41-22-7387-940  
Fax: +41-22-7387-941 Email: rep.ch@tibet.net  
www.tibetoffice.ch

### JAPAN

Liaison Office of H.H. the Dalai Lama, Tibet House  
Nishi Ochiai 3-26-1 Shinjuku-ku,  
Tokyo 161-0031, Japan  
Tel: +81-03-5988-3576, Fax: +81-03-3565-1360  
E-mail: rep.jp@tibet.net www.tibethouse.jp

### UNITED KINGDOM

The Office of Tibet, 1 Culworth Street, London,  
NW8 7AF, U.K. Tel: +44-207-722-5378,  
Fax: +44-207-722-0362 Email: rep.uk@tibet.net  
www.tibet.com

### FRANCE

Bureau Du Tibet, 84 BD Adolphe Pinard, 75014,  
Paris, France, Tel: +33-1-46-565-453,  
Email: tibetoffice@orange.fr

### BELGIUM

Bureau du Tibet, 24 Avenue des Arts,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32-2-280 4922  
Email: rep.be@tibet.net

### AUSTRALIA

Tibet Information Office, 8/13 Napier Close, Dea-  
kin, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia Tel: +61-2-6285-  
4046 Fax: +61-2-6282-4301  
Email: rep.au@tibet.net  
www.tibetoffice.com.au

### RUSSIA

Tibet Culture & Information Centre,  
Korn # 110, POB # 7, St. Bolshaya Novodmitrov-  
skaya - 14 Moscow 127015, Russia  
Tel: +7-495-786-4362 Fax: +7-495-685-11-32  
Email: rep.ru@tibet.net  
www.savetibet.ru

### SOUTH AFRICA

Office of Tibet, P.O. Box. 16812, Lyttelton 0140,  
Republic of South Africa. Tel: +27-12-664-1193  
Fax: +27-12-664-1194  
Email: rep.sa@tibet.net  
www.officeoftibet.com

### TAIWAN

Tibet Religious Foundation of H.H. the Dalai Lama  
10th Fl. 4 & 5, No. 189, Sector - 2, Keelung Rd.,  
Taipei, Taiwan (ROC)  
Tel: +886-2-2736-0366 Fax: +886-2-2377-9163  
Email: rep.tw@tibet.net/www.tibet.org.tw

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## QUOTES

*“From the beginning, we are accustomed to being ignorant about reality and adopt a self-cherishing attitude. Now, due to encountering the teaching of the Buddha, we are awakening from the slumber of ignorance. Therefore, we should try to generate the awakening mind of bodhichitta. In the immediate short term it will bring us peace of mind and better health, while in the longer term it will ensure that we take a higher rebirth.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during teachings on Shantideva’s ‘A Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life’*

*on 21 August 2016.*

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*“Thanks to the tireless efforts of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama and our elders, the Tibetan refugee story is a positive one and Tibetans continue to enjoy the goodwill and support of many throughout the world. We have come a long way, but we still have ways to go. The young Tibetans attending the Summit represent our present and future. Because of the sacrifices of so many and through your own hard work, you are the blessed and fortunate ones. Much will be expected of you and you must step up and take on the responsibility of being change agents and model Tibetans within the Tibetan community and externally,” Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay during Young Tibetan Leaders Summit 2016 (YTLS2016)*

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*“As I travel the world and meet people, I always consider myself just one of the seven billion human beings alive today. I don’t think of myself as a Tibetan or a Buddhist or even as the Dalai Lama. I have lots of friends because I treat everyone equally as another human being. If I were to think of myself as something special or as the Dalai Lama, I would have no friends. These days the world is witnessing more frequent natural disasters. We are adding to these problems by adopting a negative attitude. This might be understandable if we were animals, but we are intelligent human beings with the ability to discriminate what is helpful from what is not. Only by extending help to each other will we be able to make the 21st century an era of happiness.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during 4th Great Summer Religious Council at Thiksey Monastery in Ladakh, J&K, India on 9 August 2016.*

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*“It has now been more than 57 years since Tibetans who fled their homeland sought refuge in foreign countries, including especially India. In particular, India has been like a second home to us. Governments both at the centre and the states, as well as people across India have all provided us wide-ranging help, protection, and fraternal friendship. In appreciation at all times of the rendering of these help, we take the opportunity provided by this festive occasion to express our thanks and gratitude to the government and people of India and, likewise, also to the governments, political leaders, the Tibet Support Groups community, and the individual supporters across the world. Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile statement during celebrations honoring His Holiness 81st birthday at Dharamshala, Himachal, India on 6 July 2016.*

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