

Department of Health, CTA observed a mass cleanliness drive across India as a tribute to Gandhi and Swacch Bharat Abhiyan.

Shri Rishi Walia appointed as the new Northern Regional Convener of Core Group for Tibetan Cause - India



Tibetans congratulate Shri Rishi Walia on being appointed as the new Northern Regional Convener of Core Group for Tibetan Cause - India. Photo/TSO Dharamshala

TSO, Oct. 4, Dharmashala: Shri Rishiwalia took over as the new northern region convener of Core Group for Tibetan Cause. During a felicitation to Shri Rishiwalia, officiating Tibetan settlement officer, Mrs Dolma, Mrs Tsering Yangzom, National Democratic Party of Tibet Staff, Mr Gyethang Trulku, Guchusum Tibetan Movement Secretary, Mrs Kalsang, Tibetan Woman Association Staff, Mr Thupten Pema Lama, Indo-Tibetan Friendship Association and Himalayan Pariwar Public Relation Officer congratulated Mr Rishiwalia for his appointment as the Regional Convener in Core Group for Tibetan Cause. Present at the event was also Himachal Pradesh Industrial Minister Honourable Shri Bikram Singh and a team of Shri Rishi Walia.

Full gamut of Tibetan representatives outrightly reject China's interference in Tibetan reincarnation, affirms the supreme authority of the Dalai Lama over Tibetan Buddhism



President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration addressing the closing ceremony of the '3rd Special General Meeting' of Tibetans organised by the Kashag and Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile at the CTA headquarters, Dharamshala, 5 Oct 2019

Tibet.net, Oct. 5, Dharamshala: In 1969, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said that whether or not the institution of Dalai Lama should continue should be decided by the Tibetan people. 50 years later, on 5 October 2019, 340 Tibetan representatives of the three pillars of Tibetan democracy: The Kashag; Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission, the five major schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the Tibetan diaspora spread across 24 countries, unanimously passed 4 resolutions, declaring the six million Tibetan's earnest prayers for the 14th Dalai Lama to reincarnate as per the Tibetan Buddhist tradition and rejecting outrightly China's preposterous interference in the sacred institution

of Tibetan reincarnation. Sending a clear message of deterrence to the Chinese government, the Kashag and the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile that jointly convened the Special meeting of Tibetan representatives announced that the two-page resolution will be adopted effectively as the official policy of the Central Tibetan Administration on the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and therefore, shall remain recorded in the historical annals of Tibet. The first resolution re-affirmed the inseparable relationship between the lineage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people; the utmost trust and devotion the Tibetans hold for His Holiness as the ultimate spiritual guide for this life and the nexts and expressed fervent prayers for his long and healthy life. Infact, Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay, the democratic leader of Tibetan people had formally declared the year 2020 as the year of expressing gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. As His Holiness turns 85 in 2020, Tibetans worldwide will publicly express their highest form of gratitude to His Holiness and celebrate his boundless achievements and legacy as the most extraordinary leader in the history of Tibet. The second resolution said the Tibetans inside Tibet and those in exile collectively and fervently appeal for the institution of the Dalai Lama to continue for the benefit of all spiritual beings of Tibet and accordingly for

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to reincarnate as per the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. The third resolution affirmed upon the supreme authority of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on his reincarnation and Tibetan Buddhism in general. It read, “no nation, government, entity or any individual can claim to recognise the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The final authority on decisions regarding the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama rests indisputably and completely with His Holiness the Dalai Lama himself and the concerned authorities of the Gaden Phodrang Trust.” Finally, the fourth resolution categorically rejected any interference of the Chinese government in the selection process of Tibetan reincarnate lamas as unacceptable. In addition, it outrightly rejected the Order no. 5 issued by the Chinese government which states that reincarnation of tulkus and lamas must be approved by the Chinese government for legal validation. The four resolutions were unanimously passed by the representatives of the Tibetan people at the three-day Special meeting. The Special meeting at the Tibetan headquarters concluded with an overwhelming show of unity and shared commitment to safeguarding the sacred, karmic relationship between the lineage of the Dalai Lamas and the Tibetan people—a key agenda of the meeting. Both the Tibetan Buddhist

representatives and community leaders re-affirmed their unsurmountable devotion towards His Holiness the Dalai Lama, describing him as “heart and soul of the Tibetan people” and the only singular leader with whom the Tibetan people share a special, historical and karmic relationship. The meeting also unanimously asserted in His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s 2011 statement that if a decision to continue the institution of the Dalai Lama is made, that the responsibility shall primarily rest with the Dalai Lama’s Gaden Phodrang Trust, who will be informed by the written instructions of the 14th Dalai Lama. “Apart from the reincarnation recognized through such legitimate methods, no recognition or acceptance should be given to a candidate chosen for political ends by anyone, including those in the People’s Republic of China,” read the 2011 edict on His Holiness’ reincarnation. By the admission of His Holiness himself, one thing is certain that His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama would reincarnate only in a free country and certainly not on Chinese occupied soil.

**Session on Tibet held in
Ahmedabad and Vadodara,
Gujarat**

ITCO, Oct. 8, Ahmedabad/Vadodara: Amidst relentless academic curriculum, preparation of annual foundation day of RTYC, visit of RTWA members and many others programs in the days to come,



Mr. Jigme Tsultrim and Shri Mahendra Sangpal with the participants at Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangh, Ahmedabad. Photo/ITCO the Regional Tibetan Youth Congress members being the students of Maharaja Sayajirao University organized the talk of Sh. Mahendra Sangpal, Newly assigned Regional Convener of Western Region – II, Core Group for Tibetan Cause, India on 4 October 2019. Sh. Sangpal being a long-time supporter and activist in the movement of Tibbat Mufti Sadhana, professionally a teacher at specially challenged students at DM School, Ashram Road, associated with Indo Tibet Friendship Society since the late eighties, resides in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Gujarat is a developed state of India, which have elected Sh. Narendra Modi as three consecutive terms as Chief Ministers who was elected as Prime Minister of India for the second term places an important chapter particularly in the freedom struggle of India with the ideology of Ahimsa Paramo Dharma advocated by MK Gandhi – revered as Father of Nation. It is here, that this state also hosts a large number of Tibetan Students studying in different institutions



Mr Jigmey Tsultrim, Coordinator, India Tibet Coordination Office addressing the students at MS University, Vadodara, Gujarat. Photo/ITCO

and pursuing their dreams. Apart from studies, the Tibetan Youth in these institutions also plays a key role in magnifying the challenges and expectations of majorly Tibetans under the present-day occupation of Tibet by the People's Republic of China. They engaged in street protests attracting the public attention upon the practices and rules being imposed illegally and inhumanely on Tibetan people by Chinese forces. Through academic debates and seminars they put their efforts to draw out composite information about the aspiration of Tibetans inside Tibet, policies and outreach programs being implemented by Central Tibetan Administration and most importantly exploring support not only from the foreign countries but also from Indian community where majorly Tibetan Diaspora still strives to achieve the ultimate goal of Tibetan movement. While discharging these roles the Tibetan students not only require support from local Indians but they also indulge in building more proactive supporters for the same cause. Towards this end, the coordination is the important element in bridging these links, the Co-ordinator for ITCO made the schedule of Sh. Sangpal's presence within the vicinity of MS University in Vadodara. Mr Dechen Kunsang, President, RTYC, opened the session with the brief introduction and welcome address for two new faces amongst the students. He stated that due to other engagements many other students couldn't have gathered but he expressed his hope that the participants will share the message and task of this event among those students as well. Sh. Sangpal, in his address, expressed his happiness

and satisfaction for showering trust upon him by assigning to this new task which requires extra energy and broadened heart and mind to engage more participants albeit different social and political ideologies. He assured the Tibetan Youth for any support and participation that they may require from the Indian side in discharge any further activities in name of Tibbat Mufti Sadhna. Sh. Jigmey Tsultrim gave a detailed structure upon the functioning of Core Group, activities of different TSGS and future need of more active participation in enlarging the vision of Tibetan movement, three objectives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and historical relation between India and Tibet. He humbly thanked Dechen Kunsang for having arranged the meeting at Faculty of Leadership and Governance, MS University, Vadodara. More than 40 Tibetan students including Ladakhis, Sikkimese students attended the session. The session concluded with Q & A and group photo session. Just a stone throw away distance from the highly refurbished bank of Sabarmati river, popularly referred to as Riverfront Project, around 50 Indians including representatives of Tibetan Sweater Association held an evening session upon Tibet within the premises of Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangh at Ashram Road, Ahmedabad. In coordination with ITCO, Sh. Mahendra Sangpal, newly assigned Regional Convener of Western Region – II, Core Group for Tibetan Cause, India, highlighted the background of the meeting and its expectations. Sh. Sangpal being a long-time supporter and activist in the movement of Tibbat Mukti Sadhana, professionally a teacher at specially challenged students of School of Deaf-Mutes Society, Ashram Road, associated with Indo Tibet Friendship Society since the late eighties and resides in Ahmedabad, Gujarat Equally from this land of Babu, the Tibetan movement also draws the inspiration of Non-violence strategy in meeting with the crumbles of Chinese designed policies that have been continuously threatening the identity of Tibetan mankind. It is also from this place that there have been many long-time Tibet supporters irrespective of different thoughts and principles. Sh. Mahendra Sangpal, while continuing his

opening address, stated that being elevated to the post of Regional Convener is a huge responsibility entrusted upon him by Sh. R. K. Khrimy and others in the selection committee of Core Group Members. He assured that he will do his best keeping aside all the differences only for the sake of Tibet Mukti Sadhna. Coordinator for ITCO informed the gathering of newly appointed members of Core Group and urged all the supporters to reach out more amongst those who are new to Tibet and ill designs of Chinese policies. He shared the aspiration of Tibetans inside Tibet, policies and outreach programs being implemented by Central Tibetan Administration and most importantly exploring support not only from the foreign countries but also from the Indian community where majorly Tibetan diaspora still strives to achieve the ultimate goal of Tibetan movement. With the effort of Sh. Sangpal, more than fifty members including Gujarat BTSM President Sh. Gitesh Patel; Gen. Secretary, Sh. Vipin Pandey; Sh. Gajendra Joshi; Sh. Shreya Dixit; Sh. Vibhuti Amin; Sh. Vijay Mishra; Sh. Dhirubha, Sh. Hashmukh Sokhdia. Advocate Mayur Vyas whereas ITFS members including Sh. Giriraj Goenka, Sh. Jayesh Lama, Sh. Harsh Anand, Sh. Pankaj Rami, Sh. Maulik Dixit, Advocate Bhavesh Kapadiya, Sh. Tribhuvan Tathagata, Sh. Ashwin Vegda, Sh. Migar Vardhan, Sh. Amrut Ravikar, Sh. R S Maurya attended the meeting despite being informed at short notice. During the meeting, the Tibetan Sweater Association Ahmedabad headed by President Mr Lhakpa, voluntarily distributed drinking water and expressed gratitude for being supportive of Tibetan cause and their livelihood challenges during winter sweater selling season for many years in the past. The meeting concluded with Q & A session.

**Mr. Jacob David named as Regional Convener,
South East Region - India**

ITCO, Oct.14, Bengaluru: With the reformation of newly inducted members of Core Group for Tibetan Cause – India—a part of the resolution adopted during the recent 6th All India Tibet Support Groups held at Dharamshala from 15 to 16 June 2019—Shri. Jacob Vishwas David, Member and PRO, Indo Tibet Friendship Society, Bengaluru was named as Regional Convener, South East Region that includes Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh & Pondicherry.



Mr. Jacob David, new Regional Convener for South-East Region-India being felicitated by ITCO Coordinator Mr Jigmey Tsultrim. Photo/CRO Bengaluru

Towards this end, a brief and an informal ceremony was arranged at Community Hall of Tibetan Youth Hostel – within the premises of Chief Representative Office, South Zone Tibetan Settlement, Koramangala, Bengaluru. Sh. Niranjana U, Secretary, ITFS Bengaluru and other members including Sh. Shivanand, Sh. Lokesh, Sh. Gopi and Sh. Jacob along with Ms Choeying Lhamo, Director, Tibetan Youth Hostel, Bengaluru and Mr Samten, Accountant, CRO attended the session. Despite the exams going on for the Tibetan students at Youth Hostel, more than 35 students attended the event. The sole purpose of the event was to bring forward the functionalities of Core Group for Tibetan Cause – India and to acknowledge the respective Members of the region. In the opening remarks, Sh. Niranjana shared about his experience of knowing Tibetan people from his childhood days at Periyapatana in the district of Mysuru. He stressed the need to know each other more closely and proactive efforts for bringing positive change in the movement of Tibetan struggle. Sh. Shivananda impinged the idea of small creations but having attraction by even adding a line of Tibetan cuisine in Chinese food items in many of those street-side vendors only showcasing Chinese menu of noodles and momos. He even underlined the shortcomings in terms of interactions between Tibetan and Indian youths and noted it as a factor for the lack of proper awareness on Tibet among Indian youths. Sh. Jacob Vishwas David expressed his gratitude for Core Group Executive Members for showing faith in assigning him as Regional Convener. While assuring his best efforts for discharging his duties, he expressed his humility towards his senior fellow members of ITFS

Bengaluru chapter for supporting his assignment. He rightfully underlined that there have been many infinite sparks of Tibetan movement in India and elsewhere but these sparks seldom find the continuity and fail to enlarge into a flame which should be analyzed and worked upon with a greater sense of coordination and effectiveness. As Tibetan students attending the function put questions about the possibility of greater impact of these events and its preparations, the Coordinator for ITCO emphasized the need of closer and continuity of interactions amongst the Indian Tibet Support Group members and the Tibetan youth in the days to come. He also welcomed any suggestion or feedbacks that would enable greater effectiveness in exploring composite awareness and support upon the reality and aspirations of Tibetan people both inside and outside Tibet. Sh. Niranjana in his closing remarks, expressed his appreciation for Mr Samten, Accountant, CRO and Ms Choeying Lhamo, Director, Tibetan Youth Hostel for their prompt support in making this event possible in a short notice. Finally, he expressed his greater appreciation for Tibetan students who turned despite being fully occupied with exam schedules back and forth.

Deputy Speaker of TPiE calls on CM Shri Jai Ram Thakur of Himachal Pradesh



Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok presenting publications of TPiE to Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur of Himachal Pradesh. Photo/TPiE

Tibet.net, Oct. 22, Dharamsala: Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok apprised Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur of the problems faced by Tibetans residing in Himachal Pradesh, specifically in Dharamsala and briefed about the All Party Indian Parliamentary

Forum for Tibet (APIPFT) during an official program at Bhagsunath on 19 October 2019. Deputy Speaker on behalf of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE) met CM Shri Jai Ram Thakur and presented some of the publications of TPiE. HP Health Minister, HP BJP party president, and other dignitaries also attended the official program.

ITCO coordinates the visit of CST Mussoorie student delegation to JNU, IIMC Delhi



The students and staff of CST Mussoorie with IIMC staff members at IIMC campus. Photo/ITCO

ITCO, Oct. 26, New Delhi: A delegation of class XII students of Central School for Tibetans, Mussoorie visited Delhi as part of their annual college/university exposure tour from 25 to 26 October. There were 28 students accompanied by 5 teachers. India Tibet Coordination Office, Delhi coordinated their visit to Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU) and Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Delhi on 25 October. At JNU, Tibet Forum executive member Tenzin Damdul and his team guided the students through the large green campus. They briefed the students about the premier university and toured them through the various schools and faculties of the university. The student-delegation visited Dr B. R. Ambedkar Central Library of the university which houses a large collection of books and academic resources and the second floor of the Library which features all the Tibet related books. The Tibet Forum members interacted with the students and addressed all their questions regarding admission procedures and the courses across the various universities in Delhi. After JNU, the students visited India Institute of Mass Communication which is a premier institute

of mass communication in the country. Prof (Dr.) Surbhi Dahiya with her colleagues welcomed the students and teachers to the campus. There was a briefing session where Jigme Tsultrim, ITCO Coordinator introduced the visiting group to IIMC members. Prof. Surbhi briefed the students about the institute and most welcomed them to join it in future. Mrs Tsering Tsomo, one of the accompanied teacher thanked the IIMC members for hosting the group by offering khatak. The students were shown around the campus which was good exposure for them. On 26 October, the student-delegation visited the colleges of Delhi University North Campus coordinated by Tibetan Youth Hostel, Delhi.

Farewell and Felicitation of Regional Conveners of Western UP& Uttarakhand held at Dehradun



Dr. D. K. Pal, out-going Regional Convener, Western UP & Uttarakhand being felicitated by Mr. Norbu, Tibetan Welfare Officer, Dehradun. Photo/ITCO

ITCO, Oct. 31, Dehradun: First-ever official district – Dehradun that has hosted His Holiness the Dalai Lama in April 1959, then under the statehood of Uttar Pradesh, now Uttarakhand where more than seven thousand Tibetan population resides today to witness the farewell of out-going Regional Convener and felicitation of in-coming Regional Convener Dr.D.K.Pal and Sh.Ravi Bakshi respectively. Sh. Bakshi would now be the part of 17 Regional Conveners of Core Group for Tibetan Cause – India. His region would be Western UP & Uttarakhand. Dr. Pal and Sh. Bakshi, both of them hails from Meerut, UP and associated with ABTSS (Antarrashtriye Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Samiti)

where former has been associated with ABTSS since 1995 and later has been the son of the founder of this organization, late Sh. Khulbushan Bakshi. Delhi based India Tibet Coordination Office along with the Tibetan Welfare Office, Dehradun organized this event to reconnect India's past relation with Tibet and its people. Adding upon this, Mr.Norbu, Tibetan Welfare Officer recounted the memories of challenges being faced by Tibetans in exile that was gradually declined due to continuous support from the Indian government and its people. He also stated that Tibetans will always remain indebted towards India for what they have extended to Tibetan people for securing their identity, dignity and fraternity. Dr.D.K.Pal, in his brief statement, made it very clear that he may haven't done much for the cause of Tibet but indeed he has learnt a lot during all those years of association with Tibetan NGOs and particularly with Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche. Adding upon this, Sh. Ravi Bakshi stressed upon the persistency of these events and approach for a larger purpose and proactive relation among Indian and Tibetan people. He lamented that he would ensure to carry forward the legacy and good work of his father that was left incomplete after his death in 2015. Another attraction of this event was the presence of Sh. Sandesh Meshram, Regional Convener, Maharashtra and Goa, a committed activist in the multi-folded approach of non-violence including peace march, fast, rallies etc. In addition to previous accounts of his display of support for Tibetan movement, as he shared, that he would embark upon another Cycle Rally beginning from Dharamshala to Mundgod in December 2019. Prior to the official ceremony of farewell and felicitation of Regional Conveners that was being held at Potala Hall in Deykiling, all three of them paid a visit to Dhondupling Tibetan Settlement where they were warmly greeted by students and faculty of Tibetan Nehru Memorial Foundation School. Coordinator for ITCO enlarged the purpose of this event to engage closer relation and generate a deeper sense of conviction in India's cultural fabric that contains the element of Tibetan wisdom and its fragrance. Office Secretary, Mr.Ngawang Tenzin parted the role of MC during the event where it was attended by more than 200 people from all walks

US hits out at China over the Dalai Lama, praises India



Alice G. Wells/File photo

LANS, Oct. 31, WASHINGTON: As China protested the meeting between a senior US diplomat and the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala in India, Washington emphasized on the “enduring US support for the Tibetan people” and praised India’s “extraordinary generosity” in supporting the Tibetans’ religious freedom. US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback met the Dalai Lama in Dharmshala on Monday. Alice G. Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South and Central Asia, in tweets said: “@IRF_Ambassador’s meeting with His Holiness in Dharamsala emphasizes enduring U.S. support for the Tibetan people. India has greatly supported Tibetan religious freedom, and the U.S. stands in deep admiration of India’s extraordinary generosity.” On the issue of a successor to the Dalai Lama, and China’s stand on it, she said: “The Chinese Communist Party claim that Dalai Lama’s succession “must comply with Chinese laws and regulations” is meritless. Tibetan communities, like all faith communities, should be able to

select, educate, & venerate their religious leaders without government interference. AGW”. The Chinese Foreign Ministry, reacting to Brownback’s visit, said on Tuesday: “We urge the US official to stop contacting the Dalai Lama clique, making irresponsible remarks and using Tibet-related issues to interfere in China’s internal affairs. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Geng Shuang said that Brownback’s remarks violated the US’ commitment to recognise Tibet as part of China and not support a Tibet secession’. On a successor to the Dalai Lama, Geng said the process “should follow (Chinese) national laws and regulations, religious rituals and historical conventions”. Brownback, during his meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader in Dharamsala, said the role of picking a successor to the Dalai Lama belongs to the Tibetan Buddhist system, the Dalai Lama, and other Tibetan leaders. “It does not belong to anybody else, not any government or any entity”, he is quoted as saying. There have been concerns over the health of the 84-year-old Dalai Lama. Brownback had also called on China to release the Dalai Lama-appointed Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, whose whereabouts are not known. “We call on the (People’s Republic of China) government to release immediately the Tibetan-recognised Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima or share the truth about his fate with the world,” Brownback said. The Panchen Lama is regarded in Tibetan Buddhist hierarchy as second most important after the Dalai Lama. China has appointed a six-year-old boy as the Panchen Lama.

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