



Some 49 monasteries, 4130 monks and nuns, 140 monastery management cadres, 49 religious organizations, the “advanced collective” of the Chamdo government, and 60 “advanced workers” were honored in successfully fulfilling the “four standards” policy.

The “four standards” policy requires Tibetan monks and nuns to demonstrate “political reliability,” “moral integrity capable of impressing the public,” and willingness to “play an active role at critical moments.” In short, monks and nuns must support the Chinese government and prevent any resistance to the official policy on religion.

All through 2019, all regions and cities in the TAR had promoted the “four standards” policy through propaganda activities such as reading and group study sessions among the monastic population, according to the report. In Lhasa City, larger monasteries guided the smaller ones while senior monastics instructed ordinary monks and nuns during propaganda tours and in-depth lectures.

The report further claimed that in Nagchu (Ch: Naqu) City, the propaganda activities helped “the vast number of monks and nuns to continuously improve their ideological awareness and their ability to discern right from wrong” and “strengthened the consciousness of national unity” and “further consolidated harmony and stability in the religious field”.

The report quoted one of the ‘outstanding’ monks named Tsering Gyaltzen of Dun Phu Choekorling Monastery in Gongkar (Ch: Gongga) County, Lhokha (Ch: Shannan) City, as saying that the propaganda activities helped them realize that “monasteries are social grassroots organizations, and monks and nuns are ordinary citizens.”

He added that the monastics also realised the “obligation and responsibility to observe the Constitution and laws” without which “the moral bottom line might be lost” and “there will be deviation from the ideological defense line leading to illegal behavior.”



Echoing the current Chinese policy of sinicising religion, another monk named Tenzin Dorjee from Bangrim Choede Monastery from Nang County in Kongpo (Ch: Nyingchi) City pointed out that it was the “responsibility and mission of every Tibetan Buddhist faculty member to unearth and research the scriptures of Tibetan Buddhism and to promote the excellent traditional Chinese culture.”



It was emphasized at the ceremony that “in the new era, religious representatives as well as monks and nuns must improve their political standing, distinguish right from wrong, and consciously maintain national unity and ethnic unity” in order to “become a good citizen and respected religious person in the new era.”

## **TAR Party leaders emphasize opposing separatism on visit to Jokhang Temple in Lhasa**

On 12 December, Tenkho who holds multiple positions as the standing committee member of TAR Party Committee, deputy secretary and vice Chairman of the Party Group of the CPPCC and Minister of the TAR United Front Work Department inspected the security and stability maintenance work at the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa. The Jokhang, also known as Tsuglakhang, is one of the holiest places of pilgrimage for Tibetan Buddhists.

Meeting the temple management officials, monks and police officers stationed at the temple, Tenkho asked them to work hard on “guiding and educating the monks and nuns and other believers to treat religion rationally” before highlighting the importance of “weakening the negative influence of religion, resolutely opposing separatism, consciously maintaining the motherland's unity, and ensuring harmony and stability in Tibet's religious field,” reported the China Tibet News on 13 December.

He further called on the cadres stationed in the temple and the police to “always adhere to Xi Jinping's new era of socialist thinking with Chinese characteristics and thoroughly

implement his exposition on the overall national security concept” by “continuously strengthening the ‘four consciousness’”, which requires absolute loyalty to the Party with Xi Jinping as the core, in thoughts, politics and actions. Tenkho further invoked other Party doctrines such as the “Four Self-confidences” and “Two Maintenances” as crucial to the implementation of the Party's decisions at the central and local levels.

The standing committee members of the TAR Party committee, He Wenhao and Pema Wangdu along with and the TAR vice chairman Zhang Hongbo were also part of the inspection team.

China has imposed heavy restrictions in and around the 1300-yr old Jokhang Temple in its attempts to project an image of stability in the heart of the Tibetan capital Lhasa. An analyst of contemporary Tibet recently remarked that it was more difficult to access the Jokhang than airport immigration for ordinary Tibetans. Two Tibetans staged self-immolation protests outside the temple in 2012 followed by a fire that broke out in February 2018 the details of which remain a mystery to this day due to official secrecy. In 2008, dozens of Tibetan monks interrupted a government-organized foreign media tour that was designed to showcase a picture of stability in the temple.

## **Training Course for monastery management cadres in Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture**

Chinese authorities in Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture organized a training course for 100 monastery management cadres, which was aimed at “conscientiously implementing the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the Party’s 19th Central Committee of the Party and further enhancing the ability of religious management cadres to promote the construction of religious governance system and capacity,” reported the China Tibet News Network on 28 December.

The training course covered nine modules including

**“the study of president Xi Jinping’s exposition on religious work, the decision-making and deployment of religious work at the central and provincial levels, the new situation and tasks faced by religious work across the prefecture, and cultivation of the Party’s spirit and policy interpretation”.**

The report claimed that the training further “clarified the situation and tasks of religious management, and broadened the thinking and vision of religious management cadres.”

## **Stability maintenance inspection including emergency fire drills conducted in all monasteries in Khyungchu County**



**The stability maintenance inspection and exchange group in Khyungchu**

Early this month, Chinese authorities organised an activity called "mutual observation and mutual inspection" among all the 10 Tibetan monasteries in Khyungchu (Ch: Hongyuan) County in Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture to “exchange experiences on monastery management, educational guidance and self-service”, reported the China Tibet Online on 12 December.

The activity required the reincarnated lamas, abbots, and heads of Monastery Management Committees of the abovementioned monasteries, along with the heads of religious and ethnic bureau of the local United Front Work Department, local Buddhist Associations and heads of the relevant departments related to monastery management work to visit each monastery to conduct the inspection and exchange process.



**A monk practicing the use of a fire extinguisher under the guidance of a firefighter in a monastery in Khyungchu**

Other county government departments such as the ethnic and religious affairs, finance, emergency services, judiciary, cultural tourism, fire services were also involved in conducting “comprehensive law enforcement inspections”, which included instructing the monks and nuns to “carry out emergency fire drills to improve the monastery’s disaster prevention and mitigation capabilities.”



**Propaganda activities on the Fourth Plenary Session of the Party's 19th Central Committee during the inspection and exchange process in Khyungchu**

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