

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama hails India's ancient traditions and marks its relevance in today's world

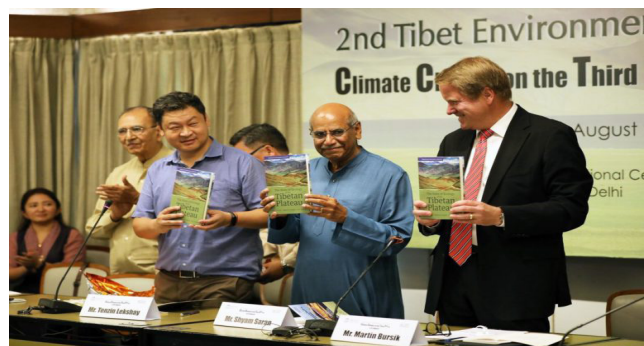


His Holiness the Dalai Lama explaining the relevance of India's ancient traditions to a group of Indian audiences. Photo/OHHDL

OHHDL, Aug. 6, Dharamshala: During a meeting with a group of Indian audiences at his residence, His Holiness the Dalai Lama spoke on the relevance of India's ancient traditions in today's world. Explaining further, His Holiness the Dalai Lama remarked that ancient India's traditions is all about non-violence, compassion, single pointed concentration and analytical meditation. "We do not follow faith, but analyse", said His Holiness the Dalai Lama which he noted was the very advice of Buddha himself. His Holiness mentioned some of the great masters and scholars of Nalanda like Nagarjuna, Buddhapalita and Chandrakirti who used to analyse Buddha's own words and if found any contradiction in Buddha's teachings, they forthright rejected it. His Holiness attested that he is the follower of one such tradition that encourages scientific way of thinking and analysing rather than promoting blind faith in the religion. His Holiness affirmed his respect for all religions and said they are wonderful but admitted

that India's ancient tradition appealed him more as it involves the practices of analytical meditation referred to as Vipashyana and Shamatha which is a single pointed concentration. His Holiness explained that through these concepts and practices, the concept of ahimsa (non-violence) was developed. "In order to sincerely carry out ahimsa, you must respect others which is, you must develop Karuna (compassion)", advised His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness further mentioned that India's concept of ahimsa is highly needed in today's world where much of the problems in the world are created by humans. "Don't follow ahimsa out of blind faith, but thorough reasoning must be conducted", said His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

## Tibet Policy Institute, CTA with Foundation for Non-Violent Alternatives (FNVA) jointly organises 2nd Tibet Environment Conference



The launch of 'The state of ecology of the Tibetan Plateau' published by the Foundation for Non-violent Alternatives. Photo/Tibet.net

Tibet.net, Aug. 3, New Delhi: On 2 August, the Tibet Policy Institute, Central Tibetan Administration and the Foundation for Non-Violent Alternatives (FNVA) jointly organised the 2nd Tibet

Environment conference with the theme, 'Climate Change on the Third Pole and Its Impact' at India International Centre, New Delhi. The conference started with the inaugural session. Deputy Director of Tibet Policy Institute Mr. Tenzin Lekshay welcomed the participants and the speakers. and briefly introduced the conference by highlighting the importance of Tibet's environment to the world. During the inaugural session, a new book titled 'The state of the ecology of the Tibetan plateau' published by FNVA was released. Mr. Shyam Saran, former foreign secretary of India spoke about a variety of issues related to Tibet's environment. He emphasized on the importance of collaborative response rather than the competitive response in resolving the environmental issue. He said, "No country can actually find the solution of its own, only way they can deal with environmental issue is through collaborative approach". Mr. Martin Bursik, Former Deputy Prime minister and former environment minister of the Czech Republic delivered the special address. He highlighted how climate change over the last many years resulted in a decrease of permafrost extent in Tibet, which poses a serious impact over the region and global at large. He also says that the protection of the environment cannot happen without democracy. Following the inaugural ceremony, three plenary sessions on three thematic topics were held to discuss the significance of Tibet's environment.

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama, President Sangay expressed grief over the demise of Sushma Swaraj**



**Smt. Sushma Swaraj (1952 - 2019)**  
*ITCO, Aug. 8, New Delhi:* On the passing away of veteran Indian politician and former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed his sympathy in a letter to her husband Kaushal Swaraj. "I offer my prayers and my condolences to you and your family at this difficult time," he wrote. "Shrimati Swaraj enjoyed immense respect for her compassionate concern for people and her friendly demeanor. In devoting herself to the service of others, she led a very meaningful life." concluded His Holiness the Dalai Lama. President Dr. Lobsang Sangay in his condolence letter wrote, "I am deeply saddened to learn of the sudden demise of the former External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj Ji. On behalf of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) and the Tibetan people, I extend my heartfelt condolence to you and your family, the people of India as they mourn the loss of the veteran leader. I had the privilege of meeting her in 2011. In our hour-long interaction, she expressed her

sympathy for the Tibetan people and respect for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. She also advised me on leadership, oratory and on how to protect my throat to give booming speeches. She was a staunch supporter of the Tibet cause, raising the issue of Tibet in the Indian Parliament. During her address at the Rajya Sabha in 2017, Sushma Ji assured that India would not be a "mute spectator" to the atrocities in Tibet and that there will not be a quid pro quo with China when it comes to the "sufferings" of the Tibetan people. Sushma Swaraj Ji was one of the prominent political leaders of her time and a leader widely admired by the people for her kind and empathetic leadership. As we mourn her passing, her legacy would live on and continue to be a source of inspiration for the generations to come". He concluded by saying that the Tibetans across the globe pays deepest condolences, and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of grief. The veteran Indian leader Sushma Swaraj was the Minister of External Affairs of India between the year 2014-2019. She was the second woman to hold the office after Indira Gandhi. She also served as 5th Chief Minister of Delhi for short duration in 1998. Swaraj was called India's "best-loved politician" by the US daily Wall Street Journal. Tibet and Tibetan cause have always remained dear to her heart and her demise is a great loss not only to this great nation but to the Tibetan movement also.

**“As long as China is relevant,  
Tibet issue is relevant” CTA  
President at Parul University,  
Vadodara**



**President Dr Lobsang Sangay addressing the audience at Parul University. Photo/Tenzin Jigme/CTA**

*Tibet.net, Aug. 7, Vadodara:* President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay as a part of the official tour to Gujarat visited Parul University in Vadodara, Gujarat. President Sangay was warmly escorted to the dais of the university auditorium. The moderator of the event delivered a welcome speech and gave a brief bio-data of the President for the general audience and guests in the hall. Dr Devanshu Patel, President of Parul University presented a book of Mahatma Gandhi who is an epitome of non-violence to the Sikyong as a token of welcome. President Dr Lobsang Sangay addressed the Students, faculty members and guests gathered in the auditorium. In his address, President expressed gratitude to the government and people of India for the love and kindness they have shown not only by hosting the Tibetans for the last 60 years but doing the most they could for the Tibetan freedom struggle. President Sangay called it a law of karma

which has bounded India and Tibet over time and still persists to bind together. President Dr Lobsang Sangay reflected back to the 7th and 8th century when Tibetan scholars came to India and learned Sanskrit language and brought back Buddhism to Tibet. President further noted that India has given birth to great leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi who was a consequential advocate of non-violence and said that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is one great admirer and follower of the principles lay out by Mahatma Gandhi. “We Tibetans also follow Non-violence (Ahimsa) as our path to seek our basic freedom,” said President Sangay while admitting the unique connection of spiritually, environmentally, historically and geographically between India and Tibet. President asserted that though India is the guru and the Tibetans are its Chela (student) in this equation but for India, there is no better student like the Tibetans as they have successfully preserved the ancient knowledge of Buddhism. As for the relationship concerning the environment, the President commented on the major river that flows down from Tibet into Asia and where India draws its major source of livelihood from these major rivers as Tibet is known as the third pole or water tower of Asia. Speaking on the situation inside Tibet, President Sangay pointed out that Freedom House Index report lists Tibet as the second least free country in the world for

three consecutive years after Syria. At a time when Tibet was dealing with the depraved situation, the kind help of India came into Tibet’s rescue. Gradually, monasteries and nunneries were built brick by brick in India, Nepal, and Bhutan due to which Buddhism civilisation revived all through the Himalaya belt. President, therefore, expressed gratitude towards India for their generosity. “Although China has destroyed and demolished monasteries in Tibet, Tibetans practices Buddhism in their private space and social space so Buddhism still remains strong in Tibet”, informed President Sangay. President further proclaimed that just as India prevailed against the Britishers under the leadership of Gandhi, Tibet too shall prevail and succeed under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. President Sangay concluded by thanking and lauding the President of Parul University, Dr Devanshu Patel and his family for investing in education. Followed by a series of questions from the audience. Dr Sangay answered all the questions enthusiastically. In his answers, President talked about the importance of culture in the preservation of one’s identity. He further advocated the need for education of heart with modern education to become successful in one’s life. President Sangay noted that education is the number one priority of the Central Tibetan Administration and asserted that education is the foundation

of any nation. He further spoke about China's policy in various countries which is leading to the same situation as what has happened to Tibetans. "As long as China is relevant, Tibet is relevant," said, President Sangay. Since India and Tibet are very much connected, President urged to work and grow together as a team.

### Central Tibetan Administration celebrates India's 73rd Independence Day



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay and Finance Kalon Karma Yeshe during the celebration at the police ground. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

*Tibet.net, Aug. 15, Dharamshala:* The Central Tibetan Administration under the leadership of Dr Lobsang Sangay congratulated India on the occasion of its 73rd Independence Day and expressed hope that India's 'achhe din'(good days) will definitely take place. A brief ceremony to commemorate India's 73rd Independence Day was held at Kashag Secretariat this morning in the presence of President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Kalons, Secretaries, and senior officials of CTA departments. The tricolor national flag of India was unfurled by the President followed by singing of both India and Tibetan's national anthems. "Today is a very special day for India as it recalls the day India regained its independence 73 years ago. On this joyous occasion, I would like to wish the government and people of India a very happy occasion", said President Sangay while wishing India with booming prosperity and economy growth". "This great nation has been the biggest supporter for the Tibetan people. As His Holiness always claims himself to be the son of India, we too feel the same way about it", said the President while expressing gratitude to the government of India and its people.

President also wished the people of India on its occasion of Raksha Bandhan, a festival of love and faith between brother and sister. Following the brief celebration at Kashag, CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay attended the celebration of India's 73rd Independence Day at the police ground. President was accompanied by Finance Kalon Karma Yeshe, Secretary Tsewang Gyalpo Arya of DIIR, and settlement officer Kunga Tsering of Dharamshala Tibetan settlement. The event also witnessed the presence of H.P Health and Family Welfare Minister, Vipin Singh Parmar along with Mr Kishan Kapoor, Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha from Kangra constituency of Himachal Pradesh, and other dignitaries.

### ITFA, TSO Dharamshala organizes tree plantation event on India's Independence Day



Representative of the Indo-Tibet Friendship Association and Tibetan Settlement Office Dharamshala at the Tree Plantation event. Photo/TSO Dharamshala

*TSO, Aug. 16, Dharamshala:* On 15 August (Independence day of India), Indo-Tibetan Friendship Association Dharamshala collaboration with Tibetan Settlement Office have performed Tree Plantation initiative near Heeru Village School. Indo-Tibetan Friendship Members, Staff of Tibetan Settlement Office, Representatives of Tibetan NGOs and Indian NGO's, General Public both Indians and Tibetans participated in the Tree Plantation event. There were total numbers of 80 to 85 participants at the event. About 200 Tree Saplings such as Pajja (Local Tree), Silver Oak, Bottle Brush, Kachnar, Duri and others have been planted. After the Tree Plantation, Adventure Operator Association served lunch to all the participants.

## CTA's Second Five Fifty Youth Forum: Shaping Tibet's Future concludes on a high note



A group picture of the participants with President Dr Lobsang Sangay and the organising team of DIIR. Photo/ Tenzin Phende/CTA

*Tibet.net, Aug. 19, Dharamshala:* The much-celebrated Five Fifty Youth Forum of the Central Tibetan Administration concluded on a high note today. The second Five Fifty Youth Forum: Shaping Tibet's Future has brought about a confluence of 100 young Tibetans in the diaspora who are excelled in many areas of study to discuss and deliberate on CTA's Five Fifty Vision particularly on the challenges and opportunities facing the Tibetan freedom movement. The three-day forum saw an optimum discussion, debate, and learning from one another while the participants chalked out action plans regarding the future political status of Tibet. In his key remarks during the valedictory session, Secretary Sonam Norbu Dagpo of DIIR lauded the participants for the perseverance and resilience they displayed throughout the forum. He acknowledged the contributions of the participants and remarked, "Your presence here speaks volume of your dedication and patriotism towards the cause of Tibet". He further counseled them on inculcating the practice of conducting thorough background study while initiating any kind of work. He especially urged the younger generation Tibetans to be well acquainted with the past history of Tibet as he called them the pioneers in shaping Tibet's future. "The past history of Tibet reveals that Tibet was an independent nation but this fact has been misconstrued and fabricated by China's narrative of Tibet" asserted Mr. Dagpo. He thus urged them to devise strategies to confront and condemn such misinterpretations that China blatantly makes. He

apprised them of the initiatives taken and being taken by CTA and urged them to contribute in the process. "Don't ask what CTA can do for you. Ask yourself what you can do for CTA and the cause of Tibet", said Mr. Sonam N. Dagpo. CTA President Dr. Lobsang Sangay in his concluding remarks said the forum has been established particularly for the younger Tibetans to examine what political role they want to contribute towards the cause of Tibet and he extolled that the initiative proved to be successful one much to CTA's aspiration. He further urged them to expand the suggestions and recommendations in the next year forum. He also comforted them to face the challenges of criticisms positively and grow from the experience. "Tibetans inside Tibet are still facing unprecedented oppression but they have not lost hope. They are united and determined in their pursuit which has kept them strong so we must inculcate the same in the exile" advised President Sangay. President further noted that the younger generation of Tibetans, in particular, have more and bigger challenges but he also reminded them that they are also blessed with an abundance of opportunities and thus urged them to make the best use of the favourable time and not get disheartened and discouraged by potential criticisms from strangers. Mrs Chemi Tseyang, Additional Secretary of DIIR delivered thank you remarks and the valedictory session of the Secod Five Fifty Youth Forum: Shaping Tibet's Future concluded with the felicitation of the panelists and speakers by CTA President.

## Former Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan visits Central Tibetan Administration



President Dr Lobsang Sangay presents a memento of Shakyamuni to the Honourable former Chief Minister. Photo/ Tenzin Phende/CTA

*Tibet.net, Aug. 20, Dharamshala:* Honourable Shivraj Singh Chouhan, National Vice President of BJP, former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and the current member of the legislative assembly of the State today paid a courtesy call on the President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay at the Kashag Secretariat in Dharamshala. Their meeting focused on various issues related to Tibet and the long-standing historical relationship between India and Tibet. Dr Lobsang Sangay offered gratitude to the Indian government and the state leaders for hosting and supporting the Tibetan people. The Honourable BJP Vice President was accompanied by Shri Kishan Kapoor, Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha from Kangra constituency and other dignitaries from the state government.

**Shimla Chief Representative Officer greets new Himachal Pradesh Governor Kalraj Mishra**



**Chief Representative Officer, Shimla Tenzin Norbu and a Tibetan monastic representative greet the newly sworn HP Governor Shri Kalraj Mishra at Raj Bhawan on 21 August 2019. Photo/CRO Shimla**

*Tibet.net, Aug. 21, Shimla:* The Chief Representative officer of Shimla greeted the new Governor of Himachal Pradesh Honourable Shri Kalraj Mishra at the Raj Bhawan on 21 August. Representative Tenzin Norbu was accompanied by representatives of two Tibetan monasteries, Vice president of Local Tibetan Assembly, President of Tibetan Freedom Movement, President of Tibetan Market Association, representatives of Tibetan Youth Congress and Tibetan Women Association at the meeting. The Tibetan delegation presented the Hon

Governor with a ceremonial Tibetan scarf and a token of appreciation and gratitude on behalf of all the Tibetans in the state of Himachal Pradesh. They congratulated him on his new endeavour and solicited continued support under his leadership towards the Tibetan cause and the people. The 78-year-old Kalraj Mishra was sworn in as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in a ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan on 22 July. He is a former Union Minister under the Modi Administration.

**Core Group for Tibetan Cause organises talk on Tibet: The challenges and achievements of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, his engagement and vision on the status of Tibet**



**Welcoming gesture for Dr.G. V. Rao, Principal, Siddhartha College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Fort, Mumbai, Photo/ITCO**

*ITCO, Aug. 22, Mumbai:* Upon the initiative of Shri Sandesh Meshram, Regional Convener, Western Region – I, Core Group for Tibetan Cause, a seminar entitled “The Challenges and Achievements of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and his Engagement and Vision on the status of Tibet” was held at Siddhartha College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Fort, Mumbai on 19th August 2019. The Seminar began with the welcome note by Dr. Chandan, HoD, Faculty of Science (Chemistry). Dr. G. V. Rao, Principal, Siddhartha College addressed the gathering and lamented upon the challenges being faced by Dr. Ambedkar and his resoluteness to carve out for the solution of these hurdles. He outlined Dr. Ambedkar’s serious concern upon the Government of India’s policy on the status of Tibet and cautioned that Tibet must remain a buffer state between India and China; otherwise, the

consequences shall have a direct impact on India. Dr. Rao also stressed the role of education that can impart indelible imprints in the history of mankind which Dr. Ambedkar has left and which Central Tibetan Administration is also engaged in ensuring quality-driven education to preserve their identity and cultural aspiration. Prof. Satishwar Morey, a distinguished scholar in the field of Ambedkar thoughts and studies, from Amrawati University, was specially invited to engage in this subject. He specified upon the academic achievements of Dr. Ambedkar, his unending enthusiasm towards learning of different streams of knowledge and ultimate change that has brought in his life through the teachings of Jyotiba Phule, Sant Kabir and Lord Buddha. Prof. Morey reminded the sheer pathetic conditions of Dalits and untouchables for whom Dr. B. R. Ambedkar initiated the conversion into Buddhism in the year 1956. He touched upon the struggle of Tibetan people, their justice being denied so far by injustices of the People's Republic of China and the need of Indian people to understand their pain and dream to find their own land and its rights. Being a Buddhist should not be read by his external appearances but with his behavior, humility and possession of profound knowledge is really what accounts to be reflected as sublimity of being a Buddhist – is what Tibetans had aspired from the teaching of Buddhism, was shared by Prof. Morey counting his experience with the Tibet Support Group movements and events. While emphasizing the importance of such engagement, Mr. Jigmey Tzultrim, Coordinator, India Tibet Coordination Office, New Delhi presented the situation inside Tibet, policy and programs being carried out by CTA and aspiration of future Tibet. He particularly underlined what India has done for Tibet and what more to be required in garnering social and political support for the cause of Tibet. He shared the Individual Cycle Rally being initiated three times by Shri Sandesh Meshram with a simple but very appalling message which read “Free Tibet and Save India” – covering five states including i) Maharashtra, Chattishgarh, Madya Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha in 2015 ii) Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

and Bodhgaya, Bihar in 2016 and iii) Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim (Indo-Tibet Border) Nathula in 2017. Dr. Balaji Gaikwad, Vice Principal; Dr. Valmik Garjer, HoD, Political Science; Prof. Padmakar Tamgade, HoD, Marathi Language; Dr. Nandkishore Chandan, HoD, Chemistry (Science); were among the faculty members along with 200 students who participated in the event. In conclusion, Dr. Rashmi gave the vote of thanks to the participants who made it possible and urged the same kind of functions to be organized again in the days to come.

### ITFS Bhandara organizes a seminar



**Prof. Anand Kumar speaking at the seminar. Photo/ ITFS Bhandara**

*ITFS, Aug. 23, Bhandara:* India Tibet Friendship Society, Bhandara organized a seminar titled “Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar - Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia: An Approach” at Indra Raj Hall, Bhandara on 22nd August 2019. Prof. Anand Kumar, National President, India Tibet Friendship Society and Eminent Socialist was invited as a Chief Guest to address the gathering. The seminar was chaired by Shri Mahendra Gadhari, Former President, Bhandara Municipal Corporation and organized under the convenership of Shri Amrut Bansod, General Secretary, India Tibet Friendship Society, Bhandara. In his speech, Prof. Anand Kumar gave a detailed accounts and thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar and Dr. Lohia. He said that, if the then Government of India have not overlooked the views expressed by these two great leaders on the issue of Tibet at that time, than neither China would have occupied Tibet nor attacked India and claimed the huge area of India’s territorial boundaries. In

1949 when the People Liberation Army attacked Tibet, these leaders warned the Government in the Parliament and other important platforms of serious threat from China but to no avail. Dr. Ambedkar and Dr. Lohia even demanded Government of India to recognise His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Tibetan Government in Exile. Prof. Kumar while appealing the members of India Tibet Friendship Society said that we must support and strengthen the Tibetan Freedom movement in India as it has direct relations to India's security and safety. Therefore, Tibet Independence is in India's own interest. Finally, the program concluded with vote of thanks by Gulshan Gajbhaiye, member of ITFS. The members of India Tibet Friendship Society participated in the event includes Shri Sachin Ramteke, Shri Pramod Kumar, Prof. Moreshwar Godam and others.

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama, President Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Speaker of TPiE condoles the demise of Shri Arun Jaitley**



**Shri Arun Jaitley (1952 – 2019)**

*ITCO, Aug. 26, New Delhi: His Holiness the Dalai*

Lama on Sunday condole the demise of former Finance Minister and BJP stalwart Arun Jaitley who passed away following a prolonged illness at AIIMS, New Delhi. "As a distinguished attorney and public servant," His Holiness wrote in a condolence message to Mrs. Sangeeta Jaitley, wife of Arun Jaitley. "Mr. Jaitley dedicated himself to the service of the Indian people. I applaud his sense of public service. At this sad and difficult time, please know that you and your family are in my thoughts,". President Dr Lobsang Sangay of the Central Tibetan Administration on Monday condole the demise of former Indian Finance Minister and BJP stalwart, Arun Jaitley, describing him a "devoted, inspirational leader with integrity and wisdom". "I am deeply saddened to learn of the untimely demise of your husband, Sri Arun Jaitley Ji. On behalf of the Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetan people, I offer our deepest condolences to you and your family," the President wrote, extending his heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of the veteran leader. "I had the privilege of meeting him back in 2011 during which he expressed his respect for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and sympathy for Tibetan people. A devoted, inspirational leader with integrity and wisdom, Sri Arun Ji's legacy will live on and continue to be an inspiration." "Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of grief," the letter concluded. Speaker Pema Jungney also offers his condolence on behalf of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. The former Union finance minister Arun Jaitley, 66, breathed his last at Delhi's AIIMS on Saturday afternoon, 24 August 2019.

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