



**HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA'S
ARUNACHAL PRADESH VISIT
APRIL 2017**

**(Compilation of News, Articles, Editorials, Interviews
And Official Press Briefings)**



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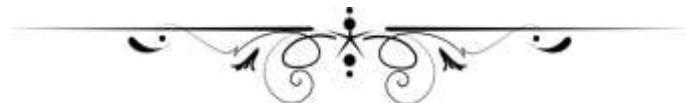
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BEFORE ARUNACHAL VISIT

Dalai Lama To Visit Arunachal Pradesh Next Year, China May Protest

By Maya Mirchandani | NDTV | October 27, 2016



New Delhi: Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama is expected to visit Arunachal Pradesh early next year, which may rattle China that claims the state to be a part of southern Tibet.

The Dalai Lama, invited by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, is expected to address a religious gathering at the monastery in Tawang.

"Dalai Lama is a revered leader and an honoured guest of India. He can go anywhere in India. We see nothing wrong in his visit to Tawang," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup on Thursday.

India's stance may infuriate Beijing, which objects strongly to anyone visiting Tawang, especially its monastery, calling it a "disputed" area.

Last week, China fumed over US Ambassador to India Richard Verma's visit to the Tawang festival.

The Dalai Lama, 81, travelled to Arunachal in 2009 too. "It is a fact that he has a sizeable following among the Buddhists in Arunachal Pradesh who like to seek his blessings. He has visited the state in the past as well and we see nothing unusual if he visits again," Mr Swarup said.

China does not recognise Arunachal Pradesh as a part of India and claims over 83,500 square km of territory in the state as its own, particularly the Tawang region.

Beijing earlier objected to the visit of former President Pratibha Patil for the Tawang festival.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/dalai-lama-to-visit-arunachal-pradesh-next-year-china-may-protest-1525088>

Border Pressure: The Dalai Lama Will Visit Arunachal Pradesh

Will the Tibetan leader's visit to Arunachal Pradesh escalate border tensions between India and China?

By Padmapriya Govindarajan | The Diplomat | November 04, 2016

On October 9 this year, the Chief Minister of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, met His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi. His delegation represented a state with an 11.76 percent Buddhist population, and when he conveyed the regards of the people of his state and extended an invitation, the Dalai Lama informed him of his desire to visit the state in March 2017.

Arunachal Pradesh, which shares about a 1,126 kilometer frontier with China, is a disputed territory, with China claiming 83,500 square kilometers of the state as its own. More so, the region of Tawang within Arunachal has been hailed as the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, thus directly complicating China's ongoing conflict over Tibet. The implications of the Dalai Lama's visit are therefore as strongly in the foreign policy realm as they are domestic.

In October, U.S. Ambassador to India Richard Verma attended a three-day festival in Tawang. This was in keeping with the United States' stance that Arunachal belongs to India – a stance that China is uncomfortable with, as it holds that third parties to boundary issues must not take sides or get involved. While China criticized the visit on the grounds that it was a disputed territory and called it a disruption of the so-called hard won peace, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs put out a statement that it was hardly an unusual visit as the U.S. ambassador merely visited an Indian province.

The Dalai Lama's proposed visit has created a similar furor. Late last week, China announced that if the visit were to happen, it would affect both border peace and stability and bilateral ties between the states. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson has said that China requires India to honor their political commitment to the boundary issue and reiterated that the Dalai Lama's activities constituted anti-China separatism.

However the government in New Delhi has nevertheless declared that the Dalai Lama is free to travel to any part of India, as he is an honored guest. A Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson has gone on to say that comments like these are uncalled for and they in fact do not help bilateral relations in any way.

While it does appear that China has been touchy over the issue of Arunachal Pradesh for successive weeks in October, this is not the first time that visits by the Dalai Lama or other dignitaries has been met with Chinese opposition. For example, China voiced opposition over granting regular stamped visas to Indians from Arunachal Pradesh, instead issuing stapled visas. Moreover, it protested the last time the Dalai Lama visited Arunachal in 2009. In each of those instances, there was no tangible escalation to a border conflict. The BJP too has passed off the comments very lightly – perhaps indicating that this is now routine.

Thus, with no intermittent threat to bilateral relations, and on the back of the BIMSTEC summit that has promised renewed focus on this region more broadly, Arunachal Pradesh has a new reason to celebrate – a much awaited impending visit from the head of Tibetan Buddhism.

<http://thediplomat.com/2016/11/border-pressure-the-dalai-lama-will-visit-arunachal-pradesh/>

Dalai Lama representative arrives in Tawang

The Arunachal Times | February 17, 2017

TAWANG, Feb 16: Representative of his Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tempa Tsering, accompanied by DoKAA chairman Jambey Wangdi, landed at Lumla Heliport to a rousing reception led by RWD Parliamentary Secretary Jambey Tashi, Tawang DC Sang Phuntso, Lumla ADC RD Thungon, Padmashree Lama Thupten Phuntsok, HoDs and monks.

The former Kalon (Minister) of Central Tibetan Administration, accompanied by the entourage visited Dolma Lhagang, the mega Tara Devi statue. He also

nodded to Lumla MLA Jambey Tashi's plea for the consecration of Dolma Lhagang by His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his Tawang visit.

Tempa Tsering, who is also the brother-in-law of the Nobel laureate, is on a five-day tour to Arunachal to inspect and finalize the upcoming visit of his Holiness the Dalai Lama to the state. He will also visit Dirang and Bomdila after inspecting and convening a series of meetings in Tawang headquarter.

<http://www.arunachaltimes.in/dalai-lama-representative-arrives-in-tawang/>

India to host Dalai Lama in disputed territory, defying China

By Sanjeev Miglani and Tommy Wilkes | Reuters | March 04, 2017

Indian federal government representatives will meet the Dalai Lama when he visits a sensitive border region controlled by India but claimed by China, officials said, despite a warning from Beijing that it would damage ties.

GRAPHIC: India-China border tmsnrt.rs/2mhBcGD

India says the Tibetan spiritual leader will make a religious trip to Arunachal Pradesh next month, and as a secular democracy it would not stop him from travelling to any part of the country.

China claims the state in the eastern Himalayas as "South Tibet", and has denounced foreign and even Indian leaders' visits to the region as attempts to bolster New Delhi's territorial claims.

A trip by the Dalai Lama, whom the Chinese regard as a dangerous separatist, would ratchet up tensions at a time when New Delhi is at odds with China on strategic and security issues and unnerved by Beijing's growing ties with arch-rival Pakistan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration is raising its public engagement with the Tibetan leader, a change from earlier governments' reluctance to anger Beijing by sharing a public platform with him.

"It's a behavioural change you are seeing. India is more assertive," junior home minister Kiren Rijiju told Reuters in an interview.

Rijiju, who is from Arunachal and is Modi's point man on Tibetan issues, said he would meet the Dalai Lama, who is visiting the Buddhist Tawang monastery after an eight-year interval.

"He is going there as a religious leader, there is no reason to stop him. His devotees are demanding he should come, what harm can he do? He is a lama."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Friday the Dalai Lama's trip would cause serious damage to India-China ties, and warned New Delhi not to provide him a platform for anti-China activities.

"The Dalai clique has for a long time carried out anti-China separatist activities and on the issue of the China-India border has a history of disgraceful performances," spokesman Geng Shuang told a daily news briefing.

CHINA INVESTING NEARBY

Visits of the Dalai Lama are initiated months, if not years in advance, and approval for the April 4-13 trip predates recent disagreements between the neighbours.

But the decision to go ahead at a time of strained relations signals Modi's readiness to use diplomatic tools at a time when China's economic and political clout across South Asia is growing.

China is helping to fund a new trade corridor across India's neighbour and arch-foe Pakistan, and has also invested in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, raising fears of strategic encirclement.

Last month a Taiwanese parliamentary delegation visited Delhi, angering Beijing, which regards Taiwan as an integral part of China.

In December, President Pranab Mukherjee hosted the Dalai Lama at his official residence with other Nobel prize winners, the first public meeting with an Indian head of state in 60 years.

Some officials said India's approach to the Tibetan issue remained cautious, reflecting a gradual evolution in policy rather than a sudden shift, and Modi appears reluctant to go too far for fear of upsetting its large northern neighbour.

India's foreign secretary, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, was in Beijing last week on a visit that analysts said was aimed at stabilising relations between the world's most populous countries.

TANGIBLE SHIFT

That said, Modi's desire to pursue a more assertive foreign policy since his election in 2014 was quickly felt in contacts with China.

At one bilateral meeting early in his tenure, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj asked her Chinese counterpart whether Beijing had a "one India" policy, according to a source familiar with India-China talks, a pointed reference to Beijing's demand that countries recognise its "one China" policy.

"One India" would imply that China recognise India's claims to Kashmir, contested by Pakistan, as well as border regions like Arunachal Pradesh.

India's hosting of the Dalai Lama since he fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule has long irritated Beijing. But government ministers often shied away from regular public meetings with the Buddhist monk.

"These meetings were happening before. Now it is public," Lobsang Sangay, head of the Tibetan government-in-exile based in the Indian town of Dharamsala, said in an interview.

"I notice a tangible shift. With all the Chinese investments in all the neighbouring countries, that has generated debate within India," he said.

The chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, a member of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, met the Dalai Lama in New Delhi in October and officially invited him to visit the state.

On the Dalai Lama's last visit in 2009, the state's chief minister met him. This time he will be joined by federal minister Rijiju, a move the Chinese may see as giving the trip an official imprimatur.

New Delhi has been hurt by China's refusal to let it join the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the global cartel that controls nuclear commerce.

India has also criticised Beijing for stonewalling its request to add the head of a banned Pakistani militant group to a U.N. Security Council blacklist.

Rory Medcalf, Head of the National Security College at the Australian National University, said New Delhi appeared to have been surprised by China's inflexibility since Modi came to power, fuelling distrust in the Indian security establishment.

"India does feel that the cards are stacked against it and that it should retain and play the cards that it does have," he said. "The Dalai Lama and Tibetan exile community is clearly one of those cards."

<http://in.reuters.com/article/india-china-dalailama-idINKBN16B03F>

China jittery over Dalai Lama's planned visit to Arunachal Pradesh

By Saibal Dasgupta | TNN | March 06, 2017

BEIJING: China is publicly blaming the Indian government of encouraging the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh in the coming weeks in the hope of drawing political advantage from it.

"Leveraging the Dalai Lama issue to undermine Beijing's core interests risks dragging the two countries into a state of hostility," a commentary in Global Times, which is controlled by the Communist Party said today.

Last Friday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that Dalai Lama's visit would complicate the India-China boundary dispute and effect relationship between the two countries.

This shows that Beijing has exhausted diplomatic avenues and concluded that India cannot be persuaded to stop the Tibetan leader from visiting the area. China is apparently engaging in a public relations battle to put pressure on New Delhi by trying to get the issue covered in the Indian media.

There are signs India is in no mood to budge from its earlier stand that the Tibetan leader is free to visit any part of India. China claims ownership of Arunachal Pradesh although it has always been a part of India.

The Global Times commentary said that Indians "overestimate the political value of the Dalai Lama and his group while miscalculating China's determination to safeguard its core interests".

It is unclear why China is getting so worked up over the issue if it regards the Tibetan leader of little value.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/china/china-jittery-over-dalai-lamas-planned-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh/articleshow/57499271.cms>

Dalai Lama To Visit Arunachal April 5, Mixed Response from Tawang

By RANJU DODUM | The Citizen | March 27, 2017

TAWANG: On April 5, the fourteenth Dalai Lama will address a large crowd of Buddhists at the Yidiga Choedzin in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang town. While thousands of Buddhist Monpas are eagerly waiting to see their spiritual leader

speak, a man considered a living god, not everyone in Arunachal Pradesh is enthusiastic about his visit.

The Dalai Lama first came to the state in 1959 when he escaped from the Potala Palace in Tibet's capital Lhasa, entering Tawang and passing through several places before eventually setting up camp in Dharamsala where the Tibetan government in-exile operates out of. Since then, he has visited the state seven times. Given the People's Republic of China's position on Arunachal Pradesh and its equation with the Dalai Lama, it's hardly surprising that the Chinese government does not take too kindly to his visits to the state.

Ever since his visit was announced, Chinese officials have repeatedly raised objections stating that the state is disputed territory and that the Dalai Lama's repeated visits further complicate matters. The Chinese officials seem to have found support to their argument from the unlikeliest of sources - a section of people from Arunachal Pradesh.

Since the turn of the last century, the Chinese have maintained that Tibet is part of China and that a large part of present-day Arunachal Pradesh (which it calls South Tibet) was under Lhasa's control, ergo making over 80,000 square kilometres of the state a part of China.

In 1962, border disputes escalated to such heights that the People's Liberation Army forces marched deep inside Arunachal Pradesh before unilaterally retreating. Since then, border skirmishes and encroachments have been frequently reported and the Chinese continue to maintain that the region is disputed.

Although India has also asserted its stand and found support from the people of the state, who happen to be zealously patriotic, some here agree with the Chinese that the Dalai Lama's visits rough up an already rocky relationship between the two countries.

Dr Nani Bath, a professor at the Rajiv Gandhi University and a prominent political commentator feels that the Dalai Lama's visits to the state are counter-productive to relations between the two countries and as such his visits should be halted.

"We must be aware of collateral damages arising out of his visits," he says.

Former secretary of the North East Students Organization, Gumjum Haider, also says that the Dalai Lama is "a reason of irritation between the two nations" and that if "his visit does not yield any development, any benefit to the people" then it should be stopped.

Another voice of opposition to his visits is Arunachal Civil Society chairman Patey Tayum who is even planning to hold an event reasoning why the Dalai Lama should not come here.

Vocal apprehensions to the Dalai Lama's visits however, have come from non-Buddhists only so far.

Lama Yeshi, a stocky monk at the GRL Monastery in Bomdila (where the Dalai Lama will speak) nonchalantly reacts to questions of such views by saying that "*bolne wala bolte rahega* (those who have to say will say anything)". His statement is in line with what one young entrepreneur from Bomdila says is characteristic of Monpas and Buddhists.

"Our people don't really like making political statements," he says.

However, there is one Buddhist who breaks the mould.

Lama Lobsang Gyatso, a monk from the area who shot to limelight for his stance against large hydropower projects in the region thinks there are two reasons for inviting the Dalai Lama.

"One, inviting him gives India an opportunity to show its supremacy. Second, to bring peace and tranquillity after last year's incident," he says.

On April 28, Gyatso was arrested on charges of allegedly defaming the abbot of the 336-year old Tawang Monastery, also known as the Galden Namgye Lhatse- celestial paradise in a clear night. A few days later on May 2, Gyatso was to attend court for a bail hearing. His supporters, mostly fellow monks and nuns, had begun gathering outside the police station where he was held. When his bail plea was turned down, the police took him inside the station again, this time from a different entrance. This agitated the protestors, and as per some claims, began pelting stones at the police station. In reaction, the police and men of the Indian Reserve Battalion began firing their guns in an attempt to disperse the crowd which resulted in the death of two young men.

Gyatso says that the Dalai Lama is revered by the people in Tawang and if he appeals for peace, people will listen. As for whether the Dalai Lama should visit or not, he is clear that there is no reason he shouldn't.

"Our poor and the elderly cannot go out to see him. He should come," he says.

Religious considerations aside, the Dalai Lama's visits are more about international diplomacy.

"His visits actually stake claim metaphorically to the land as ours. It's a refined way of asserting rather than hold placards and shout ourselves hoarse. It's like saying this is our land, we will do what we want and call who we call," is one view.

One observer says that "the thing with disputed issues/land/claims/property/ideas is that if one doesn't reiterate them once in a while, people take that as a sign of the other giving up".

Even Bath notes that the Dalai Lama "is being used by the government of India against China. As such, its motive is not to let the people see him but to counter dragon's moves".

Recently, the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union has said that the Chinese have no right in interfering in this matter.

It said that China's comments on the Dalai Lama's visit are "nonsensical" and that it should refrain from India's internal matters. Incidentally, it also said that the stapled visas that are issued to citizens from the state by the Chinese government should be accepted as valid, thereby allowing people to travel to China.

In the past, many sportspersons and bureaucrats were either not given visas by Chinese embassies or issued stapled visas which Indian authorities do not accept.

<http://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/NewsDetail/index/1/10265/Dalai-Lama-To-Visit-Arunachal-April-5-Mixed-Response-from-Tawang>

Don't Upset China: Assam Terror Group ULFA's Message To Dalai Lama

By Ratnadip Choudhury | NDTV | March 28, 2017

Guwahati: A faction of the banned terror group of Assam, ULFA, has weighed in on the controversy over Dalai Lama's proposed visit to Arunachal Pradesh, with a message that leans to the Chinese side. The ULFA faction led by Paresh Baruah - who had been reportedly hiding in China -- insists that the 81-year-old spiritual leader should mind what he says and not cause a setback in bilateral relations. Underscoring that Assam is culturally close to China, the group said it "won't tolerate India's views to be propagated from Assam's soil".

The warning comes days after China voiced its displeasure over the proposed visit, saying by allowing it, India was risking "serious damage" in the ties between the two nations. China has repeatedly claimed that the Nobel laureate -- who is also the political leader of the Tibetan diaspora in India -- is a separatist.

In its open letter, ULFA (I) urged Dalai Lama "not to utter" any words in "private or public" against China. "China has always been a friendly neighbour of ours and the relationship between China and Assam is truly very deep in linguistic and cultural heritage of the two nations," ULFA(I) president Abhizeet Asom wrote in a letter, a copy of which is with NDTV.



"India has kept her nuclear arsenal ready on Assam's soil to use against your country," the letter added. "In neutralising Indian military power, China is also likely to unleash an immense counter offensive which will be a disaster for Assam. Moreover, your beloved Tibet also likely to suffer heavily from your host's action."

Paresh Baruah, who is on the police wanted list, is said to be hiding in China, though Beijing has reportedly denied his presence on its soil. There have also been reports that Ulfa has training camps in the Chinese territory.

Dalai Lama, who is going on a tour of the northeast, will start his visit with Assam on April 1. He is expected to visit Tawang, a Buddhist majority town in Arunachal Pradesh that China lays claim to, sometime after April 4. Union minister Kiren Rijiju is expected to accompany him.

The Chinese foreign ministry has said India was "fully aware of the seriousness of the Dalai issue and the sensitivity of China-India border question".

"Under such background if India invites the Dalai to visit to the mentioned territory, it will cause serious damage to peace and stability of border region and China-India relations," its spokesman Geng Shuang said earlier this month.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/dont-upset-china-assam-terror-group-ulfas-message-to-dalai-lama-1674624>

Similar:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ulfa-i-warns-dalai-lama-against-making-anti-china-comments-during-assam-visit/story-87X6h64PxMuJHtvBeglk3H.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/ulfa-i-warns-dalai-lama-against-making-anti-china-remark/articleshow/57889501.cms>

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170329/jsp/frontpage/story_143290.jsp

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/ulfas-misplaced-sense-of-aggression-against-dalai-lama-underscores-its-eagerness-to-keep-china-happy-3358818.html>

China warns India against allowing Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal

For the second time in a month, China today warned India of "serious damage" to bilateral ties if it allows the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh as Beijing asked New Delhi to honour its "political pledges" on the Tibet issue.

PTI | Moneycontrol.com | March 31, 2017

For the second time in a month, China today warned India of "serious damage" to bilateral ties if it allows the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh as Beijing asked New Delhi to honour its "political pledges" on the Tibet issue.

"We are seriously concerned about the news. On the eastern section of the China-India border, China's position is clear and consistent," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told media here today, responding to a question on the Dalai Lama's upcoming visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of south Tibet.

"The Dalai clique has long been engaging in separatist activities with inglorious record. India should be very clear with the true nature of the Dalai clique," Lu said.

"But despite this India still invited the Dalai Lama to visit the region. This will have serious damage on bilateral relations," Lu said.

The Dalai Lama will visit Arunachal Pradesh from April 4 to 13.

This is the second time this month Chinese Foreign Ministry has aired its objections to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"China is gravely concerned over information that India has granted permission to the Dalai to visit Arunachal Pradesh," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang had said on March 3.

China has protested to India last year also when New Delhi cleared his visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"Such visits will have deep damage on China India relations. We have asked India to stick to its political pledges and not to hurt China-India relations. It will come down to India to make a choice," Lu said.

"China firmly opposes the Dalai Lama carrying out any activities in the relevant region and we have expressed our concerns to the Indian side. We urge India to stick to its political statements, respect the consensus and avoid doing anything that might further complicate the matter," Lu said.

He said India should not provide any platform for the "Dalai clique and only that way can China-India relation can move forward in a sound and steady way".

"China and India are two major developing countries and we are close neighbors". It is very important for the two peoples to maintain sound and steady China India relations. But such relationship has to be built on certain foundation," Lu said.

Last year, China also protested the visit of then American Ambassador to India Richard Verma to the area.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488 km long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

While China claims Arunachal Pradesh as Southern Tibet, India asserts that the dispute covered Aksai Chin area which was occupied by China during the 1962 war.

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/current-affairs-trends/china-warns-india-against-allowing-dalai-to-visit-arunachal-2250879.html>

China opposes India hosting Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh

Reuters | March 31, 2017

China said on Friday it opposes plans by Indian government officials to host Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in a sensitive border region controlled by New Delhi but claimed by Beijing.

Indian government representatives told Reuters in early March that officials would meet the Dalai Lama while he is on a religious trip to Arunachal Pradesh from April 4-13 and that as a secular democracy they would not stop him from travelling to any part of the country.

China claims the region in the eastern Himalayas as "South Tibet", and it has denounced foreign and even Indian leaders' visits to the region as attempts to bolster New Delhi's territorial claims.

The trip by the Dalai Lama, whom the Chinese regard as a dangerous separatist, is expected to ratchet up tensions between New Delhi and Beijing over strategic issues such as China's growing ties with India's arch-rival Pakistan.

"China resolutely opposes the 14th Dalai Lama visiting border regions disputed by China and India," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular briefing in Beijing.

China urges India to "avoid taking any actions that would further complicate the border issue, do not provide a platform for the 14th Dalai clique's separatist activities," he said.

"The Dalai clique has made disgraceful performances on the China-India border issue," he added.

A spokesman for India's Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday that his government's position remained unchanged. "The Dalai Lama is a religious

leader and no political meaning needs to be attached to his activity," Gopal Baglay said.

Visits by the Dalai Lama are planned months, if not years, in advance, and approval for the trip predates recent disagreements between China and India.

The Dalai Lama is expected to meet junior home minister Kiren Rijiju, who is an Arunachal native and the point man of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tibetan issues, while visiting the Buddhist Tawang monastery.

The Dalai Lama last visited the monastery in 2009. He also briefly stayed there after fleeing Tibet in 1959 following a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

"During the Dalai Lama's last visit to Tawang, he said that the area is part of India. This is untrue and it undermines friendly relations between China and India," Lian Xiangming, an academic from China's government-run China Tibetology Research Center, said on March 23 at an event in Beijing.

"Historically, Tawang was under Deprung temple (in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa) and had to make contributions to the regional government, so this means that Tawang is in itself a part of Tibet," he said.

"Given Tawang is a part of Tibet and Tibet is a part of China, it is hard to say there is any logical problem here."

(Reporting by Christian Shepherd in BEIJING; Additional reporting by Tommy Wilkes in NEW DELHI; Editing by Gareth Jones)

<http://in.reuters.com/article/china-india-dalailama-idINKBN1721E9>

Others: <http://english.manoramaonline.com/news/world/2017/04/01/china-against-dalai-lama-proposed-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh.html>

Cancel Dalai Lama's Visit To Arunachal Pradesh, Says China

By Monideepa Banerjee | NDTV | March 31, 2017

Kolkata: Five days before the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, the Chinese Consul General in Kolkata strongly repeated China's position on the visit. "India must cancel the visit," said Ma Zahnwu at a press meet in Kolkata.

"China has expressed not just reservation but strong opposition to the

decision by the Indian government regarding the activities of the Dalai Lama," he said, adding that he hopes for an announcement by the Indian government cancelling such activities.

"Dalai Lama is not just a religious figure but also a political one and his visit has been strongly opposed already by our government," Mr Ma added, "We believe that this kind of activity goes against the promise made by the Indian government regarding the activities by people from China's Tibet."

The press conference by the Chinese Consulate in Kolkata was originally called to announce a visit by a top business delegation from Shandong headed by the region's top political leader. The team will discuss investment opportunities in Bengal.

The last time the Dalai Lama went to Arunachal was in November 2009. China had objected to it. India had responded by keeping it low-key and making it look like a personal visit, with almost no media allowed.

This time, the Narendra Modi government consented to the visit on October 27 and the Arunachal government is the host for the ten-day visit.

On March 3, China's foreign ministry issued what China-watchers say was a warning. Spokesman Geng Shuang said, "China is gravely concerned over information that India has granted permission to the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh."

"An invitation to him to visit the mentioned territory would cause serious damage to peace and stability of the border region and India-China relations," the statement said.

China's reservations on the Dalai Lama stem from the 1959 Tibet rebellion, when the Dalai Lama escaped to India, which China saw as an incursion into its territorial integrity.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cancel-dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-says-china-1675538>

Rijiju rejects China objection on Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit

The Echo of India | April 01, 2017

China should refrain from meddling in the internal affairs of India, Union minister Kiren Rijiju today said after Beijing objected to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh next week.

The Dalai Lama visits Arunachal between April 4 and 13. "We are not interfering in the internal matters of China and that country should not interfere into ours," the minister of state for home affairs told newscasters here. He said, the visit of the Dalai Lama was as per the wish of the people. China had on Friday said that allowing the Tibet's exiled leader to visit Arunachal by India will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties and had asked New Delhi to make a "choice".

In its second warning to India in a month, the Chinese foreign ministry had said it was seriously concerned about India's decision to allow the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of south Tibet. The Union minister today also called for creating a peaceful atmosphere in Arunachal Pradesh so that fruits of development percolate down to every nook and corner of the state.

"NDA's mantra for the North East is 'peace and development' and we are trying to make the region a secured and developed place so that it could compete with other developing parts of the country," Rijiju, said at a programme here. "Our responsibility is to support outsiders who visit the state for execution of various developmental projects. If they feel insecure, they will leave the state without completing the projects and in the process development will suffer," he said and called upon the people to contribute for development.

"The proposed three broad gauge (railway) lines will change the economy of the state once they are completed," he said and called for proper execution of all developmental schemes without compromising on quality. (PTI)

<http://echoofindia.com/itanagar-rijiju-rejects-china-objection-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-125528>

Dalai Lama recalls flight to India ahead of northeast trip

The exiled spiritual leader said he had no option but to escape Tibet because of Chinese military action

Associated Press | SCMP | April 01, 2017

Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama recalled his 1959 flight to India from Tibet ahead of a visit to northeast India's Arunachal Pradesh state despite objections by China, which considers it a disputed region.

The Dalai Lama said he had no option but to escape Tibet in view of Chinese military action. He spoke at a function organised by an Indian newspaper, The Assam Tribune, in Gauhati, the capital of Assam state. The state's governor and its top elected official were among an audience of nearly 1,500 people.

Why China, India and the Dalai Lama are pushing the boundaries

The Dalai Lama last visited Arunachal Pradesh in 2009. China protested that trip, but there was no major impact on relations with India.

“Whenever I come to the northeast of India, it feels like a reunion with people here,” the Dalai Lama said. “When I revisit the Tawang area, I am reminded of the freedom that I had experienced for the first time [in 1959]. That was the beginning of a new chapter in my life.

‘Longest guest’

“On March 10, 1959, there were huge demonstrations in Lhasa,” the Tibetan region’s capital, he recalled. “Chinese military action also increased. I had no option but to escape. On March 17, I fled.”

“I sent some of my officers to Indian authorities at the border. They readily allowed us in, received us warmly, and today I can tell you that I am the longest guest of the Indian government.”

Last month, China warned of “severe damage” to relations with India and increased regional instability if the Dalai Lama proceeds with his trip to the state.

Beijing has expressed its concerns to New Delhi on numerous occasions and urged India to avoid offering a place for the Dalai Lama to carry out anti-China separatist activities, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said last month.

‘Southern Tibet’

China claims the partly ethnically Tibetan Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory, and the frontier between the two Asian giants remains tense more than 50 years after they fought a brief but bloody border war high in the peaks.

China claims about 90,000 square kilometres (35,000 square miles) in Arunachal Pradesh, referred to informally by some Chinese as “Southern Tibet.” India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometres (15,000 square miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau.

More than a dozen rounds of talks have failed to make substantial progress on the dispute, although there have been relatively few confrontations in recent years.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/policies-politics/article/2084071/dalai-lama-recalls-flight-india-ahead-northeast-trip>

Arunachal ready to welcome Dalai Lama, Tserteng Gompa could turn into tourist hub

**Arunachal Pradesh is fully ready to welcome Tibetan spiritual leader
The Dalai Lama during his three-day visit from April 4. The Noble
Laureate arrived in Guwahati on Saturday.**

ANI | ZeeNews | April 03, 2017

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh is fully ready to welcome Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama during his three-day visit from April 4. The Noble Laureate arrived in Guwahati on Saturday.

Buddhist inhabitants of Tawang and West Kameng districts are waiting impatiently for what they see as their life time experience. The Dalai Lama is scheduled to visit Lumla, the Tawang Monastery and the Ngingmapa Monastery in Dirang. The local administration in these place has been busy giving a facelift to both of these districts, lawmakers Jambay Tashi (Lumla), Phurfa Tsering (Dirang) told the Arunachal Front.

While presenting a paper on `cultural tourism with a special focus on Buddhist tourism at a national seminar held at the RGU between March 26 and March 28, 2007, I had advocated the need for promoting niche tourism in Arunachal. While approving the concept, an expert Professor S C Bagri, the tourism and hotel management department head of Gharwal University, had suggested adequate publicity with committed involvement of all stakeholders.

Arunachal Pradesh's winning the National Tourism Award 2007-08 as the best state for development of tourism infrastructure in February 2009 was the icing on the cake in a manner of speaking.

Tawang is known as The Last Shangri La on Earth, but the monastery was adjudged one of the `seven wonders of India` on March 30, 2009 via the Incredible India` campaign of the Union Tourism Ministry.

Arunachal, which is strategically positioned between Sarnath in Bihar, Lhasa in Tibet, Fulsiling in Bhutan and several South East Asian nations, can be developed as a Buddhist tourism hub of India. Sacred regions of Pemako in Upper Siang district, Tsari area of Upper Subansiri district and Motongsa in Nampong circle of Changlang district are equally important Buddhist pilgrimages. Ashoka's children, Mahendra and Sanghamitra, toured S E Asia, including Myanmar to propagate Buddhism.

A huge stone slab with engraving in Motongsa or Kongmu, located in an inaccessible jungle along the Jairampur-Pagsau Pass route bordering Myanmar, attracts Buddhist monks from far and wide. They reach there by trekking on foot for two to three days, and thereafter, worship and mediate for

days together. It maybe recalled that the Dalai Lama was received at Khinzemane after he had escaped from Tibet in 1959.

He had taken the Zemithang-Lumla route and stayed at globally famous Tawang Monastery or Galden Namgye Lhatse, seat of Mahayana sect of Buddhism. He had proceeded through Senge Jong, Bomdila, Chako and Assam foothills to Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh to set up his headquarters from where Buddhism flourished and spread across the globe with renewed vigour.

The Tawang Monastery is 450 years old and has a 27-feet-tall imposing golden Buddha in meditating posture, built by Merak Lama Lodre Gyasto in 1680-1681 to fulfill wishes of 5th Dalai Lama. It is the second largest Buddha-related statue in the world after the one in Lhasa, Tibet. Tawang's Buddhist belt boasts of monasteries and stupas while entry-less Gorsam Chorten (stupa) is unique and opens once every twelve years for the believers to pay their obeisance.

Khathing festival or Shanken Festival or Water Festival reflects the great Buddhists traditions. 84,000 candles symbolizing same number of stupas built by Ashoka during his lifetime are lit during the festivals for world peace.

<http://zeenews.india.com/north-east/arunachal-ready-to-welcome-dalai-lama-tserpeng-gompa-could-turn-into-tourist-hub-1992384.html>

Others:

<http://www.sentinelassam.com/arunachal/story.php?sec=2&subsec=7&id=303977&dtP=2017-04-04&ppr=1>

India to host Dalai Lama

By Rana Sen | SABC | April 03, 2017

India will host the [Dalai Lama](#) in a sensitive frontier region also claimed by China. The Communist State warned that the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal Pradesh beginning on Tuesday would complicate a border dispute festering since 1962 when the two Asian neighbours fought a war.

The Nobel laureate called his journey a religious trip.

Beijing has reacted angrily to his 10-day trip to India's Arunachal Pradesh state, a 90 square, kilometre area claimed in full by China.

However, former foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Mukherjee said such warnings must be ignored.

"This is not the first time that China has protested with something to do with the Dalai Lama in India. Every time the Dalai Lama is slated to visit Arunachal Pradesh or the monastery in Tawang, China has always lodged a very strong protest and we have always said that the protests are misplaced because the Dalai Lama is here as an honoured guest, he is a revered religious leader worldwide."

Analysts also say the Dalai Lama may have become a pawn in a power-play between China and a far-more assertive government in Delhi

The Dalai Lama set up base in India after a failed anti-China uprising in his homeland in 1959.

The Buddhist monk insists his campaign for autonomy for Tibetans is intentionally misread.

"I think deliberately, they know, many of them know we are not seeking independence. We are not separatists. However those hardliners, they simply do not want me to return.

Therefore, they deliberately try to create impression; "Dalai Lama is a splittist". So, then, naturally we are genuine splittist. Some of them Chinese officials describe me as a demon."

Analysts also say the Dalai Lama may have become a pawn in a power-play between China and a far-more assertive government in Delhi. India's ruling BJP party spokesperson seemed to echo the new diplomatic jostling.

"China does not want to declare terrorist Hafeez Sayeed a terrorist but they want India to prevent the Dalai Lama attending a religious meet. This is the irony of Chinese diplomacy trying to bully other nations. I am sure the present regime will respond suitably, appropriately this time."

However, the 81-year-old Buddhist monk appeared fatigued, perhaps he seem to realize his campaign will never bear fruit - at least in his lifetime. "One of my dreams indicated my destination of my life 113 years, but now I doubt. Now, you see, I feel more and more tired. So, now, 80 years and there also I mentioned birthday celebrations for 80 years and now I am looking forward to 90 years and then perhaps 100 years, but then I doubt!"

China calls Arunachal Pradesh "South Tibet", and it has denounced foreign and even Indian leaders' visits to the region as attempts to bolster Delhi's territorial claims. The two sides fought a bloody war over the region in 1962 and 18 rounds of talks so far have failed to resolve the dispute.

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/901c280040a5a551a31ae3c1e9840251/India-to-host-Dalai-Lama-20170304>

Dalai Lama and Tibet: India's leverage against China

TNN | April 03, 2017

The Dalai Lama has expectedly steered clear of political positions, saying there is nothing new in China's objections to his visit.

NEW DELHI: Though India-China relations remain uneasy, Beijing's fulminations over Tibetan leader Dalai Lama's upcoming visit to Arunachal Pradesh could indicate that the Buddhist icon and the Tibet issue might provide some leverage to India in its relations with its giant neighbour.

The Dalai Lama has expectedly steered clear of political positions, saying there is nothing new in China's objections to his visit. Yet, the sharp language with China warning of "serious damage" to bilateral ties should be read with its increasing testiness over the prominence being given to the Dalai Lama.

Indian officials argue that the Dalai Lama is not doing anything that is a departure from his usual activities and his proposed visit to Arunachal Pradesh and the famous Tawang monastery is a result of the long-standing demand of his followers. But they point out that if this really agitates China, then it also reveals a pressure point that can come handy in interactions at the political and diplomatic level.

China remains fully in control of the Tibet plateau with a strong military and administrative presence but the region, along with Xinjiang, remains a worry for the authorities as recent restrictions on religious displays in the latter area indicate.

Tibet, along with Taiwan, remains absolutely non-negotiable for China and this makes the task for Indian diplomacy more challenging.

There is a risk of escalating tensions in an already fraught relationship and commentators have pointed out that the jab, counter-jab which has marked ties needs to be moderated or at least prevented from painting both sides into positions which are politically difficult to reverse.

Indian official and political sources feel there is room to create some counter pressure on China that has been unyielding on border negotiations despite the absence of gun fire along disputed borders. Tibet and the Dalai Lama can help India counter in some measure the vice like veto China exercises on India's entry to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its move to bring Pakistan-based terrorist mastermind Masood Azhar under UN sanctions.

To this end, the Dalai Lama has been invited to Rashtrapati Bhavan, met the visiting Australian cricket team and was feted by chief ministers of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. His visit to northeast has seen minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju in attendance.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/dalai-lama-and-tibet-indias-leverage-against-china/articleshow/57983414.cms>

China wary as Dalai Lama set to visit Tawang

PTI | April 03, 2017

BEIJING: A wary China kept a close watch as the Dalai Lama is set to begin over week-long visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh tomorrow to attend religious engagements, evoking high decibel protests from Beijing which highlighted the disputed status of the area.

As the 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader's politically significant visit came specially at a time when India-China ties were at a low ebb due to differences over a number of issues, China proactively countered the Dalai Lama's account of how he had to flee from Tibet due to military actions.

India-China ties are currently bogged down over New Delhi's objections over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through PoK, Beijing blocking India's membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and a UN ban on JeM chief Masood Azhar.

China last night said the Dalai Lama fled to India from Tibet in 1959 after a "failed armed rebellion", rejecting the Tibetan spiritual leader's remarks that he had no other option but to escape due to increased Chinese military action.

"As it is known to all, the 14th Dalai Lama is an anti- China separatist who have long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the reactionary

group of high-ranking feudal serf-owners in Tibet in March 1959," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said reacting to his comments.

"His remarks which serve his anti-China separatist purpose have no trace of facts at all," the Ministry told PTI in a written response to a query about his comments.

About his stay in India, it said, "the Chinese government is resolutely opposed to any country's support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group's anti-China separatist activities".

During his visit to Assam on April 1, the Tibetan Buddhist leader recalled that "On March 10, 1959, there were huge demonstrations in Lhasa", the Tibetan region's capital.

"Chinese military action also increased. I had no option but to escape. On March 17, I fled," he said.

He said the warm-hearted welcome he received on his arrival at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh 58 years ago was a "moment of freedom" for him.

Chinese troops entered Tibet in October 1950 overcoming the resistance from the Tibetan army and later the Chinese control over the area was formalised in 1951.

The Dalai Lama fled from Tibet in 1959 and lived in India in exile since then.

Ahead of his visit to Tawang, China has sought to highlight the disputed status of the Tawang, located about 25 km close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

According to reports, the Tibetan spiritual leader is expected to stay in Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as southern Tibet, till April 12 to attend religious engagements.

On April 1, China had asked India to exercise caution and restraint in its reported plan to connect Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, with railway network saying that New Delhi should refrain from unilateral actions that might complicate the boundary issue.

"China's position on eastern section of the China-India boundary is consistent and clear. At present, the two sides are working to resolve the territorial dispute through negotiation and consultation," the Ministry said, reacting to reports that India is exploring feasibility to connect Sino- India border district Tawang with the railway network.

"The two sides have agreed that pending final settlement, both sides will work together to properly manage the dispute and preserve peace and stability of the border areas," it said.

Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties and New Delhi has to make a "choice".

India's former ambassador to China Ashok Kantha said he is puzzled by the noise China is making over the Dalai Lama and Tawang.

"Pending a boundary settlement, the clear understanding since 1993 is that we will work on the basis of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The fact remains that Arunachal is on our side of the LAC," Kantha, who retired as Indian envoy to China last year, was quoted as saying by the South China Morning Post recently.

"We do not raise questions about Chinese movements in Aksai Chin (which China took control in 1962 war) even though we consider it to be part of our territory. So I do not understand when they complain about things we do on our side of the LAC. That is a departure from a fundamental agreement," he said.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-wary-as-dalai-lama-set-to-visit-tawang/articleshow/57994756.cms>

<http://english.jagran.com/nation-dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-in-arunachal-pradesh-postponed-due-to-bad-weather-270067>

Dalai Lama in India: All you need to know about Tibetan leader's visit, and China's response

First Post | April 03, 2017

The Dalai Lama is on a 12-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh amid objections from China, which doesn't officially recognise the northeast state as Indian territory and considers it a disputed region.

During his visit, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader recalled his 1959 flight to India from Tibet. He said he had no option but to escape Tibet in view of Chinese military action. He was speaking at a function organised by an Indian

newspaper, The Assam Tribune, in Guwahati. State governor and top elected officials were among an audience of nearly 1,500 people at the function.

The Dalai Lama last visited Arunachal Pradesh in 2009. China protested that trip as well, but there was no major impact on relations with India.

On Tuesday, at the conclusion of his trip to Assam, he will leave for Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district. He is scheduled to consecrate a temple and give blessings to his followers during his week-long stay in the state.

"Whenever I come to the northeast of India, it feels like a reunion with people here," the Dalai Lama said on Saturday. "When I revisit Tawang, I am reminded of the freedom that I had experienced for the first time (in 1959). That was the beginning of a new chapter in my life," he said.

According to Hindustan Times, the Dalai Lama had an emotional reunion on Sunday with one of the five Assam Rifles guards who escorted him to India during his escape from Tibet in March 1959. The Dalai Lama embraced Naren Chandra Das, a retired jawan, at the Namami Brahmaputra River festival organised by the Assam government in Guwahati.

"On 10 March, 1959, there were huge demonstrations in Lhasa (the Tibetan region's capital), he recalled. "Chinese military action also increased. I had no option but to escape. On 17 March, I fled."

"I sent some of my officers to Indian authorities at the border," he said. "They readily allowed us in, received us warmly, and today I can tell you that I am the longest guest of the Indian government."

Last month, China warned of "severe damage" to relations with India and increased regional instability if the Dalai Lama proceeds with his trip to the state. To this, Dalai Lama told The Times of India that it's normal and there is no problem in China objecting to his visit. The Dalai Lama said it was not accurate to associate an act of terrorism with any particular religion. He went on to say that he is very uncomfortable when someone says a Muslim terrorist or a Buddhist terrorist. A genuine Muslim never follows the path of violence and there could be exceptions among Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Jews. These people cannot represent the entire community and he said he is against such generalisations, he said.

According to The Telegraph, the Dalai Lama also suggested the introduction of secular ethics in school curriculum in Assam. Among other things, he said that he considered himself a son of India. "A few years ago, some Chinese reporters asked me why I identified myself as India's son. I told them that my mind and each part of my brain is filled with the knowledge and thought of

Nalanda. Besides, my body survived on Indian dal, chapati and rice. That is why both physically and spiritually, I am a son of India," he said.

He said wherever he went, he wanted to be a messenger of ancient Indian knowledge. He said the knowledge was relevant to "find a path when it (world) was in crisis or in violence".

The Nobel Laureate also sounded worried at the continuing increase in the gap between the poor and the rich. "Even today, there is a huge gap between the rich and poor in many countries, including India. We have to uplift the poorer section of society," he said.

According to the article, Indian officials have argued that the Dalai Lama is not doing anything that is different from his usual activities and his proposed visit to Arunachal Pradesh and the Tawang monastery is a consequence of his followers' long-standing demands. However, the officials have said that if this really agitates China, then it also reveals a pressure point that can come handy in interactions at the political and diplomatic level.

NDTV reported that the Dalai Lama also released an Assamese version of his first autobiography, *My Land and My People*, in Guwahati on Monday.

On Tuesday, he is expected to address the students and authorities of Dibrugarh University. According to NDTV, the banned ULFA(I) faction led by Paresh Barua, which maintains close connections with the Chinese intelligence, has "appealed" to the Dalai Lama to not say anything that could hurt the Chinese while he was visiting Assam.

Beijing has expressed its concerns to New Delhi on numerous occasions and urged India to avoid offering a place for the Dalai Lama to carry out "anti-China separatist activities", China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said last month.

China on Sunday said the Dalai Lama fled to India from Tibet in 1959 after a "failed armed rebellion", rejecting his remarks that he had no other option but to escape due to increased Chinese military action. "As it is known to all, the 14th Dalai Lama is an anti-China separatist who have long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the reactionary group of high-ranking feudal serf-owners in Tibet in March 1959," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

"His remarks which serve his anti-China separatist purpose have no trace of facts at all," the ministry had said in a written response to a query about his comments. About his stay in India, the ministry said, "The Chinese

government is resolutely opposed to any country's support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group's anti-China separatist activities."

China claims the partly ethnically Tibetan Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory, and the frontier between the two Asian giants remains tense, more than 50 years after they fought a brief but bloody border war.

China claims about 90,000 square kilometres (35,000 square miles) in Arunachal Pradesh, referred to informally by some Chinese as "Southern Tibet".

India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometres (15,000 square miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau. According to a Hindustan Times report, relations between India and China seem to be going towards a diplomatic chill over the Arunachal Pradesh visit, Chinese experts have said, with some of them saying Beijing should use all means including military to show its displeasure.

While the incursion by the People's Liberation Army across the Line of Actual Control that marks the disputed China-India border cannot be ruled out, it is also quite possible that Beijing suspends bilateral mechanisms as a response — at least temporarily.

There is also a possibility that China could try to stir India's strategic unease by enhancing cooperation with India's neighbours in South Asia especially Pakistan, sign new deals and pump in more financial aid, the report said.

More than a dozen rounds of talks have failed to make substantial progress on the dispute, although there have been relatively few confrontations in recent years.

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/dalai-lama-in-india-all-you-need-to-know-about-tibetan-leaders-visit-and-chinas-response-3365602.html>

People Have Right to Express Concern over Environmental Issues: Dalai Lama

Northeast Today | April 03, 2017

Expressing concern about degradation of the environment, particularly water contamination, Dalai Lama stated people have the right to express their concerns over such environmental issues.

Pointing out that some major rivers of Asia have their origin in the Tibetan plateau, the Dalai Lama said, "Several crores of people are dependent on the rivers that flow out of Tibet. So people have the right to express their concerns over environmental issues."

"In Tibet, the rivers are very clear. We can drink the water directly, anywhere. But when we go outside (Tibet), we cannot drink it. I have then realised that the environmental issues are very serious," Lama shared, adding, "Water is the basis of our life. All human beings, animals, plants all depend on water."

The Dalai Lama also recounted his connection with the Brahmaputra, which originates in the Tibetan plateau, and which he had crossed while escaping from Tibet to India in 1959.

He also stressed on proper education "I have involved educationists to formulate a curriculum from KG to PG level for secular, ethical education. I will send the draft to Assam. May be the government can implement in one or two schools and see the results and then implement in more schools."

He further added lots of problems in the world today have been created by the mind. "If we have to change the world, we will have to change our mind. To bring peace, we have to change the human way of thinking, we have to use the brain properly. Our intelligence should not be controlled by negative emotions."

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/people-have-right-to-express-concern-over-environmental-issues-dalai-lama/>

Dalai Lama's emotional reunion with guard who aided flight from Tibet

Buddhist leader meets Naren Chandra Das 58 years after he escorted him in India after his escape from Chinese authorities

By Michael Safi | The Guardian | April 03, 2017

The first time they met, Indian paramilitary guard Naren Chandra Das was ordered not to talk to the bespectacled young soldier he was escorting near the Chinese border in a top-secret mission.

Nearly 60 years later, Das was reunited with the Dalai Lama in an emotional ceremony that recalled the Buddhist leader's escape from Tibet after a failed uprising against Chinese authorities.



The Dalai Lama who has lived in exile ever since fleeing Tibet in 1959, was visibly emotional as he embraced Naren Chandra Das Photograph: Biju Boro/AFP/Getty Images

This time the Dalai Lama had the first word. "Looking at your face, I now realise I must be very old too," he told Das, 79, at a ceremony on Sunday in the north-eastern city of Guwahati.

The ceremony is likely to fuel anger in Beijing over the Dalai Lama's tour of north-east India, including Arunachal Pradesh, a border state with areas that China regards as its own territory.

It has warned India that the tour by the Dalai Lama, whom Beijing calls an "anti-China separatist", will do serious damage to ties between the two Asian powers.

In Guwahati on Sunday the Dalai Lama – who denies seeking Tibetan independence – remembered the "warm-hearted" welcome he received in India after a 13-day trek through the Himalayas to escape the Chinese army. "The days prior to my arrival in India were filled with tension and the only concern was safety, but I experienced freedom when I was received warmly by the people and officials and a new chapter began in my life," he said.

The Dalai Lama fled his Lhasa palace in March 1959 when he was 23 after years of tension between Tibetans and the Chinese government erupted into popular rebellion.

Disguised as a Chinese soldier, he and members of his cabinet slipped out of the palace and trekked by night through mountains and across the 500-metre (1,640ft) Brahmaputra river to reach the Indian border.

Until he appeared in India, some observers feared the Dalai Lama had been among the estimated 2,000 people killed when the Chinese crushed the uprising.

India offered him asylum and a home base in the hill town of Dharamsala, where he was permitted to set up a government-in-exile. About 80,000 Tibetan refugees soon joined him in the Himalayan town.

China argues the 1959 rebellion was the work of wealthy landowners bent on maintaining feudal rule, and that its “peaceful liberation” of the mountainous region has brought development and prosperity.

The Chinese foreign ministry on Monday reiterated its objection to the Dalai Lama’s tour of the border states, saying it was “resolutely opposed to any country’s support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group’s anti-China separatist activities”.

Chinese anger over India’s role in sheltering the Dalai Lama was one of the factors that led to a brief war between the two countries in 1962. Cross-border incursions by Chinese troops are regularly reported and border areas of the state are highly militarised.

Like past Indian leaders, the prime minister, Narendra Modi, has maintained an official policy of treating the Dalai Lama as an “honoured guest” in the country, inviting him to meet the Indian president in December – another event that drew Chinese condemnation.

India and Tibet share close cultural and religious ties and the Dalai Lama has regularly affirmed India’s sovereignty over the entirety of Arunachal Pradesh, including areas the Chinese government labels “south Tibet”.

Tibet remains under the tight control of the Chinese government and possessing pictures of the Dalai Lama or his writings is illegal.

On Sunday, the Dalai Lama appeared to whisper something to Das as the pair embraced during ceremony. Asked afterwards what the Buddhist leader had told him, Das said: “He was happy to see me.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/03/dalai-lamas-emotional-reunion-indian-guard-who-aided-flight-from-tibet>

Dalai Lama, Border Guard Who Escorted Him Into India Have Emotional Reunion

By Anjana Pasricha | VOA | April 03, 2017

NEW DELHI — Nearly six decades after he fled his homeland, Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama had an emotional reunion on Sunday with the border guard who escorted him into India when he was 23 years old.

The Buddhist monk, now 81, met the border guard, Naren Chandra Das, who is 79, in Guwahati, the capital of the northeastern Indian Assam state, at a ceremony organized by the state government.

The Dalai Lama had trekked for two weeks across the Himalayas in 1959 disguised as a soldier and seeking asylum in India, following a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Embracing Das, who escorted him for part of his journey in India, the Tibetan spiritual leader said he was very happy to meet with him. "Looking at your face, I now realize I must be very old too," he told him in jest.

It was the first exchange of words between the two. Das recalled he and several other guards who escorted the Dalai Lama had been given orders not to speak to him when he crossed into India. They had never met since.

Das later told reporters he was overwhelmed by the warmth with which the Dalai Lama met him.

'I experienced freedom'

The Tibetan spiritual leader, who arrived in Guwahati en route to the famous Buddhist Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh, said he had an emotional attachment to the region that revived his memories of escape from Tibet.

The Dalai Lama recalled how when they sent some men to the Indian border, they readily agreed to give them entry. "The days prior to my arrival in India were filled with tension and the only concern was safety, but I experienced freedom when I was received warmly by the people and officials and a new chapter began in my life," the *Press Trust of India* quoted him as saying.

The visit has raised China's ire. Beijing, which calls the Dalai Lama a dangerous separatist, has strongly protested the Indian government's plans to host him in the sensitive border state of Arunachal Pradesh, that is controlled by New Delhi, but is also claimed by Beijing.

The Indian government has responded by saying it is a religious visit and has no political meaning. The Dalai Lama has called China's opposition "normal."

<http://www.voanews.com/a/dalai-lama-indian-border-guard-reunion/3793890.html>

Dalai Lama's Emotional Reunion With His 'Savior' After 58 Years Is An Important Lesson In Gratitude



By Sharmila Sharma | MENSXP | April 03, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Sunday had an emotional reunion with Naren Chandra Das, one of the five Assam Rifle guards who escorted him to India during his escape from Tibet in March 1959.

"Thank you very much.... I am very very happy to meet such an old member of the Assam Rifles who guarded and escorted me to India 58 years ago," a visibly emotional Dalai Lama said during the interactive session organized at the 'Namami Brahmaputra' River festival by the Assam government.



© Twitter

"Looking at your face, I now realize I must be very old too" he said to Das in jest.

76-year-old Das, dressed in his Assam Riffles uniform told that he escorted the Dalai Lama as his armed guard in 1959, two years after joining the force in 1957.

"Guards of Assam Rifles Platoon no. 9 had brought the Dalai Lama from Zuthangbo and handed him over to five of us at Shakti. We brought him to Lungla from where he was escorted on his onward journey to Tawang by another group of guards," the retired jawan said.

On being asked whether Das had any interaction with Dalai Lama that time, he said, "Our duty was only to guard and escort him during a part of his journey." The two looked very happy after meeting each other and Dalai Lama also presented a silk shawl to the guard.

For the Assam Riffles, he also signed an old photograph of his during his journey into India.

<http://www.mensxp.com/special-features/today/35944-dalai-lama-s-emotional-reunion-with-his-savior-after-58-years-is-an-important-lesson-in-gratitude.html>

"Muslim terrorists" is a wrong term: Dalai Lama

APNA | April 03, 2017



AhlulBayt News Agency) - The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama strongly disapproved of terms like "Muslim terrorists" saying he feels immensely "uncomfortable" at such usage.

The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader reiterated on Saturday, April 1, his strong disapproval of terms like "Muslim terrorists", saying he feels immensely "uncomfortable" at such wrong usage.

"The use of such terms (like Muslim terrorists) is wrong and I feel uncomfortable. There are genuine followers of Islam who follow the Koran seriously and sincerely," said the Dalai Lama, at the function which also marked the golden jubilee of 'The Dainik Asom,' The Economic Times reported.

The Nobel laureate expressed his aversion to the negative, community-specific terminologies, while speaking at a platinum jubilee anniversary function of 'The Assam Tribune' group of newspapers here.

He also criticized Buddhists in Burma who were harming Muslims, calling them exist “mischievous elements.”

The comments also come as Islamophobia has reached unprecedeted level since 9/11, which many Muslim groups blame on Muslim ban introduced by President Trump.

Last month, a man broke into a Tucson mosque in Arizona, ripping up over 130 copies of the holy Qur'an in the mosque, as police officials said there was no indication that the attack was a “hate crime.”

Though the attack is the first to target Tucson Islamic Center, it is not the first for mosques across North America.

In January, a 27-year-old Trump supporter opened fire in a Quebec City mosque, killing six people and wounding 19 others.

Also in January, a mosque in Victoria, Texas, was set on fire, and authorities are now investigating the incident as arson. Only five days prior, a California mosque was vandalized with strips of bacon.

The year 2015 was also named the worst year for mosque attacks on record.

http://en.abna24.com/news/central-asia-subcontinent/muslim-terrorists-is-a-wrong-term-dalai-lama_821631.html

Dalai Lama's Visit to Northern State in India Angers China

RFA | April 03, 2017

A planned visit by the Dalai Lama this week to Arunachal Pradesh, a state in northeastern India claimed by China as “South Tibet,” is stirring controversy and fears of heightened diplomatic tensions between the two powerful neighbors.

The Dalai Lama’s nine-day stay from April 4 will be the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader’s fifth visit to the disputed region since 1983, and China—which regards the Dalai Lama as a separatist seeking to separate Tibet from Beijing’s rule—has strongly objected each time.

Now, China has threatened that the Indian government-backed trip to the border state’s Tawang region will cause “serious damage” to bilateral ties,

though the Dalai Lama has announced plans only to visit and teach at a large Buddhist monastery there.

India has consistently rejected China's claim to Arunachal Pradesh, former state minister and Indian parliamentarian R.K. Khriyem told RFA's Tibetan Service.

"Arunachal Pradesh has always been a part of India, and it will remain a part of India," Khriyem said. "Our prime minister and government have decided that [the Dalai Lama] can travel to any part of India, including Arunachal Pradesh, to which His Holiness wants to travel."

India's open support for the Dalai Lama's present trip reflects government annoyance with China over "a host of issues," former Hindustan Times editor Pramit Pal Chaudhuri said.

These include China's expanding economic ties to Indian rival Pakistan, blocking of India's joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and veto of U.N. sanctions against a Pakistani terrorist accused of attacks against India, Chaudhuri told RFA in an e-mail on Monday.

"At this level, this is par for the course in Sino-Indian relations and their carefully managed ways of needling each other," Chaudhuri said.

Concerns over succession

What is new this time is controversy over the issue of who will succeed the Dalai Lama, now 81, after he dies, Chaudhuri said.

Noting that China has already announced it will select the next Dalai Lama, Chaudhuri said that the present Dalai Lama has been working to undermine the legitimacy of any future "puppet" chosen by Beijing.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang will be "partly about ensuring that the [region's] Tibetan and Buddhist leaders will hold to his line rather than Beijing's," Chaudhuri said.

Interviewed by RFA, residents of Arunachal Pradesh meanwhile voiced support for the Tibetan spiritual leader's coming visit.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama brings peace and blessings with him whenever he visits this area," one resident of the state said, adding, "China cannot bear the recognition and respect that the Dalai Lama attracts in the world."

Others declared their intention never to be governed by Beijing.

"We enjoy the freedom that India gives us," one said. "Living under Chinese rule would be insane."

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/visit-04032017143756.html>

World View: Dalai Lama to Visit Region of Northeast India Claimed by China

By John J. Xenakis | Breitbart | April 03, 2017

Dalai Lama to visit region of northeast India claimed by China

China, the country that illegally annexes regions in the South China Sea and builds illegal military bases there, is now making its usual furious threats because the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the Tibetan Buddhists, merely wants to visit the town of Tawang in the Himalaya mountains in northeastern India. The visit begins on Tuesday and continues for 12 days.

Tawang is a district in India's state of Arunachal Pradesh, 2,000 sq km in size, with fewer than 50,000 people. However, it contains the 17th century hilltop Tawang Monastery, which houses a massive gilded Buddha statue. Because of this monastery, China claims that Tawang is part of Tibet, and claims further that Tibet is part of China and so Tawang is part of China.

China's foreign ministry said that the Dalai Lama's visit "to the contested area will inflict severe damage on the China-India relationship," although the relationship is already so severely damaged that it is hard to see how a mere visit is going to damage it more. In response, India announced that India's Minister of Home Affairs would appear in Tawang with the Dalai Lama, thus giving the visit much greater international prominence.

There are conflicting stories about what the Dalai has said in the past about whether Tawang is part of Tibet or part of India. According to India's former ambassador Ranjit S Kalha, when the Dalai Lama fled from Tibet in 1959 and passed through Tawang, at that time he thanked India for making his journey "through this extremely well-administered part of India as comfortable as possible." However, Chinese officials claim that the Dalai Lama said for years that Tawang was historically Tibetan, and only in 2008 said that it was part of India.

According to a recent statement by a Chinese official:

The Dalai Lama's assertion that Tawang is part of India is against the core interest of the Chinese people. He advocates Tibetan autonomy but is really

seeking independence. By allowing him a platform, the India government is going back on its promise of not allowing the Tibetan government in exile to engage in activities undermining China's sovereignty.

There is also a 1914 deal between India and Tibet defining the border between Tibet and India, and making all of Arunachal Pradesh part of India. However, China has never recognized this deal.

There have been agreements in 1993 and 2005 between India and China that appeared to settle the border disputes by putting Arunachal Pradesh into India, and putting another region, Aksai Chin, on the border with Kashmir, into Chinese territory, as shown on the map above.

However, those agreements were made when both countries were in generational Unraveling eras (like America in the 1990s), when nationalism and xenophobia are generally at a low point. Today, both countries are well into a generational Crisis era, with increasing nationalism and xenophobia, and both countries are becoming more assertive and confrontational, and no longer able to compromise. [Deutsche Welle](#) and [Indian ambassador Ranjit S Kalha](#) and [South China Morning Post \(Hong Kong\)](#)

Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet to India in 1959 Lhasa uprising still humiliates China

After China's army invaded Tibet in 1950 and "liberated" it, there were frequent clashes between China's army and Tibetans. These clashes culminated in Tibet's extremely bloody generational crisis war, the 1959 uprising in Lhasa, Tibet's capital city.

In March 1959, China's army invited the Dalai Lama to visit army headquarters for a theatrical performance and tea. Many Tibetans believed that the army planned to kidnap the Dalai Lama and possibly kill him. On March 10, 300,000 Tibetans confronted China's forces, which some reports number up to a million. The Dalai Lama escaped to India, and in the war that followed, tens of thousands of Tibetan men, women and children were slaughtered by China's army. China also destroyed Lhasa's major monasteries along with thousands of their inhabitants.

Allowing the Dalai Lama to escape has been a continuing humiliation to China. China keeps hoping he'll drop dead, but at age 81, he has refused to do so, so far.

However, the successor to the Dalai Lama has become a major issue. The current Dalai Lama is the 14th. Each Dalai Lama is believed to be a reincarnation of the previous one. Each Dalai Lama can choose the person who will select the next Dalai Lama after he dies. The current Dalai Lama did

select a six-year-old boy in 1995 for this role, but the boy and his family were immediately kidnapped and killed by the Chinese government.

China now wants to take control of the succession process, and essentially to select the next Dalai Lama when the current one dies. However, it's not likely that the Tibetan people will accept the choice of the Chinese government.

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/04/03/3-apr-17-world-view-dalai-lama-to-visit-region-of-northeast-india-claimed-by-china/>

India using Dalai lama's Tawang visit to upset China: State media

The state-run Chinese media on Tuesday accused India of using the Dalai Lama's Tawang visit to upset China.

India TV News Desk | New Delhi | April 03, 2017



The state-run Chinese media on Tuesday accused India of using the Dalai Lama's Tawang visit to upset China.

An article in Global Times advised India to deliver on its political commitments to Beijing on Tibet related issues.

The article further said that the 14th Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang bordering China will hurt Sino-Indian ties because China opposes any official invitations to him.

"The Dalai's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang, which China hopes will be returned, will affect relations between China and India," an analyst from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told the paper on condition of anonymity.

"India (is) using Dalai Lama's visit to upset Beijing," the paper quoted the analyst as saying.

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader today arrived at Bomdila in West Kameng district, marking the beginning of his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"India should deliver its political commitments to China on Tibet-related issues, including opposition to separatists," he said, noting that China would take steps against any government which invites the Dalai Lama.

He said Tawang is also the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso, which gives the place religious meaning to Tibetans.

Reacting to Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju's remarks that the Dalai Lama's visit is "purely religious," and that there is no political angle behind it, the expert said this is not the first time India has used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China, especially when bilateral talks fail to include their demands or to "pander to domestic anti-China issues".

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world-india-using-dalai-lama-s-tawang-visit-to-upset-china-state-media-375619>

Dalai Lama's controversial visit to the India-China border

Reuters | April 03, 2017

The Dalai Lama embarks on a controversial journey to the disputed border between India and Tibet. It's a trip being made in the name of spirituality, but as Doug Busvine explains, there are political forces at work, regardless of his intentions.

Video link: <http://www.reuters.com/video/2017/04/03/dalai-lamas-controversial-visit-to-the-i?videoid=371410383&videoChannel=13421>

China Criticizes Dalai Lama, Avoids Mentioning India Visit

Latin American Herald Tribune | April 03, 2017

BEIJING – The Chinese government criticized on Tuesday the Dalai Lama for his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, calling him an “anti-China separatist,” although it stopped short of directly denouncing New Delhi.

Arunachal Pradesh is a historically disputed territory between India and China.

“The 14th Dalai Lama is an anti-China separatist who have long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the reactionary group of high-ranking feudal serfowners in Tibet in March 1959,” the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement to EFE on Tuesday.

“The Chinese government is resolutely opposed to any country’s support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group’s anti-China separatist activities,” read the statement without alluding directly to India.

Tensions between the two Asian giants have been raised by the Dalai Lama’s visit, to Arunachal Pradesh, which has been disputed since brief armed conflict in 1962, although it is now under Indian control.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs, in an attempt to play down the visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, recalled that he had already been to Arunachal on six previous occasions, and rejected any controversy that may have been caused due to this visit.

Inclement weather conditions in the area have forced the Dalai Lama to change his itinerary, and Tuesday’s visit to the important Buddhist center of Tawang has been delayed.

Arunachal Pradesh, located in the Himalayas, holds a special significance for the Tibetan leader, as it was the first territory in India he entered while fleeing Chinese troops in 1959 before moving to Dharamsala (northern India), where he now resides.

<http://www.lah.com/article.asp?CategoryId=12395&ArticleId=2434076>

'Teach values to usher in peace'-Terrorism has no religion: Dalai Lama

By Avik Chakraborty | The Telegraph, Calcutta | April 04, 2017

Dibrugarh, April 3: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama today said a value-added education system was necessary to build a peaceful society.

Speaking at Dibrugarh University on Ethics and Modern Education, His Holiness said inner peace is important to develop a healthy atmosphere of peace in society. Citing the example of Japan, he said its two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were destroyed during World War II but the Japanese reconstructed their country through peace.

"Wars happen due to narrow-mindedness. Nobody can gain anything out of it. It causes self-destruction and anxiety. We should discard the path of violence through value-added education. The future generation should think in a wider perspective to stop the growing violence in society," the Nobel peace laureate said.

He said in ancient India, the focus was on knowledge-based education. The ancient Indian philosophies were logical and value-oriented. But, at present, the education system focuses more on material values, which is decreasing the real purpose of education.

"In the greater interest of humanity, we must discard hate and anger within ourselves and carry the message of love and peace wherever we go. You should always be happy and feel happy for others. Then you will be benefited," the Dalai Lama said.

He said people drag religion into terrorism but terrorism has no religion.

"There is no Islamic terrorist or Hindu terrorist. No religion teaches terrorism. People who support terrorism and violence are narrow-minded."

The Dalai Lama narrated the story of his escape from Tibet to India and the warm-heartedness with which the Indians greeted him to their land. He said he is very attached to the country.

This was the Dalai Lama's first visit to Dibrugarh University. The university's vice-chancellor, Alak Kumar Buragohain, had recently met him in New Delhi and invited him to visit the university. Clad in maroon robes, the 82-year-old monk landed at Mohanbari airport, Dibrugarh, in a chartered flight from Guwahati at 9.30 this morning and reached the university by road. He was welcomed by the vice-chancellor and registrar M.N. Dutta.

Later, he met Tibetans who had organised a function to seek his blessings. He returned to Guwahati in the afternoon.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170404/jsp/northeast/story_144393.jsp#.WQnkwKL-uUk

'It's Normal,' Says Dalai Lama On China's Objection To His Arunachal Pradesh Visit

By Ratnadip Choudhury | NDTV | April 03, 2017



The Dalai Lama wearing an Assamese Japi during an event in Guwahati. (PTI)

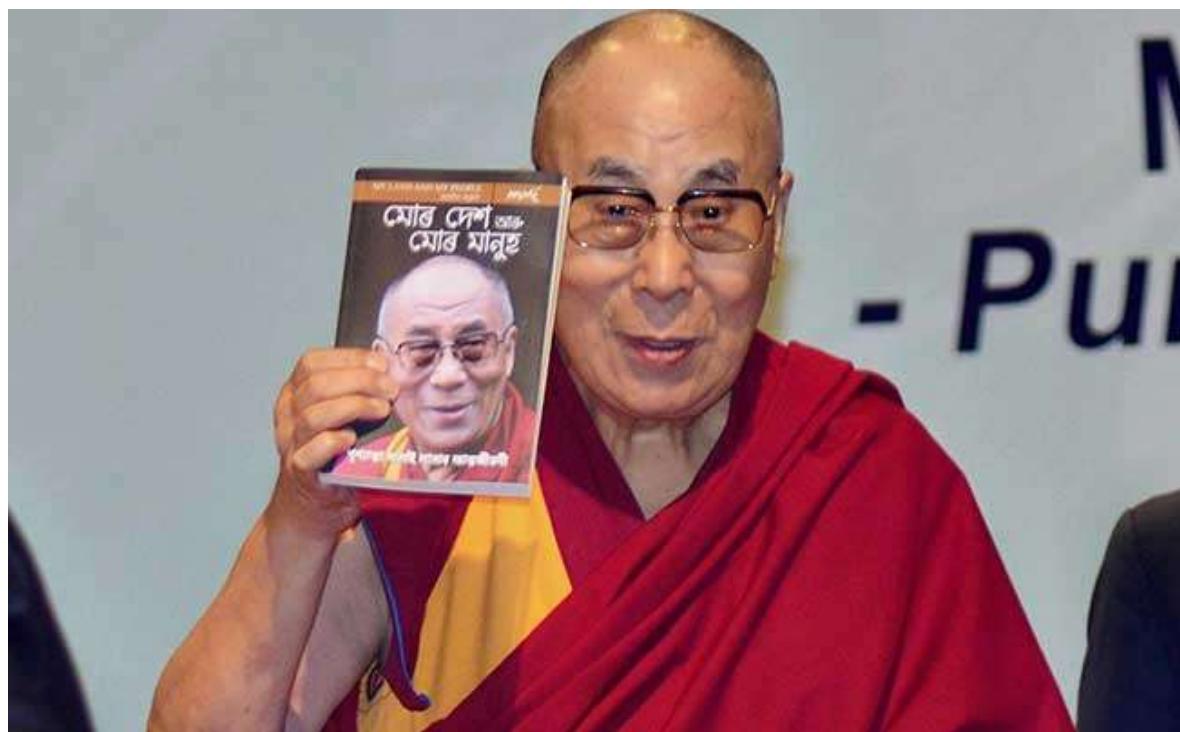
Guwahati: The Tibetan spiritual leader-in-exile the 14th Dalai Lama- Nobel Laureate Tenzin Gyatso- reached Guwahati on Saturday to kick start his two week-long visit to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh amid strong objection by China and an appeal by banned group United Liberation Front of Assam or ULFA (I) to not say anything against China during his trip. On the very first day Dalai Lama brushed aside China's objections saying it's 'normal for them' to object, he has 'no problems and fears'.

The Buddhist monk also added that he is "the longest staying guest of India" but he turns into a child whenever he visits Northeast India.

Stressing upon two major issues - secularism and terrorism, the Dalai Lama said at a talk at the platinum jubilee celebration of The Assam Tribune: "In a democratic setup, people are supreme and awareness of rights is very important. I have been to over 200 countries but India is the only country which can make material development and also preserve compassion at same breadth. Without *karuna*, *ahimsa* is impossible?" Among the audience were Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Speaking against the growing culture of linking acts of terrorism to religious beliefs, the Dalai Lama said: "The terms 'Muslim terrorist' or 'Buddhist terrorists' are wrong. No religion preaches terrorism," adding that the answer to growing hatred and intolerance lies in the secular structure of India as a democracy.

Today, the Dalai Lama released an Assamese version of his first autobiography- My Land and My People. He is also expected to take part in the Namami Brahmaputra programme in Guwahati later today.



Spiritual leader Dalai Lama releasing Assamese translation his autobiography 'My Land and My People'

Tomorrow, the spiritual leader will address a gathering at Dibrugarh University.

The visit of the Dalai Lama in the north-eastern states will culminate with a teaching session in Arunachal Pradesh's capital Itanagar on April 12.

This visit comes in the wake of repeated statements by China of 'strong repercussions' of allowing Dalai Lama to travel to Arunachal Pradesh.

In Assam, the banned ULFA(I) faction led by Paresh Barua which is known to have close ties with Chinese intelligence , has 'appealed' to the spiritual leader not to say anything that would 'hurt the Chinese' while in Assam.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/its-normal-says-dalai-lama-on-chinas-objection-to-his-arunachal-pradesh-visit-1676304>



TUESDAY, APRIL 04, 2017

Travelling up to Arunachal Pradesh and Arrival at Bomdila

Dalailama.com | April 04, 2017

Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh, India - Persistent stormy weather prompted a reassessment of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's plans to travel to Arunachal Pradesh. This morning, instead of taking a helicopter to Tawang, he set off by road from Guwahati with Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu escorting him. By and large the rain held off and the road was clear. Although the change of plan was only decided late last night word had spread. Military personnel marked the route at regular intervals. At villages along the way local people gathered, smiling, white scarves and incense in their hands to greet His Holiness as he passed. In many places they had also arranged the Chemar Chang-phu offering and set up a carpeted chair for him to sit on if he chose, as well as preparing incense offerings of billowing juniper smoke. Where His Holiness stopped his car, he opened the door and village representatives came forward with a bowl of rice which he blessed and asked them to share with their neighbours.

His Holiness took a short break for tea at the Government Rest House at Bhairabkunda on the border between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, where he chatted with Chief Minister Pema Khandu and West Kameng DC Dr Sonal Swaroop.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking to members of the local community

gathered to greet him at Tenzin Gang Tibetan Settlement in Arunachal Pradesh on April 4, 2017. Photo by Jeremy Russell/OHHDL

At Tenzin Gang His Holiness was made welcome at Gyuto Monastery. He paid his respects in the temple before climbing the stairs to the rooms above where lunch was served. Before resuming his journey he greeted the crowd, including several dozen school children who had gathered to see him.

Speaking briefly to them he noted that Tibetans have been in exile for 58 years and that conditions in Central Tibet continue to be very difficult, although they are not quite so tough in Kham and Amdo. He praised the unflagging spirit of the Tibetan people and encouraged his listeners to be proud of their culture and the rigorous education that has been preserved in Tibet's monastic institutions. He mentioned that although life in exile has its sad aspects, he also appreciates the enriching of experience it has brought and suggested that those who eventually return to Tibet will take with them a broader vision than before.

The motorcade drove on. It began to rain once more as it approached Bomdila, but this did not discourage people from thronging the streets to welcome His Holiness. Reaching Thubchok Gatsel Ling Monastery he paid his respects in the temple and was served ceremonial tea and sweet rice. Shortly afterwards he retired to his rooms for the night.

Tomorrow he will teach at the Bomdila Buddha Park and offer a White Tara Long-Life Empowerment in the morning and will give a public talk in the High School Auditorium in the afternoon.

<https://www.dalailama.com/news/2017/travelling-up-to-arunachal-pradesh-and-arrival-at-bomdila>

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT: His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh Visit Rescheduled

Tibet.net | April 04, 2017

Bomdila: Owing to inclement weather in parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, there is a change in schedule of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. His Holiness will arrive in Bomdilla today instead of originally scheduled arrival in Tawang.

Tomorrow (April 5), His Holiness will give a teaching and confer a White Tara Long Life Empowerment (drolkar tsewang) in the morning at the Buddha Park, Teaching in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh.

On April 6, His Holiness will give teachings in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh. His Holiness will give teachings on Geshe Langri Thangpa's Eight Verses of Training the Mind & Guru Yoga and confer the Avalokiteshvara Permission in the morning at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery.

From April 8 to 10, His Holiness will confer teachings in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.

-On April 8 & 9 mornings, His Holiness will give teachings on Kamalashila's The Middling States of Meditation & Gyalsey Thokme Sangpo's Thirty-Seven Practices of a Bodhisattva at Yiga Choezin.

On April 10 morning, His Holiness will confer the Rinzin Dhondup Initiation at Yiga Choezin.

<http://tibet.net/2017/04/urgent-announcement-change-in-his-holiness-the-dalai-lamas-arunachal-pradesh-schedule/>

Others: <http://tibet.net/2017/04/his-holiness-the-dalai-lama-arrives-safely-at-tenzingang-bomdila/>

Assam Rifles felicitates veteran who escorted the Dalai Lama in 1959

By PTI | The Economic Times | April 04, 2017

SHILLONG: The Assam Rifles today felicitated its veteran, Naren Chandra Das, who escorted the Dalai Lama during his escape from Tibet nearly 60 years ago at the force's headquarter here.

Assam Rifles DG Lieutenant General Shokin Chauhan felicitated Das in the presence of the rank and file of the force during the commanders' conference.

Assam Rifles chief reaffirmed the force's pledge to look after its veterans and how a special cell was started wherein all veterans can register and interact directly for their grievances, Assam Rifles spokesman Lt Col Rahul Josan told PTI.

He said a befitting tribute was paid to 76 year-old Das, the only surviving jawan among the eight Assam Rifles men who escorted the Tibetan spiritual leader in 1959.

Das, who was dressed in the force's uniforms, carried a broad smile boasting of how he happily carried the duty entrusted to him when he was posted at Lungla near the China border.

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama had an emotional reunion with Das at Guwahati recently during the Namami Brahmaputra festival.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/assam-rifles-felicitates-veteran-who-escorted-the-dalai-lama-in-1959/articleshow/58015161.cms>

Dalai Lama reaches Arunachal Pradesh amidst opposition from China

Dalai Lama was to reach Tawang in morning but the plans were changed due to extremely turbulent weather in neighbouring Assam.

By Manogya Loiwal | India Today | April 04, 2017



Highlights

1. Dalai Lama visited Tibetan Monastery in Bomdila
2. Crowds gathered to seek blessings from the Dalai Lama
3. Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu met the Tibetan leader

Despite protests by China, the 14th Dalai Lama today arrived in Arunachal Pradesh but will skip the famous Tawang monastery due to bad weather.

The visit is opposed by China which considers Arunachal Pradesh to be a part of southernmost Tibet.

His Holiness was greeted by chanting of prayers, music and religious flags with hymns and praises written on them. The crowd swelled despite bad weather and the wait did not deter the followers of the Tibetan spiritual leader from standing for hours.

Dalai Lama was to reach Tawang in morning but the plans were changed due to extremely turbulent weather in neighbouring Assam. He then had to take the road route instead of a chopper which resulted in a change of plans.

Hundreds of followers gathered in and around the entire Bomdila during rough weather and heavy rainfall to catch a glimpse of the Tibetan leader in exile.

He visited different monasteries including the Tibetan Monastery in Bomdila and is tentatively scheduled to stay there overnight. The road route was sanitised for his travel.

Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu and senior BJP leader Sudhanshu Mittal also accompanied him on the route.

Thanks to His Holiness [@DalaiLama](#) for deciding to travel by road to Tawang. Enroute to Bomdila with [@SudhanshuBJP](#) Ji.. pic.twitter.com/qtynpCbNag

Dalai Lama spent some time with them discussing about the change and developments of the state before entering Bomdilla. Interestingly there was snowfall in Tawang from the past three days and the locals were praying for the weather to improve for his arrival. Continuous prayers by the disciples were answered and it was sun shining today however Dalai Lama will not arrive.

Here is Dalai Lama's schedule in Arunachal:

1. The spiritual leader is scheduled to visit Dirang, 14 kilometers from Bomdila, tomorrow and on Thursday he will go to Tawang before visiting Itanagar on April 12. The Dalai Lama will deliver a discourse at the Buddha Park in Bomdila tomorrow.
2. On April 6, he will give teachings at Dirang and confer the 'Avalokiteshvara Permission' at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in the morning.
3. From April 8 to 10, the Dalai Lama will deliver discourses in Tawang.

4. The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh comes eight years after his previous visit in 2009. The previous visit came exactly 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

(Inputs from Yuvraj Mehta in Arunachal Pradesh)

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh-china-bomdilla-tawang/1/920270.html>

Dalai Lama's visit purely religious, China must not interfere in internal affairs: Kiren Rijiju

Rijiju said India has never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expects the country to reciprocate it.

By Express Web Desk | New Delhi | April 04, 2017

Ahead of Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, MoS Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said that it was purely religious and no political angle must be attributed to it. He also said that China should not interfere in India's internal affairs.

"There is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," he told reporters here.

Rijiju said India has never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expects the country to reciprocate it. "We respect Beijing's 'One-China' policy and we expect China to reciprocate," he said.

Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said Arunachal is "not a disputed territory" and is part of the Union of India. "There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

The people of Arunachal want to maintain good relations with China, Rijiju added.

On Friday, China protested against Dalai Lama's visit saying that it would damage bilateral relations between the two countries. "Therefore, we have asked India to earnestly honor its political pledges and avoid damaging China-India relations. Otherwise, India only stands to get hurt," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang's had said.

Dalai Lama was forced to alter his schedule as inclement weather affected his travel plans. The Tibetan Spiritual leader was supposed to leave from Guwahati to Tawang in a helicopter. He will now complete the journey on road.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh-china-india-internal-affairs-kiren-rijiju-4598779/>

Tawang all set to welcome Dalai Lama

Tongam Rina | The Arunachal Times | April 04, 2017

Tawang, Apr 3: Tawang is all set to welcome the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama who is expected to arrive here on April 4 morning, starting his eight days trip to the state. Thousands of people from different villages of the district and an estimated three thousand devotees from neighbouring Bhutan have already descended into the congested Tawang town hoping to catch a glimpse of the revered spiritual leader.



The Tibetan and Indian flags fluttering at the Tawang Monastery

private individuals as well who have opened up their homes.

There is an infectious positive atmosphere at the Tawang monastery, where Dalai Lama will stay.

Young and old Lamas as well as the Anis, the Nuns, were seen decorating the monastery with flags and flowers.

The entire township has been decorated with colourful prayer flags and flowers while the roads are being repainted and drains cleared.

Tsering Yangki, one of the thousand volunteers helping with cleaning the town said “Tawang Hamara Dharam Guru ka darshan ke liya pura taiyar hain”.

The accommodation of the visiting followers are being taken care of by various NGOs, administration who have put up tents, and

Urgyelling (Ugyenling) Gonpa, the birth place of the Sixth Dalai Lama is also preparing for the visit. Lama Lobsang, the caretaker of the Gonpa said that he is looking forward to the visit. In his words “no one should come in between the spiritual leader and the followers”.

Tsultrim, a follower from Bhutan said that he walked three days with others to reach Tawang to seek the blessings of the Lama.

The much reported Chinese objection to the visit of the Dalai Lama hardly seems to have made any difference here in Tawang, with its people all enthusiastically geared up to receive the Dalai Lama who had to escape to India from Tibet after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

It is a symbolic homecoming for the Dalai Lama who was received by the Tawang Monastery on 5 April, 1959.

<http://www.arunachaltimes.in/tawang-all-set-to-welcome-dalai-lama/>

Dalai Lama to reach Arunachal Pradesh today, Tawang dresses up to ‘see our God’

Dalai Lama's visit has generated a lot of heat with China repeatedly warning India that it would hit bilateral ties significantly.

By Varinder Bhatia | Tawang | April 04, 2017

FIFTY-EIGHT years after he crossed the China border, 65 km to the north from here, to seek political asylum in India — and eight years after his last visit — Tawang is dressing up to welcome His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, on Tuesday. At dawn Monday, scores of residents of this town in northwestern Arunachal Pradesh, mostly members of the Tibetan refugee community of Monpas, were out on the streets, brooms in hand, cleaning up after several hours of thundershowers.

Before noon, the slush and garbage had been removed, fresh coats of paint applied to shops and embankments on the roadside. And, thousands of strings carrying religious flags and coloured clothes with mantras inscribed on them had come up on the 8-km stretch from the helipad to Tawang Monastery, where the Dalai Lama will stay over the next four days.

On the global stage, the visit has generated a lot of heat with China repeatedly warning India that it would hit bilateral ties significantly. But on the ground — 3,048m above sea level — none of that mattered.



Tawang residents clean the streets on Monday. Varinder Bhatia

"China had been issuing repeated warnings but that will not deter us from receiving our spiritual leader. The whole of Tawang is waiting to receive their beloved Dalai Lama," said Tsering Tashi, the Independent MLA representing this assembly constituency.

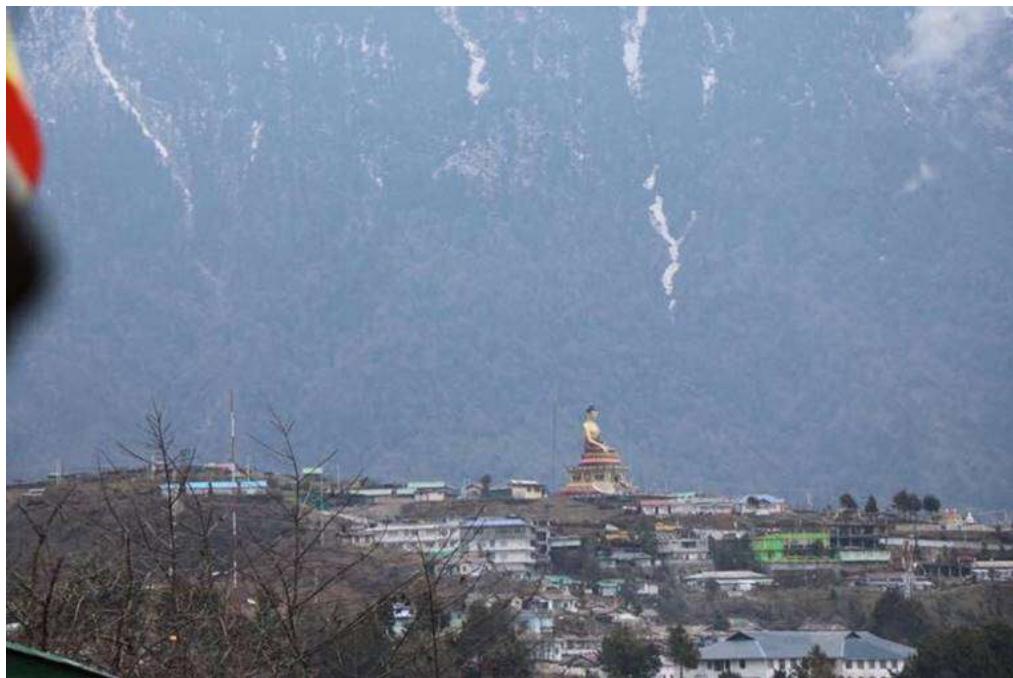
On March 31, 1959, the Dalai Lama had escaped from China and crossed over at Chuthangmu post, then part of Kameng Frontier Division, along with thousands of supporters.

"This time, at least a 1,000 people from Bhutan have reached Tawang to catch a glimpse of the Dalai Lama. They were issued ID cards and passes to stand on the roadside as the convoy travels through the streets of Tawang tomorrow," said Lobsang Tsering, a coordinator for one of the organising committees.

"The people of Tawang have voluntarily participated in all these preparations. Thousands of them are ready to accord a ceremonial welcome to the Dalai Lama as he arrives in Tawang tomorrow morning. The district administration is providing all assistance," said Sang Phuntsok, Deputy Commissioner, Tawang.

The Dalai Lama's four-day visit is part of his 12-day trip to the northeast. As an official guest of the Arunachal government, he will arrive in Lumla on Tuesday morning by helicopter from Guwahati. After attending a public reception followed by the consecration of the Dolma Lhakhang, a new Tibetan temple, he will board the helicopter again for the 10-minute flight to Tawang.

The first destination here is the iconic monastery, with thousands of followers from across the world, dressed in traditional costumes, lining up on both sides of the road. At the 400-year-old monastery, which is India's largest and the world's second largest after the Potala palace in Lhasa, around 800 monks will extend a religious welcome amid the chanting of Buddhist hymns.



A 28 foot
Buddha
visible
from
Tawang
monastery

On April
5-7, the
Dalai
Lama is
scheduled
to hold a
religious
discourse
at the
stadium of

Tawang's senior secondary school. On April 8, he will deliver a public talk on "Secular Ethics and Happiness" at the Kala Wangpo Convention Centre. And, on April 9, he will leave for Dirang to attend the inauguration of the Thupsung Dhangeyling Monastery.

On Monday, Arunachal police and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) took over security arrangements at the monastery. "The state police force is coordinating with the ITBP to ensure foolproof security arrangements," said Manoj Kumar Meena, SP, Tawang.

For the people of Tawang, meanwhile, it's a chance to "see our God". Over the last week, Norbu Eton, who runs a tailoring shop, had been working for 18 to 20 hours a day stitching prayer flags and attaching them to coloured strings. "So far, I have made 49,000 bundles of strings, which were purchased by people to cover the roads. It's a double bonanza for me. I will get to see our God, the Dalai Lama, and earn some money for my family," she said.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dalai-lama-to-reach-arunachal-pradesh-today-tawang-dresses-up-to-see-our-god-4598405/>

Bad weather forces Dalai Lama to reschedule Tawang trip

TIMESOFINDIA.COM | April 04, 2017

NEW DELHI: Tibetan Spritual leader the Dalai Lama on Tuesday rescheduled his trip to Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang due to bad weather conditions in the Himalayan region.

The Tibetan Spiritual lead was set to leave Guwahati by a chopper, but the inclement weather has forced him to travel by road and change his stop to Bomdila, where he will make a public appearance tomorrow.

After staying there for two days, he will proceed to Tawang.

According to an official programme listed out on the Tibetan spiritual leader's website, the Dalai Lama is to "consecrate a new Tara temple" on the morning of Tuesday. He will stay at Tawang, just 25 kilometres away from the McMahon Line that demarcates the imaginary boundary between India and China, till April 7. China claims this land as part of its territory.

After giving teachings at Dirang on April 10 and Bomdila on April 11, the place from where the Chinese army retreated in 1962, he will head towards the state capital at Itanagar where he will wind up his trip on April 12.

The Dalai Lama's visit to the state comes eight years after his previous visit, which was given the green signal by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The Tibetan spiritual leader fled Tibet after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/bad-weather-forces-dalai-lama-to-reschedule-arunachal-trip/articleshow/58001413.cms>

Poor weather pushes Dalai Lama's Tawang visit to April 7

Dalai Lama is all set to visit Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang on April 7 for a religious tour amidst noise from China over the visit. The visit, which was earlier slated for Tuesday, has been rescheduled due to bad weather conditions.

Moneycontrol News | April 04, 2017

The Dalai Lama is all set to visit Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang on April 7 for a religious tour amidst noise from China over the visit. The visit, which was earlier slated for Tuesday, has been rescheduled due to bad weather conditions.

He will be staying in Arunachal Pradesh till April 12 and will attend various religious engagements, as per the official reports.

China has always considered any visit by Dalai Lama controversial as in 1959, Dalai Lama and 20 of his guards had escaped from China to India. China claims that Arunachal Pradesh is a part of south Tibet.

On the visit, the Chinese foreign ministry on Monday said: "As it is known to all, the 14th Dalai Lama is an anti-China separatist who have long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the reactionary group of high-ranking feudal serf-owners in Tibet in March 1959."

It further said that the Chinese government is opposed to any country's 'support and facilitation' for the 14th Dalai Lama's anti-China separatist activities.

China had also said earlier that Dalai Lama's impending visit to Tawang could cause serious damage to bilateral ties between the countries and that New Delhi will have to make a choice.

Dalai Lama, on his escape, from China in 1959 said that he had no option but to escape due to Chinese military actions.

However, the Arunachal Pradesh government has said that Dalai Lama's visit is religious and no political agenda should be attached to it.

This is not the first time that he will visiting Arunachal Pradesh. Dalai Lama previously visited the state in 1983, 1997, 2003 and 2009.

Right before his visit, China has sought to highlight the disputed state of Tawang, located about 25 kms close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China, on April 1, had asked India to maintain caution in its reported plan to connect Tawang to Arunachal Pradesh with rail network. The country further said that India should refrain from unilateral actions that might complicate border issues between the two countries.

(With inputs from PTI)

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/poor-weather-pushes-dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-to-apr-7-china-warns-of-repercussions-2252345.html>

Dalai Lama reaches Arunachal Pradesh

The 14th Dalai Lama last visited Arunachal Pradesh in 2009.

By Vikas | Oneindia News | April 04, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, on Tuesday arrived in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh, after his visit to Tawang had to be rescheduled due to bad weather.

Dalai Lama was to reach Tawang in morning but the plans were changed due to extremely turbulent weather in neighbouring Assam.

The 14th Dalai Lama last visited Arunachal Pradesh in 2009, when given the green signal by then prime minister Manmohan Singh.

Hundreds of followers gathered in and around the entire Bomdilla daring rough weather and heavy rainfall to catch a glimpse of the Tibetan leader in exile.

China, meanwhile, has expressed its concern over Indian government's move to allow Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, saying it will impact bilateral relation between the two countries.

Earlier on Sunday, the Dalai Lama had an emotional reunion with one of the five Assam Rifles guards who escorted him to India during his escape from Tibet in March 1959.

On March 31, 1959, the Dalai Lama had escaped from China after a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

<http://www.oneindia.com/india/dalai-lama-reaches-arunachal-pradesh-2394079.html>

Dalai Lama reaches Bomdila by road, likely to arrive in Tawang by April 6

The Dalai Lama, who is on a 12-day trip to the northeast, is expected to arrive in Tawang by April 6 evening or definitively by April 7.

Express Web Desk | New Delhi | April 04, 2017

Arunachal Pradesh: His Holiness the Dalai Lama on Tuesday arrived in Bomdila.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has reached Bomdila in west Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh after his journey to Tawang was postponed due to bad weather on

Tuesday. He started from Guwahati in Assam by road for Bomdila, where he is expected to make a public appearance on Wednesday. The Dalai Lama, who is on a 12-day trip to the northeast, is expected to arrive in Tawang by April 6 evening or definitively by April 7. On April 6, the spiritual leader is scheduled to attend an inauguration programme of Thupsung Dhargyeling monastery and a Himalayan seminar on Buddhism. Meanwhile, MLA from Tawang Tsering Tashi said the delay in his arrival doesn't affect the spirits of people who are eagerly waiting to catch a glimpse of the leader. He further added that it's his love for us that despite inclement weather he has yet chosen to come to us by road.

The Dalai Lama is expected to welcome nearly 800 monks at the country's largest monastery which is approximately 400-years-old. The spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal has not been well received by neighbouring China which has persistently warned India of consequences on its bilateral relations.

Tsering Tashi has brushed aside the repeated threats from China saying it will not deter them from receiving their spiritual leader. "The whole of Tawang is waiting to receive their beloved Dalai Lama," said the Tawang MLA.

In the meantime, India responded sternly to China's opposition as it asked the neighbouring country not to interfere in its internal affairs, adding that India respects the "One-China" policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate. In a statement to the media, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said that the Dalai Lama's visit to the border state is for completely religious purposes and has no political motive. "There is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," he had said. The minister added that India has always stayed away from interfering in China's internal affairs.

READ: [Dalai Lama visit: India asks China not to interfere in internal affairs](#)

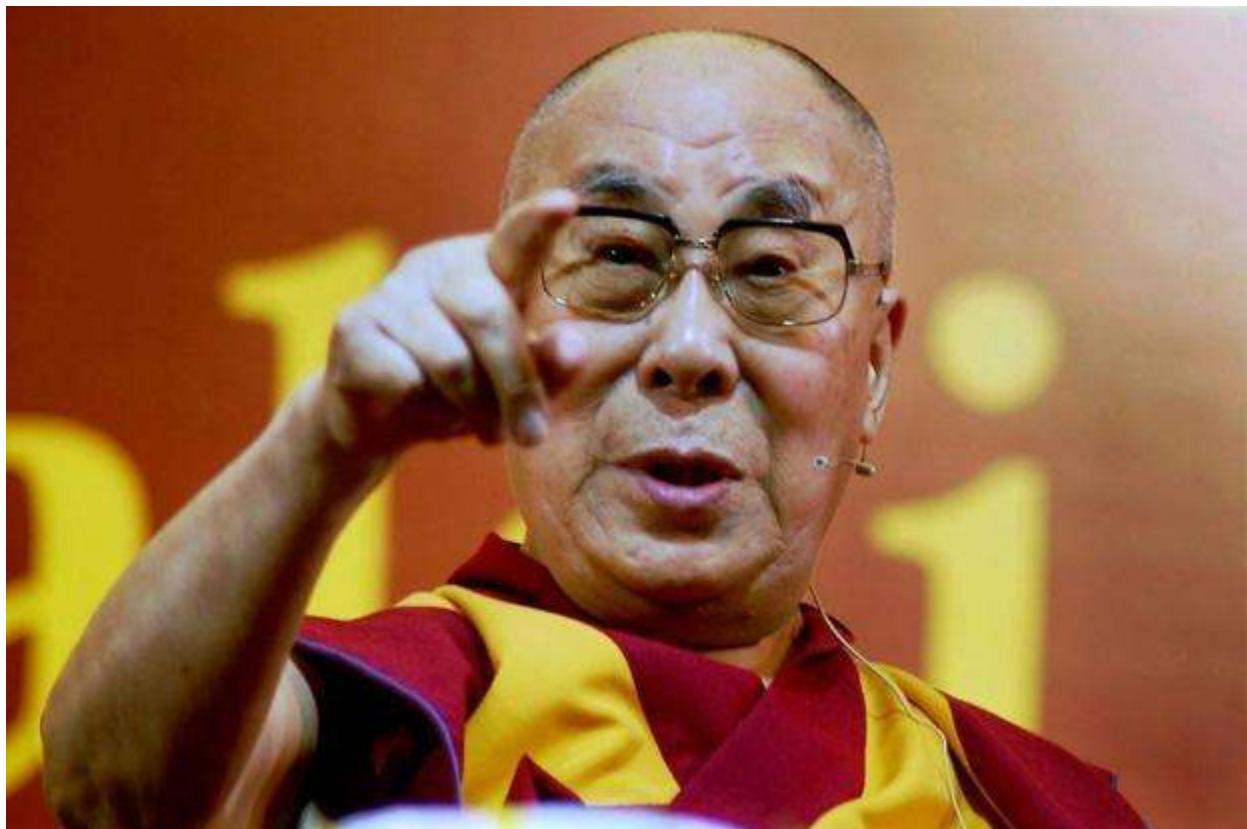
In view of his visit, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Arunachal police beefed up security in and around the Tawang monastery, where the spiritual leader is likely going to stay. SP Tawang Manoj Kumar Meena told media that the state police is closely coordinating with the ITBP to ensure fool-proof security measures. The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh comes nearly eight years after his last visit in 2009. The 2009 visit comes precisely 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh-visit-tawang-india-china-bomdila-4599271/>

Dalai Lama reschedules Tawang visit

The Dalai Lama has rescheduled his visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh as his chopper could not take off due to inclement weather in the region

PTI | April 04, 2017



The Dalai Lama will deliver a discourse at the Buddha Park in Bomdila on Wednesday. Photo: PTI

Itanagar: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has rescheduled his visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh as his chopper could not take off due to inclement weather in the region and will instead reach Bomdila in the state by road from Guwahati today. He is expected to reach Bomdila in West Kameng district by late Tuesday evening, his private secretary said.

Wednesday, the spiritual leader is scheduled to visit Dirang, 14 kilometers from Bomdila and on Thursday he will go to Tawang before visiting Itanagar on 12 April. The Dalai Lama will deliver a discourse at the Buddha Park in Bomdila on Wednesday.

On April 6, he will give teachings at Dirang and confer the 'Avalokiteshvara Permission' at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in the morning. From 8 to 10 April, the Dalai Lama will deliver discourses in Tawang.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh comes eight years after his previous visit in 2009. The previous visit came exactly 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

Amid persistent Chinese objections to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, India said today that no "artificial controversy" should be created around the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

The government asked China not to interfere in its internal affairs, saying it respects the "One-China" policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate.

Making a statement on the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju said in New Delhi that the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to the border state is completely religious and no political motive should be ascribed to it.

"There is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," he told reporters in New Delhi.

Rijiju said India has never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expects China to reciprocate.

"We respect Beijing's 'One-China' policy and we expect China to reciprocate," he said. The minister, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said the state is "not a disputed territory" and is part of the Union of India and a "full-fledged state". "There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

Rijiju said talks between New Delhi and Beijing on the boundary dispute are going on and the people of Arunachal Pradesh are expecting that soon it would be resolved. "I appeal to China not to rake up Arunachal Pradesh issue unnecessarily as status of the state can't be questioned," he said.

Earlier, the Chinese foreign ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

The minister said the Dalai Lama is visiting Arunachal Pradesh at the invitation of the people of the state. "As a democratic country, India can't interfere in religious affairs of any community," he said.

Rijiju said that the Dalai Lama will confine himself to only religious discourse and he will not make any political statement. He said the people of Arunachal

Pradesh want good neighbourly relations with China and want reopening of trading points along the McMahon line which have been closed since 1962.

“The trading points were beneficial. People of Arunachal Pradesh are looking toward cooperative attitude from China,” he said.

Rijiju said the Arunachal Pradesh government has accorded state guest honour to the Dalai Lama and making arrangements for his stay there. Rijiju said that the Tibetan spiritual leader will also visit his (Rijiju’s) village in West Kameng district where he will inaugurate a Buddhist monastery.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/QtI7BQ4SE9FHfJuNNkDuWL/Dalai-Lama-reschedules-Tawang-visit.html>

Dalai Lama's Tawang visit delayed by 2 days and it has nothing to do with China

The Dalai Lama will now reach Tawang on April 6 after heavy rains in Guwahati didn't allow his helicopter to take off

By Rahul Karmaka | Hindustan Times | Tawang | April 04, 2017

Heavy rain has forced Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to put off by two days his arrival in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, a visit China has been warning against.

The Dalai Lama was to arrive at Lumla near Tawang at 9.30am on Tuesday but because of heavy rain in Guwahati in neighbouring Assam his helicopter couldn't take off.

The 81-year-old Dalai Lama is travelling by road, his first stop will be Bomdila, 180km short of Tawang, where he is expected on April 6.

Tawang is an important Buddhist centre with a 400-year-old hilltop monastery but also holds a special place for the Tibetan leader who spent a few days in the Himalayan village after escaping the Chinese army in 1959.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and calls Dharamsala-based Dalai Lama a separatist who wants to carve out an independent Tibet within the Chinese mainland.

As reported by HT on Monday, some Chinese experts have said Beijing should use all means, including “military”, to show its displeasure. China could suspend bilateral mechanisms as a response – at least temporarily.

The Chinese foreign ministry has already issued strong statements, saying the visit would “damage” ties.

India has rubbished China claims, saying the visit is religious.

“The Dalai Lama is going to visit Arunachal Pradesh as a religious leader and there is no reason to stop him as his followers are demanding he should come,” Union minister of state for home affairs Kiren Rijiju had said.

The year 2016 was rocky for the bilateral relationship.

China thwarted India’s efforts to get Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar listed on a UN list of terrorists. It also blocked New Delhi’s entry into the nuclear suppliers group and went ahead with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor overlooking India’s concerns.

The Dalai Lama was to stay in Arunachal Pradesh till April 12 to attend religious engagements. It is not known if he would extend his stay.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/dalai-lama-s-tawang-visit-delayed-by-two-days-and-it-has-nothing-to-do-with-china/story-YNQSD09Ga6s1UpRA2qk2nN.html>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh visit delayed

The spiritual leader is on a 12-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh amid objections from China.

By Madhuri Adnal | Oneindia News | April 4, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama who was scheduled to visit Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday has been forced to reschedule due to bad weather and is expected to reach Bomdila by evening.

China has expressed its concern over Indian government's move to allow Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, saying it will impact bilateral relation between the two countries.

The Dalai Lama last visited Arunachal Pradesh in 2009, when given the green signal by then prime minister Manmohan Singh.

The spiritual leader is on a 12-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh amid objections from China. Earlier on Sunday, the Dalai Lama had an emotional reunion with one of the five Assam Rifles guards who escorted him to India during his escape from Tibet in March 1959. On March 31, 1959, the Dalai Lama had escaped from China after a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

On April 5-7, He is scheduled to hold a religious discourse at the stadium of Tawang's senior secondary school. On April 8, Dalai Lama will deliver a public talk at the Kala Wangpo Convention Centre. And, on April 9, he will leave for Dirang to attend the inauguration of the Thupsung Dargeyling Monastery.

He currently lives in exile at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.

OneIndia News (with IANS inputs)

<http://www.oneindia.com/india/amidst-protest-china-dalai-lama-begin-arunachal-pradesh-visit-today-2393533.html>

Dalai Lama reaches Bomdila after visit to Tawang postponed

Dalai Lama who is on a 12-day trip to the northeast has reached Bomdila today in the evening after he postponed his visit to Tawang.

FE Online | April 04, 2017



Dalai Lama who is on a 12-day trip to the northeast has reached Bomdila today in the evening after he postponed his visit to Tawang.

Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness, Dalai Lama who is on a 12-day trip to the northeast has reached Bomdila today in the evening after he postponed his visit to Tawang. He has been welcomed by monks and thousand of cheering supporters at the 400-year old and country's largest monastery. Earlier in the day, due to the bad weather, he had missed the flight to Tawang and had travelled by road to Bomdila. He is expected to visit Tawang on April

6. As a part of his schedule, Dalai Lama is set to attend the inauguration programme of Thupsung Dhargyeling monastery on April 6. He is also scheduled to attend a Himalayan seminar on Buddhism.

His followers were eagerly waiting to catch a glimpse of him despite the bad weather. He is expected to talk about 'Secular Ethics and Happiness' at the Kala Wangpo Convention Centre. "It doesn't affect the spirits of people who are waiting to catch a glimpse of their beloved leader. We are eagerly waiting for him. It's his love for us that despite the bad weather he has yet chosen to come to us by road," Tsering Tashi, the MLA from Tawang.

China had shown resistance towards Dalai Lama visit to Arunachal Pradesh by protesting and issuing repeated warnings to India. Tashi had said, "China had been issuing repeated warnings but that will not deter us from receiving our spiritual leader. The whole of Tawang is waiting to receive their beloved Dalai Lama," Indian Express reported. The state police and Indo-Tibetan Border Police are coordinating with each other to ensure no breach of security happens.

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/dalai-lama-reaches-bomdila-after-visit-to-tawang-postponed-2/614812/>

Dalai Lama's visit to disputed Himalayan region irritates China

By James Bennett | ABC News | April 04, 2017

China has warned India of damage to diplomatic ties for allowing Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to visit a part of India claimed by Beijing.

Tibetan exiles said Beijing was using similar tactics to its territorial claims in the South China Sea, but so long as India provided refuge, the Dalai Lama would keep campaigning for Tibetan autonomy.

Villagers in Tawang, a Buddhist centre in the far north-eastern corner of India, were busy stringing bright new prayer flags in anticipation of the Dalai Lama's arrival.

Local monk Lobsang Gyatso said the Dalai Lama would be warmly welcomed.

"His Holiness's visit is purely religious," he said. "Nobody has any right to say that his Holiness could not come here."

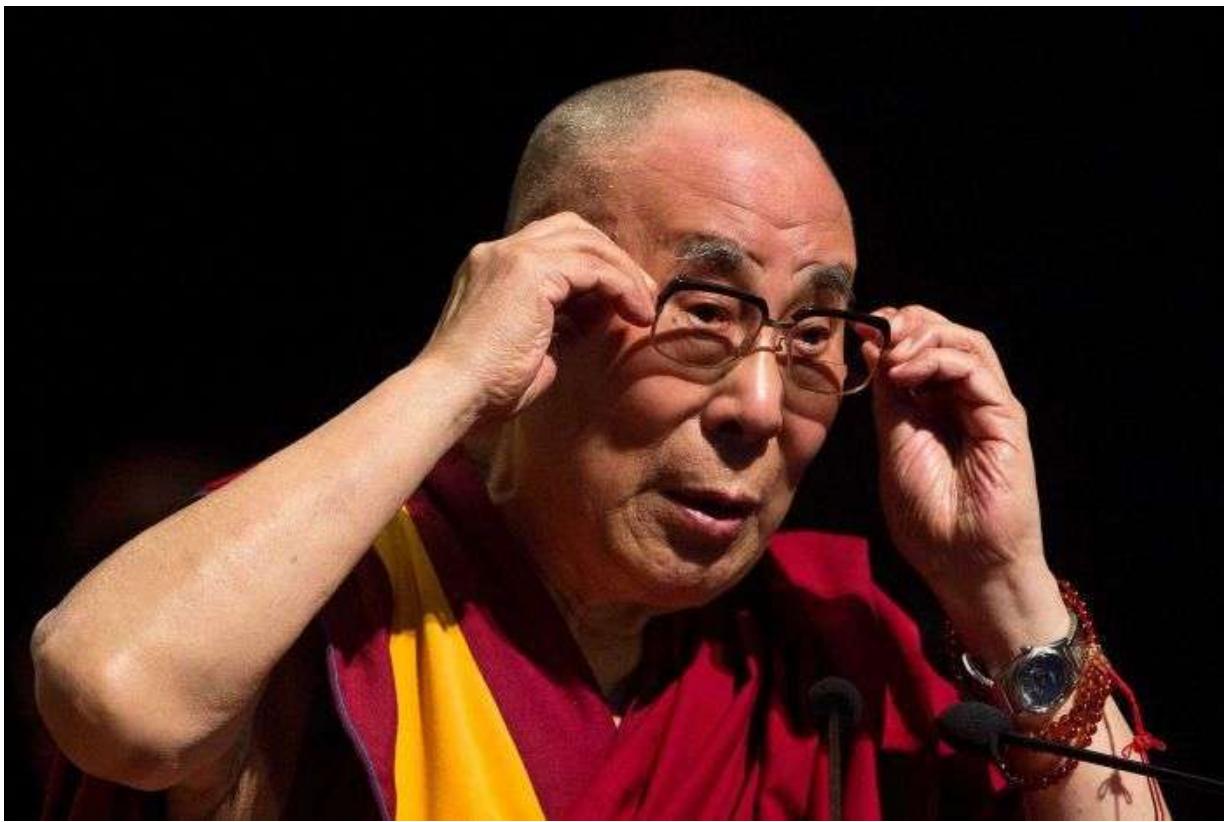


Photo: The Dalai Lama is viewed as a dangerous separatist by authorities in Beijing.
(AP: Anupam Nath)

Historical sensitivity

China though, sees things differently.

Tawang is in Arunachal Pradesh, a sensitive border region controlled by India but claimed by China as "southern Tibet".

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang earlier issued India a blunt warning. "I urge India again ... not to take measures that could further complicate the border issues or provide a stage to the 14th Dalai clique for anti-China separatist activities," he said.

China was especially riled at India, because Tawang holds historical significance for the Tibetan spiritual leader, who Beijing describes as a "dangerous separatist".

Exiled Tibetan politician Tubten Wangchen said the village was home to one of his predecessors.

"The sixth Dalai Lama, he was born there, so there is a long history link between the Dalai Lama and Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

That was not lost on Beijing, which insists the next Dalai Lama should come from inside Tibet — with Chinese approval.

Jayadeva Ranade is the president of the Delhi-based Centre for China Analysis and Strategy and said choosing a Dalai Lama was not something China could control.

"If there is another Dalai Lama reincarnated outside China, where they have no control, even if they go ahead and announce one of their own, the Tibetan people will not accept him," he said.

"They will be confronted with this situation where there are two Dalai Lamas, which of course is something which is quite worrying for them" he said.

Mr Ranade also said it was significant India's Prime Minister had refused to bow to Chinese pressure and cancel the visit.

"We have a Government which is holding firm and in fact pushing back," he said. "There is no tentativeness now in the policy."

Exiles watch on

Above Dharamsala in India's Himalayan foothills, China's irate response was being closely monitored.

Tibet's government in exile, the Dalai Lama, and former political prisoners all take refuge there, dependent on India's continued goodwill.

"We would be in critical situation without Indian support," said Venerable Bogdaro, a monk and former political prisoner, who has alleged he was tortured during several years in Chinese custody. Mr Bogdaro said the Tibetan exiles' ability to maintain their fight for autonomy from China depended on the Dalai Lama — their global figurehead — being free to travel and speak out.

"From the 7th century until today, the 14th Dalai Lama is the most famous," he said. "For six million Tibetans, the Dalai Lama has been the someone who we look up to."

Now 81, the Dalai Lama has himself fuelled speculation on whether he would have a successor at all.

That was widely seen as a move designed to discredit any Chinese choice.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-04/dalai-lama-vist-to-disputed-himalayan-region-irritates-china/8412742>

China shouldn't interfere in India's internal affairs: Rijiju on Dalai Lama's visit

PTI | April 04, 2017

NEW DELHI: Amid persistent Chinese objections+ to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, India said on that no "artificial controversy" should be created around the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

External affairs ministry also asserted that the government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," the ministry said in a release.

"India respects 'one-China' policy. We also expect China's reciprocal attitude," Rijiju said.

The government, therefore, urges that no "artificial controversy" should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh, it said.

"India never interferes in the internal affairs of China. We expect that China should not interfere in our internal matters either," Rijiju said and added that the people of Arunachal Pradesh desire to maintain a good neighbourly relationship.

Tawang to Taiwan: India stands up to pressure from Beijing

A wary China has kept a close watch ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit, which has been rescheduled due to bad weather+ conditions in the Himalayan region.

Earlier, the Chinese foreign ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/china-shouldnt-interfere-on-internal-affairs-rijiju-on-dalai-lamas-visit/articleshow/58003868.cms>

Others: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/no-artificial-controversy-should-be-created-over-dalai/1/919962.html>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/no-artificial-controversy-should-be-created-over-dalai-lamas-arunachal-pradesh-visit-india/>

<http://www.siasat.com/news/no-artificial-controversy-created-dalai-lamas-visit-arunachal-pradesh-india-chinas-objection-1166440/>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/no-artificial-controversy-should-be-created-over-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-india/articleshow/58004597.cms>

Don't interfere in our internal matters: India tells China on Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit

Rijiju said that India never interferes into the internal affairs of China and expects the same from Beijing also

InUth | April 04, 2017

Amid China's objection to Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has said that the exiled Tibetan leader's visit to Tawang is an internal matter which should not be given a political angle.

Asserting that India wants good relation with China , Rijiju said, "India never interferes into the internal affairs of China and We expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matter". He also called Lama's visit to Arunachal, a purely religious one and added that it should not be seen with a political eye.

Underscoring the need to give respect to religious sentiments of every community, he reiterated that India does not expect anybody to have problem on visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh. This is the second rebuttal from the union home minister (state), earlier he had said that China should refrain from meddling in India's internal affairs.

The Dalai Lama is set to visit Arunachal Pradesh between April 4 and 13. The Tibetan leader last visited the state in 2009 which was green-signalled by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

China had on March 30 said that India allowing the Tibet's exiled leader to visit Arunachal will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties and had asked New Delhi to make a "choice".

<http://www.inuth.com/india/dont-interfere-in-our-internal-matters-india-tells-china-on-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit/>

India using Dalai Lama's Tawang visit to upset China: Media

PTI | April 04, 2017

BEIJING: India is using the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh to upset China and New Delhi should deliver on its political commitments to Beijing on Tibet related issues, state-run Chinese media said today.

The 14th Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang bordering China will hurt Sino-Indian ties because China opposes any official invitations to him, the Global Times quoted an unnamed Chinese analyst as saying.

"The Dalai's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang, which China hopes will be returned, will affect relations between China and India," an analyst from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told the paper on condition of anonymity.

"India (is) using Dalai Lama's visit to upset Beijing," the paper quoted the analyst as saying.

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader today arrived at Bomdila in West Kameng district, marking the beginning of his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"India should deliver its political commitments to China on Tibet-related issues, including opposition to separatists," he said, noting that China would take steps against any government which invites the Dalai Lama.

He said Tawang is also the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso, which gives the place religious meaning to Tibetans.

Reacting to Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju's remarks that the Dalai Lama's visit is "purely religious," and that there is no political angle behind it, the expert said this is not the first time India has used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China, especially when bilateral talks fail to include their demands or to "pander to domestic anti-China issues".

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, which is currently on a holiday for the Tomb

sweeping festival, has not responded to a query seeking its reaction to External Affairs Ministry remarks as well as comments by Rijiju over the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as southern Tibet.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-using-dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-to-upset-china-media/articleshow/58014284.cms>

No 'Artificial Controversy' Should be Created Over Dalai Lama's Visit: India

PTI | April 04, 2017



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama smiles during a religious talk on the 15th day of the Tibetan New Year in Dharamshala (PTI Photo)

New Delhi: Amid a row over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, India on Monday asked China not to interfere in its internal affairs, saying it respects the "One-China" policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate.

Making a statement on the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said that the Tibetan spiritual leader's

visit to the border state is completely religious and no political motive should be ascribed to it.

"There is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," he told reporters.

Rijiju said India has never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expect China to reciprocate.

"We respect Beijing's 'One-China' policy and we expect China to reciprocate," he said.

External Affairs Ministry also asserted that the government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," the Ministry said in a release.

The government, therefore, urges that no "artificial controversy" should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh, it said.

The Dalai Lama is scheduled to visit Arunachal Pradesh on Monday during which he will hold religious discourse with devotees in Tawang, Bomdial and other areas.

A wary China has kept a close watch ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit, starting on Monday.

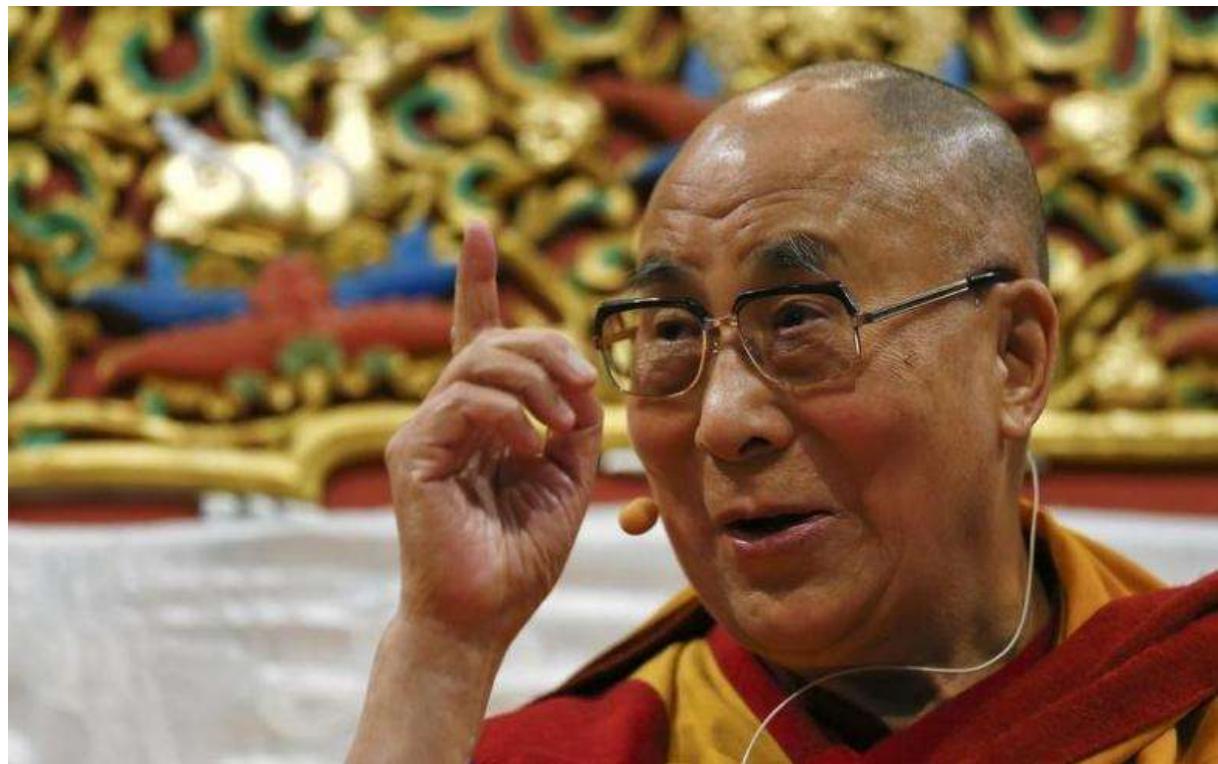
Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/no-artificial-controversy-should-be-created-over-dalai-lamas-ap-visit-india-1367991.html>

The Chinese Response Isn't the Only Reason the Dalai Lama's Visit to Tawang Is Significant

By Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty | The Wire | April 04, 2017

The Dalai Lama's visit to the Tawang monastery is significant given that the abbot he appointed stepped down last May after finding himself at the centre of an anti-dam protest in which two people were killed in police firing.



The Dalai Lama gestures during a public talk. Credit: Reuters/Files

New Delhi: After a gap of eight years, the Dalai Lama embarks on a nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh from April 4.

The national media is only looking at his visit in terms of the angry response it has already brought from China. The Indian government granted the Dalai Lama permission to visit Tawang, a town that has been claimed by China. However, there is an angle to this visit that is quite unconnected to India and China's territorial anxieties, even if the wider resonances for Tibetan Buddhism help explain Beijing's strident objections to this, his fifth visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

Many in the northeastern state are looking at the Dalai Lama's visit as a likely attempt by Dharamshala to firmly put in place the influence of the Tawang

monastery abbot over the people of the town and thereby all followers of Tibetan Buddhism across the state.

According to some, the visit is also important when seen from the angle of reinforcing the primacy of the Gelugpa sect over all the branches of Tibetan Buddhism.

Though the Dalai Lama is considered an important figure across the four sects of Tibetan Buddhism, he belongs to the Gelugpa lineage which has an upper hand in Arunachal because the Gelugpa sect controls the Tawang monastery.



Thsegtse Rinpoche at the February 14 meeting. Courtesy: SMRF

Called Galden Namgye Lhatse, the Tawang monastery is the largest in India, second only to the world's largest – the Potala Palace in Tibet, which is, of course, out of bounds for the Dalai Lama.

In March 1959, after the Dalai Lama fled Tibet, it was in this monastery that he found shelter for some days before he reached Tezpur in Assam.

In this visit, the Dalai Lama was to stay first at the Tawang monastery, though inclement weather conditions forced him to abandon a chopper ride for a road trip from Guwahati to the TGL monastery in Bomdila. He will now be in Tawang for three days – from April 8 to April 10 – as per an announcement made on his official website on April 4 morning.

Being the head of the Gelugpa sect, the Dalai Lama appoints the abbot of the Tawang monastery. On June 6, 2008, as per practice, he appointed a new

abbot, picking Guru Tulku Rinpoche from the TGL Monastery in Bomdila, situated about 65 kms from Tawang town.

However, for the first time in the monastery's history, in May last year, Guru Rinpoche sent his resignation to the office of the Dalai Lama following public unrest in Tawang. The spiritual leader found himself at the centre of a violent anti-dam protest that led to the killing of two people, one of them a monk of the monastery, in police firing. The firing also injured 10 others and hit the headlines not just in the state but outside it too.

The dead and the injured were part of a crowd of about 200 people who assembled outside the Tawang police station on May 2, 2016, to demand the release of Lama Lobsang Gyatso, a monk who belonged to the monastery. He was arrested on the basis of an FIR lodged by the chairman of the local district council for purportedly "questioning" Guru Rinpoche's authority in a video clip.

Lama Lobsang also heads the Save Mon Region Federation (SMRF), a powerful group that has been spearheading protests since 2011 against the large hydel projects coming up in the ecologically sensitive region. The SMRF enjoys the active support of many monks from the Tawang monastery besides student bodies, local people and also the heads of some other sects of Tibetan Buddhism. In April 2016, it also succeeded in getting a favourable order from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which suspended the environmental clearance of the 780 MW Nyamjang Chhu hydel project coming up in the Mon region.

"Taking an anti-dam stand in Tawang also meant he was taking on the most powerful political family in town – the family of present chief minister Pema Khandu. The Khandu family has considerable interest in the hydel projects of Tawang and elsewhere. All the three MLAs of Tawang are from the family. The NGT order particularly alarmed the pro-hydel project lobby. At the time of the police firing, Pema Khandu was a minister in the Kalikho Pul government," said a senior reporter in Itanagar who preferred to remain anonymous.

Two days before his arrest, which led to the police firing, Lama Lobsang was reportedly detained on the basis of an FIR filed by the security officer of Pema Khandu, alleging that he disturbed the peace by leading a team of villagers to the site of the under construction Mukto Shakangchu hydel project. He was later released.

"Lama Lobsang is considered to be the one taking over the anti-dam stand of the venerable monk Tsong Gontse Rinpoche (TSR) after his death under mysterious circumstances in Delhi in 2014. TSR dabbled in electoral politics but couldn't make progress because of Pema Khandu's father and former Arunachal chief minister Dorjee Khandu. Lama Lobsang was one of the many

young monks that TSR sourced from the Sera Jey Monastic University in Mysore for his anti-dam stand that he made poll issues,” said Jarpum Gamlin, editor of *Eastern Sentinel*.

In a May 20 [article](#) in *The Hindu BusinessLine*, Gamlin – also the general secretary of the state unit of BJP of which Pema is now the chief minister – wrote, “The large presence of Gelukpa monks in that emotive, yet unruly May 2 protest, could be construed as a rebellion within the monastery, as also an attempt to undermine the Dalai Lama, as the abbot is directly appointed by him. Such a construct is not unfounded, given the threat perception to the life of Guru Rinpoche, who is camping at Dharamshala. Sensing danger, he had earlier moved out of Tawang monastery to take shelter at an Indian army guesthouse. A day later, he left for Bomdila but the local administration expressed its inability to provide security.”

He added, “Amid the hullabaloo, word is out that three of the five secretaries at Tawang monastery are seeking the ouster of Guru Rinpoche...it is alleged that the rebel monks have been aiding Lama Lobsang’s campaign against the political and religious establishments.”

Lama Lobsang, however, maintained that he was a part of “a conspiracy” hatched to arrest him by using the video clip which was shot in 2012. In that clip, he asked Guru Rinpoche to stay away from the anti-dam protests as he belonged to Bhutan.

“The case is in the court, so I don’t want to say much but the attempt then was to clearly put me against the abbot of the monastery, who is a revered figure, by some people with vested interest, and thereby take away the people from the movement which otherwise has a lot of public support. They circulated the video clip shot in 2012 where, in response to an order passed by the abbot then asking the monks to stay away from the anti-dam protests, I said he should stay away from it as he doesn’t belong to the region. I said it is an issue of the indigenous people of Tawang,” Lama Lobsang [told *The Wire*](#) on April 3.

According to Nani Bath, professor of political science at the Rajiv Gandhi University in Itanagar, “A lot of people believed that the Khandu family was close to the Dalai Lama’s office and thereby Guru Rinpoche. I got that feeling during the visits I made to Tawang then.”

Though the Union minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju, also an MP from Arunachal, told reporters in New Delhi on April 3 that the Dalai Lama’s visit “is purely religious,” it was Pema, the state’s political leader, who went to invite the religious leader to visit Arunachal “on behalf of the people of the state”.

Upset by the developments leading to Guru Rinpoche's resignation, the Dalai Lama, however, recused himself from appointing a new abbot. He stated in a letter to the monastery, "If there are people who are not satisfied with the abbot's activities, then I shall no longer appoint the abbot to Tawang monastery. Instead, the abbot will be directly appointed by the Sera Je monastery."

But two months ago, the Dalai Lama named a new abbot for the Tawang monastery from the Drepung Loseling monastery in Karnataka. The new abbot will now receive him in Tawang on April 8.

"It is in this context that the Dalai Lama's visit is extremely significant. That is why he is also visiting all the important monasteries in the Bomdila and Dirang region," Gamlin told this correspondent.

Nani Bath, however, does not see last year's public protest as just an offshoot of a "power struggle" at the Tawang monastery.

"It is true that the Tawang monastery is powerful and has a considerable say in many matters but to just call last year's anti-dam protest as a result of only power struggle at the monastery would be to undermine the movement widely supported by the public. Why Lama Lobsang has won a lot of support is because people fear that they will lose their land because of acquisition of land for big dams. It is a small place, land is precious," he said.

The SMRF has long accused the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) of fraudulently taking signatures of villagers agreeing to the projects during gram sabha meetings.

As part of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, it is mandatory to seek prior consent of the concerned gram sabhas under the Scheduled Tribes (and Other Forest Dwellers) Recognition of Forest Rights Act 2006 before any forest is cleared for a project. The Supreme Court also reiterated the importance of getting prior consent of the gram sabhas in the Vedanta case in Odisha in 2013.

On February 14, the Tawang district commissioner Sang Phuntsok held a meeting with over 100 monks who are members of the SMRF, along with public leaders and villagers to discuss the hydro power projects to be taken up by the NHPC in Tawang region. Pema's brother and MLA Tsiring Tashi and cousin Jambey Tashi, also an MLA, were present at the meeting.

The people suggested cancellation of the Phase I and Phase II projects of NHPC as per which big dams were to be constructed in the Mon region. The NHPC has, however, already made an upfront payment of Rs 37.5 crores

each for I Phase I and II to the Arunachal government in 2008 for those projects.



The crowd at the February 14 meeting called by the deputy commissioner in Tawang. Courtesy: SMRF

"We consider it a victory of public outcry. The administration had to bow down to people's concerns and objections. We are not opposed to mini dams like 6 MW Mukto Shakangchu," Lama Lobsang said, adding, "We also handed over a report to the DC with signatures of the land owners who have refused to back the NHPC projects in Tawang."

Importantly, a committee was formed that day to submit a report to the government on the decision of the people over the NHPC projects under the guidance of Thegtse Rinpoche – the abbot of the Khinmey monastery of Tawang, who belongs to the Nyingmapa sect of Tibetan Buddhism.

Before the Gelugpa sect began controlling Tawang, it was the Nyingmapa sect that was said to be dominant in the region. It is believed that the location of the Tawang monastery, founded in the 17th century according to the wishes of the 5th Dalai Lama, was strategically chosen and well fortified keeping in mind possible invasion from the Nyingmapa sect with support from believers of that sect from nearby Bhutan.

It is in this historical context too that many in the state are also calling the Dalai Lama's visit especially significant.

<https://thewire.in/121377/dalai-lama-tawang-hydel-china/>

Hope India returns Tawang, says Chinese media as Dalai Lama visits Arunachal

A Global Times article said this wasn't the first time India was "using" the Tibetan leader to express displeasure over bilateral squabbles.

By Sutirtho Patranobis | Hindustan Times | Beijing | April 04, 2017



The state media article said this wasn't the first time India was "using" Dalai Lama to express displeasure over bilateral squabbles.(HT Photo)

China upped the ante as Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama began a visit to Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday, with an expert telling the state media that Beijing hopes Tawang in the northeastern Indian state will be returned to it.

The unnamed expert from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, who was quoted by the nationalistic Global Times tabloid, also trotted out Beijing's standard line that the Dalai Lama's visit to the state claimed by China would hurt bilateral ties.

The Chinese government should take steps against India's moves to explain Beijing's position to the world community, the expert said. The expert also indicated India wasn't honouring its commitment not to allow its territory to be used for anti-China, separatist activities.

The state media article said this wasn't the first time India was "using" the Tibetan leader to express displeasure over bilateral squabbles – indicating that New Delhi plays the so-called Tibet card when ties are turbulent.

"The Dalai's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang, which China hopes will be returned, will affect relations between China and India," the unnamed expert was quoted as saying by the tabloid affiliated to the Communist party mouthpiece, People's Daily.

Uncharacteristically by state media standards, the expert from CASS, a premier government think tank, remained anonymous.

China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet, has voiced strong concerns about the Dalai Lama's visit to the state. It claims about 90,000 sq km of Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh, including Tawang, one of the most important seats of Tibetan Buddhism.

China also occupies around 38,000 sq km in Jammu and Kashmir that India claims as its territory.

The Global Times noted in its report that the Dalai Lama had said that Tawang is "also the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso, which gives the place religious meaning to Tibetans". The report quoted minister of state for home affairs Kiren Rijiju as saying that the Dalai Lama's visit was "purely religious," and that there was no political angle behind it.

The Indian government issued a statement on Tuesday morning that said the Dalai Lama's visit was for "religious and spiritual activities" and "no additional colour should be ascribed to it".

The anonymous expert dismissed these assertions and was quoted as saying that this wasn't the first time India had "used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China, especially when bilateral talks fail to include their demands or to pander to domestic anti-China issues".

This was a nod to issues that have plagued bilateral ties since last year: China blocking the listing of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a terrorist by the UN, stalling India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group and going ahead with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor despite New Delhi's sensitivity over a few projects under it being built in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"India should deliver its political commitments to China on Tibet-related issues, including opposition to separatists," the expert told the tabloid.

The expert also noted "China would take steps against any government which invites the Dalai Lama to express its position to the international community".

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/hope-india-returns-tawang-says-chinese-media-as-dalai-lama-visits-arunachal/story-JcUQcOKwdtmHuW5FisiJOI.html>

Why Dalai Lama's Visit to Arunachal Has India Asserting Itself to China

By Subhajit Sengupta | CNN-News18 | April 04, 2017

New Delhi: On March 30, 1959, the Dalai Lama and 20 of his guards escaped China and entered India through Kinzmane. He was then brought to Tawang where he was accorded a grand welcome before being finally taken to Dharamshala, the capital of Tibet's government-in-exile.

Three years later, the Chinese decided to attack India through the same area. China claims Arunachal Pradesh to be part of south Tibet. This week, the Dalai Lama is back at Tawang on a religious tour. He was to have started the visit on Tuesday but overcast conditions forced him to abandon the chopper and travel by road. He is now scheduled to reach Tawang on April 7.

Any visit to Arunachal by Dalai Lama has always been controversial and has led to stiffening of relations between India and China. Though he visited the state in 1983, 1997, 2003 and 2009, never has the visit been so political and bold. Even during his weeklong visit in 2009, the then chief minister of Arunachal went on record to say that the Dalai Lama would stop at discourse, his was a purely religious visit and had nothing to do with politics. This time, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju would be escorting him in Tawang.

The government, too, it seems, has decided to make a subtle push towards asserting itself. While the programmes in Arunachal are strictly religious, in Assam he was made the guest of honour at the Namami Brahmaputra event where he spoke about the spiritual link with the river, which originates in his homeland Tibet.

Brahmaputra, like certain parts of Arunachal, has been a sore spot in India-China relations. India has raised objection to the fact that China has blocked a tributary of the Brahmaputra in Tibet as part of the construction of a hydro-power project and has said that it may impact the water flow into the country, especially in states like Assam.

At the festival, India chose to flaunt how the spiritual head of Tibet was escorted to India from Zuthangbo on the Sino-India border by the guards of Assam Rifles in 1959. At an interactive session of Namami Brahmaputra, the last surviving member of the Assam Rifles who escorted him to India was

invited. A visibly moved Dalai Lama embraced the retired jawan, Naren Chandra Das, after saluting him.



Dalai Lama meets Havildar of Assam Rifles, Naren Chandra Das, who escorted him to India from Tibet 58 years ago. (Pic Courtesy: Prasar Bharati)

This even as China has issued three warnings in the wake of this visit, the last being on Friday when it said that the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties. Lu Kang, the foreign ministry spokesperson of China, asked India to make a 'choice'. "China and India are two major developing countries and we are close neighbours. It is very important for the two peoples to maintain sound and steady China-India relations.... But such a relationship has to be built on certain foundations. Such visits will have deep damage on China-India relations. We have asked India to stick to its political pledges and not to hurt China-India relations. It will come down to India to make a choice (sic)."

But India was quick to brush aside the Chinese objection with MoS Home Kiren Rijiju, who is known for his hard-line stand against China, telling the media: "We are not interfering in the internal matters of China and that country should not interfere in ours."

Dr Alka Acharya, former director of the Institute of Chinese Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University and currently professor at the Centre for East Asian Studies in JNU, agrees that India is more assertive now than it was in

the past. Acharya, however, says that it is also the current ambience adding to it. "The context is far more volatile this time with the India-China relations going through a rough patch because of Pakistan, the Nuclear Suppliers' Group and Masood Azhar."

She maintains that India's decision might sour the relation between the two countries further. "There is always that certain level of tension and turbulence between China and Tibet. The Chinese leadership always wants to be seen in control. While India is not raising the issue of Chinese conduct within Tibet, we are not averse to bringing in the spotlight something that detracts from China's stature internationally. These occasions bring the Chinese to the point where they oppose or condemn his activities and this once again enhances their authoritarian and intolerant position."

As MoS Home Kiren Rijiju escorts Dalai Lama across Arunachal, it is important to note this visit in the context of what has been happening in this sector. Whether the very public inauguration of IAF Advanced Landing Ground at Tuting, in Upper Siang, Arunachal in December or sanctioning of an estimated Rs 50,000 to 70,000 crore for construction of railway lines between Tawang (Arunachal), Silapathar (Assam) and Bame (Arunachal), and Murkongselek (Assam) and Pasighat (Arunachal), India is seen to be shoring up the defences on the eastern front . While it has not gone for a direct confrontation with China, India is seen to be making a quiet assertion by making it clear that Chinese overtures in Arunachal are definitely not welcome.

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/india-using-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-to-assert-its-position-against-china-1367876.html>

Dalai Lama reunited with Indian guard who helped his famous 1959 flight from Tibet

'Looking at your face, I now realise I must be very old too,' says exiled spiritual leader

By Maya Oppenheim | Independent | April 04, 2017

The Dalai Lama has been reunited with an Indian soldier who escorted him to safety as he fled from Tibet to China almost 60 years ago.

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader embraced Naren Chandra Das in an emotional meeting in Guwahati in northeast India on Tuesday.



His trip to Arunachal Pradesh and north-east India as a whole has raised diplomatic tensions between China and India Getty Images

The pair first crossed paths after the Dalai Lama was forced to leave for India via a clandestine mission during the midst of the failed Tibetan uprising against the Chinese authorities in 1959.

The Dalai Lama, now 81, and Mr Das, now 79, undertook an exhausting trek that lasted for two weeks across the mountains from Lhasa. With the Dalai Lama disguised as a Chinese soldier alongside members of his cabinet, they eventually reached the Indian border but troops were prohibited from talking to the spiritual leader as they journeyed.

"Our duty was only to guard and escort him during his journey," Mr Das, a retired member of the Assam Rifles, said.

"Guards of the Assam Rifles Platoon No 9 had brought the Dalai Lama from Zuthangbo and handed him over to five of us at Shakti [in Arunachal Pradesh, which borders China and Bhutan].

"We brought him to Lungla from where he was escorted on his onward journey to Tawang by another group of guards.

"Looking at your face, I now realise I must be very old too," the Dalai Lama told Das as they met again.

His trip to Arunachal Pradesh and northeast India as a whole has raised diplomatic tensions between China and India. China maintains Arunachal Pradesh is part of South Tibet and thus belongs to its territory.

Prior to the visit, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman urged India to "avoid taking any actions that would further complicate the border issue, [and to] not provide a platform for the 14th Dalai clique's separatist activities".

China considers the 14th Dalai Lama, whose name is Tenzin Gyatso, a separatist and he continues to live in exile after leaving for India during the Tibetan uprising of 1959. The Dalai Lama, who denies seeking Tibetan independence, is in favour of meaningful autonomy for Tibet in the context of the People's Republic of China and proposes a 'middle-way' between autonomy and independence to peacefully resolve the issue.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/dalai-lama-indian-guard-reunite-naren-chandra-das-guwhati-tibet-flight-1959-escape-china-control-a7665801.html>

The Dalai Lama reunites with border guard who escorted him into India when fleeing Tibet

By Lilly Greenblatt | Lions Roar | April 04, 2017

On Sunday, 60 years after their first meeting, His Holiness the Dalai Lama reunited with Naren Chandra Das, the Indian paramilitary guard who escorted him into India when he fled Tibet at the age of 23, *The Guardian* reports. The meeting took place in Guwahati during an emotional ceremony organized by the state government.

The Dalai Lama and his entourage fled Tibet in 1959, following a failed uprising against Chinese authorities in Tibet. Fearing abduction by the Chinese military, His Holiness disguised himself as a Chinese soldier and spent 13 days trekking through the Himalayas to India, where he and tens of thousands of Tibetans refugees would eventually take exile.

When His Holiness and Das first met, Das was ordered not to talk to His Holiness as he escorted him into India on a "top-secret mission."

"The days prior to my arrival in India were filled with tension and the only concern was safety, but I experienced freedom when I was received warm-

heartedly by the people and officials and a new chapter began in my life," His Holiness said.

When the two reunited, His Holiness whispered something to Das as they embraced. Das later revealed that His Holiness had said "He was happy to see me."

<https://www.lionsroar.com/the-dalai-lama-and-border-guard-who-escorted-him-into-india-when-fleeing-tibet-reunite/>

Assam Rifles felicitates veteran who escorted the Dalai Lama

PTI | DNA | April 04, 2017

The Assam Riffles today felicitated its veteran, Naren Chandra Das, who escorted the Dalai Lama during his escape from Tibet nearly 60 years ago at the force's headquarter here.

Assam Riffles DG Lieutenant General Shokin Chauhan felicitated Das in the presence of the rank and file of the force during the commanders' conference.

Assam Riffles chief reaffirmed the force's pledge to look after its veterans and how a special cell was started wherein all veterans can register and interact directly for their grievances, Assam Riffles spokesman Lt Col Rahul Josan told

(This article has not been edited by DNA's editorial team and is auto-generated from an agency feed.)

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-assam-rifles-felicitates-veteran-who-escorted-the-dalai-lama-2381349>

Jawan, who escorted Dalai Lama to India, feted

Assam Tribune | April 04, 2017

SHILLONG, April 4 - The Assam Rifles today felicitated 76-year-old former Assam Rifles Jawan Naren Chandra Das, the lone surviving jawan who escorted the Dalai Lama to India in 1959.

Das was felicitated by Director General of Assam Rifles, Lt Gen Shokin Chauhan in front of all the Commanders of Assam Rifles during the annual Commanders' Conference of the force at the headquarters here at Upper Shillong.

Lauding the immense service rendered by Das to the force during his service and also during the Dalai Lama's safe passage to India, Lt Gen Chauhan said Assam Rifles would take inspiration from the services of veterans like Das. He also gave Das a cash award for his service and inquired if the veteran was receiving his pension on time. "The Assam Rifles is always committed towards welfare of its veterans and would continue to do so," Lt Gen Chauhan said.

In this regard, the DG said the Assam Rifles recently opened the veterans' cell in which ex-servicemen can interact directly and can get their grievances resolved.

On his part, Das was nostalgic and recalled his days in the Assam Rifles and also recalled vividly his journey while escorting the Dalai Lama to India. "This is a warm home-coming for me," a visibly emotional Das said during the felicitation programme.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Chauhan urged everyone to carry out an honest and critical self appraisal for long term betterment of the Force during the meeting he chaired with the Commanders.

The Assam Rifles, he said, has always identified with the people of the Northeast and ensured their security and well being. He said the challenge now before the Commanders is to sustain this mutual respect.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0517/at054>

China should refrain from meddling in internal matters of India: Kiren Rijiju on Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh visit

The External Affairs Ministry also issued a statement and urged China not to create "artificial controversy" around Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

By Aadil Ikram Zaki Iqbal | India.com | April 04, 2017

New Delhi, Apr 4: After China took strong objection to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, India on Tuesday said the neighbour country should stop interfering in our internal matters. Speaking on the issue, the Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said China should refrain from meddling in the internal affairs of India. "India never interfere into the internal affairs of China. We expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matter," said Kiren Rijiju. "People of Arunachal Pradesh desire to have good neighbourly relations with people of China. We never intend to have any problem with our neighbours," the minister added.

The Dalai Lama will visit Arunachal Pradesh between April 4 and 13. “Dalai Lama’s visit is purely religious in nature and there should be no political angle given to that,” said Kiren Rijiju. “Religious sentiments of every community must be given freedom. We expect nobody should have problem on visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh,” said the minister.

The External Affairs Ministry also issued a statement and urged China not to create “artificial controversy” around Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh. “No additional colour should be ascribed to his (Dalai Lama) religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India,” the ministry said in a release.

“The government has clearly stated on several occasions that HHDL (His Highness Dalai Lama) is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people,” the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement. “The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh.”

China had on Thursday said that India allowing the Tibet’s exiled leader to visit Arunachal will cause “serious damage” to bilateral ties and had asked New Delhi to make a “choice”. In its second warning to India in a month, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had said it was seriously concerned about India’s decision to allow the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of south Tibet. (*With agency inputs*)

<http://www.india.com/news/india/china-should-refrain-from-meddling-in-internal-matters-of-india-kiren-rijiju-on-dalai-lamas-arunachal-pradesh-visit-1991698/>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit purely religious: Rijiju

By Vijaita Singh | The Hindu | April 04, 2017

Dalai Lama’s visit is religious, says the Minister

As China stepped up its protest against the Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Union government fielded Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju to make India’s stand clear.

Mr. Rijiju, who represents Arunachal Pradesh in the Lok Sabha, said on Tuesday that the visit was “purely religious” and “China shouldn’t interfere in India’s internal matters.”

Beijing’s protest

China has objected to the Dalai Lama's visit because Beijing considers Arunachal Pradesh its territory and has referred to the Dalai Lama as "separatist leader." The Chinese Foreign Ministry has warned India that his visit would cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

"China is trying to project the Dalai Lama as a political person. We don't have any intention of engaging with the Dalai Lama so as to irritate China," Mr. Rijiju told The Hindu in an interaction.

The Dalai Lama is on a week-long tour of Arunachal Pradesh, where he will hold religious discourses in Tawang, Bomdila and other areas.

He will also consecrate a gompa (Buddhist place of learning) at Nafra, Mr. Rijiju's native village. Mr. Rijiju, a practising Buddhist, will accompany the Dalai Lama for two days during his visit to Bomdila and Tawang.

The failing health and old age of the Dalai Lama has worried the security agencies.

Poor weather conditions

"The poor weather conditions in Arunachal Pradesh have affected the schedule. So, instead of taking an aircraft, he will have to travel by road. His knees are not in good shape, and he has refused to be operated upon. The real worry is how he would undertake such long road trips," a senior official said.

The Ministry of External Affairs has said the Dalai Lama has visited the State on six earlier occasions, from 1983 to 2009, and "no artificial controversy should be created over his present visit."

"As an Arunachali, it's my duty to welcome our revered guest. China is trying to project him as a political person; he is our guest. There is no intention of engaging with the Dalai Lama to irritate China. For the people of Arunachal, it's not a disputed territory. In a sovereign country, you cannot restrict the movement of a religious leader," Mr. Rijiju said.

He said he had accompanied the Dalai Lama during his visit to the State in 2009, and then too, China protested vociferously.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/dalai-lama-visit-india-asks-china-not-to-interfere-in-internal-affairs/article17802498.ece>

China Should Stay Out of Our Matters: Rijiju Over Dalai Lama Visit

The Quint | April 04, 2017

India-China diplomatic tensions rose afresh over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, with New Delhi asserting on Tuesday that no political motive should be attributed to the visit and asked Beijing not to interfere in its internal affairs.

Beijing in a fresh salvo slammed the Dalai Lama as an "anti-China separatist" and attacked New Delhi indirectly for its support to the Tibetan leader.

Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, who is from Arunachal Pradesh, said that no political motive should be attributed to Dalai Lama's trip. "India has always been non-interfering in the neighbours' internal affairs in our approach," Rijiju told reporters in New Delhi. "In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours," he said.

China in March said ties with India would be hit if New Delhi allowed the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which is claimed by Beijing as part of South Tibet.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said China was strictly opposed to the visit.

Geng said India knew the sensitivity of the border issue between both countries and allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh would damage its ties with China.

Asserting that Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory, Rijiju said: "We have certain issues with regard to delineation of the boundary on the spots, on the ground along McMahon Line because it is not being demarcated on the ground. That is why there is a talk between the special representatives of India and China and the people of Arunachal Pradesh hope that an amicable solution can be reached in the foreseeable future time."

The Dalai Lama Gets a Welcome at Thubchog Gatsel Ling Monastery

The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu welcomed His Holiness Dalai Lama at the Thubchof Gatsel Ling Monastery in Bomdila.

Dalai Lama Arrives

The Dalai Lama arrives in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh.

China Keeps a Close Watch

A wary China keeps a close watch as the Dalai Lama is set to begin over a week-long visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, to attend religious engagements, evoking high decibel protests from Beijing, which highlighted the disputed status of the area.

According to reports, however, the Tibetan spiritual leader's arrival to Tawang is delayed due to bad weather.

He will reach Bomdila by road in the evening and reach Tawang on Thursday, two days after his scheduled date of arrival, reported ANI.

Indo-China Ties at a Low Ebb

His politically significant visit comes specially at a time when India-China ties are at a low ebb due to differences over India's objections over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through PoK, Beijing blocking India's membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and a UN ban on JeM chief Masood Azhar.

China on Sunday night said the Dalai Lama fled to India from Tibet in 1959 after a "failed armed rebellion", rejecting the Tibetan spiritual leader's remarks that he had no other option, but to escape.

During his visit to Assam on 1 April, the Tibetan Buddhist leader recalled that "On 10 March 1959, there were huge demonstrations in Lhasa", the Tibetan region's capital.

He said the warm-hearted welcome he received on his arrival at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh 58 years ago was a "moment of freedom" for him.

India's Response to China

Responding to China's objections to the Dalai Lama's visit, Minister of State, Kiren Rijiju said his visit is only religious in nature and an unnecessary political angle should not be given to it.

People of Arunachal Pradesh desire to have good neighbourly relations with people of China. We never intend to have any problem with our neighbours.

Sonam Dagpo, spokesperson of the Tibetan government-in-exile, said there's no reason for the Chinese to protest as the Dalai Lama is only visiting his followers. He added that he has been visiting Tawang for many years, but only in the last few years Chinese protests have intensified.

Indo-China's Complicated Boundary Issue

Ahead of his visit to Tawang, China has sought to highlight the disputed status of the Tawang, located about 25 km close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

According to reports, the Tibetan spiritual leader is expected to stay in Arunachal Pradesh – which China claims as southern Tibet – till 12 April to attend religious engagements.

On 1 April, China had asked India to exercise caution and restraint in its reported plan to connect Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh – which Beijing claims as part of Tibet – with railway network, saying that New Delhi should refrain from unilateral actions that might complicate the boundary issue.

(With inputs from PTI)

<https://www.thequint.com/politics/2017/04/04/china-keeps-a-close-eye-as-dalai-lama-set-to-visit-arunachal-pradesh-today>

Others:

<http://www.bihartimes.in/Newsbihar/2017/April/newsbihar05April2.html>

No pol on Dalai Lama Arunachal visit: Govt

Bureaucracy Today | April 04, 2017

The Government of India has said that no artificial controversy should be created around the Dalai Lama's present visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

A ministry of External Affairs press release today said, "The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that HHDL is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India."

Dalai Lama is on a visit to Arunachal Pradesh. According to his website, Dalai Lama has visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions; the first visit was in 1983, then in 1996, 1997, twice in 2003, and 2009.

Predicting "serious damage" to bilateral ties if the Dalai Lama goes ahead with his Arunachal visit, China has asked India to make a "choice".

China has twice warned India over giving a green signal to the Dalai Lama's Tawang visit and Beijing is not hiding its unhappiness.

http://bureaucracytoday.com/global_bureaucracy.aspx?id=115104

Don't Politicise His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Visit, Says Kiren Rijiju

Kiren Rijiju | News 18 | April 04, 2017



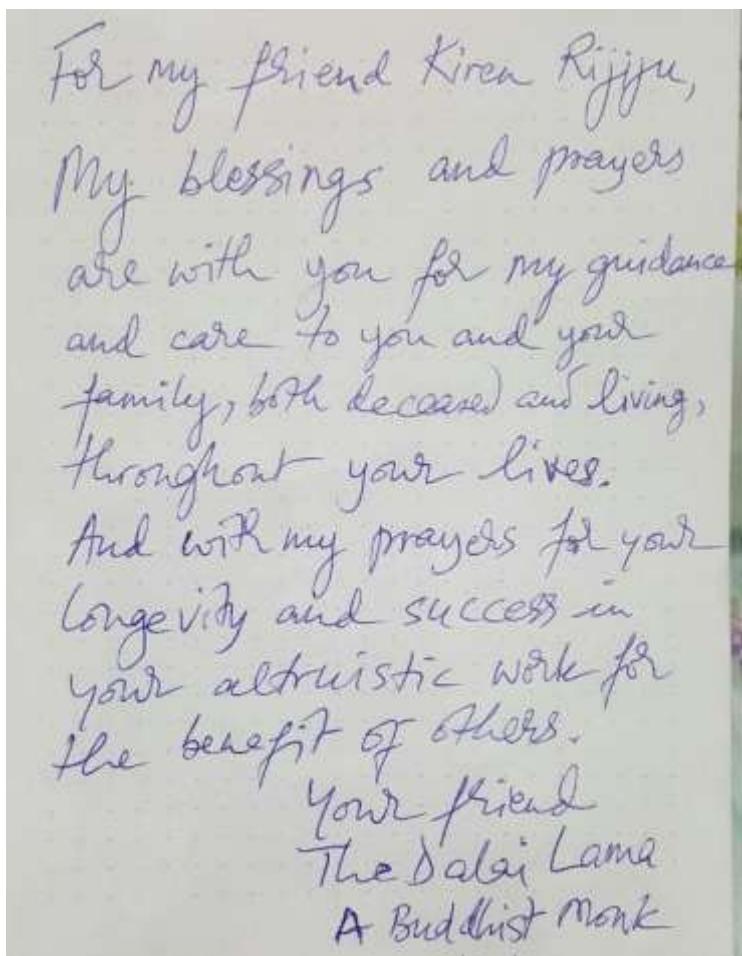
Seen here is Minister of state for Home Kiren Rijiju welcoming His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

New Delhi: We in the state of Arunachal have grown up on stories of his holiness's 1959 trek to India from Tibet. It is part of the folklore. Every grown up person told us stories from back then, but I never really believed that I would get a chance to see him in flesh and blood till 1983. In 1983 His Holiness The Dalai Lama visited Arunachal Pradesh for the first time after 1959. I remember accompanying my father and rest of the family to get his darshan. I was 14 years old then, we had travelled from Bomdila – my home town - to neighbouring Dirang where he was preaching.

His aura, his mere presence left a mark. It was like seeing a living God. There was no one-to-one interaction, yet the feeling of seeing him is something which cannot be described in words.

Then in 1996 I travelled back from Delhi, where I was studying, to attend his second visit. Even at that point the meeting with His Holiness was not one-to-one.

My first direct interaction with him had to wait till I became an MP. I lead a parliamentary delegation to Edinburgh for the World Parliamentarian Conference on Tibet in 2005.



In 2007-2008 I again lead an MP delegation to Dharamshala and then in 2007 I was also part of his meeting with Indian parliamentarians on the occasion of his birthday. And then last year, I got my most valuable possession till date from His Holiness. I had lost both my brothers in a span of three months and His Holiness gave me this note which I treasure more than anything else.

For a devotee there is no bigger blessing than to get something personal from His Holiness.

I am going to Arunachal to welcome him, not because I

am a Minister of the Government of India but because I am an Arunachali. It is my duty as a son of that state. If I don't go, people will be upset with me for not doing what is expected of me. I am aware that China has objected to His Holiness' visit but this visit should be seen only as a religious visit and nothing else.

His Holiness is the spiritual and religious head of all Buddhists. The eagerness to see him in person is so much in Arunachal that state government from time to time has been requesting him to grant an audience to people of Arunachal. He has found the time only now. That the 6th Dalai Lama was from Tawang makes His Holiness' visit that much more significant. He lived in Tawang Monastery after his escape from Tibet. The place holds a special place in his heart. And he is very special to the people of Arunachal. His Holiness is ageing now. For most people this might be the last chance to see him, to seek his blessings, to soak in his teachings. Why should we deny them that opportunity?

Arunachal is an integral part of India; it is not disputed as some people are calling it. Yes, some border demarcation related issues regarding Mc Mohan line remains but the state is as Indian as UP, Bihar or Bengal. How can government stop movement of a religious leader in an Indian state? Dalai Lama's visit is always religious. China is trying to project him as a political person. They call him an extremist but for us he is our religious leader.

In 2009 also when His Holiness visited Arunachal Pradesh, China raised a lot of issues but I had said back then also that this visit is totally religious and no political angle should be given to this. I was not part of the government in 2009, I was not even a sitting MP but my position remains the same. Do not politicise this visit. You have to see the crowd for yourself to realise how much affection and respect people have for His Holiness. Because of bad weather his schedule has been altered. Now, he will take the road to travel from Bomdila to Dirang to Itanagar.

People would throng the road; his carcade may have to stop. He is scheduled to consecrate my village Gompa in Nafra. But even that may not happen if there is paucity of time. The point is Dalai Lama is visiting Arunachal because of the love and affection of the people. People for whom he is God. Treat it like a religious visit and do not play politics over the emotions of Arunachalis is my request.

(As told to CNN-News18's Arunima)

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/dont-politicise-his-holiness-the-dalai-lamas-visit-says-kiren-rijiju-1368199.html>

Bad weather delays Dalai Lama's Tawang visit, Lumla unlikely

China had objected to the Dalai Lama's scheduled visit to Tawang and Lumla during his 12-day tour of the Northeast.

By Varinder Bhatia | Tawang | Indian Express | April 04, 2017

THE DALAI Lama's much-anticipated visit to Tawang on Tuesday had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather. While he is now set to reach Tawang on Friday, his visit to Lumla may be cancelled.

The Tibetan spiritual leader was supposed to arrive in Lumla on Tuesday morning by helicopter from Guwahati. After attending a public reception followed by the consecration of the Dolma Lhakhang, a new Tibetan temple, he was supposed to board the helicopter again for the 10-minute flight to Tawang.

But with the chopper failing to take off due to heavy rainfall in neighbouring Assam and poor visibility, he set off by road from Guwahati and reached Bomdila, about 180 kms from here, in the evening. He will deliver a teaching in Bomdila on Wednesday, after which he will head to Dirang, about 48 kms from here.

“We have reached Bomdila. His Holiness should reach Tawang on April 7,” confirmed Jambay Wangdi, who is coordinating the Dalai Lama’s visit in Tawang.

Sources in the Tawang district administration said his visit to Lumla is “most likely cancelled”, but added that they were yet to receive “official communication regarding the cancellation”.

“As of now, his visit to Lumla is cancelled. But once His Holiness reaches Tawang, the final decision on Lumla will be taken, depending on his convenience. It is only due to his tight travel schedule that some modifications are being made to his visit here. He has already started his journey by road and is expected to reach Tawang by April 7,” said Tsering Tashi, the local MLA.

China had objected to the Dalai Lama’s scheduled visit to Tawang and Lumla during his 12-day tour of the Northeast. India on Tuesday hit out at China, saying no “artificial controversy” should be created around the visit and asked Beijing not to interfere in its internal affairs. “No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India,” said the Ministry of External Affairs.

“There is no political angle behind His Holiness’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious,” asserted Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju. “Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India, and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India’s internal affairs,” he said.

Dismissing speculation about “diplomatic pressures” affecting his visit to Tawang, Sonam Dagpo, spokesperson of the Tibetan government in exile, said: “There is no reason why China should protest against His Holiness’s visit to Tawang, or, for that matter, to any part within the Indian territory. He is visiting Tawang on the invitation of the people there. It is not the first time that he is visiting Tawang. He went there earlier too. Whenever the people of Tawang invite him, he goes.”

The Dalai Lama last visited the area about eight years ago.

Meanwhile, the residents of Tawang were a disappointed lot on Tuesday. “It is sad that His Holiness will not be arriving today. The delay has only strengthened our desire to have him here,” said Tenzin Norbu, one of the

volunteers involved in cleaning the streets of Tawang ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit.

Lama Tashi, a yak herder who trekked two days to come from Bhutan with his wife and four-year-old son, said: "We have come all the way to catch a glimpse of our beloved God. We shall not go back until we see him."

The Dalai Lama is expected to remain in Tawang till April 10.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/bad-weather-delays-dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-lumla-unlikely-arunachal-pradesh-china-india-4599651/>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh visit begins today

Dalai Lama will visit Tawang, Dirang and Itanagar during a week-long trip to Arunachal Pradesh amid protests from China

By Elizabeth Roche | Livemint | April 04, 2017



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama (right) with a monk at Dibrugarh University in Dibrugarh, Assam, on Monday. Photo: PTI

New Delhi: Ignoring protests from China, the Dalai Lama is poised to begin a weeklong visit to India's North-Eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, claimed by

Beijing almost in its entirety and the source of tensions between the two countries.

According to an official programme listed out on the Tibetan spiritual leader's website, the Dalai Lama is to "consecrate a new Tara temple" on the morning of Tuesday, teach at Tawang between 5-7 April and move to Dirang on 10 April for further teachings and finally reach Itanagar on 12 April for another round of teachings.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh this week comes eight years after his previous visit, which was given the green signal by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The spiritual leader's visit to Tawang in 2009 came exactly 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

The Tibetan spiritual leader fled from Tibet after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959. He now lives in exile at Dharamshala in northern India.

India cleared the visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader to Arunachal Pradesh in November. This came against the backdrop of China making it clear that its opposition to India securing a seat on the elite Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) that controls global nuclear commerce remained unchanged despite India's attempts to engage China in a dialogue on the matter. Beijing had also then indicated that its position on the "listing issue pursuant to resolution 1267 (to designate Pakistan-based Maulana Masood Azhar a terrorist by the UN)" remains unchanged.

Both these issues have been sore points for India with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and foreign secretary S. Jaishankar urging Beijing to be sensitive to India's legitimate aspirations while seeking accommodation and building of trust.

According to Harsh Pant, professor of International Relations, Department of Defence Studies, at London's King's College, "The implications of India allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh are difficult to predict because relations are already at a nadir."

Pant was of the view that there was a question mark over what Beijing could do to retaliate in the short run though he predicted that China could become more intransigent on the issue of resolving the decades-old border dispute between two countries.

China claims more than 90,000 sq. km (35,000 sq. miles) that India says is its territory—i.e. Arunachal Pradesh. According to China, Arunachal Pradesh is part of what it calls South Tibet.

Disagreement between India and China over parts of their 3,500-km (2,175-mile) border led to a brief war in 1962. Since then, the two countries have moved to manage the dispute, but many rounds of talks have not yielded much progress.

"The Modi government has learnt that the Chinese government is not going to budge on key issues and aims to keep India within the confines of South Asia," Pant said.

Permitting the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh and specifically Tawang—where the sixth Dalai Lama was said to have been born—seems to be part of a strategy by which to seek some leverage vis-a-vis China, Pant said.

"In the past two or three years, Modi has made an effort to reach out to China," he said. But with Beijing unwilling to play ball, India has had to rethink its position, he added.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/1v8Tch73JRkgZl8waEchXI/Dalai-Lamas-Arunachal-Pradesh-visit-begins-today.html>

India stands firm on Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit in face of China opposition

Anticipating strong reaction from China against the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, India says the visit was religious in nature

By Elizabeth Roche | Livemint | April 04, 2017

New Delhi: Standing firm in the face of China's opposition to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, India on Tuesday stressed that the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit is in relation to the discharge of religious duties.

"The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh," the ministry of external affairs said in a statement.

The Indian government statement came as the Dalai Lama made his way from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday by road due to inclement weather.

It also came as China warned that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

Listing out the Tibetan leader's previous visits to Arunachal Pradesh, an Indian external affairs ministry statement said, "The government has clearly stated on several occasions that HHDL (Dalai Lama) is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India."

The Dalai Lama's last visit to Arunachal Pradesh was in 2009. Prior to that, the Tibetan spiritual leader has visited the state five times—in 1983, 1996, 1997 and twice in 2003.



The Indian government statement came as the Dalai Lama is expected to reach Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday. Photo: AP

The Tibetan spiritual leader fled from Tibet to India after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959. He now lives in exile at Dharamshala in northern India.

India cleared the visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader to Arunachal Pradesh in November after New Delhi gave the rare go ahead to then US ambassador to India Richard Verma to visit Arunachal Pradesh.

Both came against the backdrop of China making it clear that its opposition to India securing a seat on the elite Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) that controls global nuclear commerce remained unchanged despite India's attempts to engage China in a dialogue on the matter. Beijing had also then indicated that

its position on the “listing issue pursuant to resolution 1267 (to designate Pakistan-based Maulana Masood Azhar a terrorist by the UN)” remains unchanged.

Meanwhile, minister of state for home affairs Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday asked China not to interfere in its internal affairs adding that India respects Beijing’s one “One-China” policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate.

“There is no political angle behind His Holiness’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India’s internal affairs,” Rijiju said.

The minister said India had never interfered in China’s internal affairs and New Delhi expected reciprocity from China.

“We respect Beijing’s ‘One-China’ policy and we expect China to reciprocate,” the minister said adding that the state is “not a disputed territory,” is part of India and a “full-fledged state,” of the country.

“There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh,” he said.

China claims more than 90,000 sq. km (35,000 sq. miles) that India says is its territory—i.e. Arunachal Pradesh. According to China, Arunachal Pradesh is part of what it calls South Tibet. Disagreement between India and China over parts of their 3,500-km (2,175-mile) border led to a brief war in 1962. Since then, the two countries have moved to manage the dispute, but many rounds of talks have not yielded much progress.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/85Qbx4D3xrjZ5oM3fPAwCN/India-stresses-Dalai-Lamas-Arunachal-Pradesh-visit-religio.html>

Dalai in Arunachal, India asks China not to meddle in its affairs

By Simran Sodhi | Tribune News Service | April 04, 2017

India today said no “artificial controversy” should be created around the ongoing visit of Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to Tawang. India also pointed out that it has always respected the “One China” policy and expects China to reciprocate.

China has made its unhappiness over India's nod to the visit of the Dalai Lama to Tawang very clear. In a statement, Beijing warned Delhi that the visit of His Holiness could also cause "serious damage" to the India-China relationship.

However, a closer look at India's recent actions, clearly indicate this government is not shying away from using the Tibet card to push China into a corner. China's sensitivities when it comes to the Dalai Lama have always been vocal. People privy to the developments said India recognises that Tibet-Dalai Lama is a leverage the government can use when Beijing plays hard ball.

For India, China's obstinate stand on blocking its entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and its use of veto to block the designation of Masood Azhar as terrorist at the UN have been the stumbling blocks in the bilateral relationship.

The Ministry of External Affairs today said the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people and that "no additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India".

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, who himself is a Buddhist from Arunachal Pradesh, asked China not to interfere in India's internal affairs, saying India respects the "One China" policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate.

Not a political trip: Rijiju

"There is no political angle behind His Holiness' visit to Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs" — Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/dalai-in-arunachal-india-asks-china-not-to-meddle-in-its-affairs/387291.html>

'Don't give additional colour to Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit'

IANS | Forever News | April 04, 2017

New Delhi: Even as China protested ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, India on Tuesday said that the Tibetan spiritual leader

has visited the state six times earlier and no “additional colour” should be given to his visit starting from April 5.

“The government has clearly stated on several occasions that HHDL (His Highness Dalai Lama) is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people,” the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

“No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India,” it said.

“The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh.”

China in March said ties with India would be hit if New Delhi allowed the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which is claimed by Beijing.

China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said Beijing was concerned over India permitting the Tibetan spiritual leader to visit the northeastern state of India.

Geng said China was strictly opposed to the impending visit by the Dalai Lama.

“China is strongly opposed to the Dalai Lama visiting disputed areas,” he told a regular press briefing.

Geng said India knew the sensitivity of the border issue between both countries and allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh would damage its ties with China.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as its own, calling it South Tibet. Besides, it accuses the Dalai Lama of separatist activities in Tibet.

Citing the Dalai Lama’s website, the External Affairs Ministry statement said that the spiritual leader has visited the northeast Indian state six times earlier – in 1983; in 1996; in 1997; twice in 2003; and again in 2009.

According to the Dalai Lama’s office, from April 5 to 7 he will give teachings at Yiga Choezin in Tawang. On April 10, he will give teachings at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in Dirang.

A day later, the Dalai Lama will be at the Buddha Park in Bomdila and on April 12 he will talk at Thupten Gatsal Ling in Itanagar.

Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh is home to one of most sacred Buddhist monasteries.

The Dalai Lama passed through this region when he fled into exile in 1959. Moreover, the sixth Dalai Lama was born there in the 17th century.

The Dalai Lama has lived in India since fleeing China in 1959 after a failed uprising against Communist rule over Tibet. The government-in-exile is based at Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh. It is not recognised by any country.

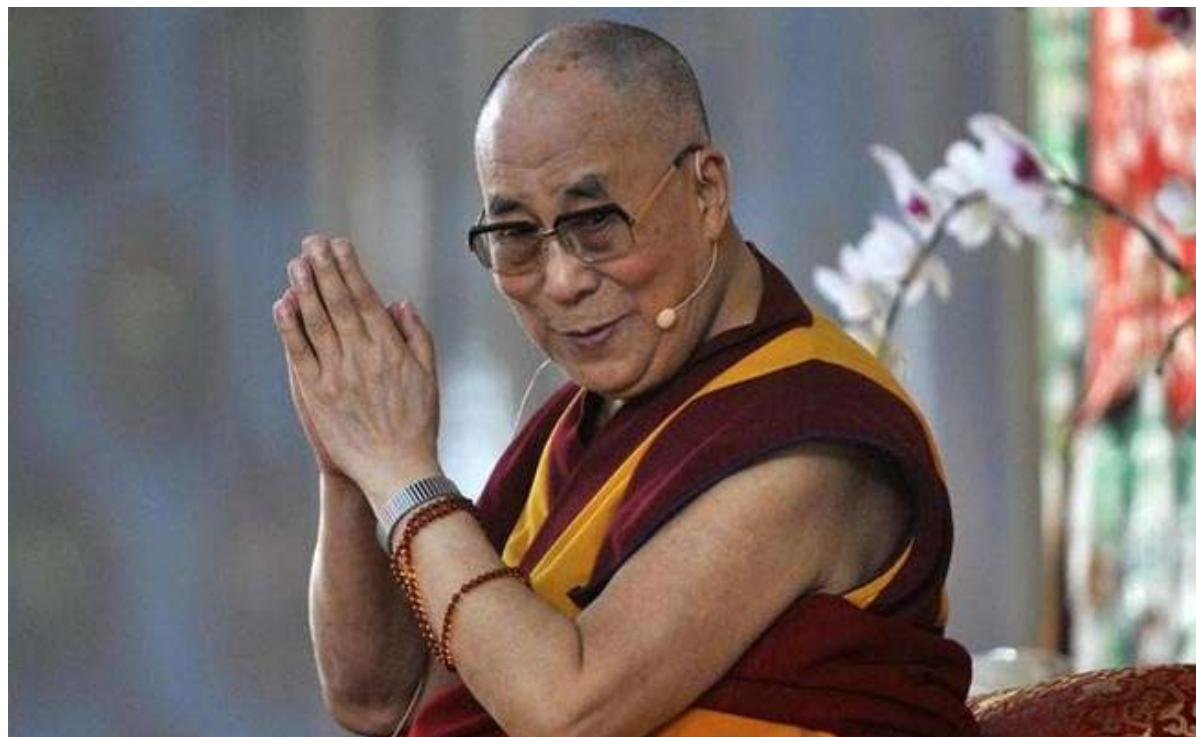
The spiritual leader is already in the northeast where he attended the Namami Brahmaputra river festival in Assam that started on March 31.

<http://www.forevernews.in/dont-give-additional-colour-to-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-71378>

Others: <http://www.newsx.com/national/60416-dont-give-additional-colour-to-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-mos-kiren-rijiju>

Rein It In, India Warns China On Criticism Over Dalai Lama In Arunachal

By Nidhi Razdan | NDTV | April 04, 2017



India makes it clear Dalai Lama's trip has no political meaning (File photo)

New Delhi:

Highlights

1. India makes it clear Dalai Lama's trip has no political meaning
2. China asks India not to support Dalai Lama's "separatist" activity
3. He is revered spiritual leader, says India

India has warned China against creating "an artificial controversy" around the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, pointing out that the exiled 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader has visited the north-eastern state in the past, and that "no additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India."

China claims the region in the eastern Himalayas as "South Tibet", and regularly denounces foreign leaders' visits to the region as attempts to bolster India's territorial claims. India has said firmly that Arunachal is an integral part of India and that China should respect that.

China, which considers the Dalai Lama a dangerous separatist, said on Friday it was "resolutely opposed" to the visit, and urged India to "avoid taking any actions that would further complicate the border issue".

Delhi says the trip to Arunachal is a religious one and no political meaning should be attached to it.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," said Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju today.

The Dalai Lama has also described his visit as aimed at promoting religious harmony.

He said he is happy to be back in a region that revived his memories of escape from Tibet in 1959 in fear of his life, after China poured troops into the region to crush an uprising.

"I still feel the feeling of that time," he said.

As a young monk, the Dalai Lama arrived in India after a 13-day trek through the Himalayas, disguised as a soldier to evade detection by Chinese troops.

On Sunday, the Dalai Lama recalled the warm welcome he received when he arrived and the Indian government offered him a base in the hill town of Dharamsala, where he was allowed to set up a government-in-exile.

"The days prior to my arrival in India were filled with tension and the only concern was safety, but I experienced freedom when I was received warmly by the people and officials and a new chapter began in my life," PTI quoted him as saying.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/artificial-controversy-india-rebuts-china-on-dalai-lama-in-arunachal-1677040>

Dalai Lama's Visit To Arunachal Strictly Religious, Not Political, Asserts Indian Govt

China has been protesting against the visit.

ANI | HuffPost | April 04, 2017



Chris Radburn/PA Wire

Warning against any 'artificial controversy' being created around His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Centre asserted that his visit was strictly religious, not political.

"His (Dalai Lama) visit is purely religious in nature and there should be no political angle given to that," Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju told the media here.

Asserting that the Centre never had any problem with the neighboring countries, Rijiju said the people of Arunachal Pradesh desire to have cordial relations with people of China.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has issued a statement saying that no additional colour should be ascribed to Dalai Lama's religious and spiritual activities.

It also urged that no artificial controversy should be created around his visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that (HHDL) is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people," the statement read.

The Dalai Lama, who was set to reach Tawang today has been forced to change his schedule due to bad weather, and will now reach Bomdila by evening.

The Tibetan Spiritual lead was set to leave Guwahati by a chopper, but the inclement weather has forced him to travel by road and change his stop to Bomdila, where he will make a public appearance tomorrow.

After staying there for two days, he will proceed to Tawang. After several hours of thundershowers, members of Tibetan refugee community of Monpas and residents of the northwestern town of Arunachal Pradesh were out of their homes to clean the road to welcome their spiritual leader.

Tawang monastery, a place where Dalai Lama is going to stay for next four days is decorated with religious flags and coloured clothes with mantras inscribed on them.

In 1959, along with thousands of supporters the spiritual leader escaped from China and crossed over at Chuthangmu post. On global stage, China has repeatedly warned India that Dalai Lama's visit would hit the bilateral ties significantly.

Dressed in traditional costumes, around 800 monks will welcome their spiritual leader Dalai Lama in the 400 year old monastery which is India's largest and world's second largest.

During his visit he is also expected to hold a religious discourse at the stadium of Tawang's senior secondary school and will also deliver a public talk on 'Secular Ethics and Happiness' at the Kala Wangpo Convention Centre.

On 9 April, he will be inaugurating the Thupsung Dharkeyling Monastery.

Security arrangements are also deployed by the Arunachal Pradesh Police and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to avoid any unwelcomed tensions.

Protesting Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, China earlier on 31 March warned India to avoid damaging bilateral relations between the two nations and adhere to political pledges, or else face the consequences.

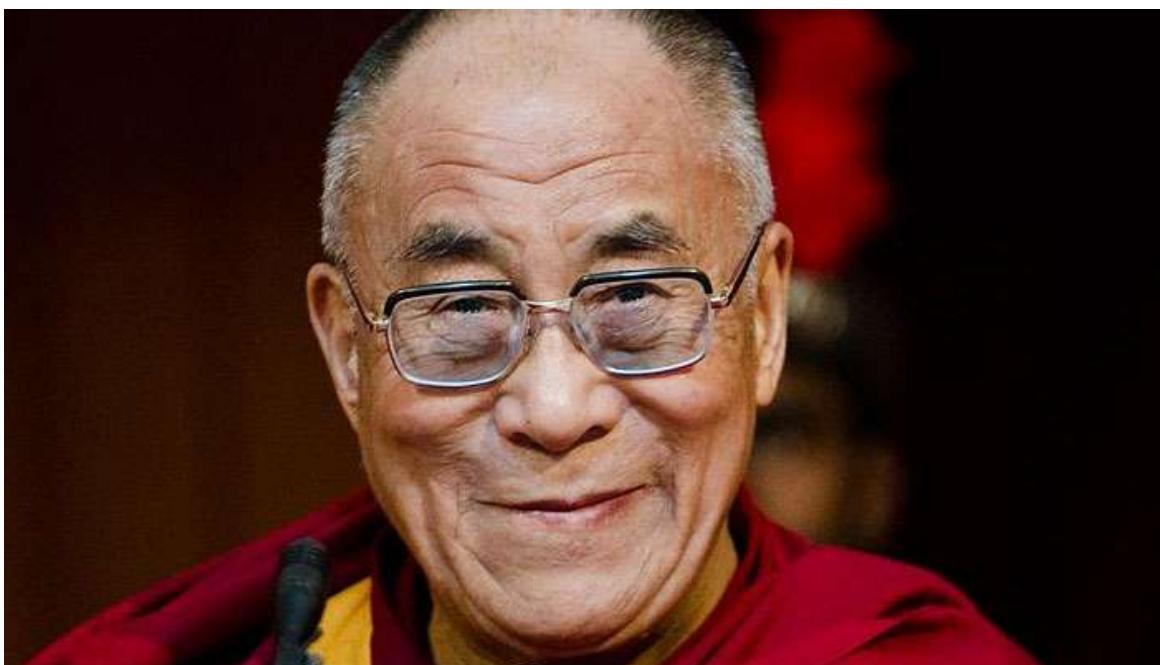
"Therefore, we have asked India to earnestly honor its political pledges and avoid damaging China-India relations. Otherwise, India only stands to get hurt," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang's told a press conference on 31 March.

http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2017/04/04/dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-strictly-religious-not-political_a_22024908/

No political motive behind His Holiness Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit: Kiren Rijiju

In the face of China's protest over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday that no political motive should be attributed to the Tibetan spiritual leader's trip to the northeastern state.

Zee News | April 04, 2017



New Delhi: In the face of China's protest over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday

that no political motive should be attributed to the Tibetan spiritual leader's trip to the northeastern state.

"India has always been non-interfering in the neighbours' internal affairs in our approach," Rijiju told reporters here.

"In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours," he said.

"When Dalai Lamaji is in Arunachal Pradesh, he will be confined only to religious matters. He is not there to make any political statement and he is not there with any political motive."

Rijiju, who himself hails from Arunachal Pradesh and is scheduled to go there on Wednesday to meet the Dalai Lama, said India has never questioned China's sovereignty and "has respectfully adhered to the one-China policy".

"So we expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matters," he stated.

Asserting that Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory, the Minister said: "We have certain issues with regard to delineation of the boundary on the spots, on the ground along McMohan Line because it is not being demarcated on the ground. That is why there is a talk between the special representatives of India and China and the people of Arunachal Pradesh hope that an amicable solution can be reached in the foreseeable future time."

Rijiju's remarks came after India's official statement earlier in the day that no "additional colour" should be given to the Dalai Lama's visit this month.

"The government has clearly stated on several occasions that HHDL (His Highness Dalai Lama) is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," it said. "The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh."

China in March said ties with India would be hit if New Delhi allowed the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which is claimed by Beijing.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said Beijing was concerned over India permitting the Tibetan spiritual leader to visit the northeastern state of India.

Geng said China was strictly opposed to the impending visit by the Dalai Lama. "China is strongly opposed to the Dalai Lama visiting disputed areas," he told a regular press briefing.

Geng said India knew the sensitivity of the border issue between both countries and allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh would damage its ties with China.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as its own, calling it South Tibet. Besides, it accuses the Dalai Lama of separatist activities in Tibet.

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The Dalai Lama passed through this region when he fled into exile in 1959. Moreover, the sixth Dalai Lama was born there in the 17th century.

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/no-political-motive-behind-his-holiness-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-kiren-rijiju-1992883.html>

No need to create 'artificial controversy', says Kiren Rijiju on Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit

The Statesman | New Delhi | April 04, 2017

Expressing concern over China's objection to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said that the Dalai Lama's visit is purely religious in nature and there is no need to create 'artificial controversy' over his visit.

"The visit is purely religious in nature and there should be no political angle given to that," the Union minister was quoted as saying by a news agency. He added that there was no need to create 'artificial controversy' over Dalai Lama's visit.

Saying that India never interferes in the internal matter of China, he said China should also stay away from interfering in India's internal matters.

"India never interferes in the internal affairs of China. We expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matters," he said.

"People of Arunachal Pradesh desire to have good neighbourly relations with people of China. We never intend to have any problem with our neighbours," he said.

China reportedly claims that Arunachal Pradesh is part of South Tibet and calls Dharamshala-based Dalai Lama a separatist, who wants to carve out an independent Tibet within the Chinese mainland.

[http://www.thestatesman.com/india/delhi-high-court-asks-fssai-why-tobacco-chewing-shouldn't-be-banned-1493821631.html](http://www.thestatesman.com/india/delhi-high-court-asks-fssai-why-tobacco-chewing-shouldn-t-be-banned-1493821631.html)

Dalai Lama visited Arunachal 6 times between 1983-2009

PTI | April 04, 2017

NEW DELHI: Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, whose ongoing trip to Arunachal Pradesh has irked China, visited the northeastern state six times since 1983-- the last trip came in 2009.

The 2009-visit had come exactly 50 years after Dalai Lama had passed through the state on his way to India from Lhasa, Tibet.

His first trip was in 1983 (March 24-May 6) when he visited Miao, Tenzingang, Bomdila, Tawang, Dirang and Itanagar, according to the Dalai Lama's website.

During his second trip to Arunachal Pradesh in 1996, (December 7-16) he travelled to Miao, Tezu and Mirig.

He followed it up in 1997 (October 9-21) during which he travelled to Tenzin Gang, Bomdila, Dirang and Tawang, the website says.

In 2003, the spiritual leader, paid two visits to the northeastern state-- first between April 29-May 9 (Bomdila from May 1-3 and Tawang from May 3-9), and then from December 11-17 (Itanagar in the last three days).

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/dalai-lama-visited-arunachal-6-times-between-1983-2009/articleshow/58013228.cms>

India-China row deepens as Dalai Lama arrives in NE India

AP | The Japan Times | April 04, 2017

GAUHATI, INDIA – India said Tuesday that China should not interfere in its internal affairs, as the Dalai Lama began a weeklong visit to India's remote northeast that Beijing has protested.

The Tibetan spiritual leader was greeted by cheering supporters as he arrived in Arunachal Pradesh. China claims the partly ethnically Tibetan Himalayan state as its own territory, and warned last month of "severe damage" to relations with India and increased regional instability if the Dalai Lama proceeds with his trip.

Indian Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju said Tuesday that New Delhi respects Beijing's "one China" policy and expects China to accept India's policies.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to the Dalai Lama's visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," he said.

The Dalai Lama is visiting the state at the invitation of the people of Arunachal Pradesh, Rijiju said. "As a democratic country, India cannot interfere in the religious affairs of any community," he said.

Hundreds of supporters, some waving Tibetan flags, cheered as the Dalai Lama's motorcade entered Bomdila, a town in Arunachal Pradesh that borders China.

The Dalai Lama had to cancel his plans to fly to the state due to bad weather, giving people in Bomdila a surprise chance to greet their spiritual leader.

This is the Dalai Lama's seventh visit to Arunachal Pradesh, and his first since 2009.

Lama Tashi, a senior monk, said by phone from Bomdila that there was "tremendous enthusiasm among all of us here over the visit."

"This visit is purely related to culture and faith, and there is no politics involved," he said.

The Dalai Lama will travel to the Arunachal Pradesh district of Tawang on Thursday, where he is scheduled to consecrate a monastery and address his followers. People from nearby areas, including from the Himalayan country of Bhutan, which borders Arunachal Pradesh, were already gathering at Tawang, local officials said.

"The mood in Tawang is very joyous and spiritual," said Sonam Chombey, a Tawang official.

Last month, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that Beijing has expressed its concerns to New Delhi on numerous occasions and urged India to avoid offering a place for the Dalai Lama to carry out anti-China separatist activities.

The frontier between the two Asian giants remains tense more than 50 years after they fought a brief but bloody border war high in the peaks.

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) in Arunachal Pradesh, referred to informally by some Chinese as "Southern Tibet." India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau.

More than a dozen rounds of talks have failed to make substantial progress on the dispute, although there have been relatively few confrontations in recent years.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/04/04/asia-pacific/politics-diplomacy-asia-pacific/india-china-row-depends-dalai-lama-arrives-ne-india/#.WQhTSqL-uUk>

Dalai Lama's Tawang visit postponed to 6 April; MoS Kiren Rijiju tells China to respect India's sovereignty

First Post | April 04, 2017

The Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh has been put off by two days due to bad weather, according to media reports. The Dalai Lama was to leave for Tawang on Tuesday after visiting Assam. He is now expected to reach Tawang, home to one of the most sacred Buddhist monasteries, on 6 April. Last month, China warned of "severe damage" to relations with India and increased regional instability if the Dalai Lama proceeds with his trip to the state. To this, Dalai Lama told *The Times of India* that it was normal and he had no problem if China objected to his visit.

On Tuesday, India said that the Tibetan spiritual leader has visited the state six times earlier and no "additional colour" should be given to his visit. Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, holding a press conference, said, "India has never interfered in internal affairs of China. We never questioned their

sovereignty. We respected their 'One China' policy. So we expect China to respect our sovereignty. We are a free country, we cannot restrict flow of religious leaders."

According to a report in *Hindustan Times*, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader was to arrive at Lumla, near Tawang on Tuesday morning at 9:30 am, but his helicopter couldn't take off because of heavy rain in Guwahati. The 81-year-old is now travelling by road. Bomdila, which is 180 kilometres away from Tawang, will be his first stop, *Hindustan Times* reported.

"Whenever I come to the North East of India, it feels like a reunion with people here," the Dalai Lama said on Saturday, "When I revisit Tawang, I am reminded of the freedom that I had experienced for the first time (in 1959). That was the beginning of a new chapter in my life."

The Dalai Lama is scheduled to consecrate a temple and give blessings to his followers during his week-long stay in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Indian Express reported that members of the Tibetan refugee community and residents of Bomdila were cleaning up the roads in anticipation of his visit. Tawang Monastery, where the Dalai Lama is expected to stay, has been decorated with religious flags and coloured clothes with mantras inscribed on them. 800 monks will welcome their spiritual leader in the 400-year-old monastery, India's largest.

According to a report in the *The Financial Express*, the Dalai Lama is also slated to visit the Ngingmapa Monastery and the local authorities have been busy making improvements.

Dalai Lama passed through this region when he fled into exile in 1959 after a failed uprising against Communist rule over Tibet. Moreover, the sixth Dalai Lama was born there in the 17th century. The government-in-exile is based at Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh. It is not recognised by any country.

The Dalai Lama last visited Arunachal Pradesh in 2009. China protested against that trip, but there was no major impact on relations with India. China has, once again, protested his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which it considers a disputed territory.

On Sunday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that in 1959, the Dalai Lama fled to India from Tibet after a "failed armed rebellion." China rejected his remarks that he had no other option but to escape due to increased Chinese military action. "As it is known to all, the 14th Dalai Lama is an anti-China separatist who have long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the

reactionary group of high-ranking feudal serf-owners in Tibet in March 1959," the statement said.

In a press conference on 31 March, China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang expressed concerns on the Dalai Lama's visit, calling China's position on the issue of the eastern part of China-India border clear-cut and consistent. "India is very clear about the seriousness of issues related to the 14th Dalai Lama and the sensitivity of its border issues with China. Under such circumstances, India still invites the 14th Dalai Lama to visit disputed areas of China-India borders. This will gravely damage the peace and stability of the border regions between China and India and China-India relations," Kang said.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, Rijiju, in his press conference, also added, "The status of Arunachal Pradesh as a full-fledged state of the Union of India is indisputable. The people of Arunachal Pradesh are upset at others showing that Arunachal Pradesh is a disputed territory. The people of Arunachal Pradesh are looking forward to cooperation from China. When Dalai Lama ji is in Arunachal Pradesh, he will be confined to religious matters. He is not there to make any political statement or with any political motive. We appeal to China not to rake up this issue."

Rijiju also stated that the Arunachal Pradesh government accorded the Dalai Lama the status of a guest and all the facilities were being arranged by the government. Striking a more personal tone, Rijiju added, "The Dalai Lama is coming to my village. If someone comes to my home it becomes my duty to welcome him."

With inputs from agencies

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-postponed-to-6-april-mos-kiren-rijiju-tells-china-to-respect-indias-sovereignty-3366720.html>

Dalai Lama unlikely to visit Tawang today due to bad weather

The Tibetan Spiritual leader, who is on a 12-day trip to the north east, is expected to reach Tawang on April 6 or 7.

[Express Web Desk](#) | New Delhi | April 4, 2017

Due to bad weather, His Holiness the Dalai Lama is unlikely to fly to Tawang on Tuesday as expected. He has started from Guwahati by road for Bomdila, where he will make a public appearance tomorrow. The Tibetan spiritual

leader, who is on a 12-day trip to the northeast, is expected to reach Tawang on the evening of April 6 or definitively by April 7. On April 6, the Dalai Lama is scheduled to attend an inauguration programme of thupsung dhargyeling monastery and a Himalayan seminar on Buddhism.

“It doesn’t affect the spirits of people who are waiting to catch a glimpse of their beloved leader. We are eagerly waiting for him. It’s his love for us that despite the bad weather he has yet chosen to come to us by road,” Tsering Tashi, the MLA from Tawang.



Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama addresses the gathering at Dibrugarh University in Dibrugarh on Monday (PTI Photo)

In Tawang, the Dalai Lama will be welcomed by 800 monks at the country's largest monastery which is 400-years-old. He was expected to hold a religious discourse at a stadium and deliver a public talk on “Secular Ethics and Happiness” at the Kala Wangpo Convention Centre.

The Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh has been marred by protests from China, which has repeatedly warned the Indian government that its action will have consequences on its bilateral relations.

“China had been issuing repeated warnings but that will not deter us from receiving our spiritual leader. The whole of Tawang is waiting to receive their beloved Dalai Lama,” said Tashi.

On Monday, the Arunachal police and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) beefed up security at the Tawang monastery, where His Holiness is expected to stay. "The state police force is coordinating with the ITBP to ensure foolproof security arrangements," said Manoj Kumar Meena, SP, Tawang.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dalai-lama-unlikely-to-visit-tawang-today-due-to-bad-weather-4598598/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dalai-lama-tawang-arunachal-pradesh-india-china-relations-bomdilla-guahati-bad-weather/1/919927.html>

Dalai Lama's Tawang trip delayed, bad weather plays culprit

SkyMetWeather | April 04, 2017

Dalai Lama's Tawang trip delayed, bad weather plays culpritThe weather conditions in Northeast India have been rainy for the past few days. While the residents are not complaining about the weather, the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader had to rescheduled his Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh as bad weather plays culprit in the Himalayan region.

Not only was the trip rescheduled but the Dalai Lama also had to change his conveyance options. While he was supposed to leave from Guwahati by a chopper, due to inclement weather he is now being forced to travel by road. Not only this, he will also stop at Bomdila making a public appearance tomorrow.

He is expected to stay there for two days and thereafter, he will go to Tawang.

These weather conditions are attributed to the presence of a trough which is running East Uttar Pradesh up to Nagaland across Bihar and West Bengal. Prior to this, a cyclonic circulation was also persisting over Northeast India giving rains over the region.

As per the Dalai Lama's website, he will consecrate a new Tara temple. His stay is at Tawang during this time. On April 10, the Dalai Lama will give his teachings at Dirang and at Bomdila on April 11. Thereafter, he will leave for Itanagar winding up his trip on April 12.

After eight years, The Dalai Lama is paying a visit to the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.

<https://www.skymetweather.com/content/weather-news-and-analysis/dalai-lamas-tawang-trip-delayed-bad-weather-plays-culprit/>

Dalai Lama forced to reschedule Arunachal Pradesh visit due to bad weather

InUth | April 04, 2017

The Dalai Lama who was expected to visit Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on April 3 will reportedly have to cancel his visit due to bad weather. The spiritual leader was all set to leave Guwahati via chopper. However, bad weather conditions, forced his holiness to reschedule his visit.

Dalai Lama has reportedly changed his route and now will stop at Bomdila. According to reports, the Dalai Lama will now address a public gathering tomorrow. He will leave for Tawang after staying in Bomdila for a span of two days.

Hours before Dalai Lama was scheduled to arrive, people stepped out of their homes to clean the roads to welcome his holiness. The monastery where Dalai Lama was going to stay during his trip to Arunachal Pradesh had been decorated and made elaborate arrangements ahead of his visit. Over 800 monks are expected to extend a warm welcome to his holiness. Shops across were also freshly painted. This comes amid strong opposition by China.

Tibetan spiritual leader and Nobel laureate the Dalai Lama who arrived in Guwahati on April 1 is currently on a 12-day visit to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. This trip comes even as China has staged a protest against Dalai Lama's trip to North East. Additionally, United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has also asked the Dalai Lama to make any anti-China statements during his visit.

China who labels the Dalai Lama an "anti- China separatist" asserted that "the Chinese government is resolutely opposed to any country's support" to him. Dalai Lama also met Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

<http://www.inuth.com/india/dalai-lama-forced-to-reschedule-arunachal-pradesh-visit-due-to-bad-weather/>

India hits out at China for objecting to Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh

China has kept a close watch ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit, starting today, and the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India against the visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader to Arunachal Pradesh.

PTI | Financial Express | April 04, 2017

India today hit out at China over its objection to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, saying no "artificial controversy" should be created around the visit and asked Beijing not to interfere in its internal affairs. China has kept a close watch ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit, starting today, and the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India against the visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, saying it will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.



The Arunachal Pradesh government has accorded state guest honour to the Dalai Lama and is making arrangements for his stay there. (PTI)

However, unfazed by the Chinese warning, India asserted, "No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India." It also reiterated the government's position that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

The government, therefore, urges that no "artificial controversy" should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the external affairs ministry said in a press release.

Reacting sharply, Minister of State for Home Kiran Rijiju asked China not to interfere in India's internal affairs and asserted that New Delhi respects the "One-China" policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate. He said, "There is no

political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. "Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs." India has never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expects China to reciprocate, the minister told reporters.

The minister, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said the border state is "not a disputed territory" and is part of the Union of India and is a "full-fledged state". "There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

Rijiju said talks between New Delhi and Beijing on the boundary dispute are going on and the people of Arunachal Pradesh are expecting that the issue will be soon resolved.

"I appeal to China not to rake up the Arunachal Pradesh issue unnecessarily as status of the state can't be questioned," he said.

During his visit to the northeastern state, the Dalai Lama will hold religious discourse with devotees in Tawang, Bomdila and other areas.

Rijiju said the Dalai Lama is visiting Arunachal Pradesh at the invitation of the people of the state and will confine himself to only religious discourse and he will not make any political statement. "As a democratic country, India can't interfere in religious affairs of any community," he added.

The Arunachal Pradesh government has accorded state guest honour to the Dalai Lama and is making arrangements for his stay there, Rijiju said, adding the Tibetan spiritual leader will also visit his (Rijiju's) village in West Kameng district where he will inaugurate a Buddhist monastery.

The Dalai Lama had last visited Arunachal Pradesh in November 2009. He said the people of Arunachal Pradesh want good neighbourly relations with China and want reopening of trading points along the McMahon Line which have been closed since 1962.

"The trading points were beneficial. The people of Arunachal Pradesh are looking toward cooperative attitude from China," he said.

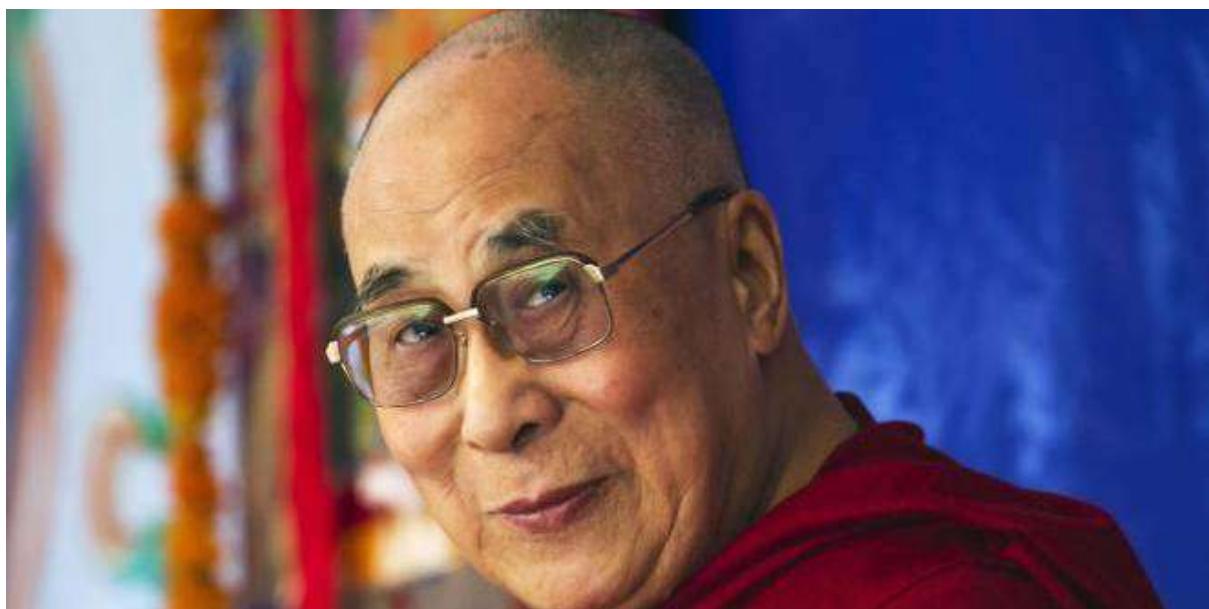
The external affairs ministry also referred to the Dalai Lama's website which mentions that he has visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions.

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/india-hits-out-china-for-objecting-to-dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh/615001/>

Dalai Lama arrives in Bomdila

PTI | Siasat | April 04, 2017

Tawang : Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama arrived at Bomdila in West Kameng district this evening marking the beginning of his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.



The Tibetan spiritual leader arrived by road as his chopper could not take off from Guwahati due to inclement weather. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Pema Khandu besides other high-ranking police and civil officials.

The Dalai Lama's visit to the state comes eight years after his previous visit in 2009 which was exactly 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

He is scheduled to give a discourse at the Buddha Park in Bomdila tomorrow.

On April 6, he will impart teachings at Dirang and confer the 'Avalokiteshvara Permission' at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in the morning.

From April 8-10, the Dalai Lama will deliver discourses in Tawang. He will reach here on April 11 and give a discourse the next day.

Amid persistent Chinese objections to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, India today said no "artificial controversy" should be created around the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

<http://www.siasat.com/news/dalai-lama-arrives-bomdila-1166927/>

India playing Tibet card as diplomatic tool, says Chinese media

The visit would also adversely affect relations, reported the Global Times, a Communist Party-run nationalistic tabloid published by the official People's Daily.

By Ananth Krishnan | Beijing | India Today | April 4, 2017

Highlights

1. Dalai Lama's visit would adversely affect relations, reported the Global Times.
2. The paper quoted an unnamed expert as saying "this is not the first time India has used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China".
3. India has stressed that the Dalai Lama's visit was purely a religious affair and without a political message.

China's state media said on Wednesday as the Dalai Lama began a rare visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh that India was "using" the Tibetan spiritual leader to convey its "displeasure" to China and "playing the Tibet card" to seek "diplomatic leverage".

The visit would also adversely affect relations, reported the Global Times, a Communist Party-run nationalistic tabloid published by the official People's Daily.

The paper quoted an unnamed expert as saying "this is not the first time India has used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China, especially when bilateral talks fail to include their demands or to pander to domestic anti-China issues."

DALAI LAMA BEING USED AS A DIPLOMATIC TOOL

Another commentary in the paper published on Wednesday said that amid recent strains in ties the "Dalai Lama is now openly used by India as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage."

"New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist. Therefore, Delhi attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing," it claimed, adding "New Delhi may have underestimated Beijing's determination to safeguard its core interests".

"New Delhi should overcome its suspicions against Beijing. China doesn't allow India to free ride on its economic growth while jeopardizing Beijing's core interests," it warned.

The visit comes amid other strains in ties, from China's projects in PoK to its shielding of Pakistani terrorist Masood Azhar at the UNSC sanctions committee.

The Global Times quoted an unnamed expert as warning "China would take steps against any government which invites the Dalai Lama to express its position to the international community."

HOW WILL DALAI LAMA'S VISIT AFFECT TIES WITH CHINA

"The Dalai Lama's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang, which China hopes will be returned, will affect relations between China and India," added the expert, who was identified as being from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the influential Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The expert pointed out that Tawang "is also the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso, which gives the place religious meaning to Tibetans."

India has stressed that the Dalai Lama's visit was purely a religious affair and without a political message. Further, India has pointed out the Dalai Lama had visited Tawang previously. China similarly issued warnings when the Dalai Lama visited Tawang in 2009. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said last week it was "gravely concerned" by the visit, and Beijing had raised the matter with India through diplomatic channels.

A prominent Beijing think-tank on March 23 reiterated China's claims to Tawang ahead of the visit, which is at the centre of China's territorial claims of 90,000 sq km in Arunachal Pradesh.

Lian Xiangmin, Director of Institute of Contemporary Tibetan Studies at the China Tibetology Research Centre (CTRC), an influential official think-tank that advises the government on its Tibet policy, said: "One of the three major temples of Tibet is Zhaibang (Drepung monastery near Lhasa), and Tawang was a subsidiary of Drepung and in history, Tawang's monks went to Drepung to study sutras. Tawang under Drepung also made contributions to the local government. So Tawang is part of Tibet and Tibet is part of China, so Tawang is part of China. So this is not much of a question."

Although Tawang may have had historical links with Lhasa, the real source of contention is whether or not Tibet was then a part of China as Beijing claims, or whether that began with the People's Liberation Army's occupation of Tibet in 1951. Lian said the Dalai Lama's upcoming visit, as his 2009 Tawang trip did, would "undermine" relations. "In recent years, the Indian government has given support or made arrangements for the Dalai Lama to visit the Tawang region, so it seems to us as something not so friendly", he said.

<http://indiadtoday.intoday.in/story/dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-india-china-beijing-media-global-times-arunachal/1/920587.html>

Wary China: Nobody should have problem on visit of Dalai Lama to AP, says Rijiju; 7 updates

ABP News Bureau | April 04 2017

New Delhi: Amid persistent Chinese objections to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, India said on Saturday that no "artificial controversy" should be created around the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

Here are latest *SEVEN* updates:

- ✿ External Affairs Ministry also asserted that the government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people.
- ✿ "No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," the Ministry said in a release.
- ✿ The government, therefore, urges that no "artificial controversy" should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh, it said.
- ✿ India never interfere into the internal affairs of China. We expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matter: Kiren Rijiju
- ✿ Religious sentiments of every community must be given freedom, we expect nobody should have problem on visit of the Dalai Lama to AP: K.Rijiju
- ✿ A wary China has kept a close watch ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit, starting Tuesday.
- ✿ Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

<http://www.abplive.in/india-news/wary-china-nobody-should-have-problem-on-visit-of-dalai-lama-to-ap-says-rijiju-7-updates-512948>

The Dalai Lama: It is in India's interest to engage him more

By Bharat Bhushan | Catch News | April 04, 2017



The Chinese have raised the pitch on the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. China has not only claimed that the visit would "damage" Sino-Indian ties, Chinese experts have even warned that Beijing could show its displeasure to India using "military" means.

It would be easy to see the threatening behaviour of China as routine in the context of the Sino-Indian border dispute. After all, China claims Arunachal Pradesh and refers to it as 'Southern Tibet'. However, there seems to be more to the Chinese belligerence than the border issue.

The Chinese seem to have concluded that the Dalai Lama has given up hope of a settlement with them. The prospects of Tibetan accommodation with Communist China seemed bright based on the Dalai Lama's relationship with President Xi Jinping, whom he had once described as more "open-minded" and "realistic" than his predecessors.

These hopes were dashed the day the Dalai Lama decided to visit Mongolia last November, knowing that this would provoke China. Unsurprisingly, the three-day visit irked Beijing no end and it put pressure on Ulan Bator to declare that the Dalai Lama was not welcome to Mongolia in the future.

The Dalai Lama had also accepted an invitation to visit Taiwan – again something that would irk China no end – but that did not finally materialise. And now, he is going to Tawang, the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama, fuelling Chinese fears that he may be preparing the ground for his reincarnation, the 15th Dalai Lama, to be found there.

What makes matters worse for the Chinese is that the visit comes after a series of high profile meetings the Dalai Lama has had recently with constitutional heads in India.

The Dalai Lama had met the President of India in December last at the “Laureates and Leaders for Children” summit held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. At that time the spokesman of the Chinese foreign ministry had strongly criticised the meeting, opposing “any form of contact between officials of other countries with him.”

Subsequently, the Dalai Lama met the Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, during the 34th Kalchakra initiation ceremony at Bodh Gaya in January this year. Then in March, he played a leading role in an international conference on “Buddhism in the 21st century” at Rajgir. The conference was inaugurated by the Minister of Culture Mahesh Sharma and the President of India attended the closing ceremony. In March itself the Dalai Lama was hosted by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chauhan, at the Narmada Sewa Yatra.

The Chinese were particularly insensed with India for allowing the Dalai Lama to attend the conference at Rajgir. The severity of the Chinese reaction was perhaps because of the high level of international representation at the conference. Mongolia which, under pressure from China, had regretted inviting the Dalai Lama last November, sent its highest ranking Buddhist monk, the Khamba Lama Most Venerable Choijiljav Dambajav as well as the Ven. AOtgonbaatar, the Head of the Sakya sect in the country.

Cambodia sent the great Supreme Patriarch of the country Sangharajadhipati Tep Vong. Thailand was represented by Most Ven. Arayawongso, Myanmar by Most Ven. Ashin Thuriya, Malaysia by the Chief Monk Prelate of the country Most Ven. B Saranankara Thero, Sri Lanka by several Mahanayakes and Anunayakes, Bangladesh by the Sanghanayaka of the country Most Ven. Sudhananda Mahathera, and Nepal sent the abbots and spiritual heads of all its ethnic Himalayan Buddhist communities. There were representatives from the Russian Federation also.

The 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorji, and prominent lineage holders of the four Tibetan Buddhist sects – the Sakya, Gelug, Kagyu and Nyingma – also attended the conference.

The Chinese do not want countries where they think they have considerable influence – such as Mongolia, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, etc. -- to have any contact with the Dalai Lama. In fact, they do not even allow him to visit these countries. Contrary to Beijing's expectation, however, their participation underlined the wide acceptance of the Dalai Lama as a respected Buddhist leader.

For China this is a zero-sum game. The greater the acceptance of the Dalai Lama in the Buddhist world, the more difficult it becomes for it to anoint the next Dalai Lama.

The 14th Dalai Lama will be 82 on 6 July this year. Up to now, his statements about reincarnation have been ambiguous – questioning variously the need for an antiquated institution in the 21st century, saying that he will reincarnate only in a free country thus ruling out China and even suggesting at times that he could “emanate” in someone younger in his own life time.

The Chinese perhaps want to avoid the prospect of having two Dalai Lamas – one an ‘official’ reincarnation recognised by Beijing and another, accepted by most Tibetans as their spiritual leader. This would be a replication of what happened with the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama – the reincarnation that was recognised by the Dalai Lama was kidnapped and has never been seen since and an ‘official’ reincarnation is paraded as the Panchen Lama by the Chinese who is seen as a Communist puppet by the Tibetans.

Meanwhile, the 14th Dalai Lama has already shed his temporal powers. They now vest in the Tibetan Government-in-Exile. Yet because of the spiritual standing of the institution of the Dalai Lama, some influential Tibetan leaders in the government-in-exile want him to “emanate” while he himself is believed to be veering in favour of a traditional reincarnation.

The Dalai Lama is expected to clarify his position on reincarnation sooner than later – perhaps in the next couple of years. Apparently, a meeting of the four Tibetan Buddhist sects is planned so that they are on the same page on the reincarnation issue, even though the Dalai Lama is the leader of only the Gelug sect. The Dalai Lama is also expected to spell out the parameters of the future negotiation with China about Tibet’s status, so that the Tibetan people know his mind.

As for India, the need to engage the Dalai Lama extensively has never been greater. There seems to be recognition in government that the business-as-usual approach only helps China.

There is a realisation that China harbours unrealistic expectations of India respecting its concerns while it merrily ignores India's concerns on wanted terrorists like Masood Azhar and Hafez Saeed, promotes an arms build-up by Pakistan, ignores India's claims on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and has gone ahead with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through what India considers illegally occupied territory without prior consultation with New Delhi. How this plays out vis-a-vis the Dalai Lama and the Tibetans in exile remains to be seen.

There is, however, no 'Tibet card' to be played. India needs to protect its own interests. And that would mean deeper engagement with the Dalai Lama and allowing him complete freedom to meet people and travel the length and breadth of India.

<http://www.catchnews.com/india-news/the-dalai-lama-it-is-in-india-s-interest-to-engage-him-more-56746.html>

Dalai Lama arrives in Arunachal Pradesh amidst opposition from China

India TV News | Itanagar | April 04, 2017

The Tibetan spiritual leader arrived by road as his chopper could not take off from Guwahati due to inclement weather. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Pema Khandu besides other high-ranking police and civil officials.

The Dalai Lama's visit to the state comes eight years after his previous visit in 2009 which was exactly 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

He is scheduled to give a discourse at the Buddha Park in Bomdila on Wednesday. On April 6, he will impart teachings at Dirang and confer the 'Avalokiteshvara Permission' at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in the morning.

Despite protests by China, the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, on Tuesday began his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.



Photo: PTI Dalai Lama arrives in Arunachal Pradesh

From April 8-10, the Dalai Lama will deliver discourses in Tawang. He will reach on April 11 and give a discourse the next day. Amid persistent Chinese objections to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, India on Tuesday said no "artificial controversy" should be created around the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

(With inputs from PTI)

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india-dalai-lama-arrives-in-arunachal-pradesh-amidst-opposition-from-china-375572>

India asks China not to create artificial controversy over Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit

India Blooms News Service | April 04, 2017

New Delhi, Apr 4 (IBNS): India has warned China against creating "an artificial controversy" around the Dali Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, NDTV reports.

India has pointed out that the Tibetan spiritual leader has visited the north-eastern state in the past, and that "no additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India."

China has regularly denounced the Dalai Lama's visits to the region as it sees it as an attempt to strengthen India's territorial claims.

China said on Friday last that it was "resolutely opposed" to the visit, and urged India to "avoid taking any actions that would further complicate the border issue".

India has always maintained that Arunachal is an integral part of India.

The Dalai Lama's visit to the state comes eight years after his previous visit.

Meanwhile, the spiritual leader on Tuesday deferred his trip to Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang due to inclement weather.

According to the Times of India, the Dalai Lama was set to leave Guwahati by a chopper, but the bad weather has forced him to travel by road and change his stop to Bomdila.

After staying at Bomdila, where he will make a public appearance on Wednesday, he will proceed to Tawang, just 25 km away from the McMahon Line that demarcates the imaginary boundary between India and China.

China claims the territory as its own.

The Dalai Lama will stay at Tawang till April 7.

http://indiabooms.com/ibns_new/news-details/N/30046/india-asks-china-not-to-create-artificial-controversy-over-dalai-lama-s-arunachal-visit.html

Dalai Lama blesses Mt Everest mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Tuesday flagged off Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa on her Mount Everest expedition.

IANS | Oneindia News | April 4, 2017

Guwahati, April 4: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Tuesday flagged off Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa on her Mount Everest expedition.

Jamsenpa had a special audience with the Dalai Lama at the Radisson Blue hotel here on Tuesday. The spiritual leader blessed her before the flag off.

Jamsenpa, an experienced mountaineer, has already scaled the Mount Everest thrice, twice within a gap of 10 days.

"Your achievement is the testimony of your hard work, firm determination and a strong belief in yourself," the Dalai Lama said.

He also blessed her two teenage daughters Passang Droma and Tenzing Nyiddon with a personalized message which he wrote and signed himself.

"Meeting His Holiness The Living Buddha and getting his blessings in person is one of the most treasured and blessed day of my life. I shall cherish it life-long, especially the close warm hug," the mountaineer said.

"It will always motivate me and infuse strength to overcome all my struggles in life," she added. The mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh is in quest to better her own national and international records.

The Dalai Lama has addressed seminars and delivered talks at different functions. He is scheduled to visit Tawang and some other places in Arunachal Pradesh.

Although he was to visit Arunachal Pradesh by helicopter, he is likely to move to Bomdila on Tuesday by road due to inclement weather.

From Bomdila he would visit Dirang, Lumla and Tawang during his over seven-day trip to Arunachal Pradesh.

China has reacted strongly to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh which Beijing considers part of Tibet.

<http://www.oneindia.com/india/dalai-lama-flags-off-arunachal-mountaineer-2393751.html>

Dalai Lama flags off Anshu Jamsenpa's fourth expedition to Mount Everest

By Prasanta Mazumdar | Express News Service | April 04, 2017

GUWAHATI: The Dalai Lama on Tuesday flagged off Everester Anshu Jamsenpa's fourth expedition to the world's highest peak, prior to leaving Guwahati for his nine-day "teaching" trip to Arunachal Pradesh.

Jamsenpa, who hails from the Himalayan State, had earlier scaled Mount Everest thrice – two of them in 10 days.

Having known her mountaineering feats, the spiritual leader said, "Your achievement is testimony to your hard work, firm determination and a strong belief in yourself." He also blessed her for her future endeavours.

Tsering Wange, president of Arunachal Mountaineering and Adventure Sports Association, offered the Indian tricolour to the Dalai Lama which he handed over to Anshu, who will unfurl it on top of Mount Everest. Anshu presented a photo frame of her earlier successful summits to the Nobel peace prize winner as a token of love and respect.

He also blessed her two teenage daughters, Passang Droma and Tenzing Nyiddon, with a personalised message.

Later, Jamsenpa told The New Indian Express, "Meeting the living Buddha and getting his blessings in person was one of the most treasured and blessed days of my life. I shall cherish it. It will motivate me and infuse strength in me to overcome my struggles of life".

Anshu Jamsenpa is in a quest to better her own national and international mountaineering records. Since Mountaineering being one of the costliest adventure sports, some corporate houses and PSUs have come forward to support her.

Meanwhile, inclement weather caused by incessant rains forced the Dalai Lama to postpone his trip to Tawang, which China claims as its own.

He left Guwahati by road for Bomdila, also in Arunachal. After attending functions here and then at Dirang and Lumla, the spiritual leader is expected to reach Tawang on either April 6 or 7.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/apr/04/dalai-lama-flags-off-anshu-jamsenpas-fourth-expedition-to-mount-everest-1589760.html>

Don't create any artificial controversy over Dalai Lama's visit: India tells China

By Lakshmi Iyer | Mumbai Mirror | April 04, 2017

New Delhi: The Centre warned China to stay clear of creating any 'artificial controversy' ahead of His Holiness Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday. The government asserted that his visit is only spiritual, not political.

In a statement released on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that this is not the first India visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader. "His Holiness has visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions. Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people," the statement read.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India. No artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh," the statement further added.

Close on the heels of the Tibetan monk's arrival, China had asserted that allowing Tibet's exiled leader to visit Arunachal will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties and had asked New Delhi to make a "choice". This was allegedly the second warning issued in this context within a month.

The Tibetan spiritual leader, who is on a visit to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, will spend a week in Arunachal from April 4 to April 10. He will also visit Tawang, which is close to borders of Tibet and Bhutan, where the largest Tibetan monastery in the country is located.

His last visit to Arunachal Pradesh was in the year 2009 for seven days. Earlier, Dalai Lama had visited the state in 1983 (when he spent close to 45 days there), 1996 (10 days), 1997 (12 days), twice in 2003 (April and December) and in 2009 (7 days). During at least four of the visits, the monk made it a point to pay a visit to Tawang.

Though Dalai Lama was supposed to reach today, his website announced a slight change in his visit schedule due to adverse weather conditions. "Due to severe weather conditions in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's schedule for his upcoming visit to Arunachal Pradesh has been affected. His Holiness will now be arriving in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh on April 4 afternoon", the website said.

<http://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/news/india/dont-create-any-artificial-controversy-over-dalai-lamas-visit-india-tells-china/articleshow/58005308.cms>

Dalai Lama's Tawang visit postponed by 2 days, India tells China not to interfere

The spiritual leader will give a teaching and confer a White Tara Long Life Empowerment in Bomdila.

Tehelka Web Desk | April 04, 2017

The Dalai Lama began his visit to Arunachal Pradesh on April 4, ignoring the protests from China. Cheering crowds greeted the spiritual leader as he arrived at Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh.

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso is on a weeklong visit to North-East India, had reached Assam on April 1. Due to bad weather, his visit to Tawang has been postponed by 2 days.

The spiritual leader will give a teaching and confer a *White Tara Long Life Empowerment* in Bomdila.

China had warned last month of “severe damage” to relations with India and increased regional instability if the Dalai Lama proceeded with his trip.

“Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to the Dalai Lama’s visit and interfere in India’s internal affairs,” said Indian Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju. “There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh,” Rijiju said.

“India has never interfered in internal affairs of China. We never questioned their sovereignty. We respected their ‘One China’ policy. So we expect China to respect our sovereignty. We are a free country, we cannot restrict flow of religious leaders,” the minister added.

Meanwhile, mountain climber Anshu Jamsenpa took Dalai Lama’s blessings to scale Mount Everest, she has already summited the mountain thrice.

The Dalai Lama had earlier visited Arunachal in 2009. He had passed also through Tawang on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India while fleeing from Tibet after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

<http://www.tehelka.com/2017/04/dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-postponed-by-2-days-india-tells-china-not-to-interfere/>

China criticizes 'anti-China separatist' Dalai Lama for Arunachal visit

Indo Asian News Service | April 04 2017

Beijing, April 4 (IANS) Beijing on Tuesday criticised Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama for his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, calling him an "anti-China separatist", but stopped short of directly denouncing New Delhi.

"The 14th Dalai Lama is an anti-China separatist who has long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the reactionary group of high-ranking

feudal serf owners in Tibet in March 1959," the Chinese Foreign Ministry told Efe news.

"The Chinese government is resolutely opposed to any country's support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group's anti-China separatist activities," read the statement without alluding directly to India.

Tensions between the two Asian giants have been raised by the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of south Tibet.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday that the Tibetan leader had been to Arunachal on six previous occasions, and rejected any controversy that may have been caused due to this visit.

Inclement weather conditions in the area have forced the Dalai Lama to change his itinerary, and the March 5-7 visit to the important Buddhist centre of Tawang has been delayed.

Arunachal Pradesh holds a special significance for the Tibetan leader, as it was the first territory in India he entered while fleeing Chinese troops in 1959 before moving to Dharamsala, where he now resides. He is to attend a major Buddhist event in Tawang.

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/china-criticizes-anti-china-separatist-dalai-lama-arunachal-110804028.html>

Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh postponed to April 6; India asks China to respect its sovereignty

Dalai Lama: India has responded strongly against China's objections stating that the mainland was attempting to create an "artificial controversy."

By Namrata Tripathi | International Business Time | April 04, 2017

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh has been postponed to April 6 because of bad weather, according to media reports. His visit to the North Eastern state was put off amid the controversy surrounding China's reaction. China objected to Dalai Lama's visit and warned India of "severe damage" to the Indo-China relationship.

The Dalai Lama was scheduled to leave for Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday after visiting Assam. Tawang is one of the most sacred Buddhist monasteries in India. The Buddhist leader on Monday commented on the

controversy stating that China's objection to his visit was nothing out of the ordinary.

The Dalai Lama, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, fled into exile in India in 1959 after an abortive uprising against the Communist rule. China considers the Dalai Lama a separatist and believes that he is set to split the mainland. Hence, it routinely objects to the Buddhist leader's visit to different regions and warns countries of dire consequences of issuing invitation to him.

India's reaction

India, however, has responded strongly against China's objections stating that the mainland was attempting to create an "artificial controversy." India, on Tuesday, said that the Tibetan spiritual leader has visited Arunachal Pradesh at least six times earlier and that no "additional colour" should be given to his visit to the Indian state.

Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, during a press conference, said that China needs to respect India's sovereignty.

"India has never interfered in internal affairs of China. We never questioned their sovereignty. We respected their 'One China' policy. So we expect China to respect our sovereignty. We are a free country, we cannot restrict flow of religious leaders," Rijiju said.

Dalai Lama's bond with Arunachal Pradesh

The Dalai Lama has a special bond with Arunachal Pradesh. The spiritual leader had fled Tibet in the backdrop of Chinese aggression March 17, 1959 to the northeastern state in India, along with 20 of his followers. He crossed the tough Himalayan region barefoot during his 11-day trek and reached India to take refuge in a Tawang monastery. He says, it was in Arunachal Pradesh that he first felt a sense of freedom, away from the Chinese regime.

"Whenever I come to the North East of India, it feels like a reunion with people here," the Dalai Lama on Saturday said, "When I revisit Tawang, I am reminded of the freedom that I had experienced for the first time (in 1959). That was the beginning of a new chapter in my life."

The Buddhist monk also added that he is "the longest staying guest of India" but he turns into a child whenever he visits Northeast India.

Why the spiritual leader is visiting Arunachal Pradesh

This will be the Dalai Lama's sixth visit to the state, he last visited Arunachal Pradesh in 2009. His visit to the state in 2009 was also protested by China,

however it did not have any major impact on the relations between the countries.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader is now travelling by road and will make his first stop at Bomdila, which is 180 kilometres away from Tawang, according to Hindustan Times.

The Dalai Lama is scheduled to consecrate a temple and give blessings to his followers during his week-long stay in Arunachal Pradesh.

Residents of Bomdila and many Tibetan refugee communities in the region have begun cleaning the roads and making preparations in anticipation of his visit.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/dalai-lamas-visit-arunachal-pradesh-postponed-april-6-india-asks-china-respect-its-sovereignty-721891>

Refrain from any controversy on Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh visit, India tells China

India has urged China not to create any kind of controversy on Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, who is expected to reach the north-eastern state today.

FE Online | New Delhi | April 04, 2017

India has urged China not to create any kind of controversy on Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, who is expected to reach the north-eastern state today. Earlier, the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to the state was delayed due to bad weather. Speaking to media persons in the national capital, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has said that China should not interfere with India's internal matter. "India never interfere into the internal affairs of China. We expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matter", he said

He also urged China not to give any political angle to it, as the visit of the Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh is purely religious by nature. "People of Arunachal Pradesh desire to have good neighbourly relations with people of China. We never intend to have any problem with our neighbours", Rijiju added.

The External Affairs Ministry has also stressed that the government on several occasions earlier gas stated that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader and is widely respected by the people in India. "No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," the Ministry said in a release.

Therefore, the government urges that no “artificial controversy” be created on Dalai Lama’s visit to the state, it said. China has kept a close watch on the religious leader’s visit to the state, which is starting from today. The Chinese Foreign Ministry had earlier warned India that the Dalai Lama’s visit to the state which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, would cause “serious damage” to bilateral relations between two countries.

In the meantime, Arunachal Pradesh is all set to welcome Dalai Lama on a three-day visit. The 81-year-old Noble Laureate had reached Guwahati on Saturday. Buddhist inhabitants of West Kameng and Tawang districts are eagerly waiting to seek his blessings.

(With inputs from PTI)

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/refrain-from-any-controversy-on-dalai-lamas-arunachal-pradesh-visit-india-tells-china/614161/>

Dalai Lama's Tawang visit: India says it respects 'one-China' policy, but expects reciprocal attitude

China considers Arunachal Pradesh to be a part of southernmost Tibet.
Zee Media Bureau | April 04, 2017



New Delhi: China should refrain from meddling in the internal affairs of India, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju reiterated on Tuesday amid continuous Beijing's objections to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh.

The Minister of State for Home said Arunachal Pradesh is India's inseparable part.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh is completely religious and no political purpose should be derived from it, said Rijiju.

He further said that India respects 'one-China' policy, but also expects Beijing's reciprocal attitude.

"There is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," he told reporters here.

The minister, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said the state is "not a disputed territory" and is part of the Union of India and a "full-fledged state".

"There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

Rijiju said talks between New Delhi and Beijing on the boundary dispute are going on and the people of Arunachal Pradesh are expecting that soon it would be resolved.

"I appeal to China not to rake up Arunachal Pradesh issue unnecessarily as a status of the state can't be questioned," he said.

Meanwhile, the External Affairs Ministry said today that [no "artificial controversy" should be created](#) around the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

The Ministry also asserted that the government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," the Ministry said in a release.

The government, therefore, urges that no "artificial controversy" should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh, it said.

During his Arunachal Pradesh trip, the Dalai Lama will hold religious discourse with devotees in Tawang, Bomdial and other areas.

The Dalai Lama, who was set to reach Tawang today, was forced to change his schedule due to bad weather, and will now reach Bomdila by evening. The Tibetan Spiritual leader will make a public appearance in Bomdila tomorrow. After staying there for two days, he will proceed to Tawang.

China has been voicing its displeasure over the visit of the Tibetan leader to Tawang for a Buddhist festival, saying by allowing it, India was risking "serious damage" in the ties between the two nations.

China considers Arunachal Pradesh to be a part of southernmost Tibet.

India has maintained that the Dalai Lama is free to travel anywhere in the country and has visited the northeastern state in the past too.

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-india-says-it-respects-one-china-policy-but-expects-reciprocal-attitude-1992716.html>

Include ‘Secular Ethics’ in Education System: Dalai Lama

Northeast Today | April 04, 2017

For making a peaceful society, it is essential to include a curriculum on secular ethics in the education system, this was stressed by Nobel Peace Laureate the Dalai Lama.

Delivering a talk on ‘ethics in modern education’ at Dibrugarh University he said, “The existing education system is very much oriented towards material value. The generation who come from this kind of education will be driven by material value, or eventually, their thinking will be about material value, money and power.”

He stated that the compassionate feeling or thinking about humanity must come from among the generation of the 21st century who are witnessed to violence in the form of war and conflicts, to bring peace. “The human intelligence and human brain is the key factor. Humans have the ability to develop infinite love and feeling for fellow human beings owing to their intelligence.”

“Education is the only way to instill these humane feelings in the minds of the new generation because they are the only hope of the future,” asserted the Dalai Lama.

The Nobel Peace laureate called upon the Indian scholars, including religious leaders, to contemplate on what kind of education system they ought to adopt for the country.

"India is the only nation which can combine modern education, modern technology plus ancient Indian sort of knowledge like how to tackle emotions, minds and how to bring peace of mind. The 21st century education system must embrace this wider perspective," he pointed.

The Dalai Lama also extended invitation to Dr Alak Kumar Buragohain, Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University to be part of the forthcoming conference in New Delhi to finalise a curriculum on 'secular ethics'.

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/include-secular-ethics-in-education-system-dalai-lama/>

Dalai Lama, India border guard reunited

AFP | China Post | April 04, 2017

GUWAHATI, India -- The Dalai Lama has had an emotional reunion with the Indian border guard who escorted him as he fled his native Tibet following a failed uprising nearly 60 years ago.

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader, who has lived in exile ever since, was visibly emotional as he embraced the retired paramilitary guard on Sunday evening at the start of a visit to northeast India that has angered China.

The two men had not met since 1959 when the Buddhist monk fled his Himalayan homeland in fear of his life after China poured troops into the region to crush an uprising.

"Looking at your face, I now realise I must be very old too," he told 79-year-old Naren Chandra Das at a ceremony in the northeastern city of Guwahati, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency.

Das recalled how he was given orders not to speak to the young monk when he arrived in India after a 13-day trek through the Himalayas, disguised as a soldier to evade detection by Chinese troops.

"Our duty was only to guard and escort him during a part of his journey," he said.

The Dalai Lama was in Guwahati en route to the remote Tawang monastery in the northeast Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, where he first crossed into the country.

China, which claims Arunachal as its own territory and regards the Dalai Lama as bent on splitting Tibet from China, has condemned the planned visit. Beijing has said it could seriously damage the relationship with New Delhi.

On Sunday the Dalai Lama, who denies seeking Tibetan independence, recalled the warm welcome he received when he arrived and the Indian government offered him a base in the hill town of Dharamsala, where he was allowed to set up a government-in-exile.

"The days prior to my arrival in India were filled with tension and the only concern was safety, but I experienced freedom when I was received warmly by the people and officials and a new chapter began in my life," PTI quoted him as saying.

The Dalai Lama is scheduled to arrive in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday and will hold teachings at the Tawang monastery on Wednesday and Thursday.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/asia/india/2017/04/04/494902/Dalai-Lama.htm>

China yet to comment on India's assertion on Arunachal Pradesh

About his stay in India, it said the Chinese government is "resolutely opposed to any country's support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group's anti-China separatist activities".

PTI | Beijing | Indian Express | April 04, 2017

China has not commented on India's assertion on Tuesday that Arunachal Pradesh is its inseparable part and no "artificial controversy" should be created over the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang. The Chinese Foreign Ministry, which is currently on a holiday for the Tomb sweeping festival, has not responded to a query seeking its reaction to External Affairs Ministry remarks as well as comments made by Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

On April 2, China had termed the Dalai Lama as anti-China separatist. "As it is known to all, the 14th Dalai Lama is an anti-China separatist who have long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the reactionary group of high-ranking feudal serf-owners in Tibet in March 1959," the Foreign Ministry had said reacting to his comments. "His remarks which serve his anti-China

separatist purpose have no trace of facts at all,” the Ministry told PTI in a written response to a query about his comments.

About his stay in India, it said the Chinese government is “resolutely opposed to any country’s support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group’s anti-China separatist activities”. During his visit to Assam on April 1, the Tibetan Buddhist leader recalled that “On March 10, 1959, there were huge demonstrations in Lhasa”, the Tibetan region’s capital.

“Chinese military action also increased. I had no option but to escape. On March 17, I fled,” he said, recalling the day when he entered India through Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of Tibet.

On April 1 China had asked India to exercise caution and restraint in its reported plan to connect Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet with railway network, saying that New Delhi should refrain from unilateral actions that might complicate the boundary issue.

“China’s position on eastern section of the China-India boundary is consistent and clear. At present, the two sides are working to resolve the territorial dispute through negotiation and consultation,” the Ministry said, reacting to reports that India is exploring feasibility to connect Sino-India border district Tawang with the railway network.

“The two sides have agreed that pending final settlement, both sides will work together to properly manage the dispute and preserve peace and stability of the border areas,” it said.

Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, will cause “serious damage” to bilateral ties and New Delhi has to make a “choice”.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/china-yet-to-comment-on-indias-assertion-on-arunachal-pradesh-4599568/>

Dalai Lama’s visit to India angers China as Beijing seeks to suppress separatist activities

Beijing has expressed its concerns to New Delhi on numerous occasions and urged India to avoid giving the Dalai Lama a platform
Associated Press | South China Morning Post | April 04, 2017

India said on Tuesday that China should not interfere in its internal affairs, as the Dalai Lama began a weeklong visit to India's remote northeast that Beijing has protested.

The Tibetan spiritual leader was greeted by cheering supporters as he arrived in Arunachal Pradesh.

China claims the partly ethnically Tibetan Himalayan state as its own territory, and warned last month of "severe damage" to relations with India and increased regional instability if the Dalai Lama proceeds with his trip.

Indian Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday that New Delhi respects Beijing's "one China" policy and expects China to accept India's policies.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to the Dalai Lama's visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," he said.

The Dalai Lama is visiting the state at the invitation of the people of Arunachal Pradesh, Rijiju said.

"As a democratic country, India cannot interfere in the religious affairs of any community," he said.

Hundreds of supporters, some waving Tibetan flags, cheered as the Dalai Lama's motorcade entered Bomdila, a town in Arunachal Pradesh that borders China.

The Dalai Lama had to cancel his plans to fly to the state due to bad weather, giving people in Bomdila a surprise chance to greet their spiritual leader.

This is the Dalai Lama's seventh visit to Arunachal Pradesh, and his first since 2009.

Lama Tashi, a senior monk, said by phone from Bomdila that there was "tremendous enthusiasm among all of us here over the visit." This visit is purely related to culture and faith, and there is no politics involved

Lama Tashi, senior monk

"This visit is purely related to culture and faith, and there is no politics involved," he said.

The Dalai Lama will travel to the Arunachal Pradesh district of Tawang on Thursday, where he is scheduled to consecrate a monastery and address his followers. People from nearby areas, including from the Himalayan country of

Bhutan, which borders Arunachal Pradesh, were already gathering at Tawang, local officials said.

"The mood in Tawang is very joyous and spiritual," said Sonam Chombey, a Tawang official.

Last month, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that Beijing has expressed its concerns to New Delhi on numerous occasions and urged India to avoid offering a place for the Dalai Lama to carry out anti-China separatist activities.

The frontier between the two Asian giants remains tense more than 50 years after they fought a brief but bloody border war high in the peaks.

China claims about 90,000 sq km in Arunachal Pradesh, referred to informally by some Chinese as "Southern Tibet." India says China is occupying 38,000 sq km of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau.

More than a dozen rounds of talks have failed to make substantial progress on the dispute, although there have been relatively few confrontations in recent years.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/diplomacy/article/2084728/dalai-lamas-visit-india-angers-china-beijing-seeks-suppress>

India on China's objection to Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh visit: Stop creating artificial controversy

Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to the border state is completely religious and no political motive should be ascribed to it.

By Ilma Hasan | New Delhi, India | April 04, 2017

In a strong message to China ahead of Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh today, India has asked the Chinese administration to stop creating "artificial controversy" and asserted that the territorial integrity of the north-eastern state cannot be questioned.

Addressing reporters in New Delhi, Minister of State for Home Affairs [Kiren Rijiju](#) - who hails from Arunachal Pradesh - today said India does not interfere in the internal matters of China, and expect Beijing to do the same.

"The territorial integrity of Arunachal Pradesh cannot be questioned. The people of the state are upset by some calling it as a disputed territory. I would like to appeal to Chinese to not rake up this issue," he said.

STAY OUT OF OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS: INDIA TO CHINA

Rijiju said India respects the 'One-China' policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate. India does not interfere in our neighbours' internal matters and we expect the same from them," the minister said.

The Dalai Lama is scheduled to visit Arunachal Pradesh today, during which he was scheduled to hold religious discourse with devotees in Tawang, Bomdila and other areas.

Though the Tibetan spiritual leader has cancelled his visit to Tawang in



Arunachal Pradesh due to bad weather, he will be going to Bomdila later today, a visit opposed by China, which considers Arunachal Pradesh to be a part of southernmost Tibet.

Rijiju called Dalai's proposed visit to Tawang "purely religious" with no "political angle" to it. "Dalai Lama is

entering Arunachal Pradesh today. He will have five-day rituals there. I will be joining him tomorrow after Parliament sessions. The visit is purely religious, there should be no political angle to it," he said.

Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh will cause "serious damage" to the bilateral ties.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/14th-dalai-lama-tawang-arunachal-pradesh-china-india-kiren-rijiju/1/919969.html>

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 05, 2017

Teaching, Long-life Empowerment, Monastery Visit and a Talk at Bomdila

Dalailama.com | April 5, 2017

Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, India - When His Holiness the Dalai Lama came down to the courtyard of Thubchok Gatsel Ling Monastery this morning he spoke first to a group of young monks and observed them debate. He then also spoke briefly to a group of adult lay people who have formed their own study group. He praised their efforts and urged them to continue. Before leaving, he unveiled the foundation stone for a new assembly hall.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama saluting the crowd of 15,000 on his arrival at Buddha Park in Bomdila, AP, India on April 5, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness drove the short distance to the Bomdila Buddha Park further up the hill. After saluting the crowd, estimated to number 15,000, he seated himself on the throne. Explaining that he had to spend a short time preparing for the White Tara Long-Life Empowerment he was going to give, he requested the audience to recite Tara mantras while he did so.

"We are gathered today for you to listen to a teaching of the Buddha," he began. "A long time ago people worshipped the sun and moon in the belief that they gave them protection. Later, religions emerged that also incorporated a philosophical point of view. The common intention of almost all these

religions is to help people become better human beings. They all teach love and compassion, tolerance and forgiveness, and have long benefited humanity.

"All the world's major religions flourish in India. These include indigenous traditions like the Samkhya, Mimamsa and Vedanta schools, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism as well as traditions originating elsewhere. They live here harmoniously. They all teach love and compassion, which accords with basic human nature and is what humanity needs. We are social animals and without a sense of compassion for each other we won't be happy. Whether we are religious or not there is a need for love and compassion in the world.



Members of the crowd listening to His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Buddha Park in Bomdila, AP, India on April 5, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

"I'm going to talk about what the Buddha taught, which can be differentiated from other traditions by its philosophical point of view. Some traditions believe in a creator god. Others like Jainism, non-theistic Samkhya and Buddhism don't assert a creator, they teach that whatever pain and pleasure we experience is a result of actions we have done, rather than anything to do with god. What differentiates Buddhism further is its assertion of selflessness. This is not a denial of any self at all, a self functions, but selflessness means there is no independent, autonomous, permanent entity separate from our body and mind.

"I am a Buddhist and I have studied Buddhist philosophy, which I admire, but I can't say it's the best, that's a question of what benefits an individual most. It's like not being able to say that one medicine is suitable for all occasions. And although all food should be nourishing, it doesn't make sense to say this or

that is the best food. The Buddha gave different explanations according to the dispositions of the people listening to him. According to the 'The Extensive Sport Sutra' (Lalitavistara Sutra) he said to himself:

*Profound and peaceful, free from complexity, uncompounded luminosity—
I have found a nectar-like Dharma.*

*Yet if I were to teach it, no-one would understand,
So I shall remain silent here in the forest.*

His Holiness explained that at the time few were likely to be amenable to the idea of selflessness, although the Buddha thought his five previous companions might come round to it. He taught them the Four Noble Truths, the truth of suffering, its cause, cessation and path. He further elaborated four characteristics of each of the Noble Truths.



A view of the pavilion at Buddha Park, venue for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teaching in Bomdila, AP, India on April 5, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

The truth of suffering, for example, can be understood as being impermanent, in the nature of suffering, empty and selfless. The characteristics of the truth of the cause of suffering are being a cause, an origin, strong production and a condition. The truth of cessation can be understood in terms of cessation, pacification, being superb and definite emergence (from the cycle of existence), while the truth of the path is characterized in terms of its being a path, awareness, an achievement and deliverance.

Clarifying that the Four Noble Truths reveal the law of causality—suffering arises from its cause, but the path also gives rise to cessation—His Holiness

noted that the first two Noble Truths show how suffering comes about, while the second two show to overcome it and leave the cycle of existence. He quoted the Buddha as saying, ‘Suffering must be known, the origin must be overcome, liberation must be achieved and the path must be cultivated.’

His Holiness made clear that along with the Four Noble Truths the Buddha explained the 37 factors aligned with enlightenment, which include the 4 foundations of mindfulness, the 4 supreme endeavours, the 4 miraculous feet, the 5 strengths, the 5 faculties, 7 means to enlightenment and the Noble Eightfold Path. These are all related to the first turning of the wheel of Dharma. He added that during the second turning of the wheel, the Buddha taught the Perfection of Wisdom.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the White Tara Long-Life Empowerment at Buddha Park in Bomdila, AP, India on April 5, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

“In order to understand cessation properly, you need to understand what ignorance is and how to overcome it—that’s where an understanding of emptiness comes in. One aspect of the third turning of the wheel is an interpretation of what was explained in the second turning with regard to the three natures and how they are defined: imputed nature has no intrinsic existence; dependent nature is not self-created and ultimate nature has no ultimate, independent existence. And with regard to secret mantra or Vajrayana, the ‘Tathagata-garba Sutra’ teaches that the mind is primordially pure. All aspects of mind are pervaded by pristine awareness. We use this primordial mind and transform it when we visualize ourselves arising as a deity.”

As he began to grant the White Tara Long-Life Empowerment, His Holiness asked how Buddhas help beings and made clear that it's by teaching about reality as it is to dispel ignorance. He referred to the depiction of the Wheel of Life pointing out that at the hub ignorance is shown as a pig which gives rise to desire, the rooster, and hatred, the snake. He also mentioned that in the outer rim the twelve links of dependent arising are depicted beginning again with ignorance portrayed as an elderly blind person.

During the Long-Life Empowerment His Holiness led a ceremony for generating the awakening mind of bodhichitta. At the end he urged everyone in attendance whether they were lay people or monastics to study as well as they can.



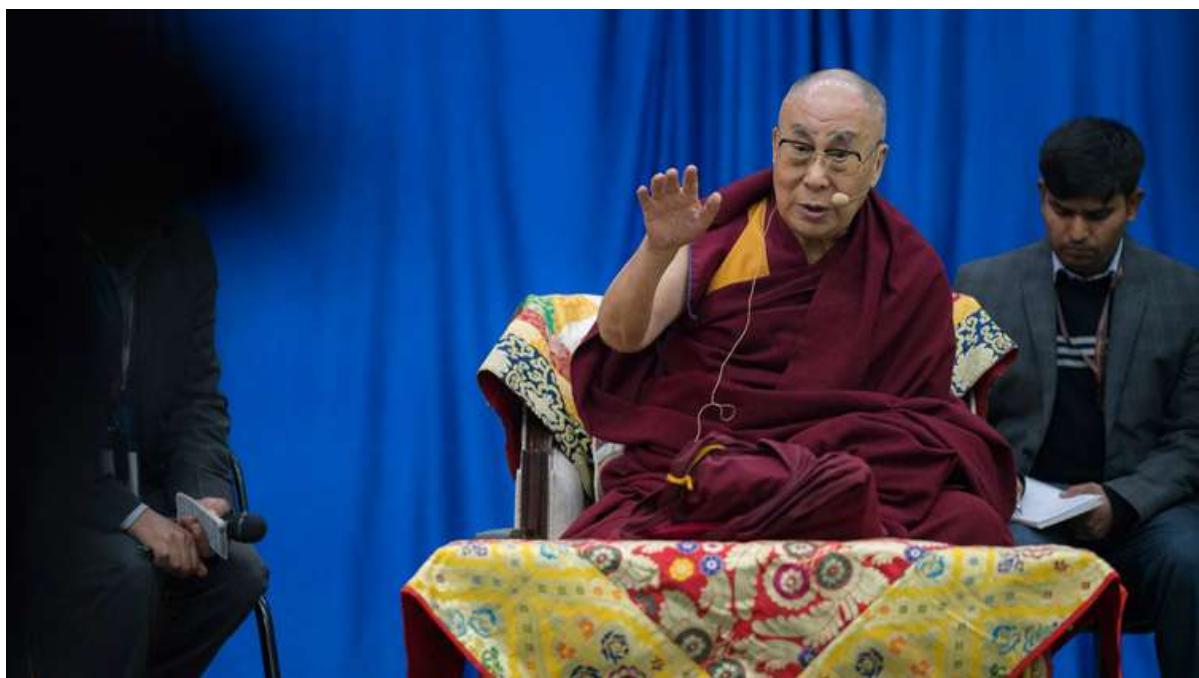
His Holiness the Dalai Lama arriving at Gontse Rabgyeling Monastery in Bomdila, AP, India on April 5, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness drove to the nearby Gontse Rabgyeling Monastery, where the last stretch of the road was lined by small boys who are students there. He was given a traditional welcome and, after paying his respects before the various sacred images, sat on a chair. The abbot read a report that stated that the monastery as it was in Tibet dated back to the time of the 5th Dalai Lama. It was re-established in Bomdila in 1965 and, because of its historical link to Drepung Loselling Monastery, four Geshes were invited from there to teach. It has established a school to provide modern education as well as monastic training. The abbot ended with a prayer that His Holiness visit again and again and that the unmistakable reincarnation of the late Tsongkhapa be found.

"The Tsongkhapa before last," His Holiness replied, "was a contemporary of Ling Rinpoche and may have attended the same debate yard. Ling Rinpoche told me he was not an especially distinguished scholar until it came to Vinaya, at which he excelled. In exile, Ling Rinpoche, Trijang Rinpoche and Tsongkhapa were close friends.

"The late Tsongkhapa was a brilliant monk when he was young. He was clever and a good scholar and a misfortune occurred in relation to his untimely death. He started building this monastery and it's to your credit that you have completed it. I'm glad to know that you are making efforts to provide opportunities for study. For some time now I have encouraged ritual monasteries to incorporate such opportunities to study and nunneries too. Consequently, twenty nuns were recently awarded Geshe-ma degrees."

After he had watched a demonstration of young monks' prowess in debate, the monastery invited His Holiness to lunch.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking at the High School Auditorium Bomdila, AP, India on April 5, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

In the High School Auditorium, after lunch, His Holiness spoke to a gathering of 300 of Bomdila's great and the good. He told them about his own commitments, that wherever he goes he talks about the urgent need for human values, an appreciation of the oneness of humanity, and concern for others' well-being. He also mentioned his dedication to promoting religious harmony. As a Tibetan, despite retiring completely from any political responsibility, he is concerned to keep Tibetan culture alive and see the Tibetan environment better protected. Finally, after 58 years living in India he seeks to encourage Indians today to take a greater interest in what is to be

learned from ancient Indian knowledge, particularly understanding of the workings of the mind and emotions.

His Holiness answered questions about the lack of punctuation marks in Tibetan language and whether Buddhists who are taught not to harm other creatures are vegetarian. He quoted a Sri Lankan monk who had told him that, because they depend on begging for their livelihood, Buddhist monks are neither vegetarian nor non-vegetarian. Questioned about being more effective in education he suggested that expressing affection for and genuine interest in their students rather than teaching merely mechanically is a good start.

Challenged to say why people should be religious when religion seems to have such capacity for causing trouble, His Holiness noted that the Pope recently said it was better to be a good human being than a stupid Christian and agreed that it was also better to be a good human being than a stupid Buddhist. Asked how to prepare for a peaceful death he suggested the first step is to be realistic, accept that death is a part of life and not to worry about it.

Leaving Bomdila by road, His Holiness drove to Dirang which lies in a substantially lower valley. Once again genial people proffering scarves and incense lined the route in villages along the way. Arriving at Thupsang Dhargyeling Monastery on a hill above the town he was given a traditional welcome. He cut a ribbon and pushed open the temple doors by way of inauguration and once inside unveiled a plaque to the same effect.

Tomorrow His Holiness will take part in a more formal inauguration program in the morning and will teach the 'Eight Verses for Training the Mind' followed by an Avalokiteshvara permission in the afternoon.

<https://www.dalailama.com/news/2017/teaching-long-life-empowerment-monastery-visit-and-a-talk-at-bomdila>

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Confers Teaching, White Tara Empowerment and Gives Public Talk in Bomdila

Tibet.net | April 05, 2017

Bomdila: Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama on Wednesday held a teaching session and conferred White Tara Long Life Empowerment at the Buddha park in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh. Despite the prevailing inclement weather, thousands of local Tibetans and followers had turned up to listen to their revered leader.

Speaking to the huge assembly of Buddhist monks and nuns, local Tibetans and devotees, His Holiness explained that the essence of Buddha's teaching can only be understood through realization based on logic and reason and not through mere faith or recitation of prayers. He encouraged the Buddhist practitioners to study the classical Buddhist texts and the canons of Tibetan Buddhism accompanied by rigorous practice and investigation.

To the lay community, His Holiness pointed out that strengthening inner values of warm-heartedness and compassion benefits both believers and non-believers in leading a happy and meaningful life. "The common message of all religion is the practice of compassion, warm-heartedness, contentment and patience. Whether you are a believer or non-believer, follower of theistic religion or non-theistic, If we all think for the better of seven billion human being, we as individuals would automatically benefit," His Holiness said.

He urged them to develop their awareness in Buddhist philosophy and contribute one's actions towards the well being of the seven billion people of the world.

His Holiness also encouraged the local Tibetans to be proud of their culture, language and traditional knowledge of Nalanda tradition that has been preserved in Tibet's monastic institutions. "I repeatedly appeal the young Tibetan generation to pay serious attention to our language and study the teaching of the Buddha. Even the older people must study," he said.

Later at the High School Auditorium, His Holiness addressed a gathering of over 300 members of Tibetan community and locals in Bomdila. His Holiness reiterated his three main commitments to promote oneness of humanity, religious harmony and preservation of Tibet's rich culture and environment.

His Holiness called for greater emphasis on moral principles in modern education, which he said, could define the future of humanity.

"Modern education is relying only on external and materialistic values which are the main reason why every individual or even a billionaire can't find happiness in him. More and more people are giving importance to this aspect of strengthening inner values so that morality can be introduced in a more universal manner," His Holiness told the fervent audience.

Though education is fundamental to human beings and national development, the existing system concerns itself only with the material values and that is why, the current generation is facing moral crisis, he said.

The Tibetan spiritual leader noted that human beings should empower themselves with inner values and modern education to sustain peace and happiness in their lives, family and community at large. "We really need to use our will power to transfer our tradition, unfortunately we are relying only on religion. Today we are facing crisis of moral principles within ourselves. Religion alone cannot serve humanity when there are billion populations who are non believers, and even within believers, there are differences in philosophy. So therefore, These differences could be eradicated only through conviction in human equality, sense of brotherhood, moral principles and mutual understanding."

His Holiness the Dalai Lama also emphasised the need to preserve Tibet's rich Buddhist culture. He explained that only the Tibetan language contains the pure lineage of ancient India's Nalanda tradition. Thereby making it imperative to study Tibetan language to understand the deep underlying concepts of Buddhism. His Holiness further spoke about his devolution of Tibetan political authority to an elected Tibetan leadership and referred to the preservation of Tibetan culture as his duty being a Tibetan.

<http://tibet.net/2017/04/his-holiness-the-dalai-lama-confers-teaching-and-white-tara-empowerment-in-bomdila/>

China blasts India over Dalai Lama visit to disputed area

Associated Press | Star Tribune | April 05, 2017

BEIJING — China criticized India on Wednesday for allowing the Dalai Lama to visit a disputed border region, saying it did not consider the matter a purely internal Indian affair and warning it would damage bilateral relations.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters that the visit by the exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader "severely harms China's interests and the China-India relationship."

Hua rejected arguments that the trip was solely religious in nature, and said China would lodge a formal protest with New Delhi.

India "in disregard of China's concerns, invited the Dalai Lama to visit the disputed border area between China and India," Hua said. In doing so, India had violated its commitments to China on Tibet-related issues, a move that would "stir up troubles over the border issue and go against the sound development of bilateral ties," she said.

Hua said China adhered to the principle of not interfering in other countries internal affairs, but the Dalai Lama's visit "is not an internal matter anymore."

India said Tuesday that China should not interfere in its domestic issues, as the Dalai Lama began a weeklong visit to Arunachal Pradesh in India's remote northeast.

The 81-year-old monk was greeted by cheering supporters as he arrived in the partly ethnically Tibetan Himalayan state that China claims as its own territory.

Indian Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju said Tuesday that New Delhi respects Beijing's "one China" policy and expects China to accept India's policies.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to the Dalai Lama's visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," Rijiju said.

The visit is the Dalai Lama's seventh to Arunachal Pradesh and his first since 2009. China has criticized previous visits, but they did not spark any major rift between the two nuclear-armed Asian giants.

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 amid an uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, which Communist forces had occupied earlier in the decade. China considers him a separatist seeking Tibet's independence, while the Dalai Lama says he merely advocates substantial autonomy and protection of the region's native Buddhist culture.

The Dalai Lama is to travel to the district of Tawang on Thursday, where he is scheduled to consecrate a monastery and address his followers. People from nearby areas, including from the Himalayan country of Bhutan, which borders Arunachal Pradesh, were already gathering at Tawang, local officials said.

The border between the two Asian giants remains tense more than 50 years after they fought a brief but bloody war high in the peaks.

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) in Arunachal Pradesh, while India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau.

<http://www.startribune.com/china-blasts-india-over-dalai-lama-visit-to-disputed-area/418320223/>

No artificial controversy should be created around Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh: India tells China

By Indrani Bagchi | TNN | April 05, 2017

NEW DELHI: As Dalai Lama's trip to Tawang got pushed back due to poor weather, India said his trip to Arunachal Pradesh and Tawang should not be seen along political lines, because this is his sixth visit to the region and the monastery, the largest in India, its importance, second only to Lhasa.

In a statement on Tuesday, MEA said "no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh." The spokesperson said the Dalai Lama is a "revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India."

The Dalai Lama arrived at Bomdila in West Kameng district on Tuesday evening marking the beginning of his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh. He arrived by road as his chopper could not take off from Guwahati due to inclement weather. He is expected to reach Tawang on 6th.

Kirin Rijiju, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, who is to accompany the religious leader, said "The territorial integrity of Arunachal Pradesh cannot be questioned. The people of the state are upset by some calling it as a disputed territory. I would like to appeal to Chinese to not rake up this issue," he said.

Rijiju, who is also an MP from Arunachal Pradesh, had earlier called the Tibetan spiritual leader's proposed visit to Tawang "purely religious" with no "political angle" to it.

Rijiju said that the Dalai Lama will confine himself to only religious discourse and will not make any political statement during his stay in Arunachal.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/no-artificial-controversy-should-be-created-around-dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-india/articleshow/58011269.cms>

China and India in a Spat Over, Yes, the Dalai Lama

By Emily Tamkin | Foreign Policy | April 05, 2017



China accused India on Wednesday of threatening bilateral relations between the two countries by permitting the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh is one of eight states in India's north eastern region — this is according to both India and the [United Nations](#). However, according to China, it is a "disputed border area between China and India." China lays claim to roughly 35,000 square miles of Arunachal Pradesh.

China has long blamed the Dalai Lama for fomenting discord to bring about Tibetan independence. Allowing the 81-year-old monk to go to Arunachal would "stir up troubles over the border issue and go against the sound development of bilateral ties," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, according to the [Associated Press](#) report. Hua said Beijing would be raising the matter with New Delhi.

India seems to hold a different view. "Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to the Dalai Lama's visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," Indian Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday of the Dalai Lama's seventh visit to Arunachal Pradesh, per the *AP* report,

The Chinese-Indian relationship is already tense. China gives India cause for concern by way of cyber threats, its naval presence in the Indian Ocean, a proposed route for the Chinese-Pakistani economic corridor that cuts through a part of Kashmir to which India lays claim, and, of course, the Arunachal

Pradesh border, Rick Rossow, senior adviser and Wadhwani Chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told **Foreign Policy**. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken an increasingly aggressive line toward China since coming into office in 2014, the same year he invited the Tibetan prime minister in exile to his swearing in ceremony.

But Modi isn't the only one making provocations. The chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh decided to take a still less Chinese-friendly line over the Dalai Lama's visit. Pema Khandu, who escorted the Dalai Lama during his travels, says the monk's visit was no concern of China's, because India does not share a border with China, but with Tibet.

"Let me get this straight. China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbour," Khandu said.

That should go over well in Beijing.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/04/05/china-and-india-in-a-spat-over-yes-the-dalai-lama/>

Don't create artificial row, China told

Deccan Herald | April 05, 2017

India on Tuesday asked China not to create an "artificial controversy" over the visit of Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh.

"The government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people," Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Gopal Baglay said in New Delhi. "No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," Baglay added.

His comment came as New Delhi's response to Beijing's high-decibel protest against the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh - a northeastern state which is at the core of the long-pending boundary dispute between India and China.

The Dalai Lama, who has been living in exile in India since 1959, has been the face of the Tibetans' struggle against the Chinese rule in their homeland. Baglay on Tuesday noted that the Dalai Lama's current visit to Arunachal Pradesh should not be seen as unusual or unprecedented as he had visited the state in 1983, 1996, 1997, 2003 and 2009 too.

Beijing accuses the Dalai Lama of pursuing a separatist agenda. China does not recognise Arunachal Pradesh as a part of India and claims over 83,500 sq km of territory in the state as its own.

Spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lu Kang had on Friday said the Tibetan leader's visit to Arunachal Pradesh would cause a deep damage to the foundation of India-China relations.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/604709/dont-create-artificial-row-china.html>

Don't interfere in our affairs: India to China

Deccan Herald | April 05, 2017

Amid the ongoing row over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday asked China not to interfere in India's internal affairs.

Rijiju said India never interfered in Beijing's affairs and has always respected the "One China" policy.

"There is no political angle behind his holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," Rijiju told reporters.

The minister said the religious sentiments of every community must be respected and nobody should have a problem with the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. He also said China is trying to project him as a political leader while his visit is purely religious.

"The people of Arunachal desire to have good neighbourly relations with the people of China," Rijiju said, adding, "We never intend to have any problem with our neighbours." The Dalai Lama will hold religious discourse with devotees in Tawang, Bomdial and other areas.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/604720/dont-interfere-our-affairs-india.html>

China lodges protest against Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh

Scroll | April 05, 2017

China on Wednesday lodged an official protest against the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh with India's Ambassador in Beijing, shortly after the Tibetan spiritual leader said New Delhi had never used him against Beijing. The Dalai Lama's statement came in the wake of Beijing's vocal opposition to India allowing him to visit the North East.

He said that it was only the political class who had a problem with him and his North East trip. "Please do not say angry Chinese. It is only some narrow-minded politicians who see India in a different way just like the way they see me as a demon. I am not a demon," he said.

"China has the highest population of Tibetan Buddhists. Many Chinese intellectuals fully support our cause," the Dalai Lama said. "We are not seeing independence. We want to remain with the people's republic of China. Tibet is materialistically backward but spiritually highly advanced. We want to develop materialistically by remaining with China and it should also feel the same way for the mutual benefit."

Meanwhile, the Chinese state media accused Delhi of playing the "Dalai Lama card" against Beijing. "The Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion," said an article in the tabloid *Global Times*. "New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship." China has warned India several times last month against the Dalai Lama's visit saying that the step would affect the bilateral ties.

On the same day, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said Beijing was not right to oppose the Dalai Lama's India visit, as Arunachal Pradesh shared its border with Tibet and not China, reported *Hindustan Times*. "Let me get this straight. China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbour," Khandu said. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju had said that the Dalai Lama's visit was of religious, not political, significance.

The Dalai Lama reached the state on Tuesday, he will be in Tawang till April 10. China claims that Tawang is a part of its territory, though India disputes this. In 1959, the young leader had escaped China and entered India via Tawang.

<https://scroll.in/latest/833762/china-lodges-protest-against-dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh>

China plans proxy war against India with support of northeast militant groups

By Manoj Anand | Deccan Chronicle | April 05, 2017

Sources in the home ministry told this newspaper that a recent statement by outlawed Ulfa-I against the Dalai Lama was dictated by China.

Guwahati: In what has alarmed the Ministry of Home Affairs, China has roped in militant groups of Northeast to launch a proxy war against India.

Authoritative security sources in the home ministry told this newspaper that a recent statement of outlawed Ulfa-I against the Dalai Lama was dictated by China.

The statement of Ulfa-I was aimed more at propagating Chinese view point on territorial dispute between India and China, than targeting the Dalai Lama.

The security sources said that Ulfa chairman Abhizeet Asom's statement was framed and dictated by China. "In the list of Indian illegal occupation is of course Nan Zang (Southern Tibet). The cunning Indian premier of the day, Nehru grabbed the opportunity of attempting to undo the acceptance of Tibet a part of China in 1951," the Ulfa-I's statement said.

A few Chinese agencies drafted the statement of Ulfa-I, which was released to media on March 28, a day before China launched its aggressive campaign against the visit of the Dalai Lama to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, security sources said.

The statement, addressing the Dalai Lama said, "Despite the deceitful drawing of the McMahon line then, and your Holiness's acceptance that your homeland is an autonomous region of China, you are perpetrating the fallacy of 1914 by reiterating that Tawang belongs to India."

The security sources said that this was not the first instance Ulfa-I was playing into the hands of China. In 2015, Ulfa was instrumental in floating a "Tibet Support Group" in Assam to launch a proxy war against India at the behest of China.

Pointing out that elusive Ulfa-I chief Paresh Baruah was taking shelter in China, security sources said that Ulfa, in 1992, had described Bangladeshi immigrant as "builder of Assam". It was the period when Ulfa leadership was looking for shelter in Bangladesh. However, stiff opposition in Assam forced Ulfa to give up that narrative subsequently.

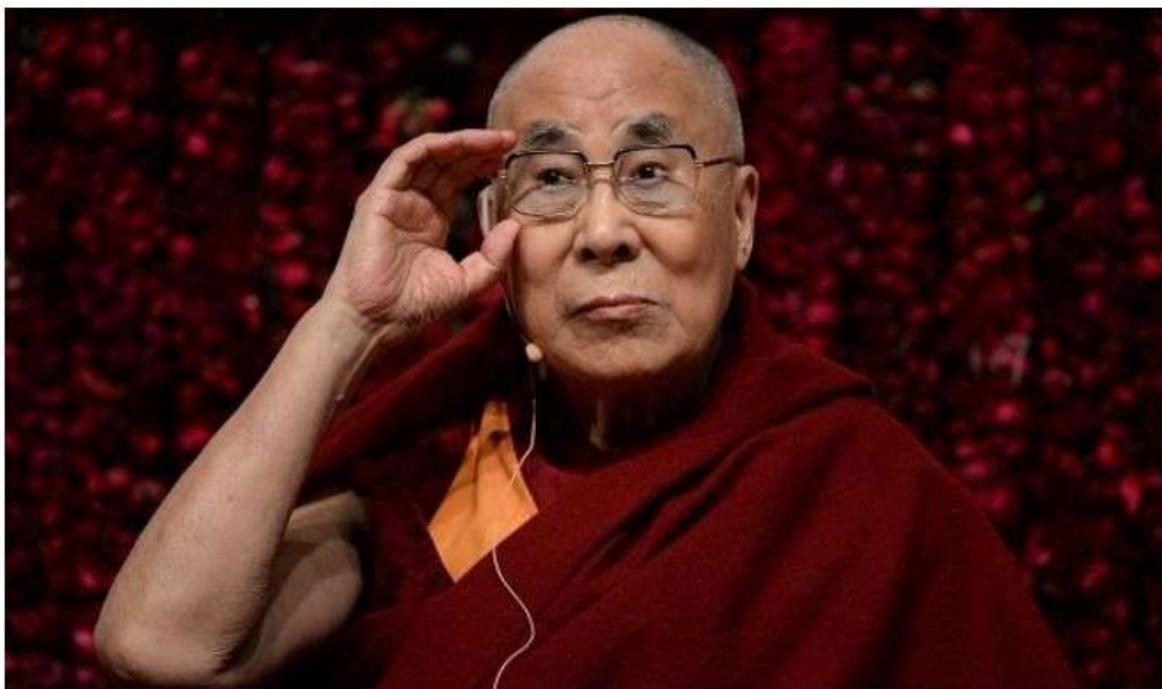
Asserting that China was not interested in organizational strength of Ulfa-I, security sources said that China intends to intensify its proxy war against India in the Northeast through the separatist groups.

Indicating that home ministry was vigilant on growing nexus of northeast militant groups in China, sources said that despite aggressive opposition of China, India has refused to curtail the visit of the Dalai Lama to Tawang.

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/050417/china-plans-proxy-war-against-india-with-support-of-northeast-militant-groups.html>

India using Dalai Lama as diplomatic tool: Chinese media

By Surabhi Shaurya | India.com | April 05, 2017



New Delhi: A day after Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama started his Arunachal Pradesh visit, the Chinese state said that they won't allow Indian a "free ride" on its economic growth while it jeopardised their core interests.

[Global Times](#), a Communist Party-run nationalistic tabloid published by the official People's Daily said, "New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist. Therefore, Delhi attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing

"China has never thought of making trouble for India, and is handling these issues in accordance with international practices and UN regulations," it further added.

Terming India's request as 'absurd', the daily said, "The Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship."

"Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line," the daily said.

Quoting an unnamed expert, the daily said, "This is not the first time India has used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China, especially when bilateral talks fail to include their demands or to pander to domestic anti-China issues.

Earlier on Tuesday, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju had asked the neighbour country to stop interfering in India's internal matters. Speaking on the issue, the Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said China should refrain from meddling in the internal affairs of India. "India never interfere into the internal affairs of China. We expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matter," said Kiren Rijiju.

"People of Arunachal Pradesh desire to have good neighbourly relations with people of China. We never intend to have any problem with our neighbours," Rijiju had said yesterday.

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/india-using-dalai-lama-diplomatic-051950444.html>

Dalai Lama visit 'severely harms China-India relationship'

AP | Belfast Telegraph | April 05, 2017

China has criticised India for allowing the Dalai Lama to visit a disputed border region, saying it did not consider the matter a purely internal Indian affair and warned it would damage bilateral relations.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman said the visit by the exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader "severely harms China's interests and the China-India relationship".

Hua Chunying rejected arguments that the trip was solely religious in nature, and said China would lodge a formal protest with New Delhi.

India "in disregard of China's concerns, invited the Dalai Lama to visit the disputed border area between China and India", Ms Hua said.



The Dalai Lama during his visit to India (AP/ Tenzin Choejor)

In doing so, she said India had violated its commitments to China on Tibet-related issues, a move that would "stir up troubles over the border issue and go against the sound development of bilateral ties".

She said China adhered to the principle of not interfering in other countries' internal affairs, but the Dalai Lama's visit "is not an internal matter anymore".

India said on Tuesday that China should not interfere in its domestic issues, as the Dalai Lama began a week-long visit to Arunachal Pradesh in the remote north-east area of the country.

The 81-year-old monk was greeted by cheering supporters as he arrived in the partly ethnically Tibetan Himalayan state that China claims as its own territory.

Indian junior minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday that New Delhi respects Beijing's "one China" policy and expects China to accept India's policies.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to the Dalai Lama's visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," Mr Rijiju said.

The visit is the Dalai Lama's seventh to Arunachal Pradesh and his first since 2009. China has criticised previous visits, but they did not spark any major rift between the two nuclear-armed Asian giants.

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 amid an uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, which Communist forces had occupied earlier in the decade. China considers him a separatist seeking Tibet's independence, while the Dalai Lama says he merely advocates substantial autonomy and protection of the region's native Buddhist culture.

The Dalai Lama is to travel to the district of Tawang on Thursday, where he is scheduled to consecrate a monastery and address his followers.

People from nearby areas, including from the Himalayan country of Bhutan, which borders Arunachal Pradesh, were already gathering at Tawang, local officials said.

The border between the two Asian giants remains tense more than 50 years after they fought a brief but bloody war high in the peaks.

China claims about 35,000 square miles in Arunachal Pradesh, while India says China is occupying 15,000 square miles of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/dalai-lama-visit-severely-harms-china-india-relationship-35596558.html>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh: China summons Indian envoy, lodges protest

IANS | First Post | April 05, 2017

Beijing: Diplomatic tensions visibly escalated over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, as China on Wednesday lodged a protest with India and said that by ignoring Beijing's concerns over the issue New Delhi has caused "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

As the Tibetan spiritual leader entered Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh to proceed to Tawang for a major Buddhist event, China struck a strident note in its protest against the move.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, addressing a regular briefing, voiced her country's "firm opposition" to the Dalai Lama's visit and said Beijing would lodge "stern representations with the Indian side".

Later, the Chinese side lodged a protest with Indian Ambassador Vijay Gokhale in Beijing over the Dalai Lama's visit.

Hua said that India "in disregard" to China's concerns "obstinately" went ahead to arrange the Tibetan leader's visit, causing "serious damage" to China's interests and China-India relations.

She said that India should "immediately cease using the Dalai Lama's mistaken behaviour to damage China's interests" and not "hype up sensitive" bilateral issues.

The Foreign Ministry statement comes as the Chinese state-run media also slammed the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims is disputed and part of south Tibet. India has said that Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of its territory.

The Global Times accused the Indian government of "openly using" the Dalai Lama "as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage".

It said India was trying to play the Tibet card against China as "New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist", it said.

On Tuesday, India said that no political motive should be attributed to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and asked China not to interfere in its affairs.

Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, who is from Arunachal Pradesh, said: "India has always had a policy of non-interference in the neighbours' internal affairs in our approach. In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours."

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/dalai-lama-in-arunachal-china-summons-indian-envoy-lodges-protest-3369300.html>

Dalai Lama reaches Bomdila by road, likely to arrive in Tawang on April 7

Arunachal Times | April 05, 2017

BOMDILA, Apr 4: Travelling more than 250 kms by road, His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama reached Bomdila in West Kameng district amid rousing welcome by thousands of devotees on Tuesday afternoon.

The Tibetan spiritual leader arrived by road as his chopper could not take off from Guwahati due to inclement weather. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Pema Khandu and senior BJP leader Sudanshu Mittal.

The Dalai Lama will deliver his preaching to the people here tomorrow from 8 am at the Buddha Park. Later in the afternoon he will depart for Dirang and address devotees a day after. He will be reaching Tawang on 7th April and will be there tentatively till 12th.

Owing to the rescheduled visit, His Holiness will not be able to come and bless the people of Itanagar, the state capital, said CMO in a communiqué. Tenzing Tsewang Gyatso, known world over as the Dalai Lama, entered Arunachal Pradesh from Assam through Orang after 8 years, was received by hundreds of devotees at Balemu, the border town in West Kameng. From there he travelled through Kalaktang, Tenzingaon, Shergaon, Jigaon and Rupa before arriving at Bomdila. Hundreds of old and young followers greeted and received him all along the way. Colourful flags depicting Buddhism and imprinted with prayers donned the route from Balemu to Bomdila.

The Dalai Lama had a quite lunch at the Tenzingaon Monastery, a rural town inhabited by resettled Tibetans in West Kameng district.

Khandu expressed gratitude to the benevolence of His Holiness for taking the trouble to travel by road just to meet the people who first received him on his epic journey from Tibet to India way back in 1959.

“His Holiness had solemnly resolved to visit Arunachal Pradesh no matter what. Despite the inclement weather that forced cancellation of his chopper, he decided to travel by road. We are humbled and will remain ever grateful to His Holiness. He has fulfilled the prayers of thousands of devotees who have waited eight long years to hear and see him in person,” Khandu said.

As the news of the Dalai Lama arriving at Bomdila by late afternoon spread, shops downed their shutters and public places went vacant. Every single individual of this town gathered in and around the Thupchog Gatzeling Gonpa, otherwise known as Lower Gonpa.

Revered Guru Rimpoche and Thekse Rimpoche, State Legislative Assembly Speaker T N Thongdok, local legislator Japu Deru, Parliamentary Secretaries Phurpa Tsiring and Kumsi Sidisow, the Chief Secretary, the DGP and heads of the district administration were amongst those who received the Dalai Lama. As he arrived prayer chants rendered the air and heads bowed with respect. The heavens poured but it didn’t dampen the spirit of the devotees. A few seconds glimpse of His Holiness was enough to keep the people glued to their places. Hundreds remained rooted for hours even after the Dalai Lama had retired for the day in the serene sanctity of the monastery.

<http://www.arunachaltimes.in/dalai-lama-reaches-bomdila-by-road-likely-to-arrive-in-tawang-on-april-7/>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh: How the Happy Warrior has consistently taken on China

First Post | April 05, 2017

"I am 82 but still a strong man," Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, told reporters after he arrived at Bomdila in West Kameng district, marking the beginning of his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"I am a messenger of Indian thoughts," said the spiritual leader, adding that he was happy to visit Arunachal Pradesh. "I thank the Indian government for taking care of me."

The Dalai Lama's visit to Bomdila has irked China. In an article titled 'New Delhi using Dalai as diplomatic tool harms Sino-Indian ties', *Global Times* — a Communist Party-run daily published by the official People's Daily — said that *"amid Beijing-New Delhi conflicts, the Dalai Lama is now openly used by India as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage. New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist. Therefore, Delhi attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing."*

But the Dalai Lama responded by saying that "India has never used me against China."

"We don't want independence from China...Chinese government must give us meaningful self-rule or autonomy," he added.

The Tibetan spiritual leader has been standing up to China for a long time.

His current visit to Arunachal Pradesh comes eight years after his previous visit in 2009, which was exactly 50 years after he had passed through Bomdila on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

In fact, he has visited Arunachal Pradesh six times since 1983.

His first trip was in 1983 (24 March - 6 May) when he visited Miao, Tenzingang, Bomdila, Tawang, Dirang and Itanagar.

During his second trip to Arunachal Pradesh in 1996 (7 - 16 December), he travelled to Miao, Tezu and Mirig.

He followed it up in 1997 (9 - 21 October) during which he travelled to Tenzin Gang, Bomdila, Dirang and Tawang.

In 2003, the spiritual leader paid two visits to the northeastern state — first between 29 April — 9 May (Bomdila from 1 - 3 May and Tawang from 3 - 9 May), and then from 11 - 17 December (Itanagar in the last three days).

The 2009 trip, his sixth, was between 8-15 November and he had commenced the visit from Tawang and was there for four days.

China has raised objection to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh saying it will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

India on Tuesday had rejected China's objection, saying no "artificial controversy" should be created around the visit and asked Beijing not to interfere in its internal affairs.

With inputs from PTI

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/dalai-lama-in-arunachal-pradesh-how-the-happy-warrior-has-consistently-taken-on-china-3368630.html>

'China should not intervene in our matters': Unfazed by threat, India hosts Dalai Lama

By Manan Kumar | DNA | April 05, 2017

The visit is being seen as a watershed event as the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan leader, has not visited Arunachal since he entered India via Tawang and Bomdilla in 1959 after escaping with 13 of his guards.

Notwithstanding warnings from China, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama set foot in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday even as India chose to play down the controversy over his visit to the northeastern state, describing it as "purely religious" and "bereft of any political objectives".

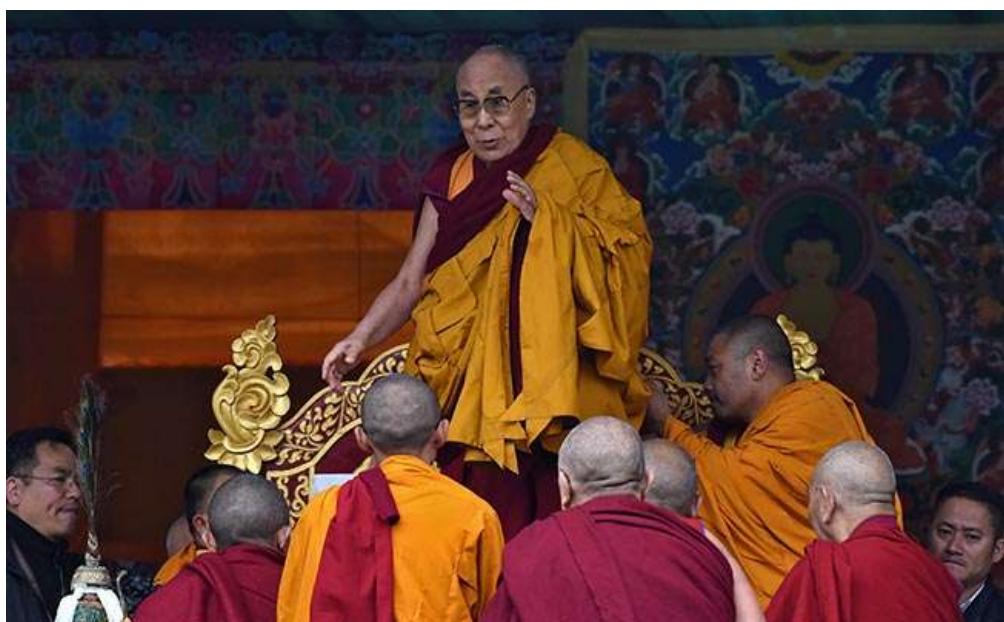
But, the Dalai Lama's scheduled visit to Tawang, a region which China claims as its own, got delayed by a couple of days due to inclement weather and heavy snowfall. He is expected to visit Gaden Namgyal Lhatse monastery in Tawang on Thursday.

The visit is being seen as a watershed event as the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan leader, has not visited Arunachal since he entered India via Tawang and Bomdilla in 1959 after escaping with 13 of his guards. Hoping to settle the boundary issue with China, the earlier Congress-led UPA government had steadily put the Tibetan issue in the back-burner.

Unfazed by warnings from China that the Arunachal visit of “the anti-China separatist will severely damage relations”, the Indian government posted Junior Minister for Home Kiren Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, to do the talking on its behalf.

Issuing a blunt warning to India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang had said on March 31: “I urge India again... not to take measures that could further complicate border issues or provide a stage to the 14th Dalai clique for anti-China separatist activities.”

Rebuffing China in a measured tone, Rijiju said, “The Dalai Lama’s Arunachal visit is totally religious, it has no political objective. Being a religious leader, thousands of people wished him to be there. India is a free country, there is no ban on the movement of any religious head... As we do not intervene in Chinese matters, we also want that China should not intervene in our matters.”



Giving sanction to India's claim on Arunachal, Rijiju further said, "This state is not controversial. All the arrangements for programmes related to the Dalai Lama's visit are

being done by the Arunachal Pradesh government. The Dalai Lama resides in the heart of Arunachal. People have been waiting for him since 1959. Because the 6th Lama was born in Arunachal, people like the Dalai Lama all the more."

The Dalai Lama himself also described his visit as being aimed at promoting religious harmony. He said he was happy to be back in a region that revived memories of his escape from Tibet in 1959, fearing for his life after China deployed troops to crush an uprising.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-unfazed-by-china-threat-india-hosts-dalai-lama-2381774>

China Lodges Protest With India Over Dalai Lama's Arunachal Visit

By K J M Varma | Beijing | Outlook | April 05, 2017



China said today it has lodged a diplomatic protest with India for allowing the Dalai Lama to visit the "disputed" parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said it has lodged the protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing Vijay Gokhale.

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader yesterday reached Bomdila in West Kameng district, starting his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as southern Tibet.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Bomdila comes eight years after he visited Arunachal in 2009, which was exactly 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India. He is due to visit Tawang later this week.

Beijing had previously warned New Delhi that the visit by the Dalai Lama to Tawang, which happens to be the birthplace in 1683 of the sixth Dalai Lama and is at the centre of Tibetan Buddhism, will seriously damage the bilateral ties.

Today, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, "India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations."

Yesterday, Minister of Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said India never interfered in Beijing's affairs, has respected the "One China" policy, and thus China should not interfere in India's internal affairs or object to the Dalai Lama's visit. "There is no political angle behind his holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious."

Separately, the External Affairs Ministry said that no "artificial controversy" should be created about the visit.

However, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson rejected Rijiju's comments, saying "China upholds the policy of not interfering with other countries internal affairs. This is unquestionable."

"But... This issue goes beyond internal affairs," she said.

<http://www.outlookindia.com/newswire/story/china-lodges-protest-with-india-over-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit/967767>

China asks India to immediately stop Dalai Lama's ongoing visit to Arunachal Pradesh

Dismissing India's stand that the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh is religious in nature, Beijing today asked New Delhi to immediately stop his visit to India's northeastern state.

India TV News Desk | New Delhi | April 05, 2017

Dismissing India's stand that the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh is religious in nature, Beijing today asked New Delhi to immediately stop his visit to India's northeastern state.

Making the demand, Hua Chunying, spokesperson of Chinese ministry of foreign affairs, asked India to take steps to safeguard the bilateral relations between the two countries

“ We demand the Indian side immediately stop wrong actions, not hype up sensitive issues and take concrete steps to safeguard growth of India-China relations,” Hua Chunying said.

He also made it clear that no one believed that the Dalai Lama was visiting a “disputed region” for religious reasons alone.

Hua Chunying further said that India runs the risk of escalating the dispute by facilitating the Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

“India is keenly aware of the role of the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging this visit to the disputed areas not only runs counter to India’s commitments on Tibet but will escalate the dispute in border areas,” Hua said.

He also added that China would lodge a protest with India for allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh despite objections raised by China.

Meanwhile, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today said that China has no right to object to Dalai Lama’s visit as it is not even the next-door neighbour in this part of India.

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world-china-asks-india-to-immediately-stop-dalai-lama-s-ongoing-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-375687>

India sits pretty in Tawang, Dalai Lama visit rattles Beijing

Dalai Lama arrives in Tawang on Tuesday

By Ajai Shukla | Business Standard | April 05, 2017

The first time the Dalai Lama came to the Tawang tract of Arunachal Pradesh in 1959, he was fleeing Mao Tse-tung's Red Army after Lhasa and its surroundings had exploded in revolution against communist oppression. New Delhi's role in the Dalai Lama's perilous flight and the refuge he was granted in India (which still continues) fanned Chinese suspicions of India's intentions in Tibet, leading inexorably to war three years later, in 1962.



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama arrives at Bomdila in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday. Photo: PTI

Harmandar Singh, the young frontier official who received the 24-year-old Dalai Lama soon after he crossed into India, and who escorted him to safety in Bomdila, recalled for this correspondent the experience of accompanying this living God through the Buddhist villages of the local Monpa tribe.

"It was as if I had been asked to escort Guru Nanak through Punjab", says Harmandar.

Netan Tashi, now retired in Bomdila, was the Intelligence Bureau operative chosen to protect the Dalai Lama once he crossed into India. "Every village turned out to greet him on his way to Tawang. People would stand with bowed heads, outstretched hands offering khadas (ceremonial silk scarves, a token of respect). They would light dhoop (incense) and then prostrate themselves before him. Many would be crying; there was happiness as well as sorrow."

When the Dalai Lama arrives in Tawang today, he will find the same local anger at China's treatment of their living God and of countless Buddhist monks across a landscape of defiled monasteries in Tibet.

China sensed that anger when it occupied the Tawang region for a month after the Indian Army withdrew in the 1962 war. The local Monpa tribal populace steadfastly resisted Chinese blandishments and suggestions from their occupiers that the ethnically mongoloid Monpas were more Chinese than Indian.

To this day, as Tibet simmers and occasionally flares into armed rebellion, as in 2008-09, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and a host of security agencies that control Tibet look nervously at a free Tawang, a source of inflammatory thoughts and ideas across the border in India.

Strengthening Tawang as a source of rebellious ideas, is the 15th century Buddhist gompa (monastery) that overlooks the Tawang bowl. While communist China strangulated independent thought in Lhasa's monasteries — even the ecclesiastical powerhouses of Sera, Ganden and Drebung — Tawang Gompa remained beyond communist control. Beijing appoints the heads of Tibet's monasteries, but the Dalai Lama appoints the Tawang Gompa chief. The current khempo (monastery head) is a Monpa, the first non-Tibetan to have that honour.

Tawang's importance as a Buddhist centre is further enhanced by its status as the 6th Dalai Lama's birthplace.

Aware of Tawang's religious power, New Delhi has avoided provoking China by inviting high profile visitors, especially the Dalai Lama and senior Indian officials. Beijing reacts to all such visits by accusing India of "interfering" with the status of a disputed area.

The Dalai Lama visited Arunachal Pradesh several times over the preceding decades, but visited Tawang only in 2009, a full 50 years after his first visit. Now on his third visit eight years later, China has warned that this would "damage ties with India." Junior home minister, Kiren Rijuji has dismissed this in unusually forthright terms.

China had been similarly prickly about the entry of "a third party" into disputed territory, when US ambassador to India, Richard Verma, visited Tawang in October as a guest of the Arunachal Pradesh government. Six months earlier, the US consul general in Kolkata said the US was "absolutely clear" that Tawang belongs to India.

Yet, China sees no "third party" problem with its own entry into the Northern Areas, claimed by India but occupied by Pakistan. Decades ago, China built a major highway through the area, linking China with Pakistan. Now, as part of the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative, China will execute further major projects there.

Earlier submissive, New Delhi has taken a stronger line on the territorial dispute at least since 2012, when United Progressive Alliance foreign minister, SM Krishna, reacted to a protracted Chinese border intrusion at Daulat Beg Oldi, in Ladakh, by delivering Beijing the reminder that Kashmir is to India what Tibet is to China.

The National Democratic Alliance has been even more forthright, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi inviting to his swearing ceremony the Central Tibetan Administration (government-in-exile) chief, Lobsang Sangay.

In December, President Pranab Mukherjee evoked Beijing's ire by inviting the Dalai Lama to Rashtrapati Bhavan for a literary function.

In November, one of the claimants to the disputed post of 17th Karmapa — the head of the Kagyu sect of Buddhism — also visited Tawang, accompanied by an Indian government official. Buddhist leaders' visits invariably acquire an anti-China flavour.

In what appears an action-reaction dynamic, Beijing has, in recent years, aligned itself openly with Pakistan. Since 2016, it has obliged Islamabad by blocking India's membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and opposing the inclusion of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief, Azhar Mehmood in a list of UN designated terrorists.

In the military realm, Beijing has strengthened arms supplies to Pakistan, including fighter aircraft, warships and submarines. China is building up Gwadar Port, on the Makran coast, as a potential naval base.

Even so, Beijing is clearly rattled by the Dalai Lama's visit. Unlike the 2009 visit, which was a four-day religious tour, the current visit is a high-decibel, ten-day affair, without the fig leaf of a "religious event". Beijing's concern is evident from a threat from the armed separatist Assamese group, United Liberation Front of Asom, warning the Dalai Lama not to speak against China.

New Delhi's response is increasingly robust. It has strengthened military deployment on the Sino-Indian border, and PLA patrols often find themselves at the receiving end in patrol confrontations. Border infrastructure is being strengthened, including the construction of airfields and roads. Beijing has called for restraint on the proposed first rail link to Arunachal Pradesh.

Even so, India can hardly match China's infrastructure build up in Tibet. Besides a series of road and rail links radiating to the Indian border, the 13th Five Year Plan for the Tibet Autonomous Region refers to construction of a new airport in Lhuntse county (Lhunzi Xian), close to the Arunachal border.

Notwithstanding New Delhi's muddled approach to the border region, it continues to enjoy equities that China cannot lay claim to. Noted Tibetologist, Matthew Akester, tells Business Standard: "History aside, India's claim to Tawang district rests on its record of benevolent governance there since the 1950s --- something China cannot credibly claim for its rule of Tibet in the same period. Rather than competing with China's infrastructure binge, it is the strength of popular democracy and local autonomy that must be built on for a progressive solution to the border issue."

For now, Beijing insists that India must cede Tawang to China in any border settlement. From the 1950s till 1983, China offered an "east-for-west" settlement, with Beijing accepting the territorial status-quo in Arunachal Pradesh on the basis of the McMahon Line; while India would accept the territorial status-quo in Ladakh, with minor exchanges in the relatively insignificant central sector. Since 1983, however, Beijing insists that India must make "territorial concessions" in the east as well. It is clear that China means to have Tawang.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-sits-pretty-in-tawang-dalai-lama-visit-rattles-beijing-11704050066_1.html

China and India are Fighting Over the Dalai Lama's Peaceful Visit To A Disputed Territory

By Cristina Silva | Newsweek | April 05, 2017

China sent a firm message to India Wednesday that it was displeased with its decision to allow the Dalai Lama to visit a disputed territory on the India-China border. The peaceful mission this week to Arunachal Pradesh, an eastern Himalayan region controlled by New Delhi but deemed "southern Tibet" by China, could stoke tensions between the two countries after years of strained relations over the Tibetan spiritual leader.

China, which considers the Dalai Lama a dangerous separatist, said India's decision had "severely damaged China's interests and China-India relations."

"China expresses firm opposition to this and will lodge stern representations with the Indian side," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters during a regular briefing in the Chinese capital.

India defended its decision to allow the Dalai Lama to travel freely to the Buddhist-majority state. The Dalai Lama, an 81-year-old Buddhist monk and Nobel peace laureate, was expected to host three days of spiritual teachings this week in the remote region. He was greeted by musicians and dancers in

the town of Bomdila Tuesday as he began his travels, [Reuters reported](#). The trip marked his second visit to Arunachal Pradesh in eight years and his seventh overall. He said the purpose of his visit was to promote religious harmony.

"His visit to this part of the country is totally religious," the state's chief minister, Pema Khandu, told Reuters Television. "As far as the boundary issue is concerned, I have also maintained that we don't share our boundary with China, but we share our boundary with Tibet."

It's unclear whether China will act on its threats against India. The Dalai Lama fled from Tibet in 1959 for asylum in India and now lives in the Indian town of Dharamsala, where his supporters operate a small government in exile.

"The government has clearly stated on several occasions that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people," India said in its latest statement on the matter. "The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy be created around his present visit to [Arunachal Pradesh](#)."

But China cautioned that it wouldn't simply accept India's decision to allow the Dalai Lama to carry out anti-China separatist activities in its territory. China and India fought a bloody war over the disputed border region 50 years ago, and China still [claims about 35,000 square miles in Arunachal Pradesh](#).

"We demand that India immediately cease using the Dalai Lama's mistaken behavior to damage China's interests," Hua said of this week's trip. "It will not bring any benefit to India. China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights."

<http://www.newsweek.com/china-and-india-are-fighting-over-dalai-lamas-peaceful-visit-disputed-579478>

'Strongly dissatisfied' with Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit, China to lodge diplomatic protest

ANI | DNA | April 05 2017

China on Wednesday asserted that it would lodge a diplomatic protest to India for 'obstinately' allowing the visit of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to Arunachal Pradesh, thereby causing a 'serious damage' to bilateral ties.

China claims the partly ethnically Tibetan Himalayan state as its own territory and warned last month of severe damage to relations with India and increased regional instability if the Dalai Lama proceeds with his trip, reports the SCMP.

China also said that it was 'strongly dissatisfied and resolutely opposed to this.'

"Recently, India ignored Chinas solemn representations and strong opposition and insisted on inviting the 14th Dalai Lama to attend an international Buddhist conference organised by the Indian government. China is strongly dissatisfied and resolutely opposed to this," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

"We urge the India side to clearly recognise the anti-China separatist nature of the Dalai clique, abide by its promises on the Tibet issue, respect China's core interests and avoid further disturbances and harm to China-India relations," she added.

Earlier in the day, the Tibetan spiritual leader downplayed China's concern over his visit to North East India and said that he has no problems even if someone calls him a demon.

"No problem, even if some consider me a demon," he said while talking to the media in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

Hailing the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Tibetan government-in-exile has said that China should not have any problem with it as the spiritual leader's visit is purely religious.

"He has been invited by the people of Tawang to come and give teachings and blessings. He is visiting as a religious leader. He travels all over the world and give teachings on Buddhist philosophy, inter religious harmony and peace. There is no reason for China to protest the Lama visiting to the places where his followers are there," Tibetan government-in-exile spokesperson Sonam Dagpo told ANI.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) yesterday issued a statement, saying that no additional colour should be ascribed to the Dalai Lama's religious and spiritual activities.

On global stage, China has repeatedly warned India that the Dalai Lama's visit would hit the bilateral ties significantly.

Protesting Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, China earlier on Friday warned India to adhere to political pledges or else face the consequences.

(This article has not been edited by DNA's editorial team and is auto-generated from an agency feed.)

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-strongly-dissatisfied-with-dalai-lama-s-arunachal-visit-china-to-lodge-diplomatic-protest-2382389>

China need not see politics in Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit, says govt

By Agencies | Beijing | April 05, 2017

China on Wednesday warned India that it will take "necessary measures" to defend its territorial sovereignty and interests after India "obstinately" allowed the Dalai Lama to visit the "disputed" parts of Arunachal Pradesh damaging bilateral ties.

China also lodged a protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing Vijay Gokhale over the Dalai Lama's visit. "India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters. China firmly opposes this move, she asserted.

"China's stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear. India is keenly aware of the role played by the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side's commitment to the issues related to Tibet, but also escalates disputes over the border area," she said. Hua stated that it goes against the momentum of the sound growth of bilateral relations. "The visit will for sure trigger China's dissatisfaction. This will not bring any benefit to India," she said. China will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests, she asserted.

Starting his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader reached Bomdila in West Kameng district from Guwahati accompanied by state Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday. The Nobel peace laureate had planned to fly by helicopter to the 17th-century Tawang monastery and hold three days of spiritual teachings from Wednesday, but heavy rainfall forced him to travel by road — a two-day drive through rugged mountains — and he is not now expected to arrive in Tawang until Friday. In

Bomdila, the Dalai Lama received a rapturous welcome with large crowds turning out in streets festooned with flags, as musicians and dancers clad in traditional costumes performed before his SUV. He gave a discourse at Buddha Park here on Wednesday morning. On Thursday, he is scheduled to impart teachings at Dirang and confer the ‘Avalokiteshvara Permission’ at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in the morning. From April 8 to 10, the Dalai will deliver discourses in Tawang. Owing to the rescheduled visit, he would not be able to go to Itanagar.

China claims parts of Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and calls the Dalai Lama, an “anti-China separatist”. It is sensitive to the Dalai Lama’s visit to Tawang, which happens to be the birthplace in 1683 of the sixth Dalai Lama and is at the centre of Tibetan Buddhism. Beijing had earlier warned New Delhi that the visit by the Dalai Lama to Tawang, will seriously damage the bilateral ties.

Indian officials have dismissed China’s criticism, saying the Dalai Lama is a spiritual leader, who has a devoted following in the region. “His visit to this part of the country is totally religious,” said Chief Minister, Pema Khandu. “As far as the boundary issue is concerned, I’ve maintained that we don’t share our boundary with China, but we share it with Tibet.”

The External Affairs Ministry has said that no “artificial controversy” should be created about the visit. On Tuesday, Minister of Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said India never interfered in Beijing’s affairs, has respected the “One China” policy, and thus China should not interfere in India’s internal affairs or object to the Dalai Lama’s visit. “There is no political angle behind his holiness’ visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious.”

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson rejected Rijiju’s comments, saying, “China upholds the policy of not interfering with other countries internal affairs. This is unquestionable. But in disregard to China’s concerns India arranged the visit of Dalai Lama to the disputed areas. This issue goes beyond internal affairs,” she said.

About Rijiju’s comments that it was a religious visit and should not be politicised, she said, “Do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader. I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using the empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable. We

demand the Indian side to stop this move of undermining Chinese interests," she said. Chinese officials in off-the-record conversations with the media said China is really angry about the Dalai Lama's visit specially because he was accompanied by a minister, unlike previous visits.

<http://www.mydigitalfc.com/news/china-need-not-see-politics-dalai-lama%E2%80%99s-arunachal-visit-says-govt-397>

Ties with India seriously damaged after Dalai Lama's visit: China

The Chinese government on Wednesday said that the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh has damaged India-China bilateral ties.

By Gulam Rabbani Sasha | Oneindia News | April 05, 2017

Beijing: Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying on Thursday said that China-India bilateral ties badly damaged after the sub-continent invited Dalai Lama to the disputed India-China border state Arunachal Pradesh.

While speaking to the reporters, she said that China will lodge a diplomatic protest to India for ignoring the China's interests and willingly inviting the Tibetan spiritual leader to Arunachal Pradesh.

Hua alleged that it has dissatisfied the China government with their decision on leader's visit which may not benefit India.

China is ready to take necessary measures against India for allowing Dalai Lama in the disputed border state, she said but did not elaborate on the measures.

She added that India should not undermine China's interests and not make the India-China relations complicated by allowing the Tibetan leader.

Hua also said that Tibet bearing on China's core interests and India's deliberate arrangement for Dalai Lama's visit is a serious damage to ties between both the countries.

On the other hand, the noble peace laureate Lama said that he is the biggest guest in India and the country has never used him against China.

Defending Tibet, the leader said that the country is not looking for independence and willing to remain with the Republic of China.

He added that Tibet is highly developed in a spiritual way but backward in materialistic development. He said that it is Tibet's interest to remain with China on the materialistic development and China government should feel okay with it.

On Tuesday, India has asked the China government not to interfere in country's internal affairs and had added that there should not be any political motive behind Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"India has always been non-interfering in the neighbours' internal affairs in our approach. In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours," said Union Minister Kiren Rijiju.

On Wednesday, the 81-year-old Dalai Lama reached the headquarters Bomdila in West Kameng district of the state for a nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

Earlier, China had warned against the visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh

<http://www.oneindia.com/international/ties-with-india-seriously-damaged-after-dalai-lama-s-visit-china-2395086.html>

Arunachal Pradesh CM welcomes Dalai Lama amid Chinese discontent

Times Now | April 05, 2017

Arunachal Pradesh: Even as China warned India to not allow Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, the states Chief Minister Prema Khandu said it is a great moment for the northeastern state.

He said, "This is a great moment for us to welcome the spiritual leader. People love him. We are glad to have been part of the process. As far as China is concerned my message to them is straight India doesn't share border with China, we share our border with Tibet. They shouldn't be worried."

The holy leader from Tibet is currently in Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh but China does not seem to be happy with his visit over past political and geographic disagreements.

Earlier Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said, ““China firmly opposes the Dalai Lama carrying out any activity in the relevant region and we have expressed our concerns to the Indian side.”

However, Indian officials including the External Affairs Ministry (EAM) have said that the revered leader’s visit is purely spiritual.

“His Holiness the Dalai Lama (HHDL) is on a visit to Arunachal Pradesh. The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that HHDL is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India,” said a release from the EAM.

“The Government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh,” it added.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju also said that he will be joining 14th Dalai Lama during his visit.

“Today His Holiness the Dalai Lama is going to Arunachal. He has reversed his program and will now cover the west first. I will join him tomorrow night,” he said.

Rijiju said that the purpose of the Dalai Lama’s visit is “purely religious” and no political angle should be given to this.

“No Pol angle should be given to this on the desire of his devotees he is making this visit to AP. He will be addressing and giving blessings to them. We have heard some comments from many quarters including Chinese govt,” he said.

“We never intend to have any problems with our neighbours. India never interferes into China internal affairs or questions their sovereignty. So we expect China doesn’t interfere in our internal matter,” he added.

He also said that being a secular and democratic country, India cannot stop visit of any religious leader in the country.

The home affairs minister says special representatives of both the countries have discussed the issue and India hopes that an amicable solution can be reached.

“Being a full-fledged state of the Union of India AP cannot be questioned. I would request Chinese to not rake this issue any further,” he added.

Rijiju concluded saying that the state of Arunachal Pradesh has given him status of state guest and all facilities are being arranged by the state govt. Earlier the Dalai Lama said that China opposing his visit is complete "normal."

<http://www.timesnow.tv/india/video/arunachal-pradesh-cm-welcomes-dalai-lama-amid-chinese-discontent/58754>

Dalai Lama has visited Arunachal half-a-dozen times, so why is China angry now?

PTI | DNA | April 05, 2017

The Dalai Lama has visited Arunachal a dozen times, so why is Beijing fuming this time?

The Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh triggered a row between the two Asian giants with China accusing India of causing "serious damage" to ties by "obstinately" allowing the visit and an unfazed New Delhi sticking to its position that it was a "religious" act. A riled China also lodged a protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing Vijay Gokhale over the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

"India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters, adding that China firmly opposes this move. Contradicting India's assertion, Hua said, "Could you tell me honestly do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader. I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure" But why is Beijing fuming now? The answer it seems is the man travelling with the spiritual leader.

Chinese officials in off the record conversations with the media, said Beijing is really angry about the Dalai Lama's visit specially because he was accompanied by a minister. The Global Times editorial said, "The Dalai Lama has been to the disputed region before, but what makes this trip different is that he is received and accompanied by India's Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju."

The Dalai Lama was also accompanied by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khadu. Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu on Wednesday said that Beijing has no right to threaten Delhi on the 14th Dalai Lama's movement within the country as India shares boundary with Tibet and not China.

"Let me get this straight. China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbour," Khandu told reporters. He further added that the McMahon Line demarcates the boundary between India and Tibet. Arunachal Pradesh shares a 1,080km stretch of this line. China claims about 90,000 square kilometres in Arunachal Pradesh. Several rounds of talks have failed to make progress on the dispute, though there have been relatively few confrontations in recent years.

The chief minister said the Dalai Lama has been India's most venerated guest since 1959, and Arunachal Pradesh – for nostalgic and religious reasons – deserves his visit more than anywhere else.

In New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Gopal Baglay said, "We clearly said that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader and has visited Arunachal earlier on half a dozen occasions. "We also urged that no political colour be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and to his visits to states of India, and no artificial controversy created around his ongoing visit."

"Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using the empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable. We demand the Indian side to stop this move of undermining Chinese interests."

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-dalai-lama-has-visited-arunachal-half-a-dozen-times-so-why-is-china-angry-now-2382789>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh Visit Triggers A War Of Words Between India And China

"India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border."

PTI | HuffPost | April 05, 2017

NEW DELHI -- The Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday triggered a row between the two Asian giants with China accusing India of causing "serious damage" to ties by "obstinately" allowing the visit and an unfazed New Delhi sticking to its position that it was a "religious" act.

A riled China also lodged a protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing Vijay Gokhale over the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

"India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chinese

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters, adding that China firmly opposes this move.



Arnd Wiegmann / Reuters

However, in New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Gopal Baglay said, "We clearly said that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader and has visited Arunachal earlier on half a dozen occasions.

"We also urged that no political colour be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and to his visits to states of India, and no artificial controversy created around his ongoing visit."

Contradicting India's assertion, Hua said, "Could you tell me honestly do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader. I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using the empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable. We demand the Indian side to stop this move of undermining Chinese interests."

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader reached Bomdila in West Kameng district on Tuesday, starting his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

Asserting that China's stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear, Hua said by arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side's commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalates disputes over the border area.

The Chinese spokesperson also stated that it goes against the momentum of the sound growth of bilateral relations and will not benefit India in anyway.

China will firmly take "necessary measures" to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests, she asserted but did not elaborate on it.

"I don't have much to add. I want to add the issues concerning Tibet have a bearing on China's core interests.

India in disregard of China's concerns obstinately arranged the visit," she said.

"We demand the Indian side immediately stop its actions using the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests and not hype up sensitive issues between the two countries, not artificially damage the foundation of the talks between the two countries on the border issues and bilateral legislations and take concrete actions to safeguard the China-India relations," she said.

China claims parts of Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and had previously warned that if India allowed the visit of the Dalai Lama, whom it calls an "anti-China separatist", it would cause "serious damage" to ties.

China is sensitive to the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang region in Arunachal which happens to be the birth place of the sixth Dalai Lama, who was born in 1683, and is at the centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

Hua also rejected Minister of Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju's remarks that India never interfered in Beijing's affairs and has respected the "One China" policy, and thus China should not interfere in India's internal affairs.

"China upholds the policy of not interfering with other countries internal affairs. This is unquestionable."

"But in disregard to China's concerns, India arranged the visit of Dalai Lama to the disputed areas. This issue goes beyond internal affairs," she said.

Chinese officials in off the record conversations with the media said China is really angry about the Dalai Lama's visit specially because he was accompanied by a minister.

Unlike previous visits, the officials said the Dalai Lama was accompanied by a minister which makes it different.

http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2017/04/05/dalai-lamas-arunachal-pradesh-visit-triggers-a-war-of-words-be_a_22027191/

'Unlike his predecessors', Chinese media slams PM Modi on Dalai Lama; says wouldn't allow India a 'free ride'



File photo: Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama (L) holds a souvenir as Narendra Modi looks on during the inauguration of the International Seminar on Buddhist Heritage in Vadodara. (AFP)

DNA Web | April 05, 2017

Beijing has voiced concerns over the issue, but New Delhi claimed that China shouldn't intervene in its "internal affairs." This is absurd, said state-run Chinese tabloid Global Times.

A day after India hit out at China over its objection to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, Chinese media on Wednesday said it would not allow India a 'free ride' on its economic growth while jeopardising Beijing's core interests.

China has kept a close watch on the Dalai Lama's visit, with the Chinese Foreign Ministry warning India against the visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, saying it will cause 'serious damage' to bilateral ties.

"New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist. Therefore, Delhi

attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing," said state-run Chinese tabloid Global Times.

"China has never thought of making trouble for India, and is handling these issues in accordance with international practices and UN regulations," it added.

On Monday, Minister of State for Home Kiran Rijiju asked China not to interfere in India's internal affairs and asserted that New Delhi respects the "One-China" policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate.

However, terming India's request as 'absurd', the daily said, "The Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship."

Taking pot-shot, Chinese daily said, "Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line."

"Amid Beijing-New Delhi conflicts, the Dalai Lama is now openly used by India as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage," it added.

The daily also claimed that India was exploring the option of linking the strategic border district of Tawang with a railway network, another provocation against Beijing.

India has said that no additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India. It also reiterated the government's position that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

During his visit to the northeastern state, the Dalai Lama will hold religious discourse with devotees in Tawang, Bomdila and other areas.

The Dalai Lama had last visited Arunachal Pradesh in November 2009.

[http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-using-dalai-lama-as-diplomatic-tool-wouldn't-allow-it-a-free-ride-says-chinese-media-2382026](http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-using-dalai-lama-as-diplomatic-tool-wouldn-t-allow-it-a-free-ride-says-chinese-media-2382026)

Dalai Lama in Arunachal: Why China's warning about "damaged relations with India" is hollow talk

China's state media often comes up with contradictory views on India and the latest threat over the Dalai Lama's presence in Arunachal is no exception. China has much bigger stakes today, economic and strategic, when it comes to India.

By Shubham Ghosh | International Business Times | April 05, 2017

Global Times, the leading Chinese daily affiliated to the flagship People's Daily has a knack of displaying Beijing's love-hate relationship vis-a-vis India. On Wednesday (April 5), while it took a strong exception to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which the Chinese claims to be their own, saying "it damages the China-India relationship", it also said in another piece that "cooperation between the two emerging Asian powers over Internet-related technologies is likely to provide a good platform to strengthen their future relations".

Read more: [Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit: India dismisses China's warning: will it affect Beijing's stand on Masood Azhar and India's NSG bid?](#)

Similarly, in March, the same Chinese media had accused India of considering Beijing's much talked-about Belt and Road initiative from a geopolitical perspective which would only bar it from reaping the benefits offered by the initiative.

It was also in the same month the same daily had advised the country's rulers to take a fresh look at Narendra Modi's India saying: "Beijing-New Delhi ties have recently entered a subtle and delicate phase, observers soon started to pay close attention to how the bilateral relationship will develop after Modi tightens his grip on power."

Even before that, in October 2016, the Global Times had wholeheartedly praised India's growth story, saying: "China doesn't have the capability to limit India's manufacturing development. What China is capable of is preventing Chinese investment from capitalising on India's admired growth outlook, indisputably an unwise choice."

So given these inconsistent stances of the country's media when it comes to India, one feels Beijing's latest rhetoric on the Dalai Lama's visit to northeast is more of a hollow threat.

Expertspeak:

Former India Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) Intelligence Corps Head Colonel Ramani Hariharan said an overhype about Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh is in play but it's China's own making.

He also said that this is not the first time China has objected about issues related to Dalai Lama. The only difference is that the Narendra Modi government's comment has been made in public unlike in the past when India conveyed the same views diplomatically. That's Modi's leadership style.

According to Col Hariharan, China is raising the hype because it is a bit uncertain about CPEC with a huge investment riding on it after India raised the issue of the project violating India's sovereignty (China's core interest). India's support would have made sure of success and added to its brand value.

"China has also come down in India's trust after it mindlessly refuses to cooperate on terrorist Azhar Masood issue. So instead of semantic jugglery, China has to show some reciprocal sensitivity to India's reservations. Otherwise we can expect the impasse to continue," he said.

For one, China knows very well that its relation with India in the second decade of the 21st century is no more dominated by symbolic issues like Tibet. Tibet has traditionally been an issue over which Beijing has shown the world its military and diplomatic might and has always condemned those who dared to take a sympathetic stand on the Dalai Lama, who Beijing views as a symbol of anti-China separatist activities.

But today, it's no more the case. Also at the same time, China needs to get its rhetoric going, for if it gives up the strategy of bashing India over sheltering the Dalai Lama, it could give a message to the world that Beijing has turned soft on the issue. It cannot afford to not put up a stunt.

India plays Dalai Lama card to counter China's resistance to it internationally

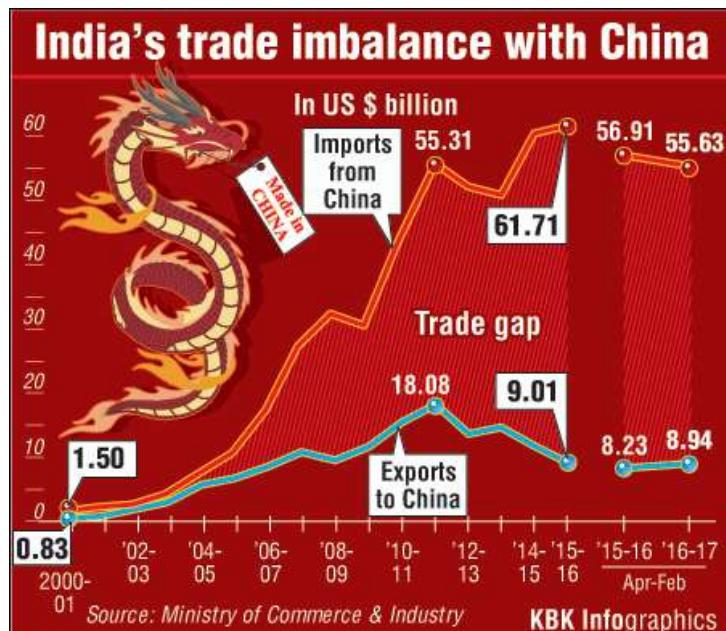
Secondly, as the Global Times has rightly analysed, a more assertive India is now using the Dalai Lama as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage vis-a-vis China, especially in the wake of the latter blocking India's entry in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and also shielding Masood Azhar from being blacklisted.

The playing of the Lama card to put back the pressure on China is New Delhi's deliberate assertion in the power game in Asia and Beijing is clearly frustrated by India's diplomatic gesture, which is more open in the Modi era.

The various moves to link the northeast through railway tracks have also irked the Chinese and hence the roaring.

But economically, China needs India

But China, which has in the recent past acknowledged India's growth at a



India's Trade Imbalance with China Graphic KBK Graphics

India's scheme gains momentum in India, the Chinese will not forgo the opportunity to be part of India's growth story and benefit from it for its own interests.

Strategically, China has a plateful of issues today

Secondly, China has been facing challenges from various quarters. While the US under Barack Obama and his successor Donald Trump have not entertained Beijing much, the issues related to the dispute in the South China Sea and over North Korea's reckless nuclear belligerence have also put it in a spot internationally.

China's all-weather friend Pakistan is of little use

All-weather friend Pakistan has always showed China its loyalty but it has done so to get the latter's blessings in its fight with its arch-rival. India, on the other hand, has worked hard on improving its defence collaborations across the world (be it with the US, in South Asia, the Asia-Pacific or Indian Ocean region) and there is very little to differentiate when it comes to both countries' foreign policy reach-out at the moment.

pace better than its own in the 2015-16 fiscal, also knows that it cannot win against India just by flexing its muscles today. Economically, the Chinese exports much more to India (USD 55.63 billion in FY 2016-2017, see above graphics) compared to what India sends to China (only USD 8.94 billion in FY 2016-17) and in that sense, India's dependence on China is minuscule in relation to how much the neighbouring country needs our market.

Moreover, as the 'Make in

In fact, India has also made efforts towards working closely with China on platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS. Hence, there is very little space for the Chinese to manoeuvre against India in a system where both operate as frenemies and require each other to give shape to a new emerging world.

As far as China's threat on "damaged relations" with India, it just reflecting the Dragon's old habit of intimidating its rival. In reality, Beijing is frustrated with India's growing courage to take it head on and it is showing.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/dalai-lama-arunachal-why-chinas-warning-about-damaged-relations-india-hollow-talk-722060>

China warns India after Dalai Lama visits Arunachal Pradesh

By Satya Singh | News Patrolling | April 05, 2017

China's anger over Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed regions of Arunachal Pradesh was clearly evident when it issued a warning to India, saying that it will take necessary measures to safeguard its territorial sovereignty. China also said that Dalai Lama's visit has caused serious damage to bilateral ties between the two countries. Soon after Dalai Lama's visit, China lodged a formal protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing Vijay Gokhale. While speaking to reporters, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, "India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations."

However, Indian government said that China should not interfere in India's internal affairs. They said that India respects the neighboring country's 'One China' policy and expects China to show similar respect in terms of a country's internal matters. The Indian government also said that Dalai Lama's visit was a religious visit and not a political one. As such, China should stop creating unnecessary trouble over a trivial issue.

<http://www.newspatrolling.com/china-warns-india-after-dalai-lama-visits-arunachal-pradesh/>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit: Don't meddle in our internal policies, India tells China

By Lakshmi Iyer | Mumbai Mirror | April 05, 2017

NEW DELHI India has taken a strict stand on the row over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday, asking China "not to create artificial controversy" or interfere in the country's internal policies.

In a strong statement, Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said that the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to the border state was completely religious and no political motive should be attached to it. Rijiju also said that India respected the "One-China" policy and expected Beijing to reciprocate.

"There is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," the Union minister said, adding that India had never interfered in China's internal affairs.

The Union Ministry of External Affairs also issued a statement, pointing out that His Holiness had visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions and that the Dalai Lama was a revered religious leader, "who is deeply respected by the Indian people".

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities, and visits to various states of India. No artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh," the MEA said.

The reactions were prompted by China's statement that allowing the Tibetan leader to go to Arunachal would cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties. It had also asked New Delhi to make a "choice", the warning coming for the second time in a month.

The Dalai Lama, who is on a visit to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, will spend a week in Arunachal (April 4 to April 10). He will also visit Tawang close to the Tibet-Bhutan borders, where the largest Tibetan monastery in the country is located.

However, the Dalai Lama's official website announced a slight change in his schedule due to adverse weather condition in the Northeast.

"Due to severe weather conditions in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's schedule for his upcoming visit to Arunachal

Pradesh has been affected. His Holiness will now be arriving in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh, on April 4 afternoon," the website said.

<http://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/news/india/dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-dont-meddle-in-our-internal-policies-india-tells-china/articleshow/58019586.cms>

Chinese expert accuses India of using Dalai Lama's north east visit to upset Beijing

ANI | DNA | April 05, 2017

A Chinese expert has accused India of deliberately using the nine-day visit of Tibetan spiritual leader -- The Dalai Lama -- to the north-eastern part of the country to upset the government in Beijing, and urged New Delhi to deliver on its political commitments on Tibet-related issues.

The Global Times quoted the expert from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, who requested anonymity, as saying that the 14th Dalai Lama's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, will affect relations between the two nations.

He warned that Beijing could take steps against any government that invites the Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lama began his nine-day visit to "Arunachal Pradesh," called South Tibet in China, on Tuesday.

The expert said Tawang is the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso, which gives the place religious meaning to Tibetans.

India has maintained that the visit to the north east has no political angle behind it, and is entirely religious in its objectives.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang had last week said that Beijing is firmly opposed to any visit by the Dalai Lama to the disputed border region between China and India.

(This article has not been edited by DNA's editorial team and is auto-generated from an agency feed.)

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-chinese-expert-accuses-india-of-using-dalai-lama-s-north-east-visit-to-upset-beijing-2382190>

Despite Chinese opposition, Dalai Lama arrives in Arunachal Pradesh

By Bikash Singh | ET Bureau | April 05, 2017

GUWAHATI: Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama arrived at Bomdila on Tuesday on a visit to Arunachal Pradesh, ignoring warning from China.

Dalai Lama was originally scheduled to fly to Tawang from Guwahati, but severe weather forced him to reschedule the trip. His chopper could not take off due to inclement weather, so he travelled by road to reach Bomdila in western Arunachal Pradesh.

The Lama will be in the state till April 12. China had warned India against Dalai Lama visiting Arunachal Pradesh, saying this could damage diplomatic ties.

The two countries have a border dispute with China claiming parts of Arunachal Pradesh, including Tawang region, as southern Tibet.

Dalai Lama will deliver a discourse at the Buddha Park in Bomdila on Wednesday. He is expected to stay at Dirang, around 14 km from Bomdila, before proceeding to Tawang on Thursday.

Tawang has made elaborate preparation for the spiritual leader's visit, and has a festive look with colourful flags and flowers. Devotees and people from villages have started descending to the town.

Also, around 3,000 devotees from neighbouring Bhutan are camping in Tawang. After the Tawang visit, he will return to Itanagar. Last time, the Dalai Lama visited Arunachal was in 2009.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/bad-weather-forces-the-dalai-lama-to-reschedule-tawang-trip/articleshow/58007010.cms>

China slams 'obstinate' India, says Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit will 'escalate' border tensions

China said that India in disregard of China's concerns obstinately arranged Dalai Lama's visit to the eastern part of the India-China border causing serious damage to India China relations.

By Ananth Krishnan | Beijing | India Today | April 05, 2017

Suggesting it wanted India to stop the nine-day visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Foreign Ministry in Beijing said: "We demand India stop using the Dalai Lama to do anything that undermines China's interests and we also demand the Indian side not hype up sensitive issues between India and China".

China also called in Indian Ambassador to China Vijay Gokhale to lodge a protest this afternoon.

"India in disregard of China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai [Lama]'s visit to the eastern part of the India China border causing serious damage to China's interests and to India China relations," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying.

"The Chinese side firmly opposes this move and will lodge firm= representations with the Indian side". Hua did not say how those representations would be lodged, but officials said this would likely be done in Beijing and New Delhi.

RELIGIOUS VISIT ARE EMPTY WORDS

Hua also dismissed India's suggestion of the visit to Arunachal being "religious" without a political message, saying those were "empty words".

"We have noted the statement form officials of the Indian side," Hua said. "Can you tell me honestly do you seriously believe the Dalai [Lama] is only a religious leader? The answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore his visit to this place will not be of a purely religious purpose. So using these empty words to define this arrangement is not reasonable".

China's strong statement comes as State media in Beijing on Wednesday accused India of trying to "play the Tibet card" in response to recent strains in ties, such as China's investments in PoK and its opposition to India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

HOPE TO MAINTAIN GOOD MOMENTUM: CHINA

The view in Beijing is that the current visit by the Dalai Lama to Tawang, which is at the centre of Beijing's territorial claims in the eastern sector, is of a higher profile than in 2009, with the Tibetan spiritual leader being accompanied by MoS Home Kiren Rijiju.

Hua said the visit ran "counter" to the "good momentum" in ties. "We hope we can work together to maintain the growth of relations," Hua said. "We know India and China are two close neighbours and countries in Asia. Cooperation between us will serve interests of the region. We hope to maintain good

momentum of growth but this move runs counter to this wish, so we hope India stops doing things that undermine our interests."

Hua said the Dalai Lama issue, however, "goes beyond internal affairs". "The role played by the Dalai Lama is clear to all. The issues concerning Tibet have a bearing on China's core interests. India in disregard of China's concerns obstinately arranged the visit. This will for sure trigger China's dissatisfaction. And this will not bring any benefit to India".

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh-china-india-border-tensions/1/920884.html>

"India using Dalai Lama's visit to upset Beijing", claims Chinese media

The 14th Dalai Lama has reached Arunachal Pradesh and held a preaching session in Bomdila on April 4

Tehelka Web Desk | April 05, 2017

Chinese state-run publication on April 5 claimed that India is using the Dalai Lama as a diplomatic leverage to challenge China's 'bottom line'. This came after minister of state for home affairs Kiran Rijiju asked China not to interfere in the internal matters of India.

Rijiju said, India never interfered in Beijing's affairs, has respected the "One China" policy, so China should not interfere in India's internal affairs. "There is no political angle behind his holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious", he said.

However, China said that India's request is "absurd". "The Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship", the daily said.

"New Delhi may have underestimated Beijing's determination to safeguard its core interests. Many countries have pledged not to extend invitations to the Dalai Lama. As the two largest emerging economies, China and India have great potential for cooperation," warned the daily publication.

"Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line," it added.

The state-run media said that India is using the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh to upset China and India should deliver their political commitments on Tibet-related issues.

Despite constant, objection of China, the 14th Dalai Lama has reached Arunachal Pradesh and held a preaching session in Bomdila on April 4. He arrived by road due to bad weather. The spiritual leader was accompanied by CM Khandu and high-ranking police and civil officials.

<http://www.tehelka.com/2017/04/india-using-dalai-lamas-visit-to-upset-beijing-claims-chinese-media/>

China is 'highly uncomfortable' with India hosting Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh

Reuters | Business Insider | April 05, 2017

China said on Wednesday that India's decision to host Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on a contested stretch of land on the India-China border would cause serious damage to relations between the two countries.

Plans for the Dalai Lama to kick off on Wednesday a week-long trip to Arunachal Pradesh, an eastern Himalayan region administered by New Delhi , but claimed by China as "southern Tibet", has raised hackles in Beijing, which labels the monk a dangerous separatist.

"China expresses firm opposition to this and will lodge stern representations with the Indian side," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular briefing in the Chinese capital.

By ignoring China's concerns and persisting in arranging the trip, India had "severely damaged China's interests and China-India relations", she said.

"We demand that India immediately cease using the Dalai Lama's mistaken behavior to damage China's interests," Hua added.

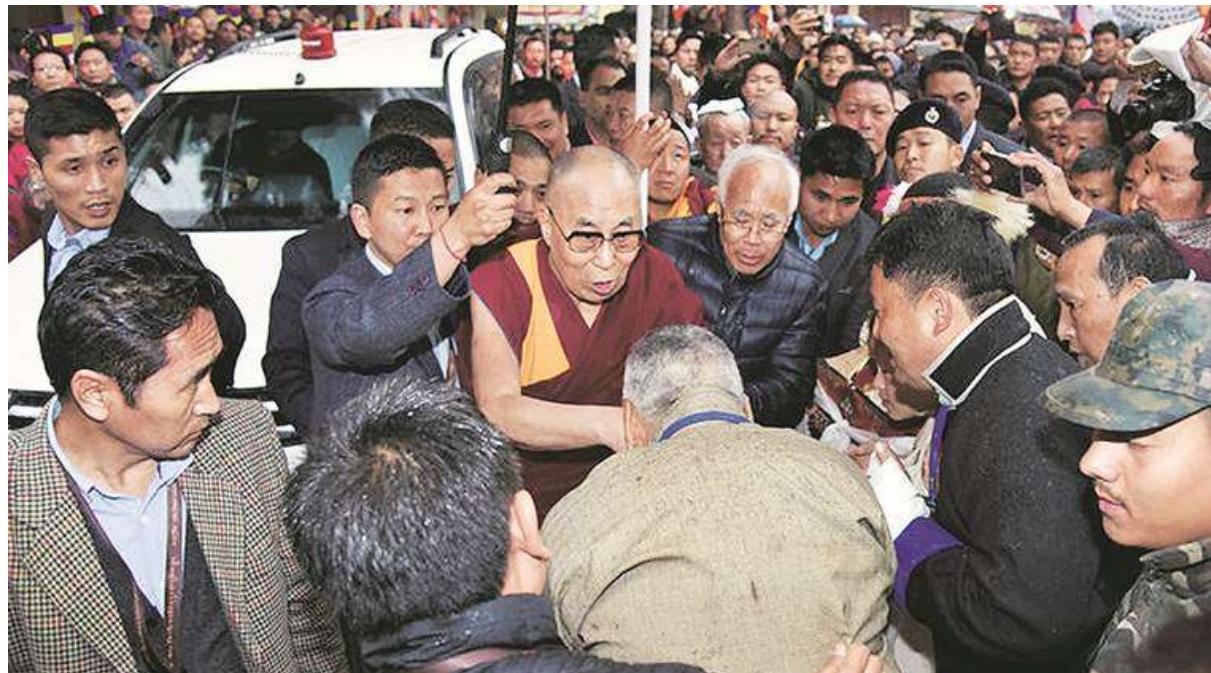
"It will not bring any benefit to India. China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights."

<http://www.businessinsider.in/China-is-highly-uncomfortable-with-India-hosting-Dalai-Lama-in-Arunachal-Pradesh/articleshow/58026876.cms>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal: China lodges protest, talks of 'serious damage' to bilateral ties

China has always expressed reservations about the Dalai Lama, who it considers 'an anti-China separatist.'

Express Web Desk | New Delhi | April 05, 2017



The Dalai Lama at a monastery in Bomdila. (Source: Reuters. File)

China strongly objected to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday, saying it will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties with India. "India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying was quoted as saying by PTI. The country vowed to take necessary action to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests.

China on Wednesday lodged a protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing, Vijay Gokhale, over the Dalai Lama's visit. China has always expressed reservations about the Dalai Lama, who it considers 'an anti-China separatist.' Beijing had also seen as a 'provocation' when the Dalai Lama met President [Pranab Mukherjee](#) recently in New Delhi.

The Tibetan spiritual leader arrived in Bomdila on Tuesday, as part of his nine-day visit to the northeast. His arrival in Tawang has been delayed till April 6 or 7 due to bad weather.

China considers Arunachal Pradesh a disputed region and claims parts of the state as southern Tibet. Ahead of the 81-year-old leader's arrival to the state, China had issued two warnings to India.



"China's stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear. India is keenly aware of the role played by the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side's commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalate disputes over the border area," Chunying told PTI.

The Chinese state-run Global Times on Wednesday said New Delhi may have underestimated Beijing's determination to protect its core interests by allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh. The newspaper is known for closely echoing the opinions and concerns of the ruling Communist Party.

The article came a day after Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju asked China not to interfere in India's internal affairs.

"There is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," Rijiju told reporters on Tuesday.

"We respect Beijing's 'One-China' policy and we expect China to reciprocate," he added. Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said the state is "not a disputed territory" and is part of the Union of India.

In response to Rijiju's statement, Chunying told PTI, "We have noted the statement of the official from the Indian side."

"Could you tell me honestly do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader. I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using the empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable. We demand the Indian side to stop this move of undermining Chinese interests," she was quoted as saying by PTI.

The External Affairs Ministry separately said no 'artificial controversy' should be created around the leader's visit.

With inputs from PTI.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dalai-lamas-visit-to-india-caused-serious-damage-to-bilateral-ties-china-4600402/>

"India using Dalai Lama visit to Tawang to upset China": Here's what China media is saying about spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal Pradesh

State-run Chinese media said on Tuesday said that "India is using the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh to upset China and New Delhi should deliver on its political commitments to Beijing on Tibet-related issues".

FE Online | April 05, 2017

China is rattled with Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh it seems! State-run Chinese media said on Tuesday said that "India is using the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh to upset China and New Delhi should deliver on its political commitments to Beijing on Tibet-related issues". The Chinese media also slammed PM [Narendra Modi](#) and said, "Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line." However, Dalai Lama responded to China's objection to his Arunachal Pardesh visit saying New Delhi has never used him against Beijing.



The 14th Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang bordering China will hurt Sino-Indian ties because China opposes any official invitations to him, the Global Times quoted an unnamed Chinese analyst as saying.

The 14th Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang bordering China will hurt Sino-Indian ties because China opposes any official invitations to him, the Global Times quoted an unnamed Chinese analyst as saying. "The Dalai's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang, which China hopes will be returned, will affect relations between China and India," an analyst from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told the paper on condition of anonymity. Reacting to Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju's remarks that the Dalai Lama's visit is "purely religious," and that there is no political angle behind it, the expert said this is not the first time India has used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China, especially when bilateral talks fail to include their demands or to "pander to domestic anti-China issues".

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, which is currently on a holiday for the Tomb-sweeping festival, has not responded to a query seeking its reaction to External Affairs Ministry remarks as well as comments by Rijiju over the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as southern Tibet.

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader yesterday arrived at Bomdila in West Kameng district, marking the beginning of his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh. "India should deliver its political commitments to China on Tibet-

related issues, including opposition to separatists," he said, noting that China would take steps against any government which invites the Dalai Lama.

(With inputs from agencies)

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/india-using-dalai-lama-visit-to-tawang-to-upset-china-heres-what-china-media-is-saying-about-spiritual-leaders-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh/615723/>

Dalai Lama's Tawang Visit Triggers Tensions, China Threatens to "Escalate" Border Issues with India

THE CITIZEN BUREAU | April 05, 2017

NEW DELHI: India and China are engaged currently in their worst diplomatic spat in recent years over the nine day visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh with Beijing threatening to re-visit and 'escalate' border issues with India.

Even as junior minister Kiren Rijiju told China to mind its own business, China issued a strong statement accusing India of being "obstinate" and "disregarding China's concerns." This coincides with the arrival of the Dalai Lama in Tawang.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry made it clear that this visit will "escalate" border disputes between the two countries. And spokesperson Hua Chunying further stated, "We demand India stop using the Dalai Lama to do anything that undermines China's interests and we also demand the Indian side not hype up sensitive issues between India and China".

"India in disregard of China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai [Lama]'s visit to the eastern part of the India China border causing serious damage to China's interests and to India China relations," he added.

"The Chinese side firmly opposes this move and will lodge firm representations with the Indian side", Hua said dismissing New Delhi's claim of the visit being "religious" as just "empty words".

"We have noted the statement from officials of the Indian side," Hua said. "Can you tell me honestly do you seriously believe the Dalai [Lama] is only a religious leader? The answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore his visit to this place will not be of a purely religious purpose. So

using these empty words to define this arrangement is not reasonable".

Hua further countered Rijiju's comments of the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh being an internal matter saying that it "goes beyond internal affairs." Hua further added, "the role played by the Dalai Lama is clear to all. The issues concerning Tibet have a bearing on China's core interests. India in disregard of China's concerns obstinately arranged the visit. This will for sure trigger China's dissatisfaction."

"We know India and China are two close neighbours and countries in Asia. Cooperation between us will serve interests of the region. We hope to maintain good momentum of growth but this move runs counter to this wish, so we hope India stops doing things that undermine our interests" Hua said in a response that has followed a volley of exchanges between the two sides, with China using both the Foreign Ministry and the official media to warn India of consequences.

The first direct reference to border disputes being escalated has come Wednesday from Beijing now, and could serve as a major setback to all that has been achieved by successive Indian governments---starting with former BJP Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee---to place these issues on the backburner of continued negotiations and move ahead on economic and other cooperation. Significantly since the talks began, and progressed, China has stopped claiming Sikkim, removing it from its map in what was seen as a major development by India's foreign office and diplomacy experts.

China that has been warning against the visit to what it calls 'South Tibet' had stepped up its opposition with an article in the state run Global Times that openly stated that this visit "gravely damages the China-India relationship."

Global Times, a mouthpiece of the government in China, further states, "Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line. The Dalai Lama was received by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee in December, and invited by Pema Khandu, "chief minister" of "Arunachal Pradesh," to Tawang this month. "It's a behavioral change you are seeing. India is more assertive," Rijiju openly said in an interview with Reuters earlier."

The article further states that India might have underestimated China adding, "New Delhi may have underestimated Beijing's determination to safeguard its core interests." And again, "New Delhi should overcome its suspicions against Beijing. China doesn't allow India to free ride on its economic growth while jeopardizing Beijing's core interests."

This was after a direct recognition of what the article outlined as: "New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist. Therefore, Delhi attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing." And of course, went on to state that China was not trying to make trouble for India but was acting as per UN regulations and international practices.

Significantly, there seem to be no signs of a rapprochement with New Delhi making it clear through junior minister Kiren Rijiju that ""Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India, and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs." China has now retored with a "this is absurd" with the article going on to point out that, "the Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship."

Interestingly, China has also brought up the decision by the government to link Tawang with a railway network maintaining this to be "another provocation against Beijing." The concerns were further highlighted by the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang last week at a press conference where he said that China was firmly opposed to the visit by the Dalai Lama to Tawang.

"China is gravely concerned about this. Our stance on the eastern part of the China-India border is clear and consistent," Lu said.

Last year New Delhi had given permission for a meeting at the Dharamshala of Chinese separatists invited from other parts of the world. The Citizen had reported this in detail [The--Dragon-Fumes-as-India-Facilitates-a-Chinese-Dissidents-Conference-at-Dharamsala](#) along with other reports. Back diplomacy between the two countries at the time had made New Delhi back off, with visas to some of the prominent dissidents being cancelled, and the meeting whittled down into a non-event.

China, however, has been firm on preventing India's entry into the nuclear suppliers group. And has also taken a consistent stand on Masood Azhar, that India sees as being in opposition to its position and articulated concerns. The current face off over the Dalai Lama is clearly a response to this, with experts here now waiting to see who will be the first to blink. So far India has not backed off, Rijiju has described the visit by the Dalai Lama as being part of India's internal affairs, to which China has ratcheted its response with the above warnings.

<http://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/OldNewsPage/?Id=10338&Dalai/Lama%E2%80%99s/Tawang/Visit/Triggers/Tensions,/China/Threatens/to/%E2%80%9CEscalate%E2%80%9D/Border/Issues/with/India>

Dalai Lama blames parochial Chinese officials for controversy with India

EEF | Dhaka Tribune | April 05, 2017



Indian security personnel stand behind a poster of exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as he delivers religious teachings at the Buddha Stadium in Bomdila in India's north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh state on April 5, 2017 AFP

The Buddhist leader was in Bomdila, a town that suffered through one of the final phases of the brief 1962 war between India and China over the sovereignty of Arunachal Pradesh, disputed by both powers since the creation of the Indian state in the mid-20th century

The Dalai Lama on Wednesday accused Chinese politicians of narrow-mindedness for the controversy between India and China over his visit to a northeastern Indian state disputed by New Delhi and Beijing.

He insisted that his visit to Arunachal Pradesh was purely religious, not political.

"They consider me to be a demon, though I don't think anybody really thinks I am a demon," said the smiling Dalai Lama, Tensing Gyatso, in statements during a press conference on the second day of his visit to the state.

The 1989 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, awarded for his peaceful pursuit for Tibetan independence, said many Chinese people love India, but it was the narrow-minded Chinese politicians who have been accusing Indian authorities of using him against Beijing.

The Dalai Lama's visit to India was criticised by China, who claimed it could affect bilateral relations, something rejected by New Delhi, who recalled that he had already visited the region six times in the past.

He said Wednesday that China did not need to worry about his visit nor over his aspirations regarding Tibet, as his goal was not necessarily independence, but rather increased sovereignty.

He highlighted that he always admired the European Union's spirit: individual sovereign nations bound by a common interest.

He also insisted that Tibet aspired for self-governance and autonomy within China.

The Buddhist leader was in Bomdila, a town that suffered through one of the final phases of the brief 1962 war between India and China over the sovereignty of Arunachal Pradesh, disputed by both powers since the creation of the Indian state in the mid-20th century.

The Dalai Lama recalled Wednesday that it held a special biographical value, as it was the first Indian territory he stepped on as he escaped from Chinese troops in 1959 to go into exile.

Expressing his thanks to India, which houses the Tibetan government in exile in Dharamsala in the northeastern part of the country, the Dalai Lama said he was "the longest guest of the Indian government."

India and China are in regular contact to address issues and pending claims on their bilateral agenda in order to ease tensions, although there are frequent mutual accusations of military incursions into the border area.

While India governs Arunachal Pradesh, with China claiming an 80,000sqkm area of the state, the communist regime is the de facto administrator of Aksai Chin, bordering both countries to the west.

<http://www.dhakatribune.com/world/south-asia/2017/04/05/dalai-lama-blames-parochial-chinese-officials-controversy-india/>

Dalai Lama fled to India after failed armed rebellion

By Julia Simpson | Political Lore | April 05, 2017

Dalai Lama has the great biography, one fact of it is his fleeing to India in 1959. That year Lama fled from Tibet after a ‘failed armed rebellion’ and ‘huge demonstrations in Lhasa’, the Foreign Ministry of China said yesterday reacting to his comments.

Dalai Lama, according to the Chinese authorities, is the anti-China element who had no other option but to escape in 1959 due to increased Chinese military action. Lama fled from Tibet to India where lived over decades.

The issue of Dalai Lama is very painful for China, yesterday, the Chinese Foreign Minister explained the situation,

‘As it is known to all, the 14th Dalai Lama is an anti-China separatist who has long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the reactionary group of high-ranking feudal serf-owners in Tibet in March 1959,’

The MFA also noted that Dalai Lama’s remarks serve the anti-China separatists purpose, and regarding the staying of the spirit leader in India, the Ministry answered unequivocally:

‘... the Chinese government is resolutely opposed to any country’s support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group’s anti-China separatist activities’.

Dalai Lama in 1959: history and ‘moment of freedom’

Dalai Lama recalled the dangerous events of 1959 – on March 10, 1959, there were huge demonstrations in Lhasa (Tibet’s capital), remembers Lhamo Dondrub (the real name of spiritual leader). There was an evident increasing of the Chinese military action, so a week after, Dalai Lama had no option but to escape.

Being arrived at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, the spiritual leader felt the unbelievable “moment of freedom”, that day 58 years ago is still fresh in the memory of the 81-year-old man. This weel Lama attended religious engagements in Tawang, RFA informed.

<https://www.politicallore.com/dalai-lama-fled-india-failed-armed-rebellion/10613>

No Political motive in Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit: Rijiju

The Navhind Times | April 05, 2017

New Delhi: In the face of China's protest over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday that no political motive should be attributed to the Tibetan spiritual leader's trip to the northeastern state.

"India has always been non-interfering in the neighbours' internal affairs in our approach," Rijiju told reporters here.

"In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours," he said.

When Dalai Lama is in Arunachal Pradesh, he will be confined only to religious matters. He is not there to make any political statement and he is not there with any political motive."

Rijiju, who himself hails from Arunachal Pradesh and is scheduled to go there on Wednesday to meet the Dalai Lama, said India has never questioned China's sovereignty and "has respectfully adhered to the one-China policy".

"So we expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matters," he stated.

Asserting that Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory, the Minister said: "We have certain issues with regard to delineation of the boundary on the spots, on the ground along McMahon Line because it is not being demarcated on the ground. That is why there is a talk between the special representatives of India and China and the people of Arunachal Pradesh hope that an amicable solution can be reached in the foreseeable future time.'

Rijiju's remarks came after India's official statement earlier in the day that no "additional colour" should be given to the Dalai Lama's visit this month.

"The government has clearly stated on several occasions that HHDL (His Highness Dalai Lama) is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," it said.

Chia in March said ties with India would be hit if New Delhi allowed the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which is claimed by Beijing.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said Beijing was concerned over India permitting the Tibetan spiritual leader to visit the northeastern state of India.

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/no-political-motive-in-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-rijju/>

How India-China traded barbs over Dalai Lama's spiritual venture in Arunachal Pradesh

By Mohammed Uzair Shaikh | India.com | April 05, 2017



Beijing has warned India of interrupting its "free-ride" of economic growth if it continues to adversely affect the "core interests" of China

visit to Arunachal with a political lens.

Lamenting grave allegations against New Delhi, China, through its official publications, accused India of assisting Dalai Lama in his alleged propagation of soft separatism in Tibet. Beijing, for years, has considered Arunachal Pradesh as a territory of Tibet. Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed state evoked a sharp reaction from the nation.

"The Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship," said an editorial in the state-run *Global Times*.

Beijing further warned India of interrupting its "free-ride" of economic growth if it continues to adversely affect "core interests" of China.

New Delhi, April 5: Dalai Lama, the most revered Buddhist figure across the globe, turned into a point of contention between India and China. The two South Asian neighbours indulged in heated war of words over Dalai Lama's visit to the Indian northeastern state. As the controversy snowballed into a serious row between the two nations, the Tibetan spiritual leader himself weighed in, urging Beijing not to view his

“We demand the Indian side immediately stop wrong actions, not hype up sensitive issues and take concrete steps to safeguard growth of India-China relations,” Beijing’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

New Delhi was quick to retaliate to its eastern neighbour, recommending China to not to intervene in India’s internal affairs. “China should not interfere just as we do not interfere in their internal matters,” said MoS Home, Kiren Rijiju, who hails from West Kameng district of the state.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) raised apprehensions over the manner in which Beijing objected to Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal. “No additional colour should be ascribed to his (Dalai Lama’s) religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India,” said the official release, adding that Beijing should not consider India as a supporter of any sort of political movements challenging the Chinese establishment.

Arunachal Pradesh’s chief minister Pema Khandu lashed out at China for considering the state as a disputed territory. “Let me get this straight. China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbour,” he said, further adding that Arunachal is an integral part of India.

Chinese Foreign Ministry once again retaliated on Wednesday, objecting to Dalai Lama’s visit to Tawang region. India has been accused by China of illegally usurping the territory.

“India in disregard to China’s concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama’s visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China’s interests and China-India relations,” the Chinese Foreign Ministry, furter adding that New Delhi should “return” Tawang to China.

As the bilateral heat escalated, Dalai Lama himself entered the fray to defend India. “China considers me a demon, but I’m not. I am India’s longest standing guest. India has never used me against China,” the 81-year-old spiritual preacher said. However, Dalai Lama did not refrain to underline his views on China’s alleged usurpation of Tibet. “China must give us meaningful self-rule, autonomy, and must take care of the environment in Tibet. China has the highest population of Tibetan Buddhists,” he added.

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/india-china-traded-barbs-over-141936122.html>

Dalai's Arunachal sojourn beginsLeader takes road to Bomdila

By Pranab Kumar Das | The Telegraph, Calcutta | April 05, 2017



The Dalai Lama arrives at a monastery in Bomdila on Tuesday

Guwahati, April 4: The Dalai Lama, accompanied by Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu, reached the frontier state today to a warm welcome, which heavy rain and fog could not dampen.

Khandu reached Guwahati late last evening after it became clear that inclement weather would not allow the Tibetan spiritual leader to fly to Lumla in Tawang district this morning as scheduled.

They left Guwahati by road around 8 this morning and reached Bomdila, a Buddhist-dominated town in West Kameng district, around 4.30pm. Bomdila is the first stop of the Dalai Lama's trip to the state. Senior BJP leader Sudanshu Mittal joined them in Guwahati for the journey.

The Dalai Lama will be in Bomdila tomorrow, in Dirang on Thursday and in Tawang from Friday to April 12, sources in the chief minister's office told The Telegraph late tonight. They said his visit to Itanagar, scheduled for April 12, had been cancelled. A source said the trip had to be revised because of inclement weather. Earlier, his trip was to start from Lumla in Tawang and end in Itanagar on April 12.

The spiritual leader was accorded a euphoric welcome all along the route - at Tenzing, Rupa and at Bomdila despite the fog and rain. "Almost the whole of Bomdila came to greet him. His followers lined up a kilometre along the road leading to Lower Gompa where he will stay the night. The chief minister also participated in prayers at Bomdila. The preparations were grand," T. Jambey, who came from Tawang, said.

Khandu's accompanying the spiritual leader to Bomdila assumes importance given China's opposition to the trip. China claims Tawang to be an extension of south Tibet, a claim refuted by Delhi. "The chief minister accompanying the Dalai Lama goes to prove the state government's involvement. Around six MLAs were also there to welcome him," an official said.

Speaker T.N. Thongdok, local legislator Japu Deru, parliamentary secretaries Phurpa Tsering and Kumsi Sidisow, the chief secretary, the director-general of police and heads of the district administration were among those who received the Dalai Lama at Bomdila.

The Dalai Lama had last visited the state in 2009 when late Dorjee Khandu, father of the current chief minister, was the chief minister. Sources said the Dalai Lama and the Khandu family "share close ties".

Late tonight, Khandu expressed his gratitude to the Dalai Lama for taking the trouble to travel by road just to meet the people who first received him on his epic journey from Tibet to India way back in 1959. "His Holiness had solemnly resolved to visit Arunachal Pradesh no matter what. Despite the inclement weather that forced cancellation of his chopper, he decided to travel by road. We are humbled and will remain ever grateful to His Holiness. He has fulfilled the prayers of thousands of devotees who have waited eight long years to hear and see him in person."

Yesterday, the Dalai Lama flagged off Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa's Double Ascent Mt Everest Expedition 2017, hugged her warmly and blessed her for her future endeavours, a release said today.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170405/jsp/frontpage/story_144665.jsp#.WQmxZqL-uUk

India rebuffs China on Dalai trip

THE ASIAN AGE | April 05, 2017

Don't meddle in internal affairs, says govt as Tibetan monk arrives in Arunachal.



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama arrives at Bomdila in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. (Photo: PTI)

New Delhi: In a stern message to China on Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, India has asked Beijing not interfere in its internal affairs, saying while it respects the "One China" policy, it expects the same from China.

Minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju said, "there is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs."

Mr Rijiju, who is from Arunachal Pradesh, said the border state was "not a disputed territory" as it was a "full fledged state" and was an integral part and is part of the Union of India. He further added that India has never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expect China to reciprocate.

"There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh," the minister said. He also hoped that with talks on boundary dispute between New Delhi and Beijing going on, people of Arunachal Pradesh are expecting that the issue would be soon resolved.

"I appeal to China not to rake up the Arunachal Pradesh issue unnecessarily as status of the state can't be questioned," he added. Mr Rijiju said the Dalai Lama is visiting Arunachal Pradesh on invitation from people of the state and will confine himself to only religious discourse and he will not make any political statement.

"As a democratic country, India can't interfere in religious affairs of any community," Mr Rijiju said. He claimed that the Arunachal Pradesh government has given state guest honour to the Dalai Lama and is making arrangements for his stay there and that the Tibetan spiritual leader will also visit his village in West Kameng district where he would inaugurate a Buddhist monastery. Dalai Lama had last visited Arunachal Pradesh in November 2009. Mr Rijiju reiterated that people of Arunachal Pradesh want good neighbourly relations with China and want reopening of trading points along the McMahon Line which have been closed since 1962. "The trading points were beneficial. The people of Arunachal Pradesh are looking toward co-operative attitude from China," he said. China has been closely monitoring Dalai Lama's visit, which started from Tuesday, and had warned India against the visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader to Arunachal Pradesh, saying it will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

But New Delhi has maintained that ``no additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India.'' Centre has always stated that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

While stating that no ``artificial controversy'' should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the External Affairs Ministry also referred to the Dalai Lama's website which mentions that he has visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions.

<http://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/050417/india-rebuffs-china-on-dalai-trip.html>

Don't create controversy over Dalai's NE visit, India tells China

Assam Tribune | April 05, 2017

NEW DELHI, April 4 - Taking umbrage at China's objection to Dalai Lama's ongoing visit to Arunachal Pradesh, India today said that no artificial controversy should be created around the religious leader's visit to the northeastern state.

Official sources in the Ministry of External Affairs said that the government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities, and visits to various states of India, sources added.

India pointed out that the Dalai Lama, who is on a visit to the Northeast has visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions. The Dalai Lama had visited Arunachal Pradesh in 1983, 1996, 1997, 2003 (twice) and 2009, in addition to the ongoing tour.

During his 12-day tour of the northeastern states, including Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the Dalai Lama delivered lectures at several institutions besides attending the Namami Brahmaputra festival in Guwahati.

PTI adds: Reacting sharply, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju asked China not to interfere in India's internal affairs and asserted that New Delhi respects the 'One-China' policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate.

"There is no political angle behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious," he said, adding, "Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs."

India has never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expects China to reciprocate, the minister told reporters.

The minister, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said the border state is 'not a disputed territory' and is part of the Union of India and is a 'full-fledged state'. "There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

Rijiju said talks between New Delhi and Beijing on the boundary dispute are going on and the people of Arunachal Pradesh are expecting that the issue will be soon resolved. "I appeal to China not to rake up the Arunachal Pradesh issue unnecessarily as status of the state can't be questioned," he said.

During his visit to the northeastern state, the Dalai Lama will hold religious discourse with devotees in Tawang, Bomdila and other areas.

Rijiju said the Dalai Lama is visiting Arunachal Pradesh at the invitation of the people of the state and will confine himself to only religious discourse and he will not make any political statement. "As a democratic country, India can't interfere in religious affairs of any community," he added.

The Arunachal Pradesh government has accorded state guest honour to the Dalai Lama and is making arrangements for his stay there, Rijiju said, adding the Tibetan spiritual leader will also visit his (Rijiju's) village in West Kameng district where he will inaugurate a Buddhist monastery.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0517/at052>

As Dalai Lama visits Arunachal Pradesh, China vows to take ‘necessary measures’

PTI | Beijing | April 05, 2017

India "arranging the visit" has caused “serious damage” to the bilateral ties, says Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

China warned on Wednesday that it will take “necessary measures” to defend its territorial sovereignty and interests after India “obstinately” allowed the Dalai Lama to visit the “disputed” parts of Arunachal Pradesh, causing “serious damage” to the bilateral ties.

“India, in disregard to China’s concerns, obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama’s visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of the China-India border, causing serious damage to China’s interests and China-India relations,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters.

“China firmly opposes this move and will lodge representations with the Indian side,” she said.

“China’s stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear. India is keenly aware of the role played by the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side’s commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalate disputes over the border area,” she said.

“It goes against the momentum of the sound growth of bilateral relations and will not benefit India in anyway,” she said.

“China will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests. We demand the Indian side immediately stop its actions using the Dalai Lama to undermine China’s interests and not hype up sensitive issues between the two countries, not artificially damage the foundation of the talks between the two countries on the border issues and bilateral legislations and take concrete actions to safeguard the China-India relations,” she said.

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader reached Bomdila in West Kameng district on Tuesday, starting his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

China claims parts of Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and had warned that if India allowed the visit of the Dalai Lama, whom it calls an “ant-China separatist”, it would cause “serious damage” to the ties.

China is sensitive to the Dalai Lama’s visit to Tawang region in Arunachal, which happens to be the birthplace in 1683 of the sixth Dalai Lama and is at the centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

On Tuesday, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said that when India has never interfered in Beijing’s affairs, and has respected the “One China” policy, China should not interfere in India’s internal affairs or object to the Dalai Lama’s visit. .

“There is no political angle behind his holiness’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious,” he said.

Separately, the External Affairs Ministry said that no “artificial controversy” should be created about the visit.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson rejected Mr. Rijiju’s comments, saying “China upholds the policy of not interfering with other countries internal affairs. This is unquestionable. But in disregard to China’s concerns, India arranged the visit of Dalai Lama to the disputed areas. This issue goes beyond internal affairs. The role played by the Dalai Lama is clear to all. China’s position on the eastern section of the boundary is also very clear.”

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said, “The arrangement of Dalai’s visit to the disputed area by India runs counter to its commitments on issues related to Tibet and it runs counter to benefits of bilateral relations. We demand that India stop this wrong action.”

About Mr. Rijiju’s comments that it was a religious visit and should not be politicised, she said, “We have noted the statement of the official from the Indian side.”

“Could you tell me honestly do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader. I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using the empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable. We demand the Indian side to stop this move of undermining Chinese interests,” she said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/china-vows-necessary-measure-after-dalai-lama-visits-arunachal-pradesh/article17824312.ece>

Others: <http://www.news18.com/news/india/china-vows-necessary-measures-after-dalai-lama-visits-arunachal-pradesh-1368590.html>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit: Modi doing this because China doesn't support India in UN, says Chinese media

Business Today Online | New Delhi | April 05, 2017

Reacting strongly to the Indian government's tough stand on the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Chinese state-run media on Wednesday said that unlike his predecessors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi seemed to have taken a different stance on the Dalai Lama issue.

It further said that the Indian Prime Minister is doing this because 'New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist'. "Therefore, New Delhi attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing," the Chinese media said.

Interestingly, the article justified China's stand on India's request to list Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a designated terrorist under the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council. It said: "China has never thought of making trouble for India, and is handling these issues in accordance with international practices and UN regulations."

The latest round of fiery exchange between India and China started earlier this month when Chinese Foreign Ministry warned India of "serious damage" to bilateral ties if it allows Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh. It asked India to make a "choice".

However, India refused to come under Chinese pressure and said no "artificial controversy" should be created around the visit. Calling it a purely religious visit, India said: "No additional colour should be ascribed to his (Dalai Lama) religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India."

Making India's position clear on Arunachal Pradesh, Minister of State for Home Kiran Rijiju said: "Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs." China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of south Tibet.

Despite India's firm reply to China, the State-run media said that the Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. "New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship," the state-run Global Times said.

It reminded India that many countries have pledged not to extend invitations to the Dalai Lama. "New Delhi should overcome its suspicions against Beijing. China doesn't allow India to free ride on its economic growth while jeopardizing Beijing's core interests," the Global Times said.

The response from the Chinese media is not in isolation as it recently admitted that China would have to deal with a bolder India if Modi won the next general elections and dealing with New Delhi on border disputes could become difficult.

The article was published soon after the BJP recorded unprecedented victory in assembly elections that were believed to be a referendum on the Prime Minister's economic policies undertaken in his first half.

"If Modi wins the next election, India's current firm and tough manner is bound to continue. It will be without question good news for the country's own development. Nevertheless, it will likely mean more difficulties in making compromises in rows with other countries," the article had said.

<http://www.businessstoday.in/current/economy-politics/dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-modi-doing-this-because-china-doesnt-support-india-in-un-says-chinese-media/story/249387.html>

China vows 'necessary measures' after Dalai Lama's visit

PTI | Hindu Business Line | April 05, 2017

China is sensitive to the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang region which happens to be the centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

Beijing, Apr 5: China warned today that it will take "necessary measures" to defend its territorial sovereignty and interests after India "obstinately" allowed the Dalai Lama to visit the "disputed" parts of Arunachal Pradesh causing "serious damage" to the bilateral ties.

"India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters.

“China firmly opposes this move and will lodge representations with the Indian side,” she said.

“China’s stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear. India is keenly aware of the role played by the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side’s commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalate disputes over the border area,” she said.

“It goes against the momentum of the sound growth of bilateral relations and will not benefit India in anyway,” she said.

“China will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests. We demand the Indian side immediately stop its actions using the Dalai Lama to undermine China’s interests and not hype up sensitive issues between the two countries, not artificially damage the foundation of the talks between the two countries on the border issues and bilateral legislations and take concrete actions to safeguard the China-India relations,” she said.

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader reached Bomdila in West Kameng district yesterday, starting his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

China claims parts of Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and had previously warned that if India allowed the visit of the Dalai Lama, whom it calls an “anti-China separatist”, it would cause “serious damage” to ties.

China is sensitive to the Dalai Lama’s visit to Tawang region in Arunachal which happens to be the birthplace in 1683 of the sixth Dalai Lama and is at the centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

Yesterday, Minister of Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said India never interfered in Beijing’s affairs, has respected the “One China” policy, and thus China should not interfere in India’s internal affairs or object to the Dalai Lama’s visit.

“There is no political angle behind his holiness’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious.”

Separately, the External Affairs Ministry has said that no “artificial controversy” should be created about the visit.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson rejected Rijiju’s comments, saying “China upholds the policy of not interfering with other countries internal affairs. This is unquestionable.”

"But in disregard to China's concerns India arranged the visit of Dalai Lama to the disputed areas. This issue goes beyond internal affairs," she said.

"The role played by the Dalai Lama is clear to all. China's position on the eastern section of the boundary is also very clear," she said.

"The arrangement of Dalai's visit to the disputed area by India runs counter to its commitments on issues related to Tibet and it runs counter to benefits of bilateral relations. We demand that India stop this wrong action," she said.

About Rijiju's comments that it was a religious visit and should not be politicised, she said, "We have noted the statement of the official from the Indian side."

"Could you tell me honestly do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader. I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using the empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable. We demand the Indian side to stop this move of undermining Chinese interests," she said.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/china-vows-necessary-measures-after-dalai-lamas-visit/article9617167.ece>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit damaged ties with India, says China

Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh is threatening to snowball into a major diplomatic row between India, China as Beijing threatens to take 'necessary' counter 'measures'

By Elizabeth Roche | Livemint | April 05, 2017

New Delhi: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama's visit to India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, that China claims in its entirety, is threatening to snowball into a major diplomatic row between the Asian giants with Beijing threatening to take "necessary" counter "measures."

At a foreign ministry briefing in Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters that India had inflicted "serious damage" on China-India relations by allowing the Tibetan spiritual leader — who Beijing considers a separatist — to visit Arunachal Pradesh.

"India, in disregard to China's concerns, obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of the China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Hua was quoted as saying by the *Press Trust of India* news agency. "China firmly opposes this move and will lodge representations with the Indian side," she said.



The Dalai Lama greets devotees at the Buddha Park at Bomdila, in Arunachal Pradesh on 5 April 2017. Photo: AP

The 81-year-old Tibetan Nobel laureate reached Bodila in West Kameng district on Tuesday, starting a nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh. China is sensitive to the Dalai Lama's visit to the Tawang region in Arunachal Pradesh which happens to be the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, born in 1683, and is considered a centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

According to the Indian foreign ministry, the present Dalai Lama has visited the state six times previously, the last being in 2009.

On Tuesday, minister of state for home affairs Kiren Rijiju said while India has never interfered in Beijing's affairs, and has respected the "One China" policy, China should not interfere in India's internal affairs or object to the Dalai Lama's visit.

Separately, Indian foreign ministry spokesman Gopal Baglay said no “artificial controversy” should be created about the visit.

However, China seemed to be in no mood to relent.

“China’s stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear. India is keenly aware of the role played by the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side’s commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalate disputes over the border area,” Hua said in Beijing.

Also Read: [India has never used me against China, says Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh](#)

“It goes against the momentum of the sound growth of bilateral relations and will not benefit India in anyway,” she said.

“China will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests. We demand the Indian side immediately stop its actions using the Dalai Lama to undermine China’s interests and not hype up sensitive issues between the two countries, not artificially damage the foundation of the talks between the two countries on the border issues and bilateral legislations and take concrete actions to safeguard the China-India relations,” Hua added.

The row over the Dalai Lama’s visit is expected to add to an already fraught India-China relationship weighed down by what India sees as China’s insensitivity to its core concerns. China has opposed India’s attempts to secure a seat on the elite Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) that controls global nuclear commerce remained unchanged despite India’s attempts to engage China in a dialogue on the matter. Beijing also blocked repeated attempts by India to get Pakistan-based terrorist Maulana Masood Azhar declared a terrorist by the UN.

Harsh Pant, professor of International Relations, Department of Defence Studies, at King’s College, London, said Chinese statements on Wednesday “in many ways is classic Chinese diplomatic language that they tend to use on Tibet. I still don’t see what it is they can do (in counter measures against India) given that the military balance of power is already in their favour,” he said.

“There could be an escalation at the tactical level,” Pant said referring to a possible increase in border incursions. “But this is something that we have lived with,” he said.

Srikanth Kondapalli, a professor of Chinese Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi described the Chinese statements on “countermeasures” as psychological warfare.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/djMVJxFEUs4PCkjTKqpGGP/China-India-in-diplomatic-row-as-Dalai-Lama-visits-Arunacha.html>

Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal confined to religious matters: Kiren Rijiju

By Raghvendra Rao | WION | DNA | April 05, 2017

With China continuing to raise the heat on Dalai Lama's visit to India's north-eastern frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh, India—in a veiled but stern message—on Tuesday said that no “artificial controversy” should be created around this visit and added that “nobody should have any problem on the visit”. India also took this opportunity to underline that the status of Arunachal Pradesh is “indisputable”.

“When Dalai Lama is in Arunachal Pradesh, he will be confined only to religious matters. He is not there to make any political statement or he is not there with any political motive. So, unnecessary issues should not be raked up due to this visit,” Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju, who is also a Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal Pradesh, said.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), too, came out with a statement citing that the Tibetan spiritual leader, as per his website, had visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions between 1983 and 2009.

“The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that His Holiness Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India. The Government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh,” the MEA said.

Meanwhile, Rijiju said that Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh was in response to the “wishes and appeals made by thousands of devotees” and that during this visit, the Dalai Lama “will be addressing, giving blessings to thousands of devotees in West Kameng district, Tawang district and Itanagar”.

“We have heard some comments from many quarters including the Chinese government. The people of Arunachal Pradesh desire to have a very good neighbourly relation with people with China. We never intend to have any kind

of problem with our neighbours. India never interfered into the internal affairs of China. We also never questioned the Chinese sovereignty and India has respectfully adhered to One China policy. So we expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matters,” Rijiju said.

The MoS also underlined that “being a democratic and secular country, India cannot restrict or stop the visit or a programme of any religious leaders in our country”.

“The religious sentiments of every community must be given all freedom. That is why we expect that nobody should have any problem on the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh,” he added.

Rijiju also stated that “Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory”. “We have certain issues with regard to delineation or the boundary on the spots on the ground along McMahon Line because it is not being demarcated on the ground. That is why there is a talk between the special representatives of India and China and I hope and the people of Arunachal Pradesh hope that an amicable solution can be reached in the foreseeable future,” he added.

“But the status of AP is indisputable. Being a full fledged state of the Union of India, Arunachal Pradesh's status cannot be questioned. The territorial integrity of Arunachal Pradesh as a part of Indian union cannot be questioned. People of Arunachal Pradesh are upset by some people showing it as disputed territory. On behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh, I would like to appeal to our Chinese friends not to rake up this issue because as a neighbour we intend to have a normal relations with China.” .

Rijiju, who will be joining Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday, April 5, and would accompany him for the next three days, further said that the state government had accorded Dalai Lama the status of a state guest and all the facilities for the entire arrangement of his visit are being arranged by the state govt. He reiterated that India did not “intend to have any kind of damage in the relationship” with China and that it respects Chinese sovereignty and expected that China would respect India's sovereignty in return.

Dalai Lama, who is on a nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh, is slated to give a teaching and confer a White Tara Long Life Empowerment (drolkar tsewang) in the morning at the Buddha Park on April 5. On April 6, he will give teachings in Dirang on Geshe Langri Thangpa's Eight Verses of Training the Mind (lojong tsikgyema) & Guru Yoga (lama neljor) and confer the Avalokiteshvara Permission (chenresig jenang) in the morning at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery. From April 8 to 10, he is scheduled to give teachings in Tawang. On the mornings of April 8 & 9, the spiritual leader will give teachings on Kamalashila's The Middling States of Meditation (gomrim barpa) & Gyalsey Thokme Sangpo's Thirty-Seven Practices of a Bodhisattva (laklen

sodunma) at Yiga Choezin. On the morning of April 10 morning, he will confer the Rinzin Dhondup Initiation at Yiga Choezin.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-dalai-lama-s-visit-to-arunachal-confined-to-religious-matters-kiren-rijiju-2381863>

Dalai Lama to consecrate monastery

The Standard | April 05, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama is to travel to the district of Tawang tomorrow during his visit to India. He is scheduled to consecrate a monastery and address his followers. People from nearby areas, including from the Himalayan country of Bhutan, which borders Arunachal Pradesh, were already gathering at Tawang, local officials said.

The border between India and China remains tense more than 50 years after they fought a brief but bloody war high in the peaks.

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers in Arunachal Pradesh, while India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometers of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau. —AP

<http://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news.php?id=87184>

Don't poke nose, New Delhi tells Beijing over Dalai's trip

PNS | New Delhi | April 05, 2017

As Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama is set to begin his tour of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday, India issued a statement directed towards China saying that no artificial controversy should be created around his visit to the State. Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju, who comes from Arunachal Pradesh, on Tuesday asked China not to interfere in India's internal matters as the State is its inseparable part of India. He added that India respects the "One-China" policy and expects Beijing to reciprocate.

India also pointed out that this is not the first time the Dalai Lama is visiting the N-E State. He had visited it many times in the past and his last visit to Arunachal Pradesh was in November 2009.

The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday, "The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that His Holiness Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian

people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various States of India.

The Government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh.”

The Dalai Lama was scheduled to reach Tawang from Guwahati by road on Tuesday, but his arrival was delayed due to inclement weather.

China has been constantly raising objections to the Dalai Lama’s visit to Tawang. In fact, China has objected to even the Indian President, Prime Minister or Defence Minister’s visit to the State, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet. The Chinese Foreign Ministry recently warned New Delhi that the Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal will cause “serious damage” to bilateral ties.

Despite China’s aggressive posturing, India has never stopped the Dalai Lama’s free movement within the country, including Arunachal Pradesh. India maintains that he is a guest of India and he can freely travel anywhere he wants within the country.

“There is no political angle behind His Holiness’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India’s internal affairs,” Rijiju said. “We respect Beijing’s ‘One-China’ policy and we expect China to reciprocate,” he said.

The Minister said the State is “not a disputed territory” and is part of the Union of India and a “full-fledged State”.

“There may be some differences of opinion between India and China over the boundary. But China has no locus standi over Arunachal Pradesh,” he said.

The Dalai Lama will hold religious discourse with devotees in Tawang, Bomdial and other areas. The Minister said the Dalai Lama is visiting Arunachal at the invitation of the people of the State. “As a democratic country, India can’t interfere in the religious affairs of any community,” he said.

He said the people of the State want good neighbourly relations with China and want reopening of trading points along the McMahon line which have been closed since 1962. “The trading points were beneficial. People of Arunachal Pradesh are looking toward a cooperative attitude from China,” he said.

The Dalai Lama will also visit Rijiju’s village in West Kameng district where he will inaugurate a Buddhist monastery.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/todays-newspaper/dont-poke-nose-new-delhi-tells-beijing-over-dalais-trip.html>

China upset with India over Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit

Pragativadi News Service | April 05, 2017

New Delhi: The Dalai Lama is on a week-long visit to Arunachal Pradesh since Tuesday which has made China furious. The trip has "severely damaged China-India relations" the foreign ministry of the neighbouring country has said.

China's state run media has particularly expressed being upset with Prime Minister Modi. In an article in its official media it has been stated, "Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line."

While Dalai Lama said to Indian media that Tibet is a part of China but needs development, Chinese foreign ministry has said he is a 'separatist' leader wanting to separate Tibet from China.

Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal has said that this is a spiritual event and should not be politicised.

<http://pragativadi.com/china-upset-india-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit/>

India Has Never Used me Against China: Dalai Lama

IANS | News 18 | April 05, 2017

Bomdila (Arunachal Pradesh): Amid Beijing's strident protests, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Wednesday said that India has never used him against China and urged that country to give Tibet meaningful "self-rule" and "autonomy".

Reacting to Beijing's objection against his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Nobel Peace Laureate said, "There are many in China who love India, but there are some narrow minded politicians because of their certain views... like they considered me as a demon."



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama. (Photo: PTI)

Denying Chinese assertions that India was using him as a diplomatic leverage to challenge China, the Tibetan spiritual leader said, "I am India's longest standing guest. India has never used me against China."

On the Tibetan stand, he said: "We are not seeking independence. We are very much willing to remain with People's Republic of China. I always used to talk about the spirit of the European Union, individual nations, individual sovereignty but that is not so important, what is important is common interest," he told journalists, ahead of proceeding to Tawang for a major Buddhist event.

"Tibet is materialistically backward but spiritually highly developed. For material development, we need to remain with People's Republic China as it is our interest. The government (of China) should feel OK for the mutual benefit," he added.

However, the Tibetan spiritual leader noted, "China must give us meaningful self-rule, autonomy, and must take care of the environment in Tibet. China has the highest population of Tibetan Buddhists. Many Chinese intellectuals also fully support our cause."

The Dalai Lama's statement comes as China on Wednesday lodged a protest with India over his visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, addressing a regular briefing in Beijing, voiced her country's "firm opposition" to the Dalai Lama's visit and said Beijing would lodge "stern representations with the Indian side".

The Chinese side lodged a protest with Indian Ambassador Vijay Gokhale in Beijing over the Dalai Lama's visit.

On Tuesday, India said that no political motive should be attributed to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and asked China not to interfere in its affairs.

Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, who is from Arunachal Pradesh, said: "India has always been non-interfering in the neighbours' internal affairs in our approach. In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours."

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/india-has-never-used-me-against-china-dalai-lama-1368611.html>

India has never used me against China, says Dalai Lama

By INDIAN AWAAZ | April 05, 2017

The Dalai Lama has said, India has never used him against China. He said in Bomdila from where he started his week-long tour in Arunachal Pradesh today after rescheduling the visit to Tawang.

The Dalai Lama said not all Chinese but some narrow minded politicians view that India is using him against China.

The Dalai Lama also said that Tibet is a part of China but needs developments. Beijing has been opposing the spiritual leader's visit to Tawang, which it claims to be a part of South Tibet.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu, who is accompanying the Dalai Lama to Tawang, said that China has no right to interfere in India's business, telling what to do and what not to.

<http://theindianawaaz.com/india-has-never-used-me-against-china-says-dalai-lama/>

'I am a messenger of ancient Indian thought,' says Dalai Lama at Bomdila

The Dalai Lama, who is visiting Arunachal Pradesh - especially Tawang-, in a heightened rhetoric tension between India and China said that he was glad to be in Arunachal Pradesh.

By NewsX Bureau | Bomdila | April 05, 2017

The Dalai Lama succinctly answered questions which were political in nature. "I am one of the longest guests of India," he said in a jest.

Tibetan spiritual leader [Dalai Lama](#) said on Wednesday that he was messenger of ancient Indian culture which propounds the concept of Ahimsa and religious harmony.

The Dalai Lama, who is visiting Arunachal Pradesh – especially Tawang-, in a heightened rhetoric tension between India and China said that he was glad to be in Arunachal Pradesh.

Asked about China's objection to his visit in [Tawang](#), the Dalai Lama said that the Chinese people did not have any aversion to India. "It is because of few narrow-minded politicians. Chinese people love India," he told reporters.

On Tibet, the spiritual leader said that he is not seeking independence but only autonomy. He praised the European Union and said he admired it because it respected sovereignty.

The Dalai Lama succinctly answered questions which were political in nature. "I am one of the longest guests of India," he said in jest.

The Tibetan spiritual leader is currently at Bomdila following which he will visit Tawang where the largest Buddhist monastery, the Tawang Monastery, is situated.

<http://www.newsx.com/national/60507-i-am-a-messenger-of-ancient-indian-thought-says-dalai-lama-at-bomdila>

Dalai Lama reaches Arunachal Pradesh, visits Bomdila, China criticises his India visit

In Bomdila, the Tibetan community members gave a warm welcome to the 14th Dalai Lama who arrived on a motorbike this noon.

By [Shubhang Chauhan](#) | India.com | April 05, 2017

Bomdila, April 4: Spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Tuesday arrived safely at the Tibetan environment of Bomdila which is in Arunachal Pradesh. The actual location is West Tameng. Pema Khandu, the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh received and welcomed Lama. Also, other important leaders of Arunachal Pradesh received the spiritual leader.

In Bomdila, the Tibetan community members gave a warm welcome to the 14th Dalai Lama who arrived on a motorbike this noon. On Wednesday, the world fame spiritual leader will teach and confer a White Tara Long Life Empowerment at the Buddha park. On April 6, Lama plans to travel to Dirang to spread out spiritual teachings.

On April 8 and 10 Lama will be in Tawang and will teach people on Meditation and various other things.

Lama was few days back in Dharamsala where an international cricket match was being played between India and Australia and he was seen rubbing nose with Australian captain Steve Smith which went viral on social media.

China earlier was creating a ruckus over Lamas' visit to Arunachal and today India has asked China to stop creating controversy over it. Also, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju has said that India does not interfere in China's internal matter and China also needs to do follow the same footsteps. Rijiju who also hails from Arunachal took to twitter and wrote the visit of HH Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh is purely religious to fulfil the desires of his devotees. We believe in athithi devo bhava.

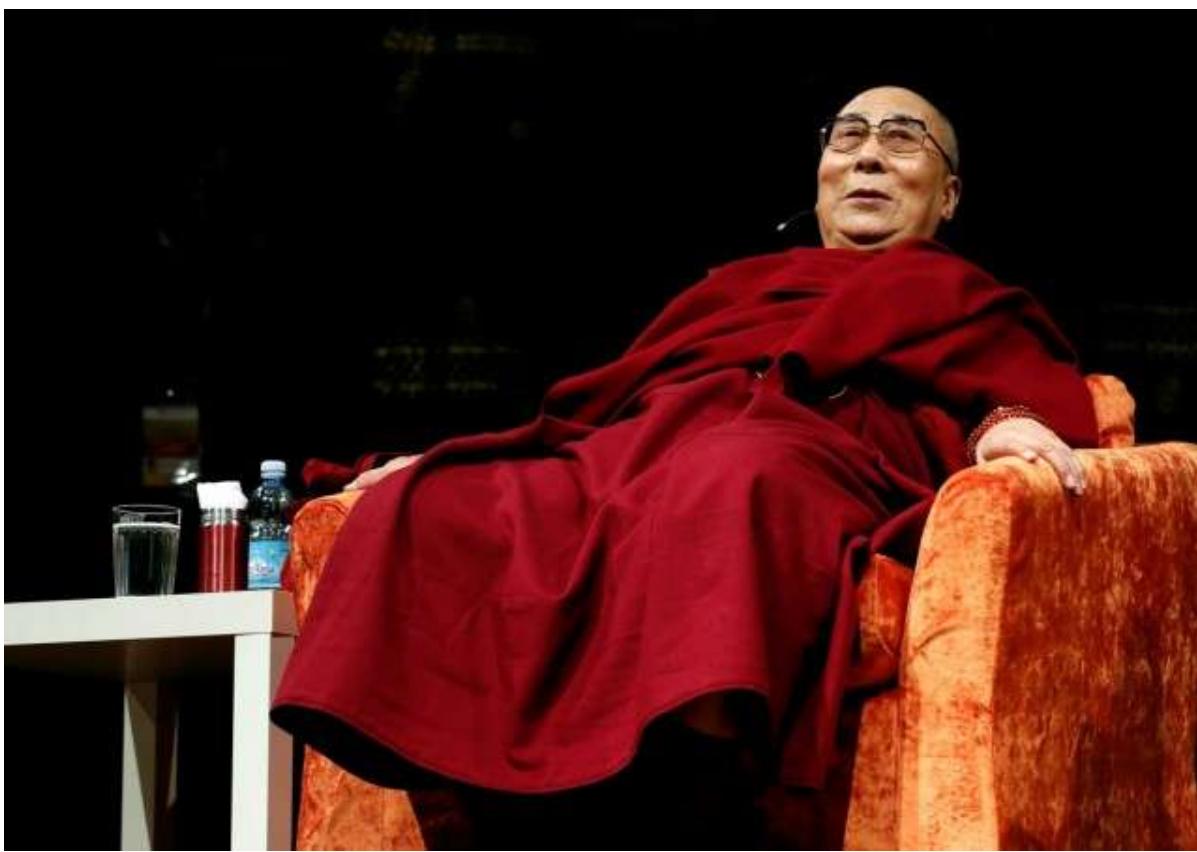
"A secular democratic India can't restrict religious leaders. I appeal China not to take the visit of HH Dalai Lama to Arunachal as political," Rijiju further wrote on twitter. Rijiju in his last tweet wrote about the peace loving nature of the people from his state," Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory. People of Arunachal Pradesh are peace loving Indians who desire to have friendly relations."

<http://www.india.com/news/india/dalai-lama-reaches-arunachal-pradesh-visits-bomdila-criticism-from-china-1993525/>

China slams Narendra Modi over Dalai Lama's visit, says Indo-China ties seriously damaged

China had objected to the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday, warning India of "severe damage" to the bilateral relationship.

By [Namrata Tripathi](#) | International Business Times | April 05, 2017



His Holiness the Dalai Lama
Reuters

China on Wednesday said [Dalai Lama's visit](#) to the "disputed" Arunachal Pradesh caused "serious damage" to the bilateral ties between India and the neighbouring country. The country said it will lodge a diplomatic protest against India for "obstinately" allowing the Tibetan spiritual leader to visit the Indian state.

China had objected to Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday, warning India of "severe damage" to the bilateral relationship. Dalai Lama fled into exile in India in 1959 after an unsuccessful uprising against the Communist rule. China considers Dalai Lama as a separatist. Hence, it routinely objects to the Buddhist leader's visit to different regions and warns countries of dire consequences for issuing invitations to him.

"India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters, adding that they will lodge representations with the Indian side.

The Chinese state-run media on Wednesday also slammed PM Narendra Modi stating that he appeared to have taken a "different stance" on the Dalai Lama issue, unlike his predecessors.



The Dalai Lama arrives at the Thubchog Gatsel Ling Monastery in Bomdila in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. Reuters

"Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line."

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as "South Tibet", even though India has repeatedly said the border state is an integral part of its territory.

India on Tuesday had responded strongly against China's objections stating that the country was attempting to create an "artificial controversy. India said the Tibetan spiritual leader has visited Arunachal Pradesh at least six times earlier and no "additional colour" should be given to his latest visit to the Indian state.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India, and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday.



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama arrives to deliver teachings in Bomdila, in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. Reuters

Dalai Lama has a special bond with Arunachal Pradesh. The spiritual leader had fled Tibet in the backdrop of Chinese aggression in March 17, 1959 to the northeastern state in India, along with 20 of his followers. He crossed the tough Himalayan region barefoot during his 11-day trek and reached India to take refuge in a Tawang monastery. He says, it was in Arunachal Pradesh that he first felt a sense of freedom, away from the Chinese regime.

"Whenever I come to the North East of India, it feels like a reunion with people here," the Dalai Lama on Saturday said, "When I revisit Tawang, I am reminded of the freedom that I had experienced for the first time (in 1959). That was the beginning of a new chapter in my life."

The Buddhist monk also added that he is "the longest staying guest of India" but he turns into a child whenever he visits Northeast India.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/china-slams-narendra-modi-over-dalai-lamas-visit-says-indo-china-ties-seriously-damaged-722023>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh: China threatens to take 'necessary measures'

China has lodged a protest with Indian Ambassador Vijay Gokhale in Beijing over the Dalai Lama's visit.

Zee Media Bureau | April 05, 2017



Beijing: Diplomatic tensions escalated over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, as China on Wednesday warned to take "necessary measures" to defend its territorial sovereignty and interests after India "obstinately" permitted the Tibetan spiritual leader to visit the "disputed" parts of its northeastern state.

As the Tibetan spiritual leader entered Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh to proceed to Tawang for a major Buddhist event, China struck a strident note in its protest against the move.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, addressing a regular briefing, voiced her country's "firm opposition" to the Dalai Lama's visit and said Beijing would lodge "stern representations with the Indian side".

Later, the Chinese side lodged a protest with Indian Ambassador Vijay Gokhale in Beijing over the Dalai Lama's visit.

"India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing

serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters.

China firmly opposes this move, she asserted.

"China's stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear. India is keenly aware of the role played by the 14th Dalai Lama."

"Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side's commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalates disputes over the border area," she said.

Hua stated that it goes against the momentum of the sound growth of bilateral relations and will not benefit India in any way.

"The visit will for sure trigger China's dissatisfaction. This will not bring any benefit to India," she said.

China will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests, Hua asserted.

Asked what measures China would take, Hua did not elaborate.

"I don't have much to add. I want to add the issues concerning Tibet has a bearing on China's core interests. India in disregard of China's concerns obstinately arranged the visit," she said.

"We demand the Indian side immediately stop its actions using the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests and not hype up sensitive issues between the two countries, not artificially damage the foundation of the talks between the two countries on the border issues and bilateral legislations and take concrete actions to safeguard the China-India relations," she said.

The 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader reached Bomdila in West Kameng district yesterday, starting his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

China claims parts of Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and had previously warned that if India allowed the visit of the Dalai Lama, whom it calls an "anti-China separatist", it would cause "serious damage" to ties.

China is sensitive to the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang region in Arunachal which happens to be the birthplace in 1683 of the sixth Dalai Lama and is at the centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

"We hope we can work together to maintain growth of India-China relations. We know India and China are two close neighbours and countries in Asia. Cooperation between us will serve interests of the region," Hua said.

"We hope to maintain good momentum of growth but this move runs counter to this wish, so we hope India stop doing things that undermine our interests," she said.

Yesterday, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said India never interfered in Beijing's affairs, has respected the "one-China" policy, and thus China should not interfere in India's internal affairs or object to the Dalai Lama's visit. "There is no political angle behind his holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious."

Separately, the External Affairs Ministry has said that no "artificial controversy" should be created about the visit.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson rejected Rijiju's comments, saying: "China upholds the policy of not interfering with other countries internal affairs. This is unquestionable."

"But in disregard to China's concerns India arranged the visit of Dalai Lama to the disputed areas. This issue goes beyond internal affairs," she said.

"The role played by the Dalai Lama is clear to all. China's position on the eastern section of the boundary is also very clear," she said.

"The arrangement of Dalai's visit to the disputed area by India runs counter to its commitments on issues related to Tibet and it runs counter to benefits of bilateral relations. We demand that India stop this wrong action," she said.

About Rijiju's comments that it was a religious visit and should not be politicised, she said, "We have noted the statement of the official from the Indian side."

"Could you tell me honestly do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader. I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure."

"Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using the empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable. We demand the Indian side to stop this move of undermining Chinese interests," she said.

Chinese officials in off the record conversations with the media said China is really angry about the Dalai Lama's visit especially because he was accompanied by a minister.

Unlike previous visits, the officials said the Dalai Lama was accompanied by a minister which makes it different.

The Foreign Ministry statement comes as the Chinese state-run media also slammed the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

The Global Times accused the Indian government of "openly using" the Dalai Lama "as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage".

It said India was trying to play the Tibet card against China as "New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist", it said.

(With Agency inputs)

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/dalai-lama-in-arunachal-pradesh-china-threatens-to-take-necessary-measures-1993164.html>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh amid China protest: No problem if some consider me demon

Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama is visiting Arunachal Pradesh which has irked China. Beijing had said Dalai Lama's tour of the northeastern state will cause 'serious damage' to bilateral ties.

Edited by Shashank Shantanu | New Delhi | IndiaToday | April 05, 2017

Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, today responded to China's objection to his Arunachal Pardesh visit saying New Delhi has never used him against Beijing.

China has raised objection to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh saying it will cause 'serious damage' to bilateral ties. However, Dalai Lama rejected China's worry but added that some Chinese politicians consider him as a demon.

"Among the Chinese, many love India but there are many narrow minded politicians. They consider me as a demon. I don't think I am a demon. No problem...", he told reporters in Bomdila.

"I am a messenger of ancient Indian thoughts and values. I certainly thank the Indian government for their support," Dalai Lama said.

This is Dalai Lama's sixth visit to Arunachal Pradesh since 1983. His last trip came in 2009.

INDIA REJECTS CHINA'S WORRY OVER DALAI LAMA'S ARUNACHAL VISIT

India has rejected China's objection saying no 'artificial controversy' should be created around the visit and asked Beijing not to interfere in its internal affairs.

The external affairs ministry also asserted that the government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," the ministry said in a release.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dalai-lama-visits-arunachal-pradesh-bomdila-tibet-china/1/920813.html>

Dalai Lama praises India's secular structure

Deccan Herald | April 05, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama today praised the secular social structure of the country. Preaching at the Buddha Stadium here, the Dalai Lama said that India's secular social structure had let all religions to flourish side by side.

He also spoke about the benefits of positivity that could attract friends, family and people nearer.

Earlier, state Chief Minister Pema Khandu accorded a warm welcome to the Dalai Lama on his arrival at the stadium.

In the afternoon, the Dalai Lama delivered a public talk in the high school auditorium. None could claim to be a true follower of any faith without first being a good human being, he said there.

The Dalai Lama said, "Education is a must today as it inculcates a sense of oneness and teaches one to forgive and forget the wrongdoings of others and brings positivity."

Later, the Dalai Lama and his entourage were accorded a rousing reception at Thupsung Dhargyelling monastery in Dirang.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/604842/dalai-lama-praises-indias-secular.html>

China to defend its interests over Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal

Tehelka Web Desk |April 05, 2017

China warned India on April 5 that it will take all necessary steps to defend its interests after India allowed Dalai Lama to visit disputed Arunachal Pradesh thereby damaging their relations.

Lodging a protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing Vijay Gokhale. China said, "India by disregarding China's concerns and arranging the Dalai Lama's visit has damaged Indo-China ties and Chinese interests," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying.

"Unlike his predecessors, the India PM seems to have taken a different position on the issue. We demand that India stop using him (Dalai Lama) to damage Chinese interests and not play up sensitive issues between the duo," he said. Chunying also said India runs the risk of escalating the dispute by facilitating the Dalai Lama's visit.

While China claims Arunachal Pradesh as Southern Tibet, India said the state is an integral part of its territory and that China was creating an unnecessary row over Dalai Lama's visit.

The Global Times, a state-run newspaper in China, stated, "New Delhi may have underestimated Beijing's determination to safeguard its core interests...China doesn't allow India to free ride on its economic growth while jeopardising Beijing's core interests."

It added India was upset over being kept out of the NSG and over Beijing blocking India's attempts to have Pakistani terror group JeM chief Masood Azhar blacklisted by the UNSC.

<http://www.tehelka.com/2017/04/china-to-defend-its-interests-over-dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal/>

In a Truly Educated World, Peace Will Prevail Everywhere: Dalai Lama

Northeast Today | April 05, 2017



Without first being a better human being, no one can claim to be a true follower of any faith, this was stated by His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama while holding a religious preaching session in Bomdila on Wednesday. During the session, he spoke about love and compassion to about 10000 people.

The Dalai Lama conferred a White Tara Long-life Empowerment reciting sacred Buddhist chants from his teaching pavilion. He announced to the devotees to recite the chants for the benefit of all sentient beings.

In his teachings, he spoke about the benefits of positivity that could attract friends, family and people nearer. His Holiness also spoke highly about India's secular social structure that had let all religions to flourish side by side.

Later, the Dalai Lama delivered a public talk in the high school auditorium.

"Education is must today as it inculcates a sense of oneness and teaches to forgive and forget the wrongdoings of others and brings positivity," said Lama, adding, "In a truly educated world there will be no hatred, no war and peace will prevail everywhere."

Speaking on importance of inner peace, the Dalai Lama mentioned, "More positive you are, the better you feel. Even scientists have proved that for good physical health, inner peace is very important."

Among others, Arunachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker T N Thongdok, Parliamentary Secretaries, Kumsi Sidisow, Phurpa Tsering, Local MLA cum advisor to CM Japu Deru, Chief Secretary and DGP were present on the occasion. Guru Rinpoche and Thekse Rimpoche were also present during the day.

Later in the evening, His Holiness and his entourage were accorded a rousing reception at Thupsung Dhargyelling monastery in Dirang. People from all walks of life paid their obeisance to their supreme Guru throughout the 40 km stretch of road from Bomdila to Dirang.

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/in-a-truly-educated-world-peace-will-prevail-everywhere-dalai-lama/>

I have no problem even if anyone refers to me as a 'demon': Dalai Lama

ANI | Business Standard | April 05, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, on Wednesday down played China's concern over his visit to North East India, and said he has no problem even if someone dubs him a demon.

Talking to media here, the Dalai Lama said , "No problem, even if some considers me a demon."

Hailing the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Tibetan government-in-exile yesterday said that China should not have any problem with it as the spiritual leader's visit is purely religious.

"He has been invited by the people of Tawang to come and give teachings and blessings. He is visiting as a religious leader. He travels all over the world and give teachings on Buddhist philosophy, inter religious harmony and peace. There is no reason for China to protest the Lama visiting to the places where his followers are there," Tibetan government-in-exile spokesperson Sonam Dagpo told ANI.

He further said China is not protesting against the Dalai Lama's visit for the first time.

"He has been visiting Tawang for the last many years. So, you don't see any kind of Chinese projects coming openly. But may be about five-six years now whenever he is being invited by the people of Tawang, China begins to protest against the Indian Government," he added.

Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday also warned against any 'artificial controversy' being created and asserted that the Dalai Lama's visit was strictly religious and not political.

"His (Dalai Lama) visit is purely religious in nature and there should be no political angle given to that," Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju told the media here.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) yesyerday issued a statement, saying that no additional colour should be ascribed to the Dalai Lama's religious and spiritual activities.

The Dalai Lama, who was set to reach Tawang today, has been forced to change his schedule due to bad weather and will now reach Bomdila by evening.

The Tibetan spiritual leader was set to leave Guwahati by a chopper, but the inclement weather has forced him to travel by road and change his stop to Bomdila, where he will make a public appearance tomorrow.

After staying there for two days, he will proceed to Tawang.

During his visit, he is also expected to hold a religious discourse at the stadium of Tawang's senior secondary school and will also deliver a public talk on 'Secular Ethics and Happiness' at the Kala Wangpo Convention Centre.

On global stage, China has repeatedly warned India that the Dalai Lama's visit would hit the bilateral ties significantly.

Protesting Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, China earlier on Friday warned India to avoid damaging bilateral relations between the two nations and adhere to political pledges or else face the consequences.

(This story has not been edited by Business Standard staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/i-have-no-problem-even-if-anyone-refers-to-me-as-a-demon-dalai-lama-117040500462_1.html

No problem even if someone refers to me as a 'demon', says Dalai Lama

India TV News Desk | New Delhi | April 05, 2017

Playing down China's protest over his Arunachal visit, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama today said that he does not mind even if someone considers him to be a 'demon'.

"No problem, even if some consider me a demon," the Dalai Lama said at Bomdila in Arunanchal Pradesh.

The Tibetan government-in-exile, functioning from Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, had also said on Tuesday that China should not oppose the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal as it was a religious tour and he was invited by the people of Tawang.

"He has been invited by the people of Tawang to come and give teachings and blessings. He is visiting as a religious leader. He travels all over the world and give teachings on Buddhist philosophy, inter religious harmony and peace. There is no reason for China to protest the Lama visiting to the places where his followers are there," Tibetan government-in-exile spokesperson Sonam Dagpo said.

Sonam Dagpo, however, added that it was not for the first time that China was opposing the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang.

"He has been visiting Tawang for last many years. But may be about five-six years now whenever he is being invited by the people of Tawang, China begins to protest against the Indian Government," he added.

The Ministry of External affairs, in a statement on Tuesday, said that no additional colour should be ascribed to the Dalai Lama's religious and spiritual activities.

It also warned that no artificial controversy should be created around the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that (HHDL) is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people," the statement said.

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india-i-have-no-problem-even-if-anyone-refers-to-me-as-a-demon-says-dalai-lama-375689>

Dalai Lama responds to China over his Arunachal Pradesh visit: 'I'm not a demon'

China claims the Indian border state is a part of 'South Tibet'.

By Divya Kishore | International Business Times | April 05, 2017

The Dalai Lama has refuted media reports, which claimed India was using him as a diplomatic leverage against Beijing. The spiritual leader said on Wednesday (5 April) that India has never used him for its political benefits.

The comments from the Tibetan monk came after Chinese state-run media said, "Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and [challenging Beijing's bottom line](#)."

The spiritual leader also asked Indian media houses to not use the phrase "angry Chinese" because, "There are many in China who love India. It is only some narrow-minded politicians who see India in a different way just like the way they see me as a demon. I am not a demon".

He also asked China to give Tibet a meaningful autonomy for the mutual benefit of both the territories. "Tibet is materialistically backward but spiritually highly advanced."

"We want to develop materially by remaining with China and it should also feel the same way for the mutual benefit. Tibet is part of China but it needs more development," he added.

The 14th Dalai Lama, who fled to India after a failed rebellion against the Chinese in 1959 and set up a Tibetan government in exile, is in the Tawang monastery in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh after facing [a lot of opposition from China](#), who claims the region as "South Tibet".

The area of Arunachal Pradesh is controlled by India, who has repeatedly said the border state is an integral part of its territory.

Earlier, on Tuesday New Delhi asked Beijing not to create an "artificial controversy" over the Dalai Lama's visit to the state.

Insisting that the 81-year-old's visit is strictly for religious purposes, India asked China to stay away from its internal affairs. India's junior minister for home affairs, Kiren Rijiju said, "[There is no political angle](#) behind His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh."

"It is completely religious. Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," he said.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/dalai-lama-responds-china-over-his-arunachal-pradesh-visit-im-not-demon-1615458>

Do not create artificial controversy on Dalai Lama visit: India to China

By Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury | ET Bureau | April 05, 2017

NEW DELHI: Preempting Chinese protest, India sent out a clear message advising against artificial criticism of the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama is on a visit to Arunachal Pradesh. According to his website, His Holiness has visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions from 1983-2009," MEA pointed out in a statement.

"The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India.

The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh," according to the MEA statement.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/do-not-create-artificial-controversy-on-dalai-lama-visit-india-to-china/articleshow/58017100.cms>

No problem even if some consider me a demon: Dalai Lama on China objecting to his Arunachal Pradesh visit

China has been warning India of 'serious damage' in relations over Dalai Lama's visit

InUth | April 05, 2017

Reacting to China's objection to his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Dalai Lama said he has no problems even if someone considers him a demon.

China has been warning India of ‘serious damage’ in relations over Dalai Lama’s visit.

India has remained firm on its stand claiming that Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh is an internal matter which should not be given a political angle. “India never interferes in the internal affairs of China and we expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matter,” Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said. adding that the visit is purely religious.

Beijing against his scheduled visit to Tawang, Expressing confidence in India, the Dalai Lama said he has never been used against China. “India has never used me against China. I am a messenger of the ancient Indian thought and I talk about ahimsa, peace, harmony and secular ethics wherever I go,” the Tibetan spiritual leader said.

His remarks came after Chinese state media today said India is using the Dalai Lama as a diplomatic leverage to challenge China’s “bottom line”.

“I am a Buddhist. The entire Himalayan range had been traditionally following Buddhist dharma and modern physics is based on Buddhist philosophy,” he said.

Speaking fondly of Arunachal Pradesh, he said that he had a special connection with the state as it served as his point of entry when he arrived in India in 1959. “When I got freedom, when I first reached India, I entered through Arunachal Pradesh. I have an emotional connect with the state. It is a special place for me,” he said.

Expressing his love for India, Dalai Lama had recently said: “Physically, for the last over 50 years, my body is surviving on Indian ‘dal’ and ‘chapati’. So, physically and mentally I am an Indian. I am the longest guest of the government of India for the last 58 years and am now paying back for that gesture by becoming the messenger of Indian culture.”

<http://www.inuth.com/india/no-problem-even-if-some-consider-me-a-demon-dalai-lama-on-china-objecting-to-his-arunachal-pradesh-visit/>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh visit has caused serious damage to ties with India: China

"India has caused "serious damage" to Indo-China ties by letting the Dalai Lama visit Arunachal Pradesh," China asserted

InUth | April 05, 2017

Soon after spiritual leader the Dalai Lama asserted that India had never used him against China, the latter lodged an official protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing, Vijay Gokhale against his visit to Arunachal Pradesh. China affirmed that by letting Dalai Lama travel to Arunachal Pradesh, India had made some "serious damage" to Indo-China bilateral ties.

"India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chinese foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said while speaking to the media.

"Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side's commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalate disputes over the border area," she added.

Meanwhile, Minister of Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju affirmed that India had never intervened in China's policies and that Dalai Lama's visit was only religious.

Facing opposition from China, Dalai Lama affirmed that he didn't mind even if he was considered as a demon. "Physically, for the last over 50 years, my body is surviving on Indian 'dal' and 'chapati'. So, physically and mentally I am an Indian. I am the longest guest of the government of India for the last 58 years and am now paying back for that gesture by becoming the messenger of Indian culture," he said.

State-run Chinese media also claimed that India was using Dalai Lama's visit to upset Beijing, China and Delhi should deliver its political commitments.

<http://www.inuth.com/india/dalai-lamas-arunachal-pradesh-visit-has-caused-serious-damage-to-ties-with-india-china/>

China Denounces India Hosting Dalai Lama in Disputed Region

Reuters | VOA | April 05, 2017

BEIJING/TAWANG, INDIA — China said on Wednesday that India's decision to host Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on a contested stretch of land on the India-China border would cause serious damage to relations between the two countries.

The Dalai Lama's week-long trip to Arunachal Pradesh, an eastern Himalayan region administered by New Delhi, but claimed by China as "southern Tibet", has raised hackles in Beijing, which labels the monk a dangerous separatist.

"China expresses firm opposition to this and will lodge stern representations with the Indian side," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular briefing in the Chinese capital.

The 81-year-old Buddhist monk and Nobel peace laureate had planned to fly by helicopter to the 17th-century Tawang monastery and hold three days of spiritual teachings starting on Wednesday.

However, heavy rainfall forced him to travel by road - a two-day drive through rugged mountain terrain - and he is not now expected to arrive until Friday.

The Dalai Lama received a rapturous welcome on Tuesday in the town of Bomdila, with large crowds turning out in streets festooned with flags, as musicians and dancers clad in traditional costumes performed before his sport-utility vehicle.

Later, the maroon-robed prelate walked slowly through the crowds, a fellow monk supporting him by the arm and another holding a large umbrella overhead to shield him from the rain.

Indian officials have dismissed China's criticism of the Dalai Lama's second visit to Arunachal Pradesh in eight years, saying he is a spiritual leader who has a devoted following in the region.

"His visit to this part of the country is totally religious," the state's chief minister, Pema Khandu, told Reuters Television.

"As far as the boundary issue is concerned, I have also maintained that we don't share our boundary with China, but we share our boundary with Tibet."

Severely damaged

China has repeatedly criticized visits by foreign officials to Arunachal Pradesh, which it calls South Tibet and over which it has a long-standing claim.

In its latest broadside, Beijing said that by ignoring China's concerns and persisting in arranging the trip, India had "severely damaged China's interests and China-India relations".

"We demand that India immediately cease using the Dalai Lama's mistaken behavior to damage China's interests," Hua added. "It will not bring any benefit to India. China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights."

The Dalai Lama fled in 1959 over the border not far from the Tawang monastery, the largest of its kind in India. At the start of his tour, he was reunited with an elderly Indian border guard who had helped him to safety.

He now resides in the Indian hill town of Dharamsala, where his supporters also run a small government in exile. He has renounced any political role in leading the Tibetan diaspora.

The Indian government has rejected China's criticism of the Dalai Lama's visit - his first to Arunachal Pradesh since 2009.

"The government has clearly stated on several occasions that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people," it said in its latest statement on the matter.

"The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh."

<http://www.voanews.com/a/china-denounces-india-hosting-dalai-lama-in-disputed-region/3797207.html>

Govt message in Dalai journey

By Imran Ahmed Siddiqui and Charu Sudan Kasturi,
The Telegraph, Calcutta | April 05, 2017

New Delhi, April 4: The Dalai Lama today began a longer-than-scheduled, eight-day trip to Arunachal Pradesh, accompanied by the state's chief minister and a BJP leader, marking the latest round of shadow boxing between the Narendra Modi government and China amid already tense relations.

Unlike during the Tibetan leader's past visits to the state - a part of which China claims - India today proactively attempted to blunt Beijing's criticism by cautioning its larger neighbour against creating an "artificial controversy".

India also insisted that the 81-year-old monk's visit to Arunachal, where he will also visit Tawang, the part of the state China claims, was for "religious and spiritual" purposes, and not for politics, as Beijing has alleged.

But Indian and Chinese officials told The Telegraph that they did expect the Dalai Lama's visit - his seventh to the state - to escalate bilateral tensions at a time the countries are already locked in serial spats ranging from New Delhi's nuclear ambitions to terrorism.

China has already on multiple occasions threatened that India would risk the "peace and stability" of bilateral relations by allowing the Tibetan leader - who Beijing calls a separatist - to visit the disputed territory.

But for India, the facilitation of the visit while trying to suggest in public that it is only following past practice carries twin objectives.

Politically, it allows the Modi government to assert that it remains unbending in the face of Chinese pressure - something the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is also pushing.

"India has never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expects China to reciprocate," junior home minister Kiren Rijiju said. "We respect Beijing's 'one-China' policy and we expect China to reciprocate."

Strategically, it allows India to signal that it too can plant or pluck irritants to China, just as Beijing does according to New Delhi, at a time sections of the Indian strategic community believe the Chinese establishment is rattled by US President Donald Trump's tough talk.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," the foreign ministry here said in a statement.

"The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh."

Today, India tried to suggest, on the one hand, that the Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit was almost routine - highlighting how he had visited the state, and Tawang, six times in the past: in 1983, 1996, 1997, twice in 2003, and in 2009.

Yet, ample evidence of political support to the monk's visit was placed in the public domain.

Rijiju, a Union minister, is scheduled to meet the Dalai Lama while he is in Arunachal.

Rain and mist meant the Tibetan leader's chopper headed for Tawang could not take off today.

Instead, the state government quickly facilitated a car with an escort for the leader to drive through the state. His first stop was Bomdila, and he will reach Tawang on April 8. He will stay there tentatively till April 12.

Arunachal chief minister Pema Khandu, of the BJP, accompanied the monk on the road trip today. Chaperoning the Dalai Lama was New Delhi-based BJP leader Sudhanshu Mittal.

Chinese officials point to this as evidence of India's latest pinprick, and argue that the monk's visit to Tawang will only further complicate difficult ties.

But Indian officials argue that New Delhi is trying merely to convince China that it suits neither of them to needle the other over core concerns and sensitivities. India has also ramped up ties with Taiwan - which China claims - without formally recognising the island.

"At this time what is required with China is a sensible pragmatic conversation about how not accommodating each other's aspirations is not beneficial to the relationship," foreign secretary S. Jaishankar had told the Parliament standing committee on external affairs in December. "We need to have that conversation and we will have that conversation."

India is upset by what it sees as needless blocks by China to its key strategic aspirations - especially those that in no way pose a challenge to Beijing.

China has repeatedly blocked Indian efforts to get the UN to proscribe senior Pakistan-based terrorists like Masood Azhar. Beijing is stalling New Delhi's membership to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group, a 48-nation cartel of nations that governs nuclear trade.

Despite repeated Indian protests, China continues to develop an economic corridor through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170405/jsp/nation/story_144653.jsp#.WQnZM6L-uUk

India never used me against China: Dalai Lama

Amid protests by Beijing against his scheduled visit to Tawang, the Dalai Lama today said India has never used him against China.

PTI | April 05, 2017



Amid protests by Beijing against his scheduled visit to Tawang, the Dalai Lama today said India has never used him against China.

"India has never used me against China. I am a messenger of the ancient Indian thought and I talk about ahimsa, peace, harmony and secular ethics wherever I go," the Tibetan spiritual leader said while talking to the media here.

His remarks came after Chinese state media today said India is using the Dalai Lama as a diplomatic leverage to challenge China's "bottom line".

"I am a Buddhist. The entire Himalayan range had been traditionally following Buddhist dharma and modern physics is based on Buddhist philosophy," he said.

On corruption, the Dalai Lama said graft is a big problem facing the world and it was increasing because of lack of moral principles.

He spoke fondly of Arunachal Pradesh and said he had a special connection with the state as it served as his point of entry when he arrived in India in 1959.

"When I got freedom, when I first reached India, I entered through Arunanchal Pradesh. I have an emotional connect with the state. It is a special place for me," he said.

The Dalai Lama thanked Indian government for letting him visit the frontier state.

"I would like to thank the government of India. I have been here since 1959. India has taken great care of me. I am their longest staying guest. I am thankful to them," he added.

He gave a discourse at Buddha Park here this morning.

The spiritual leader had arrived here last evening from Guwahati accompanied by state Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

Tomorrow, he would impart teachings at Dirang and confer the 'Avalokiteshvara Permission' at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in the morning.

From April 8 to 10, the Dalai Lama will deliver discourses in Tawang. Owing to the rescheduled visit, he would not be able to go to Itanagar.

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/wire-news/india-never-used-me-against-china-dalai-lama-2253333.html>

Chinese media slams PM Modi on Dalai Lama issue, warns against challenging Beijing's bottom line

The state-run Chinese media today criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking a different stance on the Dalai Lama issue, unlike his predecessors, and challenging Beijing's bottom line.

India TV News Desk | New Delhi | April 05, 2017

The state-run Chinese media today criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking a different stance on the Dalai Lama issue, unlike his predecessors, and challenging Beijing's bottom line.

"Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line," an article in Global Times said.

Reacting sharply to Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju's remarks that Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not interfere in the country's internal affairs, the article said that New Delhi is underestimating Chinese determination.

"This is absurd. New Delhi may have underestimated Beijing's determination to safeguard its core interests," the article said.

Referring to reports of India planning to connect Tawang with a railway network, the article alleged that India is trying to provoke Beijing.

"India is also exploring the option of linking the strategic border district of Tawang with a railway network, another provocation against Beijing," the article said.

"India has also invited a "parliamentary" delegation from Taiwan in February," it added.

Asking India to get rid of its suspicions towards China, the article warned that Beijing won't allow New Delhi to jeopardize its core interests while allowing free ride on its economic growth.

"New Delhi should overcome its suspicions against Beijing. China doesn't allow India to free ride on its economic growth while jeopardizing Beijing's core interests," the article said.

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world-chinese-media-slams-pm-modi-on-dalai-lama-issue-warns-against-challenging-beijing-s-bottom-line-375648>

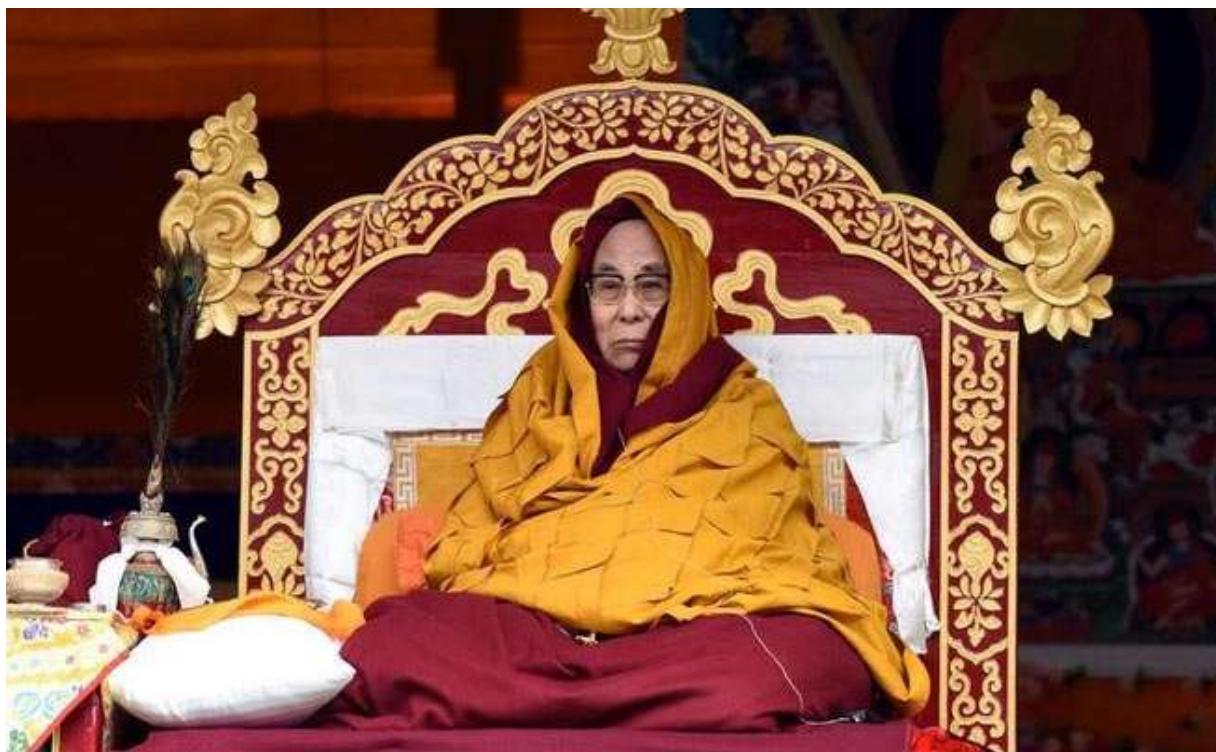
At 81, Dalai Lama Makes 'Bumpy' Road Trip To Arunachal Pradesh

By Monideepa Banerjie | NDTV | April 05, 2017

Perhaps for the first time in his 81 years - barring his escape from Lhasa to Tawang and on to Dharamsala - the Dalai Lama has undertaken a 500 km long road trip to reach his destination.

From Guwahati to Tawang.

The only concession he has made to the inclement weather that prevented him from flying to Tawang in a helicopter is that he turned his schedule upside down.



The Dalai Lama has undertaken a 500-km long road trip to reach his destination (Reuters)

So instead of Tawang, he began his visit to Arunachal Pradesh with a sermon at Bomdila, where he held prayers around 8.30 am today.

How was the ride from Guwahati to Bomdila? 104 km up tall mountains? "Long," laughed Dalai Lama's spokesperson, Mr Tanzin Taklha, "and a little bumpy".

A 'little' bumpy is an understatement of the year. National Highway 15 is severely damaged in many patches because of landslides and road construction.

On Thursday he will hold a similar meeting at Dirang

Then on 7th, he travels to Tawang, all of 130 kilometres of mountainous roads.

China firmly opposed the visit on the India-China border by the Dalai Lama, who it labels a dangerous separatist. On Friday, China said it was "resolutely opposed" to the visit and urged India to "avoid taking any actions that would further complicate the border issue".

Responding to China's objection, India said the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal is a religious one and no political meaning should be attached to it.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," said Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday.

The Dalai Lama has also described his visit as aimed at promoting religious harmony.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/at-81-dalai-lama-makes-bumpy-road-trip-to-arunachal-pradesh-1677610>

China has no right to speak about the Dalai Lama's visit: Shashi Tharoor

ANI | DNA | April 05, 2017

China has no grounds or rights for its stand on the Dalai Lama's visit to India stated Shashi Tharoor, Former Union Minister and Congress Leader adding that the country must take a firm stand without being intimidated.

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday asserted that China has absolutely no locus standi on Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama's visit to India, adding New Delhi must take a firm stand without being unnecessarily intimidated by Beijing's assertion.

Stating that we have to be uncompromising on this issue, Tharoor told ANI that Arunachal Pradesh is a state of the Indian Union and the people living there are Indian citizens.

"The Dalai Lama is a spiritual leader of the Tibetan Buddhist community. He has the right to go and visit the great monastery of his faith in which the sixth Dalai Lamas was born. It's perfectly normal for Dalai Lama to go and India should facilitate it," Tharoor said.

"China has absolutely no locus standi in the matter and we should take a firm stand without being unnecessarily intimidated by their spokesman," he added.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) yesterday issued a statement, saying that no additional colour should be ascribed to the Dalai Lama's religious and spiritual activities.

China has repeatedly warned India that the Dalai Lama's visit would hit the bilateral ties significantly.

Protesting the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, China earlier on Friday warned India to avoid damaging bilateral relations between the two nations and adhere to political pledges or else face the consequences.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-china-has-no-locus-standi-on-the-dalai-lama-s-visit-tharoor-2382355>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh: Visit begins; India tells China not to interfere in its internal matters

As Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh begins on Wednesday, India-China diplomatic tensions rose afresh with New Delhi asserting that no political motive should be attributed to the visit.

Zee Media Bureau | April 05, 2017



New Delhi/Beijing: As Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh began on Wednesday, India-China diplomatic tensions rose afresh with New Delhi asserting that no political motive should be attributed to the visit.

Also, India told Beijing not to interfere in its internal affairs.

Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said that no political motive should be attributed to Dalai Lama's trip.

"India has always been non-interfering in the neighbours' internal affairs in our approach," Rijiju told reporters in New Delhi.

"In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours," he said.

His comment came as the Ministry of External Affairs said that the Dalai Lama has visited the state six times earlier and no "additional colour" should be given to his visit starting from April 5.

Beijing in a fresh salvo slammed the Dalai Lama as an "anti-China separatist" and attacked New Delhi indirectly for its support to the Tibetan leader.

"When Dalai Lamaji is in Arunachal Pradesh, he will be confined only to religious matters. He is not there to make any political statement and he is not there with any political motive," he said.

Rijiju, who is scheduled to go to Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday to meet the Dalai Lama, said India has never questioned China's sovereignty and "has respectfully adhered to the one-China policy".

"So we expect that China also should not interfere in our internal matters," he stated.

Reacting to the visit, the Chinese Foreign Ministry told Efe news: "The 14th Dalai Lama is an anti-China separatist who has long lived in exile following a failed armed rebellion by the reactionary group of high-ranking feudal serf owners in Tibet in March 1959."

"The Chinese government is resolutely opposed to any country's support and facilitation for the 14th Dalai group's anti-China separatist activities," read the statement without alluding directly to India.

Dalai Lama arrives in Bomdila

Meanwhile, the Dalai Lama arrived by road in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh, after inclement weather forced him to call off the scheduled visit by helicopter.

The Tibetan spiritual leader "arrived safely in Tenzingang Tibetan settlement, Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh", the Tibetan Central Administration said in a statement.

In Bomdila, the Dalai Lama was received by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, and members of the Tibetan community.

BJP Chief Minister Khandu posted a tweet showing him meeting the Dalai Lama, and thanked him for deciding to travel by road to Tawang. "His Holiness @DalaiLama accorded warm welcome today at Thubchog Gatsel Ling Monastery, Bomdila. Blessed by his visit." Khandu was accompanied by BJP leader Sudhanshu Mittal.

From Bomdila he would visit Dirang, Lumla and Tawang during his over seven-day trip to Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh holds a special significance for the Tibetan leader, as it was the first territory -- then called the North East Frontier Region -- in India he entered while fleeing Chinese troops in 1959 before moving to Dharamsala, where he now resides.

Asserting that Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory, Rijiju said: "We have certain issues with regard to delineation of the boundary on the spots, on the ground along McMahon Line because it is not being demarcated on the ground. That is why there is a talk between the special representatives of India and China and the people of Arunachal Pradesh hope that an amicable solution can be reached in the foreseeable future time."

China in March said ties with India would be hit if New Delhi allowed the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which is claimed by Beijing as part of South Tibet.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said China was strictly opposed to the visit.

Geng said India knew the sensitivity of the border issue between both countries and allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh would damage its ties with China.

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/dalai-lama-in-arunachal-pradesh-visit-begins-india-tells-china-not-to-interfere-in-its-internal-matters-1992999.html>

Beijing Warns: Dalai Lama's Visit to Disputed State to Hurt China-India Ties

Sputnik | April 05, 2017

BEIJING (Sputnik) — The Tibetan spiritual leader has been living in exile in India since China formally took over Tibet in 1959. He arrived in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday to take part in religious ceremonies.

"This visit will deal serious damage to Chinese interests and the Chinese-Indian relationship. China strongly condemns this move," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters at a briefing.

Beijing has demanded that India stop using the Dalai Lama, who visited the state six times between 1983 and 2009, to undermine China's interests and focus on deescalating tensions between the two powers.

The Indian government said on Tuesday the religious leader was deeply respected as such by the Indian people and urged China not to ascribe "additional color" to his visits to various Indian states.

<https://sputniknews.com/politics/201704051052310914-dalai-lama-china-india/>

Dalai Lama holds preaching session in Arunachal Pradesh's Bomdila; CM Pema Khandu attending the event

It has been learned that Chief Minister Pema Khandu welcomed the leader this morning despite China's sharp criticism over the visit.

FE Online | New Delhi | April 05, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Wednesday held a preaching session at Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district. The discourse is underway at the Buddha Park despite the prevailing inclement weather situation. It has been learned that Chief Minister Pema Khandu welcomed the leader this morning despite China's sharp criticism over the visit, according to reports. Dalai Lama arrived at Bomdila last evening marking the beginning of his nine-day visit to the picturesque north-east state. In a stern message to China, Pema Khandu said that the neighbouring country "shouldn't be worried (about the visit) as India shares border with Tibet." The Dalai Lama's visit to the state comes eight years after his previous visit in 2009 which was exactly 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

The Tibetan spiritual leader arrived by road as his chopper could not take off from Guwahati due to inclement weather. He was accompanied by CM Khandu besides other high-ranking police and civil officials.

On April 6, he will impart teachings at Dirang and confer the 'Avalokiteshvara Permission' at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in the morning.

From April 8-10, the Dalai Lama will deliver discourses in Tawang. He will reach here on April 11 and give a discourse the next day.

Meanwhile, amid persistent Chinese objections to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, India had categorically said no "artificial controversy" should be created around the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit. China has kept a close watch ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit, starting today, and the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India against the visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, saying it will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

However, unfazed by the Chinese warning, India asserted, "No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India."

It also reiterated the government's position that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

On the other hand, state-run Chinese media has claimed that India is using the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh to upset China and New Delhi should deliver on its political commitments to Beijing on Tibet related issues.

The 14th Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang bordering China will hurt Sino-Indian ties because China opposes any official invitations to him, the Global Times quoted an unnamed Chinese analyst as saying.

"The Dalai's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang, which China hopes will be returned, will affect relations between China and India," an analyst from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told the paper on condition of anonymity.

"India (is) using Dalai Lama's visit to upset Beijing," the paper quoted the analyst as saying.

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/dalai-lama-holds-preaching-session-in-arunachal-pradeshs-bomdila-cm-pema-khandu-attending-the-event/615482/>

China furious over Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit, India says nothing political

IANS | Mid Day | April 05, 2017

New Delhi/Beijing: China on Wednesday reacted angrily to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and said that by ignoring Beijing's concerns over the issue New Delhi has caused "serious damage" to bilateral ties. India

reiterated that no political colour should be attributed to the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to the northeastern state.

Diplomatic tensions escalated with Beijing summoning the Indian envoy Vijay Gokhale to lodge its protest, even as the 81-year-old Tibetan leader, who arrived in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday, said in Bomdila that India has never used him against China.

In a prelude to China's belligerence, the Chinese state-run media warned that New Delhi's inviting the Tibetan spiritual leader to the "sensitive region" would "gravely damage" India-China relations. China considers large parts of Arunachal Pradesh as south Tibet, while India has said that Arunachal is an inseparable part of its territory.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, addressing a regular briefing, voiced Beijing's "firm opposition" to the Dalai Lama's visit and said her country would lodge "stern representations with the Indian side".

Hua said that India "in disregard" to China's concerns "obstinately" went ahead to arrange the Tibetan leader's visit, causing "serious damage" to China's interests and China-India relations.

She said that India should "immediately cease using the Dalai Lama's mistaken behaviour to damage China's interests" and not "hype up sensitive" bilateral issues.

The state-run Global Times accused the Indian government of "openly using" the Dalai Lama "as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage".

It said India was trying to play the Tibet card against China as "New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist".

Reacting to Beijing's objection against his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Nobel Peace Laureate said: "There are many in China who love India, but there are some narrow-minded politicians because of their certain views..they considered me as a demon."

Denying Chinese assertions that India was using him as a diplomatic leverage to challenge China, the Tibetan spiritual leader said: "I am India's longest standing guest. India has never used me against China."

On the Tibetan stand, he told journalists, ahead of proceeding to Tawang for a major Buddhist event: "We are not seeking independence. We are very much willing to remain with People's Republic of China. I always used to talk about

the spirit of the European Union, individual nations, individual sovereignty but that is not so important, what is important is common interest."

"Tibet is materialistically backward but spiritually highly-developed. For material development, we need to remain with the People's Republic China as it is our interest. The government (of China) should feel ok for the mutual benefit," he added.

"China must give us meaningful self-rule, autonomy, and must take care of the environment in Tibet. China has the highest population of Tibetan Buddhists. Many Chinese intellectuals also fully support our cause," he said.

China had protested former US envoy Richard Verma's visit to Tawang last October and warned Washington against meddling in the border dispute between New Delhi and Beijing.

India on Wednesday reiterated that no political colour should be attributed to the Tibetan spiritual leader's trip and that the Dalai Lama has visited Arunachal earlier on half a dozen occasions.

"We also urged that no political colour be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and to his visits to states of India, and no artificial controversy created around his ongoing visit," External Ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay said.

On Tuesday, India asked China not to interfere in its matters. Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, who is from Arunachal Pradesh, said: "India has always been non-interfering in the neighbours' internal affairs in our approach. In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours."

<http://www.mid-day.com/articles/china-furious-over-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-india-says-nothing-political/18140150>

'India shares boundary with Tibet, not China': Arunachal CM on Beijing's protest over Dalai Lama visit

Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu today said that China has no right to object as it is not even the next-door neighbour in this part of India.

India TV Politics Desk | New Delhi | April 05, 2017

Launching a scathing attack on Beijing for raising objections to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, state Chief Minister Pema Khandu today

said that China has no right to object as it is not even the next-door neighbour in this part of India.

"Let me get this straight. China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbour," Pema Khandu said.

The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister pointed out that the McMahon Line demarcates the boundary between India and Tibet and not China.

China claims around 90,000 square kilometres of Arunachal Pradesh land which has been denied by India.

Meanwhile, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama reached Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday on a week-long visit. He has been invited by the ruling BJP in the state.

China has been warning India against allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh saying it will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/politics/national-india-shares-boundary-with-tibet-not-china-arunachal-cm-on-beijing-s-protest-over-dalai-lama-visit-375686>

Related: <http://www.indiatvnews.com/politics/national-congress-slams-arunachal-cm-pema-khandu-for-his-tibet-statement-378278>

China says Dalai Lama visit to Arunachal Pradesh has caused serious damage to bilateral ties with India

China has come down hard on India over the three-day visit of the 14th Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh.

By Pragati Ratti Sharma | India | April 05, 2017

New Delhi, April 5: China has come down hard on India over the three-day visit of the 14th Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh. China has warned "necessary measures" to defend its territorial sovereignty and interests after India "obstinately" allowed the Dalai Lama to visit the "disputed" parts of Arunachal Pradesh, causing "serious damage" to the bilateral ties. According to PTI, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, "India, in disregard to China's concerns, obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of the China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations."

She has warned India to “immediately stop its actions using the Dalai Lama to undermine China’s interests and not hype up sensitive issues”. “China’s stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear. India is keenly aware of the role played by the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side’s commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalate disputes over the border area,” she said.

[The Chinese media has also hit out at India](#) over the Dalai Lama’s visit. [Global Times](#), a Communist Party-run nationalistic tabloid published by the official People’s Daily said, “New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing’s stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist. Therefore, Delhi attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing. China has never thought of making trouble for India, and is handling these issues in accordance with international practices and UN regulations.”

This came even as India clearly stated on Tuesday that the Dalai Lama visit was purely spiritual and should not be taken politically. Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, who is from Arunachal Pradesh, said that no political motive should be attributed to Dalai Lama’s trip. “India has always been non-interfering in the neighbours’ internal affairs in our approach. In the same manner, we expect the same from our neighbours,” he said on Tuesday.

The Dalai Lama reached Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, [he said that he is grateful to the Indian government for taking care of him and that he carries Indian thoughts with him](#). He also added that he doesn’t care if China thinks of him as a demon.

<http://www.india.com/news/india/china-says-dalai-lama-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-has-caused-serious-damage-to-bilateral-ties-with-india-1996566/>

Dalai Lama, Indian border guard reunited after 58 years

58 years after his exile from Tibet, Dalai Lama is reunited with Indian soldier who escorted him into India

By Keoni Everington | Taiwan News | April 05, 2017

TAIPEI (Taiwan News) -- Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, on Sunday had an emotional reunion with one of seven Indian soldiers from the Assam state of India who had escorted him during his exodus from Tibet 58 years ago, reports [The Hindu](#).

The Dalai Lama shared an emotional embrace with Naren Chandras Das, 79, a retired member of the Assam Rifles, who he had last seen in 1959 when he and a small squad of soldiers escorted the spiritual leader in the northeast Indian state during his flight from Chinese forces in Tibet.

"Thank you very much.... I am very very happy to meet such an old member of the Assam Rifles who guarded and escorted me to India 58 years ago," a visibly emotional Dalai Lama said, according to The Hindu.

When greeting the retired soldier again after nearly six decades, he quipped "Looking at your face, I now realize I must be very old too."

Sensing a trap to capture him by Chinese forces, the then 23-year-old political and religious leader of Tibet, on March 17, 1959 disguised himself as a soldier, slipped out of his palace and began a two-week trek through the Himalayas before finally reaching the border of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh on March 30.

Das recalled his momentous encounter with the Dalai Lama 58 years ago to the [New Indian Express](#):

"It was just three years that I had joined the Assam Rifles. I was then a rifleman posted at Tawang. On March 29, 1959, seven of us were tasked to escort the Dalai Lama safely to Indian territory. The journey began the next day. There was no road there then and it took us a day to cover the distance on foot. We were armed with 303 rifles and I was his bodyguard. He (Dalai Lama) was on a horseback while we walked. All seven of us were relieved of duty when we had reached Tawang,"

Once word of the Dalai Lama's entry into India in 1959 had reached the government, Indian's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru announced that he would be granted political asylum, and the Tibetan spiritual leader eventually settled in Dharamsala in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh along with about 80,000 other Tibetan exiles.

The Dalai Lama is currently on a [nine-day tour](#) of Arunachal Pradesh, which is drawing the ire of Beijing as it considers it part of Tibet, and therefore China, and bristles at any state-sanctioned visits by the exiled spiritual leader.

The Chinese foreign ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties. In response, Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs of India said, "India never interferes in the internal affairs of China. We expect that China should not interfere in our internal matters either."

<http://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3133399>

Dalai Lama: 5 things to know about the 14th Dalai Lama aka Tenzin Gyatso

Dharamsala is currently the office of the Dalai Lama where world leaders, celebrities and anybody who seeking his spiritual guidance pay him a visit.

By Nithya Nair | India.com | April 05, 2017

The 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso is currently on a week-long visit to the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The Tibetan spiritual leader in-exile's visit has received strong objection from China who believes these visits will ruin the Indo-China relations. However, the Dalai Lama on the very first day of his visit itself brushed aside China's objections, saying it's 'normal' for them to 'object'. The Dalai Lama whose real name is Tenzin Gyatso was born on July 6, 1935, to farmers in a village in northeastern Tibet. He was one of five children in the family. Talking about his visit to AP and Assam, the Buddhist monk said that he is "the longest staying guest of India: and is indeed grateful to the country". His visit will culminate on April 12 with a teaching session in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Dalai Lama has been staying in India for the past six decades. He was offered refuge in the country by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, after the Lama's escape from Tibet in 1959. Dharamsala is currently the office of the Dalai Lama where world leaders, celebrities and anybody who seeking his spiritual guidance pay him a visit. Here are five facts about the Dalai Lama that you should know.

1. The 14th Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959

The Dalai Lama as a young monk had fled Tibet, as Chinese troops came into the country to crush an uprising in 1959. Disguised as a soldier, he entered Arunachal Pradesh after a 13-day trek through the Himalayas.

2. India offered shelter to the Dalai Lama

India offered shelter to the Dalai Lama and let him set up a government-in-exile in the hill town of Dharamsala. He has been grateful to India for letting him live in the country while the uprising in his homeland was crushed by the Chinese Army. China says Dalai Lama visit to Arunachal Pradesh has caused serious damage to bilateral ties with India

3. Dalai Lama has won the Noble Peace Prize

The Dalai Lama was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1989 for his non-violent means to free Tibet from China. His Holiness was also presented the Congressional Gold Medal by George Bush in recognition of his human rights work.

4. He is extremely interested in Science

The Dalai Lama once said that had he not been brought up as a monk he would have been an engineer. For many years he had been involved in research on how meditation affects the brain. He has also been a part of various scientific conferences on the subject.

5. He became a monk at the age of 6

Tibetan monks who found him at the age of two understood that he was the reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama. It was some physical traits such as moles in certain places and long ears that proved the fact. He was renamed as Tenzin Gyatso and became a monk at six!

Before his current visit to Assam, the banned ULFA(I) has ‘appealed’ to the spiritual leader to not say anything that would ‘hurt the Chinese’. China also issued a formal statement saying that the Dalai Lama’s trip has “severely damaged China-India relations”.

<http://www.india.com/buzz/dalai-lama-5-things-to-know-about-the-14th-dalai-lama-aka-tenzin-gyatso-1996616/>

China warns India to stop using Dalai Lama to undermine its interest

Radio Pakistan, April 05, 2017

China has warned India to immediately stop using Dalai Lama to undermine its interest.

At a regular briefing in Beijing today, spokesperson of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hu Chunying asked New Delhi not to hype up sensitive issues between the two countries.

She said "arranging visits for Dalai Lama to sensitive and disputed regions is not only contrary to India's commitment on Tibet related issues but it will also escalate disputes over border areas between the two countries."

The spokesperson said, India in disregard of China's concerns, has invited Dalai Lama to visit disputed area in eastern part of China-India borders causing serious damage to China's interest and relations between the two countries.

She said China will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial integrity.

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/05-Apr-2017/china-warns-india-to-stop-using-dalai-lama-to-undermine-its-interest>



THURSDAY, APRIL 06, 2017

At Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery an Inaugural Ceremony, Teaching and Avalokiteshvara Permission

Dalailama.com | April 06, 2017

Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh - This morning the day began in the new temple of Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery with the recitation of the Guru Puja or Lama Chöpa. As many women's voices as men's could be heard. The Hon Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijuju, whose native village is nearby, met His Holiness the Dalai Lama to welcome him to Dirang. Since Parliament is in session and his presence was required in the Lok Sabha, Rijuju was unable to attend the morning's inaugural ceremony at the monastery.



Members of the lay community debating Buddhist philosophy in front of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 6, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness descended from his quarters on the top floor of the temple in the only elevator in the entire district and took his seat between the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Padmanabha Acharya and Chief Minister Pema Khandu. The occasion began with a mandala of the universe and representations of the body, speech and mind of enlightenment being offered to His Holiness. This was followed by an exemplary debate by members of the lay community, both women and men.

Ven Thupten Rinpoche read a report about the establishment of the monastery during which he was several times overcome with emotion. He attributed the inspiration for the creation of the institution to His Holiness's persistent advice to establish a centre of learning where people could readily study the Nalanda Tradition in Arunachal Pradesh. He said they had done so, providing the best facilities they could find.

He declared that the intention was to provide opportunities for both monastics and laypeople to study the scriptures and in particular the classic works of the Seventeen Masters of Nalanda. The aim is to educate with a view to training people with moral stature and a kind heart. He described a programme that includes introductory classes three times a week and a more serious course in Buddhism, Bhoti language (Tibetan) and Buddhist history to run for one and a half months a year, for which students will be awarded a certificate after four years. He mentioned plans for a retreat programme and an annual fasting retreat. Thupten Rinpoche expressed gratitude for His Holiness's guidance so far and sought his further advice.



Members of the media at the inaugural ceremony of the new temple at Thubsung Dhargyeling Monastery in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 6, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

In his remarks, TN Thongdok, Speaker of the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly expressed appreciation of His Holiness's kindness in coming by road when the helicopter flight was called off. He noted that when His Holiness first came through the region in 1959, although it was historically Buddhist, interest had waned. He said it was due to His Holiness's repeated visits and the inspiration he gave the people that interest in study and practice had very much revived.

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Padmanabha Acharya welcomed His Holiness on behalf of the people of the state. He called today an auspicious day, saying that His Holiness's presence was a source of strength and inspiration.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, seated between Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Padmanabha Acharya and Chief Minister Pema Khandu, addressing the audience at the inaugural ceremony of the new temple at Thubsung Dhargyeling Monastery in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

"Dear brothers and sisters," His Holiness began, "I always start by greeting people as brothers and sisters, because the reality is that this is what we 7 billion human beings are. If this is what we emphasize there'll be no basis for bullying or cheating, much less killing one another. Scientists have shown through experiments with pre-language infants that basic human nature is compassionate. They have also found evidence that living in constant anger, hatred, fear and suspicion has the effect of undermining our immune system. That compassion is beneficial and anger and fear are detrimental is the same for all of us 7 billion human beings."

"Many of the problems we face today, such as the huge gap between rich and poor, are of our own making. Here in India too there is caste discrimination, which is now inappropriate and out of date. We are all human beings with the same rights and aspirations to be happy. I consider myself to be just one of them. I don't think about being a Buddhist, a Tibetan or the Dalai Lama in ways that set me apart and create barriers with others that would only leave me lonely. I am fully committed to promoting the oneness of humanity and the importance of our human values, with a view to individuals, families and communities being happy."

Citing his changed travel plans as an example of turning a difficulty to advantage he said:

"The other day flying from Guwahati to Dibrugarh there was such turbulence I thought my end had come. As a result we decided to travel by road instead of helicopter. The benefit has been that I have seen far more people on the road than I would otherwise have done and they have been able to see me."

His Holiness remarked that of the great ancient civilizations of Egypt, China and the Indus Valley, he feels that the Indus Valley ultimately gave rise to a greater number of great thinkers. Buddhism, especially the Nalanda Tradition, as part of this trend, eventually spread virtually throughout Asia. He referred to the key concepts of emptiness of intrinsic existence and dependent arising that in his experience enable us to tackle our destructive emotions.

He suggested that the Buddha was not only the founder of Buddhism, but also a great thinker and a scientist who advised his followers not to accept his teaching at face value but to examine and investigate it in the light of reason. Scholars of the past like Nagarjuna and Buddhaghosa had done just that.



Members of the audience listening to His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking at Thubsung Dhargyeling Monastery in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 6, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

"Modern Indians are too inclined to emulate Westerners and modern education is too oriented to material goals with too little attention paid to inner peace. We live in a time of moral crisis, which will not be solved by relying only on prayer, but by training the mind and confronting our destructive emotions. On the one hand we need a sense of universal values derived from

common experience, common sense and scientific findings and on the other we need to combine modern education with ancient Indian knowledge of the workings of the mind and emotions.”

With regard to his hopes to see a centre of learning emerge at this monastery His Holiness commented:

“You’ve done wonderful work here; I really appreciate what you’ve achieved so far. Thank you.”

In concluding the ceremony Thubten Rinpoche presented a statue of the Buddha to His Holiness, the Governor and Chief Minister. Local MLA Phurpa Tsering, giving the vote of thanks, expressed “gratitude to His Holiness for coming and blessing this land.” The guests convened upstairs for lunch.

In the early afternoon, His Holiness went down to the teaching pavilion perched above an extensive ground on which an estimated 20,000 people had gathered to listen to him. He explained what he was going to do.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking to a crowd of 20,000 in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 6, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

“Today I’m here with you again. The original plan had been to fly to Tawang, but the weather changed that. I’m here earlier than anticipated and the teaching I’m going to give is the permission of Chenresig Who Liberates from Unfortunate Realms and before that the ‘Eight Verses for Training the Mind’. Right away I’m going to give you a reading transmission of the Guru Yoga, the ‘Inseparability of the Spiritual Master from Avalokiteshvara’ so you can recite it while I do the preparations for the other permission.”

During the recitation of the Guru Yoga and the accompanying tsog offering women notably took an equal part in the proceedings. They took part in the chanting, playing the music and the actual offering of the tsog to His Holiness.

"We're not here for the purpose of business or entertainment," His Holiness observed. "What people in the world are failing to do today is to use their minds to generate happiness; they are lost instead in sensory experience. All religious traditions have ways of contributing to mental peace, but where faith otherwise predominates what distinguishes Buddhism is that it employs faith supported by wisdom. It directs us to use our intelligence. Ignorance gives rise to unhappiness, but we can overcome it with insight into reality."

"Some refer to Buddhism as science of the mind and it does help us transform our minds by harnessing understanding. Where disturbing emotions like anger and attachment are rooted in ignorance, the Buddha's teaching is rooted in insight into reality. Scientists appreciate the ideas of dependent arising and I've asked if they have anything corresponding to it, but they tell me 'not yet'."



Some of the estimated 20,000 people attending His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teaching in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 6, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness asked the audience to open the books they had been given to read the 'Eight Verses for Training the Mind'. He clarified that the text is about using the mind to develop happiness rather than getting lost in sensory pleasure.

He mentioned that Tibetan Emperor Trisong Detsen invited Shantarakshita to Tibet who established Buddhism on Tibetan soil. Two centuries later the tradition had declined and Atisha was invited to restore it. He founded the

Kadampa tradition that the author of this text, Langri Thangpa belonged to. His Holiness recalled that he received this teaching first as a child from Tagdag Rinpoche and later from his junior tutor Trijang Rinpoche.

The text teaches Bodhichitta, the compassionate aspect of the path as well as the profound aspect of emptiness. He remarked that a Bodhisattva has two focuses—other beings and enlightenment—and works to attain enlightenment on the basis of wisdom. He read steadily through the verses commenting briefly on them until the advice in the final stanza to avoid being sullied by thoughts of the eight worldly concerns and seeing all things as illusions, without attachment, to gain freedom from bondage.

His Holiness then embarked on the permission of Chenresig Who Liberates from Unfortunate Realms, reporting that the practice derives from a vision experienced by Tagphu Dorje Chang, who was famously blessed by Arya Tara. He said there is a tradition that every time an individual receives it, one life in the lower realm is shut off. In the course of the ritual, His Holiness led a ceremony for generating the awakening mind of bodhichitta, concluding with several verses of rejoicing.

Tomorrow, His Holiness will leave Dirang by road to drive to Tawang, a journey that will take him over the 4170 metre Sela Pass.

<https://www.dalailama.com/news/2017/at-thupsung-dhargyeling-monastery-an-inaugural-ceremony-teaching-and-avalokiteshvara-permission>

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Consecrates Thubsung Dhargyaling Monastery in Dirang

Tibet.net | April 06, 2017

Dirang: Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama today consecrated Thubsung Dhargyalling Monastery in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh and conferred the Avalokiteshvara permission at the Monastery this morning.

The ceremony was conducted in the presence of Governor of AP PB Acharya, Chief Minister Pema Khandu, state Assembly speaker TN Thongdok, Chief Secretary Shakuntala Gamlin and other dignitaries of West Kameng and Itanagar.

Nearly twenty thousand devotees, including devotees from neighboring Bhutan, monks and nuns, members of Tibetan community from Dirang, Itanagar greeted the Tibetan spiritual leader at the Thubsung Dhargyaling Monastery.

Tulku Thupten Rinpoche gave the welcome address and made mandala offering to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

In his inaugural remarks, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, PN Acharya, said, "It gives me great pleasure to welcome His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I apologise for not being to receive you when you first arrived in Arunachal Pradesh. Your presence has given us strength that we have to march along with prosperity with spiritual content. I again bow my head and request you even at young 81 man who can move thousands of thousand, lakhs and lakhs want to hear you and see, please give us time. You can be part of the preaching, you are the living god, living saint."

Tenzing Norbu Thongdok, Speaker of Legislative Assembly In his welcome speech, spoke of the divine feeling of goodness and human values that His Holiness brought to the occasion. "I feel it is a great opportunity to speak before the Dalai Lama. I take this opportunity to welcome His Holiness the Dalai Lama in West Kameng district and at the same time I also would like thank on behalf four MLAs from this district for His Holiness' blessing and words of wisdom to the people of west kameng district. I feel lucky that with certain change of program, His Holiness travelled by road, covering from east to west of the state and in that way, we have received your blessing.

"Before His Holiness the Dalai Lama arrived here in India in 1959, Buddhism was not so much practiced. we had very few lamas here, at least not in my region. It was very difficult to even dispose off our dear and dead ones in absence of lamas for ritual performance. But after your visit to Arunachal Pradesh since 1983, people have taken up really towards practice of real Buddhism in our region. Institution like this have come up. This is how you have been able to influence us," the speaker said.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama began his talk by addressing his followers and devotees as brothers and sisters, "I always emphasise that we are same human being; same brothers and sisters. If we emphasise that, then there is no basis of bullying, cheating, harming or killing each other.

"All religion is ultimate source of compassion, self discipline, tolerance, however due to too much self centred attitude, short sightedness, religion also causing violence and division today. it is really sad," His Holiness said.

His Holiness warned that if the present situation continues, the 21st century will also be a miserable one with more gap between poor and rich, more violence and discrimination.

Calling on the scores of his followers to imbibe the sense of brotherhood, mutual respect and sense of concern for the wellbeing of others, he said, "Since we are part of humanity, we cannot ignore these things. We cannot remain indifferent to the suffering of others. We are social animal, each individual's future depend rest of humanity. Humanity thrives in peace and happiness, all Individuals will reap maximum benefit," he said.

His Holiness spoke with great concern while recalling his encounter with road construction workers on his way to Bomdila. "When I was coming by road, these road workers were very poor with no education. Although these days, there are more and more students, that's a good sign but still we have to work more rigorously to think of these poorer section. They are same human being, they also have same right to live happy life."

However, His Holiness said seeing the poverty and suffering of the people gave him opportunity to think of compassion. "In Tibetan we have a saying that means blessing in disguise. From Guwahati, my chartered plane, there were some problems and so fortunately because of the problem in the plane, I travelled by road and I was able to meet with road workers and people. Seeing them really gave some opportunity to think of compassion. I have nothing to help them but only offer prayers."

After concluding the inaugural ceremony of Thubsung Dhargyaling Monastery, His Holiness gave teachings on Geshe Langri Thangpa's Eight verses of Training the Mind & Guru Yoga, followed by conferment of the Avalokiteshvara permission.

<http://tibet.net/2017/04/his-holiness-the-dalai-lama-consecrates-thubsung-dhargyaling-monastery-in-dirang/>

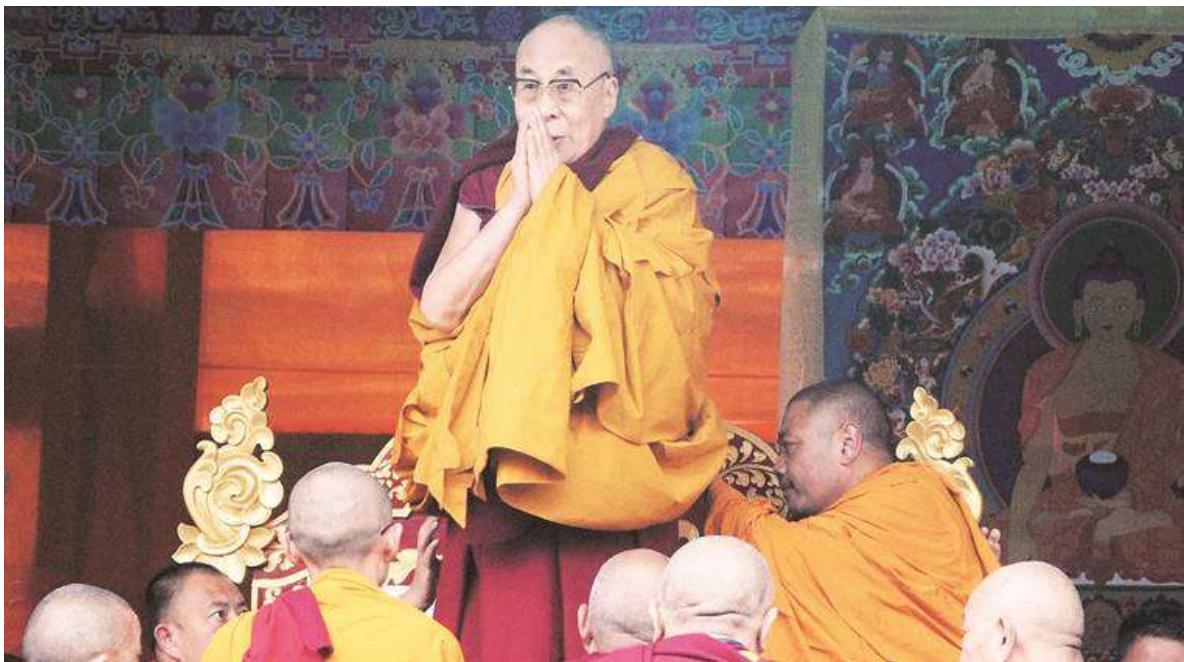
Dalai Lama visit will hurt ties, severely damage peace, Beijing warns Delhi

Dalai Lama said, "India has never used me against China. I am a messenger of the ancient Indian thought and I talk about ahimsa, peace, harmony and secular ethics wherever I go."

By Apurva and Shubhajit Roy | Indian Express | April 06, 2017

China summoned the Indian ambassador in Beijing Wednesday and lodged a strong protest as the Dalai Lama began his tour of Arunachal Pradesh.

Warning New Delhi that Beijing will take "necessary measures" to preserve its territorial sovereignty and legal interests, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the visit by the Tibetan spiritual leader could "severely damage peace and stability in the region" and "hurt ties" between the two countries.



The Dalai Lama in Bomdila, in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, on Wednesday. (Source: PTI photo)

Sources said Ambassador Vijay Gokhale was called around 4 pm Beijing time and the tone of the Chinese officials was unusually sharp. The Foreign Ministry said India had “obstinately” arranged the visit by the Dalai Lama who reached Bomdila in West Kameng district at the start of his nine-day tour of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Chinese embassy in New Delhi is also expected to issue a demarche to the Ministry of External Affairs on the issue, Chinese diplomats indicated. Government sources in New Delhi said the reaction from Beijing was expected and reiterated that the Dalai Lama was a “revered religious leader” who had visited Arunachal Pradesh on “half a dozen occasions” earlier.

“We have also urged that no political colour be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and to his visits to states of India, and no artificial controversy be created around his ongoing visit,” Indian government sources said.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said: “China will take necessary measures to firmly preserve our own territorial sovereignty and legal interests. We ask India to stop this wrong behaviour. Taking advantage of the Dalai Lama harms China’s national interests. Do not speculate and expand the sensitive issues between two countries, do not purposely harm the negotiation of boundary as well as the foundation of our bilateral relation.”

The spokesperson refused to elaborate on what measures China would take to underscore its dissatisfaction. This was Beijing’s sharpest reaction to the

Dalai Lama's visit, the fourth in under a month. "Tibet-related issues involve China's core interest. China's standpoint on this issue is consistent and clear. India does not care about China's concern and negotiation and has purposely arranged the visit to a disputed area of China-India boundary. India's invitation to the Dalai Lama to the disputed border region will severely damage peace and stability along border areas and hurt ties between the two countries," Hua said.

China maintains that parts of Arunachal Pradesh, which it refers to as Southern Tibet, form part of the mainland and India's continued engagement with the Dalai Lama, described by the Chinese government as an anti-China separatist, will cause damage to bilateral ties. Hua also rejected Minister of State (Home) Kiren Rijiju's remarks that the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh was "purely religious" and not political.

"Could you tell me honestly... do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader? I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable. We demand the Indian side stop this move of undermining Chinese interests," Hua said.

China had lodged similar protests in 2009 when the Dalai Lama last visited Arunachal Pradesh. But Wang Dehua, Director, Institute for South and Central Asia Studies in Shanghai, said this visit was different. "China's reaction this time is stronger simply because the Indian side has given the Dalai Lama higher status. He is being accompanied by a junior minister. Continuing this trend is dangerous for India," he said.

Despite tensions, Wang said China would stop short of military action. "This is a very serious issue and I think the MFA has made this clear. But in my opinion, China will stop short of using the military as an option and instead choose economic options. Nobody wants a confrontation, but China can use economic factors, which are critical to India," Wang said.

Hu Shisheng, South Asia expert at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, concurred: "China can see the big picture here and I do not foresee any military action. The visit of the Dalai Lama is a setback for China-India ties, but I believe the Chinese reaction could be over the border disputes alone."

He said China could make its dissatisfaction felt by decreasing the border dispute mechanisms. "We could see a reduction in the number of flag meetings between the two armies on the border for example and reduced defence cooperation," he said. According to Hu, India's Tibet gambit could even negate the recent talks between the Indian Foreign Secretary and senior

Chinese government officials, including Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Executive Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui. "In my opinion, those talks that many believed were successful will be negated. India should not rake up old disputes, whatever the reason may be," Hu said.

Wang said playing the Tibet card was a "misassessment" of the situation. "India and China can solve their border disputes by dialogue and accommodation alone. Using such pressure tactics, which go against China's core interests, is in the opposite direction," Wang said.

While New Delhi doesn't link the Dalai Lama's visit to China's attitude on issues of India's core concern — the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, NSG membership and Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Masood Azhar's listing — many think it is being used as a leverage on these issues.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dalai-lama-visit-will-hurt-ties-beijing-warns-delhi-envoy-4601035/>

'Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit may force China to interfere in Kashmir'

SIFY | April 06, 2017

Beijing: After India slammed China for criticizing The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, a state-owned Chinese media said on Wednesday that Indian was playing the Tibet card and that Beijing will not allow it to have a free ride on its economic growth.

"New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist. Therefore, Delhi attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing," said Global Times in an editorial.

The editorial comes as the Dalai Lama entered Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday. It said New Delhi inviting the Tibetan spiritual leader to the "sensitive region" would "gravely damage" India-China relations.

A top Chinese Communist Party official, Zhu Weiqun, backing the editorial's view said that India was losing its dignity as a big power and warned of repercussions, suggesting that if China chose to it could also 'interfere' in the Kashmir issue.

The comments came after the Global Times editorial hinted at the same - "With a GDP several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India's peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India's turbulent northern state borders China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?"

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chinese daily said, "Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line."

"Amid Beijing-New Delhi conflicts, the Dalai Lama is now openly used by India as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage," it added.

China keeping an eye on Dalai Lama's visit, warned India to avoid damaging bilateral relations between the two nations and adhere to political pledges, or else face the consequences.

"Therefore, we have asked India to earnestly honour its political pledges and avoid damaging China-India relations. Otherwise, India only stands to get hurt," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang's told a press conference on Friday.

Another state-run media, China Daily also launched a stanching attack on India. "New Delhi not only allowed the 14th Dalai Lama to visit Southern Tibet, a historical Chinese territory India has illicitly occupied and refers to as 'Arunachal Pradesh', but the spiritual leader of 'Tibetan independence' was also escorted on the trip by India's junior minister of home affairs," it said in its editorial.

Commenting on the remarks of Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju who said Arunachal is "an inseparable part of India", China Daily said "Rijiju might think himself cute in borrowing a line from Beijing's diplomatic representations, but he has ignored the fundamental distinction here: Like Taiwan and any other part of China, Tibet is a part of the Chinese territory no matter whether New Delhi agrees or not."

The India-China diplomatic tensions rose afresh over Dalai Lama's visit, with New Delhi asserting on Tuesday that no political motive should be attributed to the visit and asked Beijing not to interfere in its internal affairs.

Beijing has earlier slammed the Dalai Lama as an "anti-China separatist" and attacked India indirectly for its support to the Tibetan leader.

Arunachal Pradesh holds a special significance for the Tibetan leader, as it was the first territory - then called the North East Frontier Region -- in India he entered while fleeing Chinese troops in 1959 before moving to Dharamsala, where he now resides.

<http://www.sify.com/news/dalai-lama-s-arunachal-visit-may-force-china-to-interfere-in-kashmir-news-international-refm88afhfeed.html>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal: Will be chained if I go to China in present circumstances

The Dalai Lama is on an over-a-week-long tour to the northeast, but China has raised serious objections to his visit to Arunachal's Tawang district in particular.

By Manogya Loiwal | Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh | April 06, 2017

The 14th Dalai Lama has sparked off a series of controversies with his spiritual visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the first in this decade.

The Dalai Lama is on an over-a-week-long tour to the northeast, but China has raised serious objections to his visit to Arunachal's Tawang district in particular.

The spiritual leader has not just taken potshots at Chinese communists for their 'hypocritical' jibe at him, but even invited Chinese representatives to come and see the work he is doing here in India.

AM A STUDENT OF NALANDA TRADITION: DALAI LAMA

He said, "I am a student of the Nalanda tradition and use logic for everything. My visit to India's northeast is purely spiritual and religious. This is a non-political issue and the Chinese representatives should come here and see the work we are doing."

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal is being closely watched by Beijing and he too knows this. India and China are two big Asian nations.

Citing the example of the benefits and the assistance given to pilgrims here, he also has a proposal to make. "Historically, China is a Buddhist country and a follower of the Nalanda tradition. So I suggest that the concerned Indian officials see to it that specific arrangements are made to facilitate convenient travel of Chinese Buddhists to India. Buddhists have been living in China for

more than 400 million years. Such arrangements will help Chinese Buddhists come for pilgrimage to India and see many sacred places."

DALAI LAMA CALLS CHINA AN AUTHORITARIAN COUNTRY

Calling China an authoritarian country, he advocated major changes in the country's judicial system. "Freedom of speech will be there. There can be more exposure also. I say that as many as 1.3 billion Chinese people have every right to know the reality and once they come to know what the truth is, they will be able to judge right from wrong. Even the censorship of media is a very harmful and regressive step. China's judiciary should also upgrade itself to an international level. I met a lot of peasants who were very poor. The local leader and people are only busy minting money for themselves and are not concerned about the condition of the farmers."

The Dalai Lama's message of spreading peace has reached millions of people and some of them happen to be in China as well.

He said, "Many Chinese Buddhists, mostly from the mainland, come to see me in tears. In most cases, they ask me not to forget them and invite me to China, and of course Tibet. I tell them as soon as the Chinese government starts showing some positivity towards me, I am ready to come. In the present circumstances, if I go there, I will be chained."

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh-tawang-china-chinese-buddhists-tibet/1/922465.html>

Why is China nervous? Dalai Lama has already visited Arunachal Pradesh six times

On Saturday, Dalai Lama will be visiting Tawang for the fifth time during his seventh tour of Arunachal Pradesh. China seems to be anguished more with its own compulsions than India allowing Dalai Lama to visit the northeastern state.

By Prabhash K Dutta | New Delhi | India Today | April 06, 2017

Highlights:

- Dalai Lama took asylum in India in 1959.
- Dalai Lama visited Arunachal Pradesh in 1983 for the first time.
- Dalai Lama will be visiting Tawang for fifth time this week.



China has warned India of adverse diplomatic consequences for allowing Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh including the monastery of Tawang.

China's reaction this time looked belligerent and betrayed its own nervousness ahead of President Xi Jinping's meeting with the hardliner US President Donald Trump, who has incidentally not invited his Chinese counterpart over dinner.

China might be overly conscious about its strong international posturing which it has avoided since the victory of Donald Trump in the US and his subsequent statements hinting to align with India to keep China in check.

The ongoing visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh is his sixth such visit to the state, which China claims as its own calling it South Tibet.

THE DALAI LAMA'S ASYLUM IN INDIA

Following Chinese military aggression in Tibet, Dalai Lama escaped to India and sought political asylum in 1959. The then Nehru government at the Centre agreed to give him asylum.

Dalai Lama set up the Tibetan government in-exile at Dharamshala. As a matter of policy, India has allowed Dalai Lama to visit anywhere in the country including Arunachal Pradesh but resisted from making a political statement over his visits.

THE DALAI LAMA'S SIX VISITS TO ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Dalai Lama visited Arunachal Pradesh for the first time in 1983 - 24 hours after he set up his government in-exile. During his first visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Dalai Lama travelled to Tawang among other places - Miao, Tenzingang, Bomdila, Tawang, Dirang and Itanagar. His website - <http://dalailama.com> - gives the details of his visits.

Dalai Lama visited Arunachal Pradesh for the second time in 1996. This time he did not visit Tawang but travelled to Miao, Tezu and Mirig.

Dalai Lama next visited Tawang in 1997 when he toured Arunachal Pradesh for the third time. He also travelled to Tenzin Gang, Bomdila and Dirang.

2003 was the only year, when Dalai Lama toured Arunachal Pradesh twice. First time in April-May and followed it up with another visit in December. In the first trip of the year, Dalai Lama visited Bomdila and Tawang. In December, he stayed at Itanagar.

Dalai Lama's sixth trip to Arunachal Pradesh came in 2009, when he stayed at Tawang for four days. This visit came exactly 50 years after his exile from Tibet.

WHY TAWANG MATTERS

China has always customarily objected to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh especially Tawang. On the other hand, the Dalai Lama has visited Tawang four times in the past.

On Saturday, the Dalai Lama will be visiting Tawang for the fifth time during his seventh tour of Arunachal Pradesh after he took asylum in India.

Tawang is one of the prominent religious centres for Tibetans. It was founded in the 17th century as per the wishes of the fifth Dalai Lama.

Tawang serves as the headquarters of the Karma-Kargyu sect of Tibetan Buddhists. The Karma-Kargyu sect is headed by Karmapa Lama. A close association of the Dalai Lama with Tawang does not fit into Chinese scheme of things.

China aggressively promotes One-China policy and in Beijing's view a relevant Tawang outside Chinese control will continue to question Chinese acquisition of Tibet.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/the-dalai-lama-china-arunachal-pradesh-tawang/1/922400.html>

China denounces India hosting Dalai Lama in disputed region of Arunachal Pradesh

By Michael Martina and Sunil Kataria | Reuters | April 06, 2017

China said on Wednesday that India's decision to host Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on a contested stretch of land on the India-China border would cause serious damage to relations between the two countries.

The Dalai Lama's week-long trip to Arunachal Pradesh, an eastern Himalayan region administered by New Delhi, but claimed by China as "southern Tibet", has raised hackles in Beijing, which labels the monk a dangerous separatist.

"China expresses firm opposition to this and will lodge stern representations with the Indian side," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular briefing in the Chinese capital.

The 81-year-old Buddhist monk and Nobel peace laureate had planned to fly by helicopter to the 17th-century Tawang monastery and hold three days of spiritual teachings starting on Wednesday.

However, heavy rainfall forced him to travel by road - a two-day drive through rugged mountain terrain - and he is not now expected to arrive until Friday.

The Dalai Lama received a rapturous welcome on Tuesday in the town of Bomdila, with large crowds turning out in streets festooned with flags, as musicians and dancers clad in traditional costumes performed before his sport-utility vehicle.

Later, the maroon-robed prelate walked slowly through the crowds, a fellow monk supporting him by the arm and another holding a large umbrella overhead to shield him from the rain.

Indian officials have dismissed China's criticism of the Dalai Lama's second visit to Arunachal Pradesh in eight years, saying he is a spiritual leader who has a devoted following in the region.

"His visit to this part of the country is totally religious," the state's chief minister, Pema Khandu, told Reuters Television.

"As far as the boundary issue is concerned, I have also maintained that we don't share our boundary with China, but we share our boundary with Tibet."

SEVERELY DAMAGED

China has repeatedly criticised visits by foreign officials to Arunachal Pradesh, which it calls South Tibet and over which it has a long-standing claim.

In its latest broadside, Beijing said that by ignoring China's concerns and persisting in arranging the trip, India had "severely damaged China's interests and China-India relations".

"We demand that India immediately cease using the Dalai Lama's mistaken behaviour to damage China's interests," Hua added. "It will not bring any benefit to India. China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights."

The Dalai Lama fled in 1959 over the border not far from the Tawang monastery, the largest of its kind in India. At the start of his tour, he was reunited with an elderly Indian border guard who had helped him to safety.

He now resides in the Indian hill town of Dharamsala, where his supporters also run a small government in exile. He has renounced any political role in leading the Tibetan diaspora.

The Indian government has rejected China's criticism of the Dalai Lama's visit - his first to Arunachal Pradesh since 2009.

"The government has clearly stated on several occasions that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people," it said in its latest statement on the matter.

"The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh."

(Additional reporting by Douglas Busvine in New Delhi; Writing by Christian Shepherd and Douglas Busvine; Editing by Nick Macfie and Clarence Fernandez)

<http://in.reuters.com/article/india-dalailama-china-copy-idINKBN17806U>

Live: China Wrong to Slam Delhi Over Dalai Lama, Says Arunachal CM

The Quint | April 06, 2017

Beijing Has No Right to Threaten Delhi on Dalai Lama's Movement: Arunachal CM

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Wednesday said China has "no right to threaten" India over Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama's movements in Arunachal Pradesh, which, he said, shares a border with "Tibet and not China".

Beijing has no right to threaten Delhi on the Dalai Lama's movement within the country as India shares boundary with Tibet and not China. China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbour.

China Lodges Protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing

China said today it has lodged a diplomatic protest with India for allowing the Dalai Lama to visit the "disputed" parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said it has lodged the protest with India's Ambassador in Beijing, Vijay Gokhale.

Dalai Lama's Visit Seriously Damaged Ties with India: China

China said on Wednesday that it plans to lodge a diplomatic protest with India for "obstinately" allowing the Dalai Lama to visit "disputed" Arunachal Pradesh, causing "serious damage" to bilateral ties

Speaking to reporters, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said:

India, in disregard to China's concerns, obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of the China-India border causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations.

China firmly opposes this move and will make representations to the Indian side, she added.

We Don't Want Independence but 'Meaningful Self-Rule' : Dalai Lama

'Have an Emotional Connect With Arunachal Pradesh'

The Dalai Lama spoke fondly of Arunachal Pradesh and said he had a special connection with the state, as it had served as his point of entry when he escaped to India from Tibet in 1959.

When I got freedom, when I first reached India, I entered through the state of Arunachal Pradesh. I have an emotional connect with the state. It is a special place for me.

He thanked the Indian government for allowing him to live in India.

I would like to thank the government of India. I have been here since 1959. India has taken great care of me. I am their longest staying guest. I am thankful to them.

'India Not Using Me Against China'

The Dalai Lama on Wednesday rubbished claims made by Chinese official media that he was being used by the Narendra Modi government as "diplomatic leverage" to challenge China.

India has never used me against China.

A report in *The Global Times* had said that India is using the Dalai Lama as a diplomatic tool to counter China.

Dalai Lama's Session Underway in Bomdila

The Dalai Lama gave a discourse at Buddha Park in Bomdila after he arrived at the state's West Kameng district on Tuesday evening.

Accompanied by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, the spiritual leader arrived by road as his chopper could not take off from Guwahati due to inclement weather.

This marks the start of the Dalai Lama's nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh. On 6 April, he will impart teachings at Dirang and confer the 'Avalokiteshvara Permission' at Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery in the morning.

From 8 April to 10 April, the Dalai Lama will deliver discourses in disputed Tawang.

'India Is Using Dalai Lama's Visit to Upset China'

India is using the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh to upset China and New Delhi should deliver on its political commitments to Beijing on Tibet-related issues, state-run Chinese media said.

The 14th Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang bordering China will hurt Sino-Indian ties because China opposes any official invitations to him, the *Global Times* quoted an unnamed Chinese analyst as saying.

The Dalai's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang, which China hopes will be returned, will affect relations between China and India. India (is) using Dalai Lama's visit to upset Beijing.

An analyst from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told *Global Times*

Reacting to Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju's remarks that the Dalai Lama's visit is "purely religious," and that there is no political angle behind it, the expert said this is not the first time India has used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China, especially when bilateral talks fail to include their demands or to "pander to domestic anti-China issues".

'No Artificial Controversy'



Image is used for representational purposes. (Photo: Reuters)

Amid persistent Chinese objections to the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh, India said no "artificial controversy" should be created around the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit.

The Dalai Lama's visit to the state comes eight years after his previous visit in 2009 which was exactly 50 years after he had passed through the town on his way from Lhasa in Tibet to India.

(With inputs from PTI)

<https://www.thequint.com/politics/2017/04/05/with-bomdila-dalai-lama-begins-his-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-tawang-china-tibet>

China: India “fuelling tension” with Dalai Lama’s Arunachal visit

RSTV | April 06, 2017

China has accused India of “fuelling tensions” and damaging its interests by allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh.

“By inviting and approving (the) Dalai Lama to (visit) disputed areas between China and India, India has damaged our interests and the India-China relationship and it has fuelled tensions,” Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing in Beijing.

“We oppose the visit to relevant areas and oppose attempts by relevant countries to arrange a platform for (the) Dalai (Lama) to conduct anti-China activities. We urge the relevant country to stop such erroneous actions and stop undermining Chinese interests,” she added.

Beijing has already lodged a protest in Beijing with the Indian Ambassador to China Vijay Gokhale. In Delhi, the protest was lodged with the competent officials of the External Affairs Ministry, Hua said.

When asked whether Beijing views India’s permission to the 81-year-old Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh as amounting to questioning the ‘One China’ policy, Hua said, “I want to re-emphasise that on issues concerning China’s major concern and core interests, territorial and sovereignty, China’s position is consistent.”

The Dalai Lama is currently on a nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

The official media in Beijing slammed the development, saying that China should not hesitate to answer “blows with blows” if India chooses to “play dirty” by allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh.

Two English newspapers — China Daily and Global Times — launched a scathing attack on India after Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said that Arunachal Pradesh — which China claims as part of Southern Tibet — is “an inseparable part of India”.

Taking exception to Rijiju’s remarks, the papers said India is using the Dalai Lama as a “diplomatic tool” against China for its “vice like veto” against India’s membership in the NSG and the UN ban on Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry categorically said that the Dalai Lama’s visit has caused damage to India-China relations.

“We hope the two sides can continue to follow principle of mutual respect for each other’s core interests and major concerns and we should do more things that can strengthen mutual political trust and promote the overall interests of China-India relations,” Hua said.

Despite the historical dispute, the China-India border area has by and large remained peaceful recently, particularly since Beijing and New Delhi began to get serious about border talks, it said.

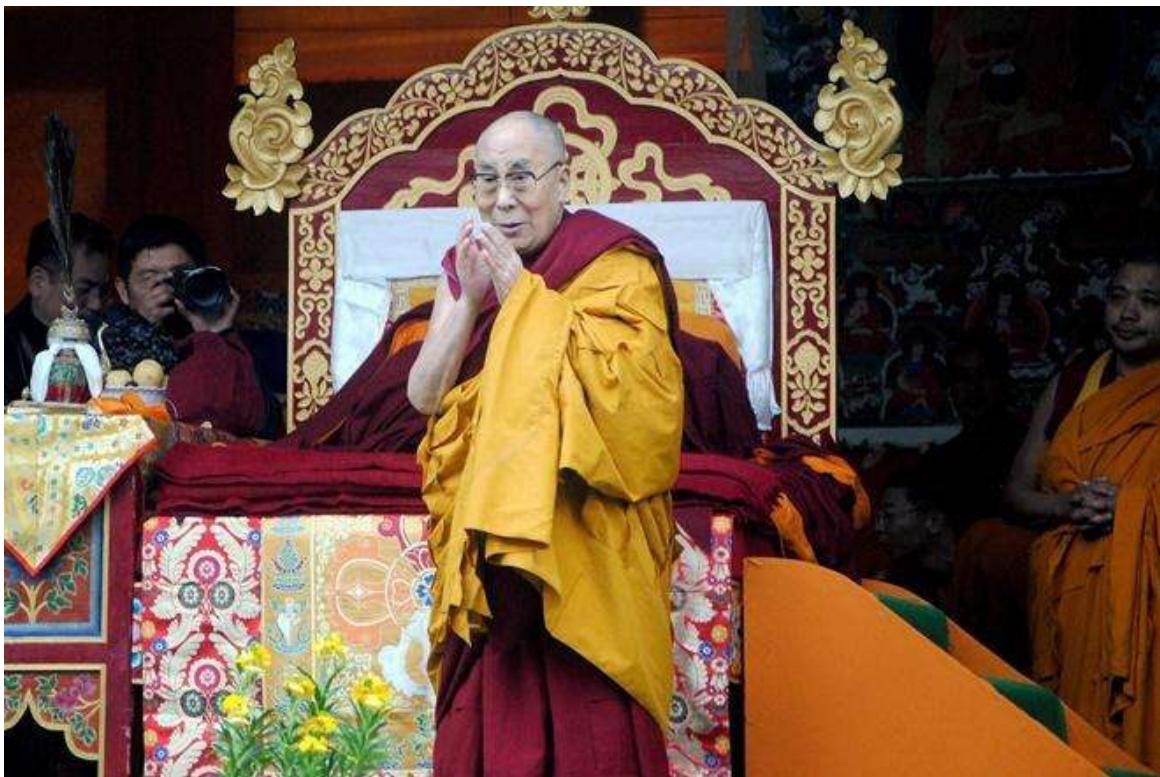
(With inputs from agencies)

<http://rstv.nic.in/china-india-fuelling-tension-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit.html>

China, Dalai Lama and India: It is time to understand — one-sided relations do not last long

China is visibly not happy with India asserting its confidence in all matters, including the hitherto controversial issues.

By Rajeev Kumar | New Delhi | Financial Express | April 06, 2017



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai during a religious discourse at Thubchog Gatsel Ling Monastery, Bomdila in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, on Tuesday. (PTI Photo)

China is visibly not happy with India asserting its confidence in all matters, including the hitherto controversial issues. China wants the status quo, that has so far given it a self-declared license to pursue a muscular diplomacy against India for decades, to continue. Even as there has been an increase in the economic activities between both countries, China doesn't want to forget the past and start a genuine friendship with India.

In 2016, the India-China bilateral trade was worth around \$65 billion. But when it comes to politics and traditional security concerns, China continues to be guided by the thought process that may have dominated the country during 1940s and 1950s. Despite evolving as a major technological and manufacturing hub of the world, China continues to practice double standards. It loves to side with Pakistan, even at the risk of visibly supporting terrorism.

So it wasn't surprising when China strongly opposed the visit of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh — which is one of the 29 states of India but China considers some parts of the Indian state as its own.

For decades following the 1962 war against China, Indian leadership have refrained from doing things that may "upset" the "dragon" and instead focussed on bilateral trade and ties. On its part, China rarely loses an

opportunity to veto anything in favour of India in the United Nations Security Council, including the matters related to terrorism.

Dalai Lama's presence in India for the last several decades have always been a sore point for China, even when the Tibetan spiritual leader is mostly involved in religious works. China considers Tawang as southern Tibet and Dalai Lama as an "anti-China separatist." It is just ironic that while India supports a spiritual leader like Dalai Lama, China supports terrorists like Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar against India in the UN.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying today said, "India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations."

She warned, "Arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only runs counter to the Indian side's commitment to the issues related to Tibet but also escalates disputes over the border area."

The warning comes even as China has the least concern for India's interests. Not just on Masood Azhar, China is funding a multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through territories claimed by India. In the recent years, reports have shown intrusion by Chinese troops into Indian territory. Besides, the country is improving infrastructure in bordering areas as well as trying to influence other neighbouring countries against India.

India under PM Narendra Modi, however, doesn't seem to become a country that would bow down to illegitimate demands of foreign powers. There is nothing illegal about Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang, which is also the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama in 1683 and a centre of Tibetan Buddhism. It is time for China to understand that one-sided relationship doesn't work.

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh-visit-controversy-china-india-relationship/616229/>

Chinese media warns India over using 'Dalai Lama card', calls move 'clumsy and rude'

In a piece titled "India's use of Dalai Lama card tactless", Daily Times termed the move to invite the Dalai to Arunachal as a "clumsy and rude move".

Indian Express | New Delhi | April 06, 2017

As the Dalai Lama began his nine-day tour of Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday, the Chinese state-run media wrote stinging editorials warning

India against muddying the waters and adding stress to the already fraught international ties between the two countries.

In a piece titled “India’s use of Dalai Lama card tactless”, Daily Times termed the move to invite the Dalai to Arunachal as a “clumsy and rude move”. “But this is a clumsy and rude move. The Dalai is a highly politicized symbol in China’s diplomacy. For any country, its attitude toward the Dalai Lama almost affects the entire relationship with China. The West has fully recognized the nature of the Dalai as a diplomatic card and is extremely prudent in using it. When the Dalai travels to the capital of a Western country, who will meet him, when and where would be carefully weighed,” it said in its editorial.

China Daily adopted an equally aggressive stance, saying that India sending one of its ministers, Kiren Rijiju, along with the Dalai was a “double affront to Beijing”. “Rijiju might think himself cute in borrowing a line from Beijing’s diplomatic representations, but he has ignored the fundamental distinction here: Like Taiwan and any other part of China, Tibet is a part of the Chinese territory no matter whether New Delhi agrees or not,” it said in an editorial.

“Southern Tibet, on the other hand, was stolen from China by his country’s former colonial master taking advantage of China’s internal strife. Should he have any questions regarding the status of Southern Tibet, Rijiju can consult the historical archives,” it said.

The issue has expectedly drawn a sharp reaction from China as it summoned the Indian Ambassador in Beijing and lodged a strong protest. Addressing a daily press conference in the China capital, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said: “This runs contrary to the positive trend of the development of bilateral relations, and will not benefit India in any way. “We urge India to immediately stop using the Dalai Lama to harm China’s interests; to not inflame sensitive issues between the two countries; to not sabotage the foundations of border negotiations and bilateral ties; and to maintain China-India relations through practical deeds.”

China Daily also quoted a researcher on South Asian studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, saying that “India should not play the Dalai Lama card”.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh-chinese-media-editorial-china-warns-india-4601738/>

Watch: China upset as Dalai Lama visits Arunachal Pradesh

First Post | April 06 2017

The Chinese foreign ministry [warned](#) India, second time in a month, that allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh can seriously damage the bilateral ties between the two countries. Arunachal Pradesh has a sizeable Buddhist population and India claims that it is a religious visit by the Dalai Lama to give blessings to his disciples.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of south Tibet. The region of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh was also the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, further complicating China's ongoing conflict over Tibet. For now, the spiritual leader will continue with his 12 day trip to the northeast.

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/china-upset-as-dalai-lama-visits-arunachal-pradesh-3365766.html>

Why China is so annoyed over Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh

In an editorial, China's English newspaper has threatened that Beijing may interfere in Kashmir while asking -- Can India afford the consequence?

By [Rajeev Kumar](#) | New Delhi | Financial Express | April 06, 2017

Not happy with Tibetan spiritual guru Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Chinese state media has launched a scathing attack on India. In an editorial, China's English newspaper Global Times has even threatened that Beijing may interfere in Kashmir while asking — Can India afford the consequence?

The Dalai Lama, who engages himself only in religious and spiritual activities, is on a nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which hosts Tawang –the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama in 1683 and a centre of Tibetan Buddhism. China considers Arunachal Pradesh as Southern Tibet and part of its territory. It has been over five decades since the Dalai Lama made India his home, after facing repression from the Chinese forces at his real home — Tibet. But China continues to feel threatened with the monk and Nobel Peace Prize winner and even considers him a “dangerous separatist.”

The Chinese media response to the Tibetan guru's visit to Arunachal Pradesh is, however, not surprising but a part of the same arm-twisting tactics China has been applying vis-a-vis India on every possible platform to stop the rise of New Delhi as a global power — be it India's bid to enter the Nuclear Supplier Group or force Pakistan to act against terrorists operating from its own territory against India. China does so even as India reaches out to the world with the message of peace and a thought process that considers entire world as a family (Vashudhaiva Kutumbakam).

The Chinese state media, or for that matter the authoritarian leadership of the country, however, doesn't seem capable of understanding India's genuine intentions of letting all countries in its neighbourhood prosper. China considers India a threat and the Chinese state media has just reflected this.

The editorial even accused India of using Dalai Lama as a "diplomatic tool" against China. It cited two explanations for this: "India has been strongly dissatisfied with China for not supporting its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist was disapproved by China, resulting in some Indians calling for a boycott of Chinese goods."

The editorial said India made a "clumsy and rude move" by sending the Tibetan monk to Arunachal Pradesh. One wonders, how can a country as big and powerful as China be so insecure of itself that it gets rattled by the visit of a monk to one of the centres of the religion he practises?

The tone of the editorial hints China is either a frustrated country, trying to rule with iron hands, or probably still not mature enough to feel confident of its own powers.

On Kashmir, the editorial said: "With a GDP several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India's peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India's turbulent northern state (Jammu and Kashmir) borders China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?" This threat comes even as it has been suspected that China is already helping Pakistan and the separatists in Kashmir to pursue their agenda against India. Several Chinese flags have been recovered from terror outfits in Kashmir by Indian forces in the last few months.

Moreover, the editorial threatened to interfere in Kashmir probably in response to Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju's response to China on Dalai Lama's visit. Rijiju had said, Chins should not interfere in India's internal matters.

The editorial, however, ended on a good note saying, “China considers India as a friendly neighbour and partner.” But then, can threats help both countries continue with the friendship?

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/why-china-is-so-annoyed-over-dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh/617097/>

‘China could interfere in Kashmir’ following Dalai Lama’s Arunachal Pradesh visit

News Mobile Overseas Bureau | April 06, 2017

Dalai Lama’s visit to **Arunachal Pradesh** has raised concerns for the **China** as the Chinese media on Thursday described India’s move to allow Tibetan spiritual leader to visit the northeastern state of **India** despite China’s objection as ‘clumsy and rude’.

It further threatened that China could interfere in “turbulent” **Kashmir** against India’s invitation to the 82-year-old Tibetan leader.

An editorial in the state-run Global Times said:

“With a GDP (gross domestic product) several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India’s peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India’s turbulent northern state borders China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?”

“The Dalai’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh this time is seen as New Delhi using the monk as a diplomatic tool to put pressure on China,” it said.

“But this is a clumsy and rude move. The Dalai is a highly politicised symbol in China’s diplomacy. For any country, its attitude toward the Dalai Lama almost affects the entire relationship with China.”

Meanwhile, a top Chinese official said India was “losing its dignity”.

“This is not the first time that the Dalai Lama has visited south Tibet and called the region Indian territory, which means he is committed to separating the nation,” Zhu Weiqun, the head of the ethnic and religious affairs committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, told the Global Times.

“India is losing its dignity as a big power by playing around with such a figure.”

Meanwhile, Zhao Gancheng, the director of the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, told the tabloid that inviting the Dalai Lama could be India's way to register its disappointment with the recent strategic dialogue with China.

On Wednesday, China reacted angrily to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and said that by ignoring Beijing's concerns over the issue New Delhi has caused "serious damage" to bilateral ties. India reiterated that no political colour should be attributed to the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to the northeastern state.

Diplomatic tensions escalated with Beijing summoning the Indian envoy Vijay Gokhale to lodge its protest, even as the 81-year-old Tibetan leader, who arrived in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday, said in Bomdila that India has never used him against China.

In a prelude to China's belligerence, the Chinese state-run media yesterday warned that New Delhi's inviting the Tibetan spiritual leader to the "sensitive region" would "gravely damage" India-China relations.

China considers large parts of Arunachal Pradesh as south Tibet, while India has said that Arunachal is an inseparable part of its territory.

China had protested former US envoy Richard Verma's visit to Tawang last October and warned Washington against meddling in the border dispute between New Delhi and Beijing.

<http://www.newsmonkey.in/articles/2017/04/06/china-could-interfere-in-kashmir-following-dalai-lamas-arunachal-pradesh-visit/>

Chinese media keeps up angry tirade on Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit

Indo Asian News Service | April 06, 2017

Beijing, April 6 (IANS) The Chinese media on Thursday kept up its tirade against India over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, with an editorial in a state-run daily suggesting that if China, with its higher military capabilities and support among India's neighbours, wants it can create trouble in Jammu and Kashmir.

In an editorial, titled 'India's use of Dalai Lama card tactless', the Global Times says: "With a GDP several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India's

peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India's turbulent northern state borders China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?"

It said that China considers India as a friendly neighbour and partner and has "never provoked" bilateral disputes or made any "pressing demand" on India over the Dalai Lama. "New Delhi should respond to Beijing's goodwill with goodwill."

The editorial comes a day after Beijing summoned the Indian envoy Vijay Gokhale to protest the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, large parts of which China considers disputed and part of south Tibet. India has maintained that Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of its territory. The protests come as the Dalai Lama is in Arunachal Pradesh and is on way to Tawang for a major Buddhist event.

The editorial says that while the Dalai Lama has been to Arunachal Pradesh before, what makes this trip different is that he is "received by and accompanied by India's Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju. When China raised the concern over the visit, Rijiju commented that China shouldn't intervene in their "internal affairs."

The editorial is mistaken on this point, as Rijiju, who belongs to Arunachal Pradesh, was not in Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday and did not receive the Dalai Lama or accompany him. Rijiju is set to accompany the Tibetan leader during his visit to Tawang. The Dalai Lama was received by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday, who is accompanying him on his road journey.

The daily says, in faulty English, that on the one hand New Delhi takes a stance that it opposes the Dalai Lama engaging in anti-China activities on the soil of India, but "it has long attempted to use the Dalai Lama as a card".

"When India emphasizes the relationship with China, it would place a tight control on the Dalai. When it has a grudge against China, it may prompt the Dalai to play certain tricks as a signal sent to China," it goes on to say.

It suggested that India is using the Dalai Lama as a "diplomatic tool" to put pressure on Beijing on the NSG and Masood Azhar issues, but it termed it "a clumsy and rude move".

The editorial said that since the Tibetan leader is a highly politicised symbol in China's diplomacy, a country's attitude toward him almost affects the entire relationship with Beijing.

"The West has fully recognised the nature of the Dalai Lama as a diplomatic card and is extremely prudent in using it.

It said that earlier the Dalai Lama was received by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee in December. "At a time when the Dalai Lama has been given a cold shoulder in many places of the world, New Delhi is bucking the trend and treating him as a favourite."

The editorial warned that "New Delhi probably overestimates its leverage in the bilateral ties with China".

"The two countries in recent years have continuously strived to improve their relationship and the peace on the border area has been maintained. India has benefited from the good momentum of bilateral relationship as much as China. If New Delhi ruins the Sino-India ties and the two countries turn into open rivals, can India afford the consequence?"

On Wednesday too, the Global Times in a belligerent editorial had said that New Delhi's inviting the Tibetan spiritual leader to the "sensitive region" would "gravely damage" India-China relations.

It said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "unlike his predecessors" was taking a different stance on the Dalai Lama issue by "raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line" on Arunachal Pradesh.

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/chinese-media-keeps-angry-tirade-dalai-lamas-arunachal-084204530.html>

China protests Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, vows action

Beijing says move won't benefit 'obstinate' India.

AGE CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS | April 06, 2017

New Delhi/ Bomdila (Arunachal)/Beijing: China lodged a protest with India's ambassador in Beijing over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and warned that it would take "necessary measures" to defend its territorial sovereignty interests. China's contention was that India has "obstinately" allowed the Tibetan spiritual leader to visit the "disputed" parts of the state thereby causing "serious damage" to bilateral ties. India had already asked China on Tuesday not to create any "artificial controversy" over the visit since the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader and that therefore no political

colour be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and to his visits to states of India.

The 81-year-old spiritual leader — who reached Bomdila in West Kameng district of the state, thereby starting his nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh — said that India has never used him against China, even as he urged Beijing to give Tibet meaningful “self-rule” and “autonomy”. China refers to Arunachal Pradesh as south Tibet and claims it is part of its territory, even as New Delhi has always regarded it an integral part of India.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying was quoted by news agencies as saying, “India in disregard to China’s concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama’s visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China’s interests and China-India relations. China firmly opposes this move. China’s stand on the eastern part of the borders is consistent and clear. India is keenly aware of the role played by the 14th Dalai Lama.” She added that by arranging his visit to those sensitive and disputed areas not only ran counter to the Indian side’s commitment to the issues related to Tibet, but also escalated disputes over the border area. China maintained that this went against the momentum of the sound growth of bilateral relations and “would not benefit India in any way”. “China will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests,” said Ms Chunying. However, when asked what measures the country would take, Ms Chunying did not elaborate. “We demand the Indian side immediately stop its actions using the Dalai Lama to undermine China’s interests and not hype up sensitive issues between the two countries and not artificially damage the foundation of the talks between the two countries on the border issues and bilateral legislations and take concrete actions to safeguard the China-India relations,” she said. She further asked if India honestly believed that Dalai was only a religious leader. “I think the answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure. Therefore, his visit to the place will not be purely of religious purpose. So using the empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable,” she added.

The Dalai Lama in his discourse at the Buddha Park in Bomdila said that India had never used him against China. He added that he was a messenger of the ancient Indian thought and spoke about ahimsa, peace, harmony and secular ethics wherever he went. “Many Chinese love India but there are some narrow-minded politicians...they consider me a demon. We (Tibetans) are not seeking independence. We are willing to remain within the People’s Republic of China. I always admire the spirit of the European Union. Individual nations’ sovereignty is important, but that’s not so important. What are important are the common interests. So for material development to remain with the People’s Republic of China is in our interest. So, the Chinese government also should feel okay. At the same time the Chinese government should give us meaningful self-role/autonomy.”

He also thanked the government of India for taking great care of him since 1959 and said he was the country's longest staying guest. "When I got freedom, when I first reached India, I entered through Arunachal Pradesh. I have an emotional connect with the state. It is a special place for me," he said, adding that he was a Buddhist and that the entire Himalayan range had been traditionally following Buddhist dharma.

The spiritual leader, who arrived here last evening from Guwahati accompanied by Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu on Thursday, will speak at Dirang and confer the "Avalokiteshvara Permission" at Thupsung Dhargyeling monastery in the morning. From April 8 to 10, The Dalai will deliver discourses in Tawang. Owing to the rescheduled visit, he will reportedly not be able to go to Itanagar.

New Delhi had earlier on Tuesday said: "The government has clearly stated on several occasions that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India. The government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh."

<http://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/060417/china-protests-dalais-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-vows-action.html>

As China breathes fire over Dalai Lama's visit, Arunachal CM's Tibet comment makes global headline

China claims Arunachal Pradesh is part of their territory while India says it is inseparable part of the country.

Zee Media Bureau | April 6, 2017

Itanagar: As Beijing blows hot and cold over Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu's explosive comment that India shares border with Tibet and not China may have added fuel to the fire even as it made global headlines.

On Wednesday, Beijing warned New Delhi that it "severely damaged China-India relations" by enabling the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh is part of their territory while India says it is an inseparable part of the country.

Though Beijing considers the 81-year-old as a separatist, New Delhi has dismissed that description, saying he has a devoted following in the region.

"Beijing has no right to threaten Delhi on the Dalai Lama's movement within the country as India shares boundary with Tibet and not China," NDTV quoted Khandu as saying.

"China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbour," he added.

Referring to his comment, The Washington Post wrote Indian Prime Minister Narendra "Modi isn't the only one making provocations."

"The chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh decided to take a still less Chinese-friendly line over the Dalai Lama's visit."

On Tuesday, the Nobel peace laureate received a rapturous welcome in the town of Bomdila in Arunachal.

Dalai Lama had fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed uprising.

He had entered India through Arunachal Pradesh.

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/as-china-breathes-fire-over-dalai-lamas-visit-arunachal-cms-tibet-comment-makes-global-headline-1993576.html>

Dalai Lama's message for China from Arunachal: Situation inside Tibet tragic

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama is visiting Arunachal Pradesh amid strong reactions from China.

By Manogya Loiwal | India Today | April 06, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has described the present situation in his home country as deplorable even as Chinese state media threatened that Beijing could interfere in Kashmir.

"Situation inside Tibet is tragic. The situation in the 21st century will be miserable if it continues like this. The world suffers from short sightedness which is not good. We shouldn't bully each other," the Dalai Lama told reporters at Thuphung Dhargeling monastery in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.

"There is so much of poverty. Children not getting education. We need to work hard to take care of everyone. I am a half Buddhist monk and half scientist. I will spend my entire life in spreading happiness and love," he said.

The Dalai Lama thanked Indian government for letting him visit the frontier state.

He spoke fondly of Arunachal Pradesh and said he had a special connection with the state as it served as his point of entry when he arrived in India in 1959.

China has taken strong objections to the Dalai Lama's visit to the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which it claims to be its territory.

Chinese state media on Thursday warned of unspecified repercussions, suggesting Beijing, if it chose to, could "interfere" in the Kashmir issue.

Global Times, a hard-line tabloid published by the People's Daily, said in an editorial: "With a GDP several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India's peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India's turbulent northern state borders China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?"

It added, "China has never provoked bilateral disputes or made any pressing demand on India over the Dalai Lama. New Delhi should respond to Beijing's goodwill with goodwill."

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh-china-beijing-tibet/1/921870.html>

Dalai Lama trip to India's border with Tibet stokes anger in Beijing

By Max Bearak | The Washington Post | April 06, 2017

China likes to refer to the Dalai Lama as "a wolf in sheep's clothing." Beijing sees the leader of Tibetan Buddhism as a political leader as well — and one who inspires unrest on the high plateau he fled almost 60 years ago.

Facing an intense and violent Chinese crackdown in Tibet in 1959, the Dalai Lama and hundreds of his followers escaped across the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, whose high mountains are also populated by Tibetan Buddhists. China refers to it in some official maps as "southern Tibet."

This week, the Dalai Lama is back in Arunachal Pradesh to engage in what seems to be purely spiritual endeavors. But the trip has prompted outrage and derision from Beijing. Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying went so far as to say that India had “severely damaged China’s interests and China-India relations” by allowing the trip.

Fundamentally, China thinks that India has provided the Dalai Lama with a sanctuary to carry out a separatist political agenda and foment dissent in Tibet. Each time India — or any other country, for that matter — allows the Dalai Lama to speak at an officially authorized event, Beijing issues sharp accusations of “interference” in its “internal affairs.” After the Dalai Lama visited Mongolia, they were forced to apologize and bar him from further entry.

There's also an extra layer of conflict between India and China. Ever since the two countries fought a brief war in 1962, China has claimed as much as 35,000 square miles of Indian-administered land along Tibet's eastern and western fringes. Dozens of rounds of talks have failed to settle the border disputes, and both sides station tens of thousands of troops there — often within sight of each other across lofty Himalayan passes. There's also a Tibetan government-in-exile that runs out of the Indian city of Dharamsala.

India is not Mongolia, and it certainly won't apologize. But it's also unlikely that China will exact any retribution. For all of Beijing's complaints, Tibet is mostly peaceful — and firmly under Beijing's thumb.

For his part, the Dalai Lama remained his jolly old self amid the diplomatic saber-rattling.

“Whenever I come to the northeast of India, it feels like a reunion with people here,” he said Saturday. “When I visit, I am reminded of the freedom that I had experienced for the first time.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/04/06/dalai-lama-trip-to-indias-border-with-tibet-stokes-anger-in-beijing/?utm_term=.279b10a44b45

Dalai Lama's Journey Provokes China, and Hints at His Heir

By ELLEN BARRY | The New York Times | APRIL 06, 2017

The Dalai Lama greeted followers Thursday at a monastery in Dirang, in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, India. Credit Anuwar Hazarika/Reuters

NEW DELHI — It has been a hard journey for the 81-year-old Dalai Lama, perhaps his last over the mountain passes at the edge of China, to a town that has played a fateful role in his life, and in the history of Tibetan Buddhism.

Violent rains buffeted the small plane he flew into the valley. His party was forced to continue overland, traveling seven or eight hours a day over steep serpentine roads, lined with villagers hoping to glimpse him.

Each day, as he came closer to the holy site of Tawang, China pressed India more forcefully to stop his progress, its warnings growing increasingly ominous.

By Thursday, a day before the Dalai Lama was expected to reach Tawang, the official China Daily wrote that Beijing “would not hesitate to answer blows with blows” if the Indian authorities allowed the Dalai Lama to continue.

At stake on this journey, scholars said, is the monumental question of who will emerge as the Dalai Lama’s successor — and whether that successor, typically a baby identified as the next reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, will live inside or outside China’s zone of influence.

By visiting Tawang, a Tibetan Buddhist stronghold that was the birthplace of a previous Dalai Lama, he is expertly needling Beijing, which maintains that this area should be part of China. He is also consolidating his sect’s deep roots among the population, potentially laying the groundwork for a reincarnation there.

“He is a wise Lama, and he is thinking far ahead, as he always has,” said Brahma Chellaney, an analyst at New Delhi’s Center for Policy Research. “He is not given to sentimental reasoning. There is nothing about his trip to Arunachal Pradesh that is sentimental in its nature.”

Tawang is home to the Monpa people, who practice Tibetan Buddhism and once paid tribute to rulers in Lhasa, 316 miles to the north. Though the town’s population is about 11,000, officials said they were expecting as many as

60,000 to gather for the Dalai Lama's appearances at Tawang's monastery this weekend.

"We have been preparing for the last two months," said Lobsang Khum, secretary of the monastery. "Everybody wants to see him, get his blessings, touch his feet. For us, the Dalai Lama is more important than our lives."

The most treasured lore among the Monpa surrounds Tsangyang Gyatso, who in 1682 became the sixth Dalai Lama. People here make pilgrimages to his childhood home, where a stone is displayed with a faint footprint said to be his, and speak longingly of the possibility that it could happen again.

"That is the dream of many people here, that the next Dalai Lama should be born in Tawang," said Sang Phuntsok, Tawang's deputy commissioner. Tsering Tashi, a local legislator, said that, as a layman, he had no business commenting, but in the end he could not restrain himself. "I wish that the reincarnation of the next Dalai Lama happens in Tawang," he said. "That's all I can say."

The Dalai Lama has been enigmatic about how his successor will be chosen.

In the past, monks have turned to visions and oracles to lead them to a child conceived just as the previous Dalai Lama died. Having identified a child, they administer tests seeking to confirm that he is the reincarnated lama, such as asking him to pick out objects belonging to his predecessor.

But that method would leave Tibetan Buddhism without a leader for at least a year, allowing China to identify and promote its own candidate. The Dalai Lama has hinted that he may instead opt for a nontraditional selection process, selecting a child or an adult to succeed him while he is still alive.

Aging Tibetan Buddhist lamas have, in some cases, visited places where they would later be reincarnated as babies, and the Dalai Lama's visits to Tawang and Mongolia seemed to fall into that pattern, said Robert J. Barnett, a historian of modern Tibet at Columbia University.

"This is a way of getting under the skin of the Chinese, of probing them, and reminding them that they have no control over where the next reincarnation occurs," he said.

As the Dalai Lama's arrival in Tawang grew closer this week, Chinese statements grew increasingly bellicose, a tactic that has succeeded in pressuring officials of many countries to snub the Tibetan leader.

On Wednesday, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said India had “obstinately arranged” the Dalai Lama’s visit, causing “serious damage” to bilateral ties. On Thursday, The Global Times, a state-run tabloid, suggested that China could retaliate by supporting the anti-Indian militancy in Kashmir.

“Can India afford the consequence?” it asked sarcastically. “With a G.D.P. several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India’s peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India’s turbulent northern state borders China, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?”

Though India is typically wary of provoking China, several officials have been unusually pugnacious in their responses. Pema Khandu, the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, took the unusual step this week of stating that an independent Tibet, not China, is India’s true northern neighbor.

“Let me get this straight,” Mr. Khandu told journalists. “China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbor.”

The Dalai Lama, for his part, has been characteristically jovial to the crowd of journalists trailing after him, expounding cheerily on subjects from quantum physics to global warming. He hardly needs to do more, Mr. Barnett said.

“He doesn’t have to do anything except exist and be his usual beaming self to embarrass the Chinese,” he said. “He will be right on the border, he will be a complete free person, he will be only meters away from Chinese territory, but they cannot do anything about it.”

The Dalai Lama also revisited his escape from Tibet in 1959, when he fled a Chinese military crackdown in Lhasa. Disguised, and with a small group of aides, he crossed the mountain passes to safety in Tawang.

He was reunited this week with Naren Chandra Das, 76, an Indian soldier who escorted him on the last three days. The two embraced before the cameras: the former soldier painfully thin, his eyes clouded by cataracts; the monk apple-cheeked and jovial.

“I became old, but he stays the same,” Mr. Das said. “He is a big man, the king of Tibet.”

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/06/world/asia/dalai-lama-successor-tibet-china-buddhism.html?_r=0

China accuses India of using Dalai Lama against it

Beijing says Tibetan spiritual leader's trip to disputed area will 'severely hurt' ties

By Amy Kazmin in New Delhi | Financial Times | April 06, 2017

China has lashed out at India for permitting the Dalai Lama to visit an important Buddhist monastery in a disputed Himalayan border province, warning that the Tibetan spiritual leader's trip will "severely hurt" relations between the Asian neighbours.

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The Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in India since 1959, is on an eight-day visit to India's north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, a region Beijing claims is part of Tibet — which it invaded in 1959 and has controlled ever since.

The Dalai Lama has visited the state — site of the sacred Buddhist pilgrimage centre Tawang — six times before, mostly recently in 2009 when Beijing also publicly objected. However, Beijing on Wednesday summoned India's ambassador to China, Vijay Gokhale, for an unusually sharp rebuke over the trip, adding to its public expressions of displeasure.

"The Chinese side will take necessary means to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests," Hua Chunying, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, told a media briefing on Tuesday.

She said India should "immediately stop its erroneous move of using the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests", and warned New Delhi that by permitting the visit, it had "escalated the boundary dispute" between the two countries.

The Dalai Lama, whom Beijing accuses of being a "splittist" seeking to prise Tibet from China's control, denied any political agenda behind his trip to Tawang, Tibetan Buddhism's holiest site after Lhasa. "India has never used me against China," he told reporters in Bomdila. "I am messenger of ancient Indian thoughts and values."

New Delhi has also rejected Beijing's assertion that the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh has political significance, despite the backdrop of Indian unease over China's activity in countries it considers part of its own strategic backyard.

Instead, India's foreign ministry said the Tibetan monk was a "revered spiritual leader" who was pursuing "religious and spiritual activities". It advised that "no artificial controversy should be created" over his travels in India.

The tensions come at a time of rising uncertainty in Asia, as countries brace for the fallout from potential US disengagement from the region under new president Donald Trump.

"They've chosen to take offence," Shivshankar Menon, India's former national security adviser, said of Beijing's strident reaction to the visit. "They think this is a good time to get their way in the neighbourhood and establish their primacy. This is a convenient stick to use."

"In the past, they made statements for the record and let it go. But it's hard to tell how far they want to take it."

However, Lin Minwang, of Fudan University in Shanghai, sees the Dalai Lama's trip as a deliberate provocation by New Delhi. "It has political meaning if you invite the Dalai Lama to these areas," he said. "India's moves seem not friendly."

The Dalai Lama's trip to the sacred Buddhist centre also comes as Beijing is increasingly anxious about "reincarnation politics", with the fraught question over who will control the mystical search for the successor to the 81-year-old Buddhist monk, the 14th in his lineage.

In Tibet's unique strain of Buddhism, the succession of senior lamas, who also wield temporal power, is determined through reincarnation, with the spiritual leaders identifying a child in whom the soul of a departed lama resides.

The Dalai Lama has already declared that he will not be reincarnated in territory that is under Chinese rule, while Beijing has said that he will be.

India and China have a 4,000km border but the relatively dormant dispute over Tawang, ceded by Tibet to the British in 1914, has heated up over the past decade, with China stepping up its claims to the territory.

Additional reporting by Tom Hancock in Shanghai

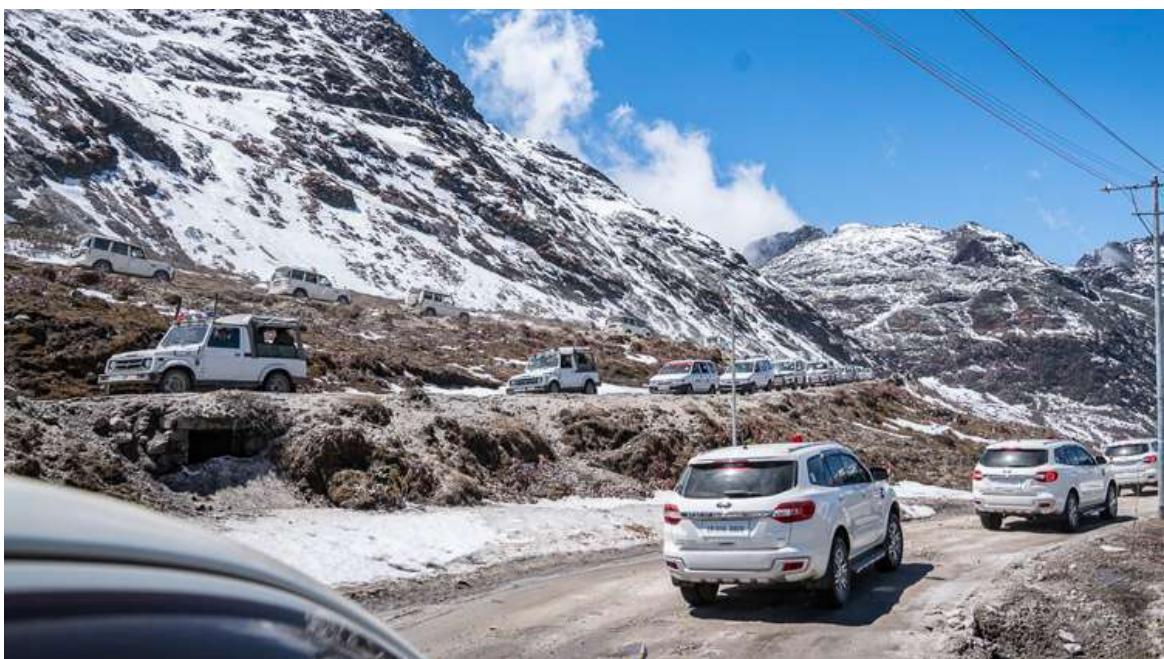
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FRIDAY, APRIL 07, 2017

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Drives from Dirang to Tawang

Dalailama.com | April 07, 2017

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India - When His Holiness the Dalai Lama came downstairs to leave Thupsung Dhargyeling Monastery this morning, the sun was shining on the hills in the distance and there was a welcome blue in the sky. From the veranda of the monastery he greeted a group of local people sitting on ground below waiting to see him, telling them once again how important it is to develop a sound understanding of what the Buddha taught. Before leaving Dirang he stopped to visit the temple lower in the town from where he gave the Kalachakra Empowerment to 5000 people in 1983.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama's motorcade enroute from Dirang to Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 7, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

The road from Dirang climbed steadily until the 4170 metre Sela Pass which marks the end of West Kameng district and the beginning of Tawang. At each village on the way people were gathered to greet His Holiness as he passed. Adults were mostly dressed in traditional Mönpa costume, while many of the children were in school uniform. On the pass, snow could be seen here and there, but the road was clear. His Holiness and his party were offered tea and refreshments before continuing their journey.

On the descent from the pass His Holiness stopped for lunch at Mönpalpung Jangchub Chökhoring, a Karma Kagyu Monastery in the town of Jang. In addition to prayer flags and the international Buddhist flag, the Gyalwang Karmapa's 'dream flag' flew prominently along the road. Since so many people had gathered to welcome him His Holiness briefly spoke to them from the steps of the monastery. He told them that Vasubandhu wrote that the Buddha's teachings can be categorized as scriptural and realizational and the only way to preserve them is through study and practice. That is what he urged them to do.

From Jang His Holiness drove on towards Tawang. The closer he reached to the town the more people thronged the road to greet him. Almost everywhere they made billowing smoke offerings from piles of burning juniper leaves. In many places too tables had been set up bearing traditional offerings and statues to be consecrated as he passed. Often chairs were arranged for the expected guest. And in villages all along the way was a profusion of delightful potted plants colourfully in bloom. On the outskirts of the town mixed groups of local people danced and sang and Snow Lion dancers performed in joyful welcome.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama arriving at Tawang Monastery in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 7, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

Arriving at Tawang Monastery His Holiness was accorded traditional hospitality. Monks played horns as he was escorted into the temple under a ceremonial umbrella. Once seated inside butter tea and sweet rice were served while he spoke briefly.

"Tashi Delek to everyone. Today I've come through many places that are traditionally Buddhist, where people expressed their devotion by waiting on the road. I'll be teaching more over the next few days so there's no need for me to say much now. The real temple should be built in the mind—try to create the wisdom of Manjushri in your brain and the compassion of Avalokiteshvara in your heart. If you can do that, that'll be a real blessing. It seems to me that since I first passed through this region in 1959 interest in the teachings has revived and developed.

"One of the characteristics of Buddhism is its ability to explain philosophical points of view on the basis of reason. If we study rigorously and develop a sound understanding of what the Buddha taught, his teaching will survive for many more centuries. From Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh people's interest and awareness of the Buddha's teachings has lately been growing. In the past there were many monasteries in Tibet and the Himalayan region, but effective study and education took place mostly in the great centres of learning. More and more I am encouraging monasteries like this to organize classes in which anyone who is interested can learn and strengthen their faith and understanding.

"We haven't got much time, but I daily dedicate my body, speech and mind to the service of others as Nagarjuna advises:

*May I always be an object of enjoyment
For all sentient beings according to their wish
And without interference, as are the earth,
Water, fire, wind, herbs, and wild forests.*

"So I'll be explaining how to practice over the next three days. "

Tomorrow, at Yiga Choezin, His Holiness will begin to teach the middle volume of Kamalashila's 'Stages of Meditation' and Thogme Sangpo's '37 Practices of a Bodhisattva'.

<https://www.dalailama.com/news/2017/his-holiness-the-dalai-lama-drives-from-dirang-to-tawang>

India's Approach Toward Dalai Lama Shifted From Closed door to Open door- Sikyong tells NDTV

Tibet.net | April 07, 2017

Dharamshala: Recent events like President Pranab Mukherjee hosting the Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Rashtrapati Bhavan and this high-profile visit indicate the Narendra Modi government has now moved to an 'open door policy' regarding their interactions with His Holiness the Dalai Lama despite Chinese disapproval unlike earlier, Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay said, in an exclusive interview with NDTV.

"These are clear signs where things that happened behind closed doors before is now done in open, in that sense the government is just letting the fact be seen by public," Sikyong said on the shift of engagements of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Indian government under PM Modi.

On Beijing's objection to His Holiness' visit to Tawang, Sikyong remained unfazed, and said, "His Holiness has visited Tawang and Arunachal Pradesh before. At the request of thousands of followers, His Holiness is visiting there to bless them. So in Bomdila, Dirang and Tawang, he is simply making spiritual teachings to his followers. So China is making mountain out of a molehill and saying you are hurting the sentiments of Chinese people. These are the usual drama or the rhetoric that they use and this time it's against India. Each time His Holiness meets global leaders they do the same. "

He added, "Kiren Rijiju ji is a friend and he is Buddhist. CM Pema Khandu is also Buddhist. So for them to see His Holiness is a commitment like me; it is not only for this life but for next life also. This is how we think. There are also followers who are very faithful to His Holiness and they are going there as residents and citizens of Arunachal Pradesh to seek his blessings."

Supporting His Holiness' recent statements on the Tibetan situation under Chinese authoritarian regime, Sikyong said, "It's true, the regime in China is an authoritarian regime, there is lack of democracy and freedom of speech. If Chinese government really wants to demonstrate there is democracy and freedom in Tibet and with the Tibetan people, they should allow UN experts or Internationals diplomats to visit freely and asses the human rights situations. The fact that they don't allow these things to happen, the fact that they repress the Tibetan people even now, reflects that clearly China is an authoritarian and Tibetans are being repressed. So what His Holiness said is right."

<http://tibet.net/2017/04/indias-approach-toward-dalai-lama-shifted-from-open-door-to-closed-door-sikyong-tells-ndtv/>

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Arrives In Tawang To A Rousing Welcome

Tibet.net, April 07, 2017

TAWANG: His Holiness the Dalai Lama arrived in Tawang this evening and set foot at the historic Tawang monastery. The Tawang monastery, known in Tibetan as Gaden Namgyal Lhatse, was founded by Merak Lama Lodre Gyatso in 1680-1681 in accordance with the wishes of the 5th Dalai Lama, Ngawang Lobsang Gyatso.

As His Holiness the Dalai Lama's motorcade entered the borders of Tawang district, people lined up the narrow streets with flowers and Khatags in hand to welcome him. As His Holiness reached Sela pass, the entry point into Tawang, His Holiness was greeted by Mr Tsering Tashi, Tawang MLA, Sang Phuntsok, DC of Tawang, Jambey Tashi, MLA Lumla as well as representatives from Tawang monastery.

His Holiness rested at the pass, for about 15 minutes for tea at a small cafeteria. From there, he visited Sangdok Palri, a small Kagyu monastery where His Holiness enjoyed a sumptuous meal.

<http://tibet.net/2017/04/his-holiness-the-dalai-lama-arrives-at-historic-tawang-monastery/>

India unperturbed as China throws up a tantrum over Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit

Tibetan Review | April 07, 2017

(TibetanReview.net, Apr07, 2017) – Gloating over its enormous economic and military superiority over India, China over Apr 5-6 threatened New Delhi with all sorts of severe retaliatory measures for having ‘invited’ Tibet’s exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which it insists is “south Tibet of China”. The Tibetan leader is visiting the state over Apr 4-12 to give a series of religious teachings to its Buddhist followers.

China’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying expressed firm opposition to the visit. She accused India of having disregarded China’s concerns and insisted on “inviting the Dalai Lama for activities in the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary”. Hua claimed that the visit severely hurts China’s interests and the China-India relationship.

She also claimed that the visit not only violated India's commitment on Tibet-related issues, but also fueled the border dispute and ran counter to the sound momentum of the development of bilateral relations. She vowed that China "will take necessary means to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests."



The crowd of over 20,000 looking on as His Holiness the Dalai Lama departs at the conclusion of his teaching at Thubsung Dhargyeling Monastery in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 6, 2017. (Photo courtesy: Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL)

Hua also reiterated that Tibet-related issues had a bearing on China's core interests and demanded that the Indian side stop using the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests.

Although the Dalai Lama is not saying or doing anything detrimental to China's interests, Hua has insisted that he is not a purely religious figure and, based on that presumption, demanded to know: "how can we say that his activities in the sensitive disputed area are for religious purposes only and nothing else?"

On Apr 5, the Chinese foreign ministry summoned Indian ambassador Vijay Gokhale to lodged an angry protest against the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang, reported timesofindia.indiatimes.com Apr 6.

China's official media has been much more shrill in their denunciation of the visit. An Op-Ed in China's stridently nationalist party mouthpiece *GlobalTimes.cn* Apr 6 claimed that India had "long attempted to use the Dalai

Lama as a card” and a tool to put pressure on China and derided it as a “clumsy and rude move”.

Tellingly, the Op-Ed asked: “With a GDP several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India’s peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India’s turbulent northern state borders China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?”

Another OP-Ed in the same edition of *globaltimes.cn* accused India of challenging Beijing’s bottom line, suggested that New Delhi may have underestimated Beijing’s determination to safeguard its core interests, and made it clear that China doesn’t allow India to free ride on its economic growth while jeopardizing Beijing’s core interests.

Zhu Weiqun, the head of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, a rubber-stamp national political advisory body, has said India was “losing its dignity as a big power” by allowing the visit. The former deputy head of the top party body in charge of Tibet policy, the United Front Work Department, is known for his strident anti-minority and anti-religion stance and was, nevertheless, tasked with the now stalled talks with the Dalai Lama’s representatives. “India is losing its dignity as a big power by playing around with such a figure,” Zhu was quoted as having told the *Global Times*.

The Dalai Lama has been invited to the state by its Chief Minister Pema Khandu and is being accompanied by India’s junior Home Minister Mr Kiren Rijiju who is an MP from the state. These seemingly official nature of the visit is said to be responsible for China’s greater show of anger at the Tibetan leader’s visit to the state this time. Pema Khandu has trashed China’s territorial claim by saying the state’s historical border was with Tibet, not its occupying power China.

In New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Gopal Baglay said Apr 5, “We clearly said that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader and has visited Arunachal earlier on half a dozen occasions. “We also urged that no political colour be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and to his visits to states of India, and no artificial controversy created around his ongoing visit.”

And Rijiju has said “Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India”, that the visit was “purely religious” and that “China shouldn’t interfere in India’s internal matters” just as India does not in China’s.

The Dalai Lama himself has said "India has never used me against China" while thanking the Indian Government for its hospitality. "I have been here since 1959. India has taken great care of me. I am their longest staying guest. I am thankful to them," tribuneindia.com Apr 5 quoted him as saying.

<http://www.tibetanreview.net/india-unperturbed-as-china-throws-up-a-tantrum-over-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit/>

Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh sparks diplomatic spat

Beijing upset as Tibetan leader visits contested area in India

ucanews.com |New Delhi | April 07, 2017

China and India have got into a diplomatic row over the Dalai Lama's nine-day visit to the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, an area that Beijing considers "Southern Tibet" and part of its territory.

"China resolutely opposes" the Dalai Lama "visiting border regions disputed by China and India," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said after the Dalai Lama, who resides in India since 1959 when he fled Tibet, visited Tawang area of the state April 5.



Hua Chunying, deputy director of the Chinese foreign ministry's information department, said in televised statement that the Dalai Lama's visit "will for

sure trigger China's dissatisfaction. This will not bring any benefit to India [from] Beijing. The Chinese side will take necessary means to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests."

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-sparks-diplomatic-spat/78886>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh: How two events connect Delhi with Se La in Tawang

By Sujan Dutta | First Post | April 07 2017

New Delhi: Two events connect Delhi with the Se La in Tawang within a space of 24 hours.

In roughly two hours from the time of writing, the Dalai Lama is expected to cross Se La. He is on his way to the Galden Namgye Lhatsey monastery in Tawang. A large gathering is waiting to welcome him at Se La — which also marks the beginning of Tawang district and is around two hours away by road from the town.

Se La, often written as the Sela Pass, is a 13,700-foot-high crossing on the highway that connects Tawang to Tezpur. In 1962, when the Chinese invaded India, a lone soldier, Sepoy Jaswant Singh Rawat, waged a valiant battle at the pass. When a woman from a nearby village brought him food, she found him dead. Then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru told Indians on the radio that his heart went out to the people of Assam. New Delhi and India had all but given up on what we call the "North East".

The second event was in New Delhi on Thursday evening. At the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Major-General Jarken Gamlin was the first military officer from Arunachal Pradesh to be conferred with the Ati Vishist Seva Medal for, according to the citation, "distinguished service of an exceptional order". The first general from Arunachal Pradesh, Gamlin belongs to the 2/8 Gorkhas, the battalion that carries Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw's legacy.

China has taken umbrage at one of the two events: The visit of the Dalai Lama. It might as well find it offensive that Gamlin — Gambo to his friends — is being conferred a high medal. Gambo should be Chinese if Beijing's claims over Arunachal Pradesh are credible. After all, China does refer to Arunachal Pradesh as 'South Tibet'.

Some 2,500 kilometres west of Tawang, in Ladakh, where, the India-China frontier extends, there is a funny game that is played. It is played on land and in the water.

At the Pangong Tso, the lake that the two countries dispute, either side “whirlpools” the other's patrols with speed-boats. The border is not marked on the waters. At Se La in Arunachal, around which there are believed to be a hundred lakes, the Dalai Lama on Friday afternoon will be received by monks of his own Gelug sect of Tibetan Mahayana Buddhism, as well as the townspeople of Tawang.

Despite the insistence of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi that the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal was a religious and spiritual mission, he has indeed referred to China obliquely. The visit is at once political and strategic. At Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday, he told journalists, going from the general to the specific that: “The situation inside Tibet is tragic. The situation in the 21st Century will be miserable if it continues like this. The world suffers from short-sightedness which is not good. We should not bully each other”.

The fulminations of China's state-run media, specifically the *Global Times*, may not be misplaced. The publication, believed to be the medium of choice for international correspondence of the Chinese Communist Party, threatened, among other things, that "(if) New Delhi ruins the Sino-India ties and the two countries turn into open rivals, can India afford the consequences?"

War is an option, unlike what peaceniks believe. It is but an option of last resort.

In Ladakh last August, this correspondent was eyewitness to the many pillboxes and bunkers dug into a brown and barren ridge along the Pangong Tso that were not there three years back. There were also new regiments of armoured vehicles. On the other side of the unmarked border, were the Chinese highways and state-ways. India believes it is only “catching-up” with China's border infrastructure.

By late on Friday afternoon, when the Dalai Lama finally reaches Tawang, the monastery in which he took refuge while fleeing from Tibet in 1959, a monastery run by his own Gelugpa (the Tibetan Mahayana Buddhist sect), some more mortar and concrete has rolled up the Himalayas.

What mystifies is New Delhi's new attitude to Beijing: Monk and menace, pontiff and peace.

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/dalai-lama-in-arunachal-pradesh-how-two-events-connect-delhi-with-se-la-in-tawang-3372878.html>

High Stakes as the Dalai Lama Hints at Being ‘Reborn’ Outside China

Beijing wants to pick the next Tibetan spiritual leader, but the Dalai Lama's visit to a monastery town in India suggests that he has other plans

By Gordon Fairclough and Niharika Mandhana | The Wall Street Journal | April 07, 2017

Tens of thousands of Buddhist faithful poured into the remote Himalayan monastery town of Tawang in northeast India this week—many traveling days over rough roads from distant mountain valleys—for a chance to see and hear a man they consider an embodiment of the divine: the Dalai Lama.

Defying repeated protests from China—which claims Tawang as part of its territory and decries the Tibetan spiritual leader as “a wolf in monk’s clothing” bent on fueling separatist unrest—the Dalai Lama was due to begin three days of public religious teachings there on Saturday.

Beyond the lessons on meditation and Buddhist belief, some see a larger aim in the visit of the increasingly frail, 81-year-old Dalai Lama. Anticipating his own death, he may wish to signal that he could choose, as Tibetan tradition allows, to be reborn in Tawang—still part of the Tibetan cultural sphere but safely outside China.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/high-stakes-as-the-dalai-lama-hints-at-being-reborn-outside-china-1491585210>



SATURDAY, APRIL 08, 2017

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Gives Buddhist Teachings to 50,000 in Tawang

Dalailama.com | April 08, 2017

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India - Despite forecasts of thunderstorms in the vicinity, this morning the sun shone on the distant hills and there were large patches of blue in the skies over Tawang. His Holiness the Dalai Lama too was in a jovial mood when he emerged from his rooms at the top of the Dukhang, the main temple of the 17th century Tawang Monastery. He stopped frequently to greet well-wishers on his way to a waiting car that would carry him to the Yiga Choezin teaching ground lower down the hill. His first task on reaching there, accompanied by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, was to unveil a plaque inaugurating the Gyalwa Tsangyang Gyatso High Altitude Sports Complex and the foundation stone for a prospective Government Degree College.

His Holiness greeted the crowd, estimated to number 50,000, as he walked to the throne that had been set up at the front of a temple pavilion. He paid particular attention to the senior citizens who had been accommodated in the front rows, leaning over the rail to speak to them directly.



Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu thanking His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the start of teachings at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 8, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

The Chief Minister spoke first, thanking His Holiness on behalf of the people of Mönyul not only for coming to Tawang once again, but also for enduring the long journey by road that brought him to the threshold of many people's homes. He recalled that after His Holiness crossed the border at Kenzamani in early April 1959 Tawang was the first Indian soil to receive the blessings of his presence. Tawang Monastery was also then the first place where he gave a Buddhist teaching. He praised His Holiness as an ambassador of non-violence, who is to the 21st century what Gandhi-ji was to the twentieth. Noting that Tawang was the birthplace of the Sixth Dalai Lama, the Chief Minister requested His Holiness to consider giving the Kalachakra Empowerment there. He ended with prayers for His Holiness's good health and long life.

His Holiness began his address by acknowledging how touched he is by the faith and devotion the Mönpa people show him. He told them how fondly he remembers passing through this region in 1959. He added how pleased he was to have just unveiled the foundation stone for a new educational institution.

"Human happiness arises from affection," he said. "The greater the love and compassion there is among you, the happier and more contented you feel. When someone among you is angry, it disturbs you all. I believe we can ensure that the 21st century is an era of peace by more widely cultivating compassion. I was due to reach here by helicopter, but as it turned out I came by road with the added benefit of making contact with far more people on the way. I'd like to thank every one of you who came out to welcome me."



Some of the more than 50,000 people attending His Holiness the Dalai Lama's

teaching at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 8, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

"In 1959, the situation in Lhasa was desperate and slipping out of control. I tried to resolve the situation without success. Since 1956 the PLA had used military force to effect change in Do-mey and Do-kham and we had run out of means to mollify them. Prime Minister Nehru organized help from the point where I crossed the border. I met him first in Beijing and later in India in 1956 had discussions with him about the situation in Tibet. When I had to flee Lhasa in 1959, it was only once I crossed the border into India here that I felt free of risk and danger. The local people showered me with respect and devotion and treated the many Tibetans who came after me with immense kindness.

"The Chief Minister has requested me to give a Kalachakra Empowerment here. I can't promise anything now, but I'll keep it in mind. The main purpose would be for you all to become more acquainted with the Dharma. Right now I'm going to read through the 'Stages of Meditation', which explains the basis, path and result, and also touches on how to develop calm abiding and special insight meditation.

"Nyengön Sungrab draws a distinction between Buddhist teachings that belong to the general structure and those that have been framed with particular disciples in mind. The Four Noble Truths and 37 Factors Aligned with Enlightenment that we find in the Pali tradition and the Perfection of Wisdom teachings of the Sanskrit tradition belong to the general structure. Whether the Buddha taught them in the guise of a monk or having arisen as the deity of the mandala, the Tantras are teachings framed for specific disciples. In Tibet teachings of the general structure spread far and wide, there are the 18 treatises of the Sakyas and the 13 classic texts of the Nyingmas, but there seems to have been much more eager interest in tantric instructions.

"No matter how long you spend in retreat and no matter how many mantras you recite, if your mind is not transformed the practice isn't of much help. However, if you think about love and compassion and try to understand emptiness over several years, you'll see a change in yourself. I myself do deity-yoga practices, but what has really enabled me to transform my mind has been meditating on emptiness and dependent arising, as well as on love and compassion.

"The Nyingma tradition speaks of the Nine Yanas or Vehicles, the three outer vehicles of the Hearers, Solitary Realizers and Bodhisattvas; the three inner vehicles of Vedic-like asceticism, the kriya, ubhaya and yoga tantras and the three secret vehicles of powerful transformative methods maha, anu and ati yoga."



His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his teaching at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 8, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness explained that the ‘Stages of Meditation’ was composed in Tibet at the request of Trisong Detsen, while ‘37 Practices of Bodhisattvas’ was written by a Tibetan master, acclaimed as a Bodhisattva, who was known as Gyalsay—Son of the Conqueror—Thogme Sangpo. It teaches about the awakening mind of bodhichitta. His Holiness reminded his listeners that before beginning to read these texts, both teacher and disciples should examine their motivation.

He reported how impressed he had been when he read of a lama called Tseley Rangdol who made three pledges in relation to his teaching: not to ride animals from place to place, to eat only vegetarian food and not to take any payment for his teaching. The hermit Gotshangpa also said that lamas should not teach for material gain. His Holiness added that disciples too should have a proper motivation, quoting Aryadeva’s ‘400 Verses’ as saying, “get rid of unwholesome deeds, get rid of wrong view, and get rid of all distorted views of objectification.” His Holiness recommended looking into the faults of destructive emotions, developing a determination to be free and cultivating the aspiration for enlightenment of the Bodhisattva ideal.

Mentioning that his second commitment is to encourage the development of religious harmony, His Holiness remarked that just as it’s absurd to suggest that there is one medicine that is the best for treating all ailments, it’s absurd to suggest that there is a religion that is best for everyone.



Some of the more than 50,000 people listening to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teaching at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 8, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

As he began to read Kamalashila's 'Stages of Meditation', His Holiness disclosed that he received it from Sakya Abbot Sangye Tenzin, who had received it at Samye from a Khampa Lama who may have been a student of Khenpo Shenga. He went through it rapidly touching on what the mind is, training the mind, compassion and developing equanimity, the root of loving-kindness. The text also referred to the practice of calm-abiding and how to actualize special insight, the notion that it is not that things don't exist, it's just that they don't exist as they appear to do.

After lunch His Holiness met with members of the press. He started by telling them about his commitment to promoting human values, principally compassion. He told them that scientists' conclusion that basic human nature is compassionate is a sign of hope that would be absent if it was anger instead. He lamented that modern education is too oriented to material goals and insufficiently concerned with inner values. He announced that later this month he will meet with co-compilers of a curriculum for inculcating secular ethics in school and university students. He also voiced his support for religious harmony and his admiration for the way it has long flourished here in India. Finally, he mentioned having devolved all his political responsibilities to an elected leadership, but remaining keenly concerned about Tibetan ecology and keeping Tibetan culture and language alive.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking with members of the press at Yiga Choezin in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 8, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

Interest in his successor led to His Holiness being asked directly where the 15th Dalai Lama will be born. He replied, "Nobody knows. I pray I'll continue to be able to be of service to sentient beings, but I sometimes doubt if I'm even the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama." When another journalist mentioned that the Chinese government has asserted it is their right to make a decision about his successor, His Holiness called it nonsense. He conceded that in the past the Chinese Emperor had taken an interest in the recognition of the Dalai Lama, but that was when the Emperors considered themselves spiritual disciples.

"If the Chinese government wants to be involved in this they should first announce their acceptance of the theory of reincarnation. Then they should recognise reincarnations of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping for their claim to have any legitimacy."

When it was suggested that the people of Tawang would dearly love to have a Dalai Lama born amongst them again, His Holiness responded that there are people who say the same thing in Ladakh and even in Europe too. He reiterated that as early as 1969, in his March 10th statement, he had made it clear that whether or not there should be another Dalai Lama was up to the Tibetan peoples. He accepts that if they decide that it is an institution that is no longer relevant, it will cease. He expects Tibetan refugees, Mongolians and people of the Himalayan region from Ladakh to Tawang to have a say in this decision.

He mentioned that later this year he may resume discussions with prominent Tibetan spiritual leaders on how to proceed. He admitted that he has answered the question about whether a future Dalai Lama could be a woman with his own question, "Why not? There are already precedents of high female reincarnations."

He repeated a response he first gave in Newark some years ago, taking off his glasses and challenging his questioners, "Look at my face. Do you think this talk of my reincarnation is urgent?"

Finally, he was asked how he stays so well and answered,

"I sometimes answer this, 'That's my secret,' but the truth is because of peace of mind. That and consistently getting nine hours sleep. I turn in at about 6.30 in the evening and get up at 3.30 the following morning to do 4 - 5 hours of meditation. Not just shutting my eyes and relaxing the mind, but engaging in intense analysis about, for example, dependent arising and how it relates to reality."

Tomorrow, His Holiness will give an empowerment in relation to the Thousand Armed, Thousand Eyed Avalokiteshvara and visit Ugyen Ling, the birthplace of Tsangyang Gyatso, the 6th Dalai Lama.

<https://www.dalailama.com/news/2017/his-holiness-the-dalai-lama-gives-buddhist-teachings-to-50-000-in-tawang>

Dalai Lama visits Arunachal Pradesh, China sees red: Who said what

As India and China spar over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, a look at what all sides have said till now.

Hindustan Times | April 08, 2017

The Dalai Lama's week-long visit to Arunachal Pradesh has sparked a war of words between India and China, and even the Tibetan spiritual leader has weighed in.

While India has maintained that the visit was an internal matter, China, which claims the state as part of south Tibet, has reacted strongly to the Dalai Lama's visit to what it deems a "disputed" land.



The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh has triggered a war of words between India and China. (PTI)

As India and China trade parleys, here's a look at who has said what till now:

Indian government

Kiren Rijiju, Union minister of state for home affairs, who hails from West Kameng district, [described the visit as India's "internal affair".](#) "China should not interfere just as we do not interfere in their internal matters," Rijiju said on Sunday, in Itanagar.

On Tuesday, the external affairs ministry said in a statement that "no additional colour should be ascribed to his (Dalai Lama's) religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India".

Chinese Media

[Chinese state media lashed out](#) at India on Wednesday, a day after the Dalai Lama started his Arunachal Pradesh visit, saying China will not allow New Delhi a "free ride" on its economic growth while it endangered Beijing's core interests.

"The Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship," an article in the nationalistic tabloid Global Times said, warning of retaliatory measures.

Global Times had earlier carried an article saying that [Beijing hoped India would return Tawang to it.](#)

The Dalai Lama

Reacting to Beijing's objections to his visit, the 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader said on Wednesday that [India has never used him against China](#). "I am India's longest standing guest. India has never used me against China," he said.

He also urged China to give Tibet meaningful "self-rule" and "autonomy". "China must give us meaningful self-rule, autonomy, and must take care of the environment in Tibet. China has the highest population of Tibetan Buddhists. Many Chinese intellectuals also fully support our cause."

Pema Khandu, Arunachal Pradesh chief minister

Arunachal CM Pema Khandu, who escorted the Dalai Lama from Guwahati to Bomdila, minced no words in attacking on Beijing, saying it had no right to threaten India over the visit as India shares a border with Tibet, not China.

"Let me get this straight. China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do because it is not our next-door neighbour," said Khandu.

China's foreign ministry

On Wednesday, the [Chinese foreign ministry strongly demanded](#) that India put a stop to the Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit in the interest of bilateral ties, rubbishing India's claims that the visit was of a religious nature.

China went a step ahead, warning India of "retaliatory measures" and [summoning India's ambassador in Beijing](#), Vijay Gokhale, to lodge its protest.

"We demand the Indian side immediately stop wrong actions, not hype up sensitive issues and take concrete steps to safeguard growth of India-China relations," said Hua Chunying , spokesperson for the ministry of foreign affairs.

"India in disregard to China's concerns obstinately arranged the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of the eastern part of China-India border, causing serious damage to China's interests and China-India relations," Chunying told reporters.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/dalai-lama-visits-arunachal-pradesh-china-sees-red-who-said-what/story-YoCMn4gjcpaOZrBaFLVPeK.html>

People to decide about Dalai Lama's institution

The CEO Magazine | April 08, 2017

Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), April 8 Tibetan Spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Saturday said it was up to his people to decide whether the institution of the Dalai Lama should continue or not.

A monastery official said the 14th Dalai Lama would hold discussions with senior Lamas the issue of reincarnation during his stay at Tawang.

“I have left it to the people to decide whether the institution of the Dalai Lama should continue or not. It depends entirely on the wishes the Tibetan people,” the Tibetan leader told journalists at Tawang, the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso.

The Dalai Lama arrived at the Tawang monastery on Friday evening and began his religious discourses on Saturday.

He is staying at the Tawang monastery, which belongs to the Gelugpa school of Mahayana Buddhism and has had a religious connection with Lhasa’s Drepung monastery that continued during the British rule.

Beijing refers to this connection to claim Tawang as part of China after invading and taking over Tibet in 1950.

There is speculation that the 15th Dalai Lama could be again from Tawang even as China has named a six-year-old boy in Tibet as the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, widely considered the second-holiest monk in Tibetan Buddhism.

Asked if the next Dalai Lama could be a woman, the Dalai Lama said: “That might also happen.

“Let China first come clear on its theory on rebirth (next Dalai Lama),” the 81-year-old said.

“I retired from politics in 2011 and all political matters are handled by our government-in-exile. But I am committed to promote and preserve Tibetan culture and ecology.”

China on Wednesday lodged a protest with India over the Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh. Indian Ambassador Vijay Gokhale was summoned in Beijing.

The Sino-Indian border along Arunachal Pradesh is separated by the McMahon Line, an imaginary border now known as the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

India and China fought a border war in 1962, with Chinese troops advancing deep into Arunachal Pradesh and inflicting heavy casualties on poorly armed Indian troops.

The border dispute with China was inherited by India from British rulers, who hosted a 1914 conference with the Tibetan and Chinese governments that set the border in what is now Arunachal Pradesh.

China has never recognised the 1914 McMahon Line and claims 90,000 sq km, including nearly all of Arunachal. India accuses China of occupying 8,000 sq km in Jammu and Kashmir.

After 1962, tensions flared again in 1986 with Indian and Chinese forces clashing in Sumdorong Chu valley of Arunachal Pradesh. Chinese troops reportedly built a helipad in the valley leading to the fresh skirmishes.

On US President Donald Trump's "America First Policy", the Nobel laureate said: "I disagree with the America First policy. It is unbecoming of a country that encourages free thinking."

Exhorting the European Union for pursuing policies directed at social cohesion, the Dalai Lama suggested that India, China and Pakistan could have similar economic and cultural cooperation for greater stability in the sub-continent.

"The exit of Britain (from European Union) was the people's choice, but EU is something Africa, the America and even Asia can follow. I admire Germany for sticking to EU despite a very strong Deutsche Mark," he said.

The Dalai Lama has lived in India since fleeing his homeland in 1959. India is also home to some 100,000 Tibetans.

<http://theceo.in/2017/04/people-to-decide-about-dalai-lamas-institution-2/>

Others: <http://www.srnnews.com/dalai-lama-says-its-for-people-to-decide-fate-of-his-office/>

Dalai Lama says it's for people to decide fate of his office

By WASBIR HUSSAIN | Associated Press | April 08, 2017

GAUHATI, India (AP) — The exiled Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader said Saturday that it's up to his followers to decide whether the office of the Dalai Lama exists in the future.

During a visit to the northeast Indian town of Tawang — the second-highest seat of Tibetan Buddhism — the Dalai Lama denied that he had any knowledge of where his successor would be born. Asked if the next Dalai Lama could be a woman, he said, "That might also happen."

The question of who will replace the 81-year-old spiritual leader has gained significance in recent years, with Beijing insisting that the next Dalai Lama be born in China.

On Saturday, the Tibetan leader said the people should decide on the question of the next Dalai Lama.

"They will decide whether the tradition continues or not," he told reporters in Tawang, located in India's remote northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Dalai Lama is on a weeklong visit to Arunachal Pradesh despite objections by China, which considers the state a disputed region.

On China's claim on the next Dalai Lama, he said, "Let China first come clear on its theory on rebirth."

The Dalai Lama said that he has nothing to do with "politics," and that it was the Tibetan self-declared government-in-exile that handled all political matters, including the Tibetan cause.

"I retired from politics in 2011 and all political matters are handled by our government-in-exile," he said. "However, I am committed to promote and preserve Tibetan culture and ecology."

The Dalai Lama and his followers have been living in exile in the Himalayan town of Dharamsala in northern India since they fled Tibet after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

China doesn't recognize the Tibetan government-in-exile, and hasn't held any dialogue with the representatives of the Dalai Lama since 2010.

China says Tibet has historically been part of its territory since the mid-13th century, and the Communist Party has governed the Himalayan region since 1951. But many Tibetans say that they were effectively independent for most of their history, and that the Chinese government wants to exploit their resource-rich region while crushing their cultural identity.

In Tawang, thousands of people thronged both sides of the road Saturday and broke into loud cheers and waved prayer flags as the Dalai Lama's motorcade entered a stadium where he addressed his followers.

Tawang was spruced up for the Dalai Lama's visit — his first since 2009. Streets were swept, houses freshly painted and welcome arches and banners erected across the main streets.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh has drawn sharp protests from China. On Wednesday, China accused India of "using" the Dalai Lama to undermine Beijing's interests and summoned the Indian ambassador in Beijing to formally lodge a protest.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying warned India that China "will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests."

India responded by saying China was creating an "artificial controversy."

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) in Arunachal Pradesh, referred to informally by some Chinese as "Southern Tibet." India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau.

The Dalai Lama has often said that he was not seeking independence for Tibet, but trying to secure greater autonomy for the Tibetan people within China.

<http://newsok.com/dalai-lama-says-its-for-people-to-decide-fate-of-his-office/article/feed/1199943>

China naming my successor is nonsense: Dalai Lama

Rediff | April 08, 2017

The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Saturday criticised China for making a bid to name his successor.

“Beijing’s bid to name my successor to undermine the Tibetans’ cause is nonsense,” he said while talking to reporters in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.

The spiritual leader on Saturday addressed devotees speaking to them about the practices of Bodhisattvas at the Yid GaChosin monastery in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.

A large number of devotees gathered at the monastery were from Bhutan, besides eminent Rinpoches, monks and nuns from near and far off places and guests.

Welcoming the Dalai Lama to West Kameng district, Chief Minister Pema Khandu, who hails from it, called him the world’s “apostle of peace”.

China had years ago confined the Dalai Lama-nominated Panchen Lama and projected its own Panchen Lama, a monk immediately below the rank of the Dalai Lama.

“As early as 1969, I had said the Tibetan people would decide if the institution of Dalai Lama should continue or not. If this institution is no longer relevant, it should stop,” said the 82-year-old spiritual leader, who had fled Tibet way back in 1959 to take refuge in Twang, said.

“Nobody knows who or where the next Dalai Lama will be born or come from. Some indication (about his reincarnation) might come at the time of my death, but now there is no such indication,” he said.

He, however, did not rule out the possibility of the next Dalai Lama being a woman.

-- An epic journey: The day the Dalai Lama came to India

“In the past, Chinese emperors did have involvement in the reincarnation of some Lamas but they were disciples of certain Tibetan lamas,” he pointed out.

On whether his visit to Tawang, a place Beijing claims to be its own, will affect Indo-China ties, he said, “We will have to wait and see. But it is normal for China to give political colour to my spiritual visits.”

“I wish Chinese officials accompanied me during my visits to find out if I am doing or saying anything against them,” the Nobel laureate said.

While forgiving China for its “atrocities against the Tibetans,” the Dalai Lama wondered as to why the Chinese government continued to call him a separatist despite his adopting a middle path.

“This shows a negative attitude. Tibet has very good relationship with China for thousands of years. I have no issue with One China policy ensuring economic benefit to Tibet, provided we have the right to preserve our own culture and language,” he said.

The Dalai Lama said the Chinese people were being fed wrong information about him and that they realised it when they met him in other countries.

“The Chinese people have every right to know the reality, but totalitarianism had done a great damage,” he observed.

Praising Taiwan for preserving Chinese culture, the Dalai Lama observed that China needed another cultural revolution based on compassion and “not on hatred and anger” which was the case with the one led by Mao Zedong.

On the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government’s China policy, the Tibetan leader said, “It is more or less the same as that of the Congress from the days of Narasimha Rao... but I admire Modi, he is active and seeks development.”

<http://www.rediff.com/news/report/pix-china-naming-my-successor-is-nonsense-dalai-lama/20170408.htm>

China says Dalai Lama’s Arunachal visit won’t benefit India, lodges protest

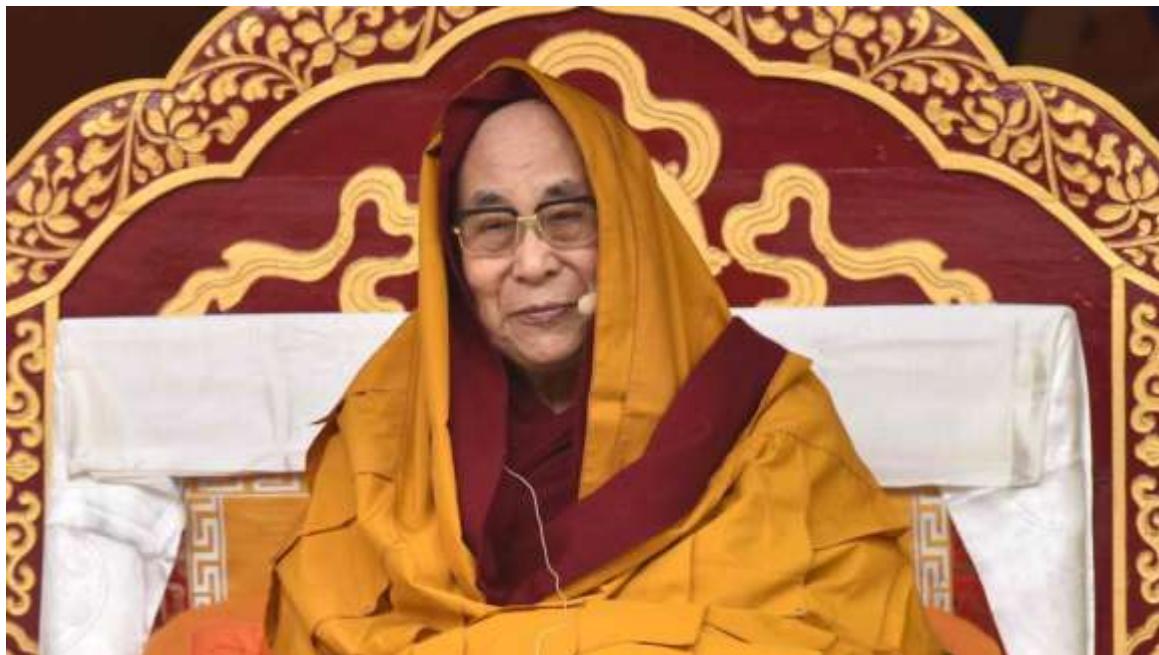
A Chinese spokesperson said the country firmly opposes Dalai Lama’s Arunachal Pradesh visit and will lodge a protest with India.

By Sutirtho Patranobis | Hindustan Times | Beijing | April 08, 2017

China launched a diplomatic attack on India on Wednesday for “obstinately” arranging the 14th Dalai Lama’s visit to the “disputed region” of Arunachal Pradesh, demanding an immediate stop to his ongoing tour and summoning Indian ambassador VK Gokhale to lodge a protest.

“The visit will for sure trigger China’s dissatisfaction. This will not bring any benefit to India,” Hua Chunying, the ministry of foreign affairs spokesperson, said.

“The Chinese side will take necessary means to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests,” she added.



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama delivers religious teachings to Buddhist followers at the Buddha Stadium in Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh.(AFP Photo)

Former ambassador AK Kantha had been summoned by the foreign affairs ministry after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Arunachal Pradesh in February 2015.

Dalai Lama, the 81-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader reached Arunachal --- which China claims to be a part of south Tibet, on Tuesday for a week-long visit, with India telling its neighbour that the tour was its internal matter and that it was purely religious in nature.

Beijing clearly wasn't convinced.

It wasn't immediately clear how else China will target India for inviting the Tibetan leader to Arunachal, but from the tone of Hua's statement it was evident that Beijing was furious: Hua's statement was peppered with phrases like "obstinate India", "escalate border dispute" and "empty words".

It was by far China's strongest reaction since the time it had begun to warn India about the impending visit.

Asked for a response to China's reaction, external affairs ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay referred to a statement issued on Tuesday which said that "the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader and has visited Arunachal earlier on half a dozen occasions", news agency IANS reported.

But Hua said: “India in disregard of Chinas concerns obstinately arranged Dalai’s visit to the eastern part of India China border causing serious damage to China’s interests and India-China relations.”

“We demand the Indian side immediately stop wrong actions, not hype up sensitive issues and take concrete steps to safeguard growth of India-China relations,” she said.

To India’s assertion that the visit was an internal matter, Hua said China didn’t interfere in the internal affairs of any country but the Tibetan leader’s visit wasn’t one because it was linked to a “disputed region”.

“The visit goes beyond (India’s) internal affairs,” she said.

“India is keenly aware of the role of the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging this visit to the disputed areas not only runs counter to India’s commitments on Tibet but will escalate the dispute in border areas,” Hua said.

“Can you tell me honestly, do you seriously believe Dalai is only a religious leader? The answer is known to all. He is not just a religious figure therefore his visit to this place will not be of purely religious purpose. So using these empty words to defend this arrangement is not reasonable,” she said.

Beijing sees the profile of this visit as higher compared to earlier visits, as this time the Dalai Lama is accompanied by Union minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju, who hails from the Tawang district of Arunachal.

“Cooperation between us will serve interests of the region. We hope to maintain good momentum of growth but this move runs counter to his wish, so we hope India stops doing things that undermine our interests,” Hua said.

Earlier in the day, the Chinese state media lashed out at India, saying China would not allow New Delhi a “free ride” on its economic growth while it endangered Beijing’s core interests.

New Delhi was “playing” the Dalai Lama and his anti-China activities as a diplomatic tool, said an article in the influential state-run tabloid the Global Times, warning of retaliatory measures.

“The Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region gravely damages the China-India relationship,” it said.

The Dalai Lama got a rousing reception when he reached Bomdila on Tuesday evening. He will be in Tawang on April 8.

Tawang is an important Buddhist centre with a 400-year-old hilltop monastery but also holds a special place for the Tibetan leader who spent a few days in the Himalayan village after escaping the Chinese army in 1959.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and calls Dharamshala-based Dalai Lama a separatist who wants to carve out an independent Tibet within the Chinese mainland.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/dalai-lama-s-arunachal-visit-will-seriously-damage-ties-with-india-says-china/story-wzblh7N5cDOCyl1BXSzUDM.html>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal: China continues tirade, dismissive about India's NSG bid

By Sutirtho Patranobis | Hindustan Times | Beijing | April 08, 2017

China on Thursday reiterated its opposition to the ongoing visit of the 14th Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, saying it will fuel tensions along the disputed border in the eastern region.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying dismissed a question on China not respecting India's application to enter the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), stating the issue has to be decided through multilateral consultations.

Beijing was one of the countries that blocked India's application to the NSG last year.

Hua said China's objections to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday have been raised with "competent officials in the Indian government", and ambassador VK Gokhale has been called to lodge a protest.

Beijing refers to Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet, and calls the Dharamshala-based Dalai Lama a separatist leader who wants to carve Tibet out of the Chinese mainland.

Asked whether Beijing views India's permission to the 81-year-old Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh as amounting to questioning the 'one China' policy, Hua said: "I want to re-emphasise that on issues regarding major concern and core interests, territorial and sovereignty, China's position is consistent. By inviting and approving of the Dalai Lama's visit to disputed areas between China and India, India has harmed our interests and the India-China relationship. It has fuelled tensions,"

The country is opposed to the spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and attempts by New Delhi to "provide him with a platform to conduct anti-China activities", she added. "We urge relevant country to stop such erroneous actions and stop undermining Chinese interests," she said.

Both China and its state media have been lashing out at India for allowing the Dalai Lama to visit the northeastern state, especially Tawang, for about nine days.

Hua said the Dalai Lama's visit has damaged Sino-India ties.

"We hope the two sides can continue to follow principle of mutual respect for each other's core interests and major concerns and we should do more things that can strengthen mutual political trust and promote the overall interests of China-India relations," she said.

Hua was asked about comments in the Chinese media that India was "playing" the "Dalai Lama and Tibet card" as an angry response to China blocking New Delhi's NSG bid among other problems. She said: "China will not make any assumption on India's intentions."

On India's NSG bid, Hua said this issue should be resolved by all members of the group.

"We should achieve a solution that applies indiscriminately to all non-Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty countries through consultations and discussions," she said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/china-continues-tirade-against-dalai-lama-s-arunachal-visit-dismissive-about-india-s-nsq-bid/story-bshd5Vi4O6FyMExoOJLPwJ.html>

China Is Fooling Its Own People Over Arunachal Visit, Says Dalai Lama

Agence France-Presse | NDTV | April 08, 2017

Tawang: The Dalai Lama today accused China of spreading false information about his trip to a monastery in Arunachal Pradesh that drew protests from Beijing. "People have the wrong information," the 81-year-old told reporters in Tawang where he took shelter on his escape from Tibet in 1959.

"I wish one Chinese official would accompany me while I'm visiting here, what I'm doing, what I'm saying. They should know the reality," the Dalai Lama said.

"The 1.3-4 billion Chinese people have every right to know the reality.... They only have one-sided information and wrong information is morally wrong, they're fooling their own people," the Nobel laureate further said.

India has said that the trip is purely religious and pointed out that the Dalai Lama has been to Tawang before, accusing China of creating an "artificial controversy". Some analysts say New Delhi has adopted a firmer approach to China since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power in 2014 and invited the head of the Tibetan government-in-exile to attend his swearing-in ceremony.

"The Dalai Lama has always been welcome to travel wherever he wants in India. But this government has been a bit firmer on issues of sovereignty," said Jayadeva Ranade, head of the Delhi-based Centre for China Analysis and Strategy.

Huge crowds, at least 20,000 by some estimates, turned out to hear the Dalai Lama's nearly three-hour religious discourse.

Reincarnation concerns

En route to Arunachal Pradesh, the Dalai Lama was reunited with the border guard who escorted him into India after he fled his native Tibet following a failed uprising nearly 60 years ago. Speaking to reporters a few days later, the Dalai Lama said the meeting had been "very emotional", bringing back memories of his dramatic flight across the Himalayas disguised as a soldier.

Mr Ranade said the visit to Tawang - birthplace of an earlier incarnation of the Dalai Lama - had also raised Chinese concerns over the 14th Dalai Lama's succession.

He has stated that his reincarnation may be found outside Tibet, and Arunachal Pradesh, with its rich Tibetan culture, is an obvious contender. Under Tibetan Buddhist tradition, senior monks identify a young boy who shows signs he is a reincarnation of a late leader. China's Communist rulers maintain that they have the sole authority to decide on reincarnation, which the Dalai Lama has objected to.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/china-is-fooling-its-own-people-over-arunachal-visit-says-dalai-lama-1678966>

Ignoring China's protest, Dalai Lama begins Arunachal tour with change of itinerary

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, particularly the Tawang region, is his second in eight years. His last visit in November 2009 had also evoked strong reactions from China.

By Rahul Karmakar | Hindustan Times | April 08, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama arrives in Bomdila in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday.(Rajib Jyoti Sarma/ HT Photo)

Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, on Tuesday began a week-long visit to Arunachal Pradesh, India's easternmost state that is at the heart of a decades-old dispute with China.

But, while China has been predictable in its warnings against the Dalai Lama's visit, the weather was not – both in Aruanachal and Assam.

But neither could prevent the 14th Dalai Lama from travelling to the frontier state on Tuesday, albeit with a last-minute change of plan, as a guest of the BJP-ruled state government.

The 81-year-old spiritual leader was scheduled to fly to Tawang, a Buddhist pilgrimage at 10,000 feet, along with chief minister Pema Khandu. But the state-run helicopter could not take off from the airport in Guwahati due to torrential rain.

The Dalai Lama's itinerary, a government spokesperson said, has been reversed.

"The weather forced us to take the road. Our tour of Arunachal Pradesh is on course but with a change in schedule," Tenzin Takhla, the private secretary to the Dalai Lama, told HT.

He will now be reaching Tawang, about 180km from Bomdila, on April 8 for a three-day stay.

The spiritual leader was earlier scheduled to depart from Tawang on April 9 and visit other places, some of which, including state capital Itanagar are likely to be struck off the itinerary.



The rain, however, followed the Dalai Lama when he arrived at Bomdila's Lower Gompa after an almost nine-hour drive. Almost everyone who matters in Arunachal Pradesh – from ministers and local MLAs to the chief secretary and director general of police – had queued up in the rain to greet him.

"This is a great day for us, and we are fortunate His Holiness accepted our invitation," Khandu said. He had gone to Dharamshala last year to invite the Dalai Lama.

One of his aides said the Dalai Lama's visit was purely spiritual without any geo-political message for anyone.

But with the Red Dragon breathing fire from across the India-Tibet border not far away, the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit did try to drive home New Delhi's message.

"This is our internal affair. China should not interfere just as we do not interfere in their internal matters," Kiren Rijiju, Union minister of state for home affairs who hails from West Kameng district, had said in Itanagar on Sunday.

The external affairs ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that "no additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India".



Devotees greet the Dalai Lama as he arrives at the Thubchok Gatsel Ling Monastery in Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh. (AP)

The Indian government, therefore, urges that no “artificial controversy” should be created around his current visit to Arunachal Pradesh, it added.

The Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh, particularly the Tawang region, is his second in eight years.

His last visit was in 2009, exactly 50 years after he reached India after fleeing from Lhasa, Tibet. His visit then had also evoked strong reactions from China.

China claims about 90,000 square kilometres in Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing often refers to as “Southern Tibet”.

Several rounds of talks have failed to make substantial progress on the dispute, although there have been relatively few confrontations in recent years.

Last month, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that Beijing has expressed its concerns to New Delhi on numerous occasions and urged India to avoid offering a place for the Dalai Lama to carry out anti-China separatist activities.



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama arrives at the Thubchog Gatsel Ling Monastery in Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh. (REUTERS)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ignoring-china-s-protest-dalai-lama-begins-arunachal-tour-with-change-of-itinerary/story-3i5ZQkjcmMWOu3ZztnNIUK.html>

Artificial controversy, says India on China protest over Dalai Lama's visit

China is keeping a close watch as the Dalai Lama is set to begin over a week-long visit to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh to attend religious engagements, evoking high decibel protests from Beijing which highlighted the “disputed status” of the area.

PTI | New Delhi | April 08, 2017

Amid Chinese objections to [the Dalai Lama's trip to Arunachal Pradesh](#), India said on Tuesday no “artificial controversy” should be created around the Tibetan spiritual leader’s visit.

The external affairs ministry also asserted that the government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected by the Indian people.

"No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India," the ministry said in a release.

The government, therefore, urges that no "artificial controversy" should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh, it said.

A wary China has kept a close watch ahead of the Dalai Lama's visit, starting today.

Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had warned India that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of Tibet, will cause "serious damage" to bilateral ties.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/don-t-create-artificial-controversy-over-dalai-lama-s-arunachal-visit-india-hits-back-at-china/story-O6BYqgBwMy8gAoIRtRPcQO.html>

China can't name my successor: Dalai

By Pranab Kumar Das and Umanand Jaiswal | Telegraph, India | April 08, 2017

Tezpur/Guahati, April 8: The Dalai Lama today said China cannot decide on his successor and that it "always politicises" his visits to Arunachal Pradesh.

Speaking to reporters at a packed Yid-Ga-Chozin stadium in Tawang, he said, "Let them say...Chinese government cannot decide who will be the next Dalai Lama. It is nonsense. The Chinese Communist government should first accept the truth of reincarnation. It is only one soul. There may be some indication about the next Dalai Lama at the time of my death."

The Tibetan spiritual leader said "our people" would decide on his successor or the continuance of the institution of the Dalai Lama.

The media conference followed a three-hour preaching session attended by over 50,000 people from India and abroad at the stadium, which is 44km from the Sino-Indian border where the Dalai Lama had delivered his first sermon after escaping from Tibet in 1959.

On China's strong opposition to his visit to the frontier state, he said, "My friend China always politicises the issue. I think more than 90 per cent of Tibet is keen to bring me back. Even millions of Chinese Buddhists want me back. Just as the right signal comes from the Chinese government... I will go back."

He reiterated what he had said at Bomdila on Wednesday. "The Chinese government is against us. I am not seeking independence of Tibet. I am a Tibetan. As far as my responsibility (political) is concerned, it ended in 2011 after the electoral process in Tibet."

He said he held no grudge against China. "I feel there is a difference between Chinese people and the Chinese government. The country belongs to people and not the government. China needs another revolution based on compassion. I have forgiven China... 6,000 monasteries destroyed... We don't want to keep it alive and live with revenge."

Most of his followers and admirers, who turned up in traditional attire, were seen listening with folded hands.

Senior monk Jamphel Tsewang said, "It was a historic day for us and a lifetime experience for many. Such a huge turnout, over 50,000. A sizeable section came from Bhutan." Local resident Sonam Tsing said, "His Holiness talked about peace, compassion, education - human values which are so important in today's world."

The Dalai Lama mooted a European Union like arrangement in Asia and Africa, the need to protect the ecology and environment and embracing modern education. He also praised "religious harmony in India" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "I admire him... He is quite active. When he was the CM (chief minister) of Gujarat, I went for the Buddhist conference. He came to me and we met. He is doing good and is working for farmers' development. They are working in the countryside... and we need to work there."

He also said that he disagreed with US President Donald Trump's "America First" policy. "It is unbecoming of a country that encourages free thinking."

The proceedings started with Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu paying tributes to the Tibetan spiritual leader for taking "all the pain to travel by road" to be among the people of Monyul, especially those who could not afford to seek his blessings elsewhere.

Khandu spoke of the privilege bestowed upon the people of Arunachal, as the Dalai Lama had entered India through the land in 1959. "We were the fortunate ones to receive your first sermon in exile at Tawang monastery in 1959. It had immensely benefited us to hold the dharma with firmer conviction.

In your subsequent visits, His Holiness has blessed us with various sermons. I am sure the sermon we received this time will add to benefit us in understanding dharma and to follow the righteous way of living together with humane values, love, peace and compassion." He hoped the Dalai Lama would make many more visits to the state.

Khandu said Yid-Ga-Chozin would be developed as a centre for Buddhist learning to carry forward rational thinking and scientific analysis of Buddhist teachings.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170409/jsp/northeast/story_145361.jsp#.WQ3VT8b-uUk



IMAGE: Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama being welcomed by Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu at Jang Palpung Gompa Tawang Monastery. Photograph: PTI Photo

SUNDAY, APRIL 09, 2017

Empowerment and Visits to Ugyen Ling & the Dorje Khandu Memorial Museum

Dalailama.com | April 09, 2017

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India - His Holiness the Dalai Lama reached Yiga Choezin earlier today in order to do the preparatory rituals required for him to give an Avalokiteshvara Empowerment.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama performing preparatory rituals for the Avalokiteshvara Empowerment at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 9, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

At the request of local MLA Jambey Tashi he signed placards concerning projects in other places. One related to the Dolma Lhakhang that has been built at Lumla, another depicted a statue of Guru Padmasambhava at Lunpo Zemithang near the Tibetan border. He also unveiled a foundation stone for a statue of Maitreya to be constructed near the border with Bhutan.

"The Buddha was someone who taught about dependent arising from his own experience,' His Holiness explained when he was ready. "It's important not only to try to be good people, but also good followers of the Buddha. What is unique about his teaching, his explanation of dependent arising free of

extremes, is highlighted in the opening verses of Nagarjuna's 'Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way'.

*I prostrate to the Perfect Buddha,
The best of teachers, who taught that
Whatever is dependently arisen is
Unceasing, unborn,
Unannihilated, not permanent,
Not coming, not going,
Without distinction, without identity,
And peaceful - free from fabrications.*

"Things exist in conventional terms but are dependent on other factors, causes and conditions.

"We say I take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, but what does this mean. The Buddha is not just someone who appeared at a moment in history 2600 years ago. What is extraordinary about him is the Dharma Jewel within him. This refers to his achievement of the true path and true cessation it gives rise to.



A view of many of the 50,000 people attending the second day of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teachings at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 9, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

"What he has seen as free from the eight extremes of arising and ceasing, being non-existent and being permanent, coming and going, being multiple and being singular, he has seen as a result of his own effort. He has achieved

cessation by overcoming the defilements of his own mind through realizing the suchness of how things are. This corresponds to the quantum physics observation that nothing has objective existence. His achievement of true cessation and the true path qualifies him as a Sangha Jewel.

“The Buddha is the teacher; the Dharma is the actual refuge and the Sangha are those who assist on the path. The Buddha is called a teacher not a refuge because he shows the path through teaching. He teaches the truth that leads us to liberation. He is not someone who washes away unwholesomeness, or removes sufferings with his hand, or who transfers his realization to others. We too should practise the teaching in order to attain the path and cessation. To understand what the Dharma jewel is we need to understand what emptiness is and we can do this by understanding dependent arising.”



A young member of the crowd listening to His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking on the second day of his teachings at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 9, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

Before starting the ritual procedures for the empowerment, His Holiness gave a reading transmission of a Guru Yoga he composed in the 60s called the ‘Inseparability of the Spiritual Master from Avalokiteshvara’. When it came to the name mantra he remarked that one of his names, Jampel or Manjushri, was given to him at his first ordination by Reting Rinpoche and was later dropped. In due course he chose to restore it.

His Holiness distinguished the perfection vehicle from the resultant vehicle of tantra; the sutra system and the tantric system. Of the four classes of tantra, he said the empowerment of the 1000 Armed 1000 Eyed Avalokiteshvara

belongs to kriya tantra and the lotus lineage. It came from the transmission of Bhikshuni Lakshmi in India. He said he received it first from Tagdag Rinpoche and again later from his Senior Tutor Ling Rinpoche. He also affirmed that he has completed the required retreat.

Before continuing with the empowerment, His Holiness said he would read the ‘37 Practices of Bodhisattvas’ without stopping to explain much because of a shortage of time.

“The author Thogme Sangpo of Ngulchu was a contemporary of Buton Rinpoche, a great scholar and renowned as a bodhisattva. His realization of bodhichitta was such that birds and wild animals, a fox among them, gathered around him. He composed this work to encourage his disciples to practise too. I received it from Khunu Lama Rinpoche.

“Practice of the Dharma is about transforming the mind such that it becomes the mind of a Buddha. We have a pristine awareness, a primordially pure mind, that is our Buddha nature. Drawbacks occur because we have not been able to tame our minds. Suffering arises fundamentally from ignorance. Not just not knowing, but a distorted view that is the opposite of reality as it is. As we appreciate reality, ignorance diminishes. It’s like seeing something in the distance that looks like a human being. The closer we get the more obvious it is that it’s a scarecrow or cairn.”

The text speaks of cherishing your spiritual teachers which His Holiness observed means appreciating their qualities. He remarked that he’d heard that in parts of Kham the greatness of a Lama is measured by the number of horses in his caravan, which he said is just ignorant. He was reminded of the story of someone visiting an Abbot in Kham, finding him away and being told that he’d gone to the village to scare the old people. His Holiness said that since Buddhism is to do with liberation and omniscience it is not to be used to scare people. It should be about generating confidence and inspiration that we have the opportunity of a human life to practise.

Responding to the line ‘What worldly god can give you protection?’ His Holiness spoke about the worship of Shugden. He said that from 1951 he too had done it, but stopped after having strange experiences. He mentioned that he discovered that historically the 5th Dalai Lama had tried to appease the spirit and had resorted to wrathful means to subdue it. He’d written about how Tulku Drakpa Gyaltsen was not the actual reincarnation of Tulku Gelek Palsang, the successor to Panchen Sonam Drakpa. He had also described Gyalpo Shugden as a spirit arisen through wrong prayers who harmed the Dharma and sentient beings. His Holiness talked about how all this emerged from investigating trouble that took place in Ganden Jangtse, how he stopped the practice and investigated whether to encourage others to stop it too.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama granting the Avalokiteshvara Empowerment at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 9, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness suggested that regarding the protector chapel on the side as more important than the statue of the Buddha in the front as indicating mistaken priorities. In his brisk continued reading of the text, he pointed out where the verses outline the practice of the six perfections.

After giving the upasaka and upasaki precepts of lay practitioners in the course of the empowerment, he remarked that the fourfold Sangha was complete. He noted that although Bhikshuni ordination had not been established in the Tibetan tradition, now there were Geshemas as well as Getsulmas.

From the Yiga Choezin teaching ground His Holiness drove to Ugyen Ling where the birthplace of Gyalwa Tsangyang Gyatso, the 6th Dalai Lama, is preserved. After participating in a brief tsog offering, he had lunch with invited guests in the temple upstairs. After lunch he drove on, stopping on the way to greet children and staff of the Manjushri School, to the Dorje Khandu Memorial Museum.

He was invited to inaugurate the Museum and Jangchub Chorten established in tribute to the present Chief Minister's late father, who had also been Chief Minister and someone His Holiness counted as a friend. He unveiled the plaque recording the consecration, inaugurated the innovative and well-appointed Museum and took a brief tour inside. His Holiness showed a keen

interest in the materials related to Dorje Khandu's life, and also in the account of his own escape from Tibet and arrival in Tawang in 1959. He recorded his own testimonial to his late friend and willingly complied with a request to leave his handprints on a picture on the wall. He planted a tree in the garden outside.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, accompanied by Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu, viewing exhibits at the Dorjee Khandu Memorial Museum in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 9, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

Back at Tawang Monastery once more, the monks had assembled in the temple. The new Abbot modestly requested His Holiness to give some words of advice to the monks. He said that he was trying to do his best to fulfil what he understood to be His Holiness's wishes and build on what his predecessors had done to improve education. He reported that there are currently nearly 400 monks resident and more than 100 studying elsewhere.

His Holiness reminded them that the Tibetan Buddhist tradition had been established by Abbot Shantarakshita, but that in Tibet people were no longer free to study and practice as they chose. He recalled that when he took his Geshe exams there were 10,000 monks at Drepung Monastery and several thousand at Sera. He said he's been told that these days in Drepung there are barely 40 monks. He stressed how valuable it is that throughout the Himalayan region there is a freedom to study and practice and he urged the monks to take advantage of it.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking to the monks of Tawang Monastery in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 9, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

He asked about the monastery routine and hearing that the day starts at 4 or 5 o'clock with prayers suggested that the younger monks need more time to sleep. He dwelt on the importance of monasteries and nunneries being of good quality, which he clarified did not mean having big buildings, but study and practice of good quality going on inside.

When it was pointed out to him that there are also two nunneries under the auspices of Tawang Monastery he encouraged the nuns too. He told them that now the first group of nuns have qualified as Geshegas it should be possible for other grades of degree to be awarded to nuns. For example, on completion of the Perfection of Wisdom and Middle Way classes they could perhaps earn a Rabjampa degree.

He also looked forward to more nuns taking up teaching and recounted watching school children skilfully debating in a settlement near Nagpur. He had asked who their teacher and was pleasantly surprised that she was a nun. He said he had praised her good work.

Tomorrow, at Yiga Choezin again, His Holiness will give the Rinchen Dhondup Empowerments in the morning. This will be followed in the afternoon by a public talk at the Kala Wangpo Convention Centre.

<https://www.dalailama.com/news/2017/empowerment-and-visits-to-ugyen-ling-the-dorje-khandu-memorial-museum>

Dalai Lama's successor must have China's endorsement: China's think-tanks

PTI | Economic Times | April 09, 2017

Speaking in Tawang, close to the Chinese border in Arunachal Pradesh, the Dalai Lama yesterday said the Chinese government cannot decide who will be the next Dalai Lama.

BEIJING: China's official think-tanks countered the Dalai Lama's assertion that Chinese government cannot decide about his successor, saying the next highest monk of Tibetan Buddhism must have the endorsement of Beijing.

"The government of the People's Republic of China has proclaimed the power to approve the naming of 'high' reincarnations in Tibet, based on a precedent set by the Qianlong Emperor of the Qing dynasty," said Wang Dehua, Co-Director, Centre for South Asia Studies, Tongji University in Shanghai.

"In my opinion it's ridiculous for the Dalai Lama to say he changed the centuries-old tradition, because the tradition was already changed in 1959. The central government will definitely support the Dalai Lama's successor if he or she is selected according to Chinese laws and historical rules, and the Tibetan people's will," he told PTI here.

Speaking in Tawang, close to the Chinese border in Arunachal Pradesh, the Dalai Lama yesterday said the Chinese government cannot decide who will be the next Dalai Lama.

"Beijing's bid to name my successor to undermine the Tibetans' cause is 'nonsense'," he said.

"As early as 1969, I had said the Tibetan people will decide if this very institution of Dalai Lama should continue or not. If this institution is no longer relevant, it should stop," said the Dalai Lama, who had fled Tibet back in 1959 to take refuge in Tawang.

"Nobody knows who or where the next Dalai Lama will be born or come from. Some indication (about his reincarnation) might come at the time of my death, but now there is no such indication," he said, asserting that China has no role in selecting his successor.

The Chinese government is yet to react to his comments made from Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of Southern Tibet.

Shen Dingli, Vice Dean, Institute of American Studies, Fudan University, too said the Dalai Lama has been saying that the tradition of Dalai Lama could end when he passes away. However, his successor has to have China's approval, he said.

Since he left Tibet in 1959 to escape from the Chinese occupation, the Dalai Lama who turned 81 this year has been keeping China on tenterhooks about his successor.

Considering the political and spiritual influence the Dalai Lamas' had over Tibetans for centuries, China is keen to pick up the successor to the current Dalai Lama to firm up its hold over Tibet, which it kept under tight political, military and administrative control after it took over the area in 1951.

China is apprehensive that the Dalai Lama may pick up a successor from Tawang from where the sixth Dalai Lama hailed.

While firmly opposing his visit to the Tawang in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular with a diplomatic protest to India for permitting it, China is watching warily about any moves by the Dalai Lama to pick up his successor from there.

Statements by local legislators and officials from Tawang that it was the wish of the people that the next Dalai Lama should come from there also caused consternation in China.

"According to traditional practice it only happens after death of the Dalai. It is well known that the title of Dalai Lama, which was originally an academic title conferred by a Mongolian emperor under the rule of the (Chinese emperor) Ming government (1368-1644), became a political and religious title after it was recognised by the Qing government (1644-1911)," Wang said.

"Since then, the selection of the Dalai Lama has to be supervised and recognised by the central government in order to achieve legitimacy," he said.

Commenting on Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu's remarks

that "an independent Tibet, not China, is India's true northern neighbour, he said it's against India's Long standing policy and will damage our bilateral relations.

Ahead of Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang, a scholar of China's state-run Tibetology Research Centre had said that the Dalai Lama's successor should come from native place in Qinghai, adjacent to Tibet Autonomous Region.

Lian Xiangmin, Director of contemporary research of the centre, told media that Dalai Lama's successor should be from his native town in Tibet and he should renounce separatism and accept Tibet and Taiwan as integral part of China.

Dalai Lama was born in Taktser village, Amdo of Qinghai province and picked up for the high spiritual post when he was a eight-year-old boy as part of reincarnation principle followed under Tibetan religious customs.

"On one hand the Dalai Lama says he will live up to 113 years on the other hand he talks about succession issue himself," Lin said.

"So far there have been 14 Dalai Lamas who have been produced in China. We hope that the present Dalai Lama will live for 113 years old. But if a succession is indeed needed we hope the new one will be produced according to the historical conventions in a traditional way," he said.

Outlining conditions for political rapprochement, Lin said the Chinese government has stipulated that the Dalai Lama must give up his pursuit of Tibet independence, stop separatist activities, recognise Tibet and Taiwan as part of China.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/dalai-lamas-successor-must-have-chinas-endorsement-chinas-think-tanks/articleshow/58095309.cms>

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017

A Final Empowerment, a Long-Life Offering and a Public Talk

Dalailama.com | April 10, 2017

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India - Last night's heavy rain left the morning sky clear and the early morning sun shone on the mist wreathed hills as His Holiness the Dalai Lama travelled again to the Yiga Choezin teaching ground. In the yard of Tawang Monastery, on the road down and lining his path to the throne, people waited eagerly to greet him. From the throne he addressed them.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama acknowledging the crowd of over 50,000 gathered to attend the final day of his teachings at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 10, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

"This is the third day of these public teachings. On the first I gave an introduction to the Buddha's teachings and read the 'Stages of Meditation' to you. The traditional approach begins by explaining death and impermanence and so on, but I don't find that so appropriate. I prefer to follow the pattern of Maitreya's 'Ornament for Clear Realization' that begins with the Two Truths, conventional and ultimate, and goes on to examine the Four Noble Truths as well as taking refuge in the Three Jewels.

"Starting with the Two Truths means introducing emptiness at the outset, which can be done in terms of dependent arising. It's an approach that can have a universal appeal. Just as other religions present a saviour, Buddhists have the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, which Chandrakirti describes as the refuge of those who aspire to liberation. I referred to this approach in a verse towards the end of the Praise to the 17 Nalanda Masters.

*By understanding the meaning of the two truths, the way things exist,
We ascertain through the four truths how we arrive in and how we leave the
cycle of existence.*

*Engendered by valid cognition our faith in the three refuges will be firm.
May I be blessed to establish the root of the path to liberation.*

"I received the Rigzin Dungdrub empowerment I am going to give today from Trulshik Rinpoche who, in addition to adopting a genuinely non-sectarian approach, was a truly great practitioner. This cycle of teachings 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."



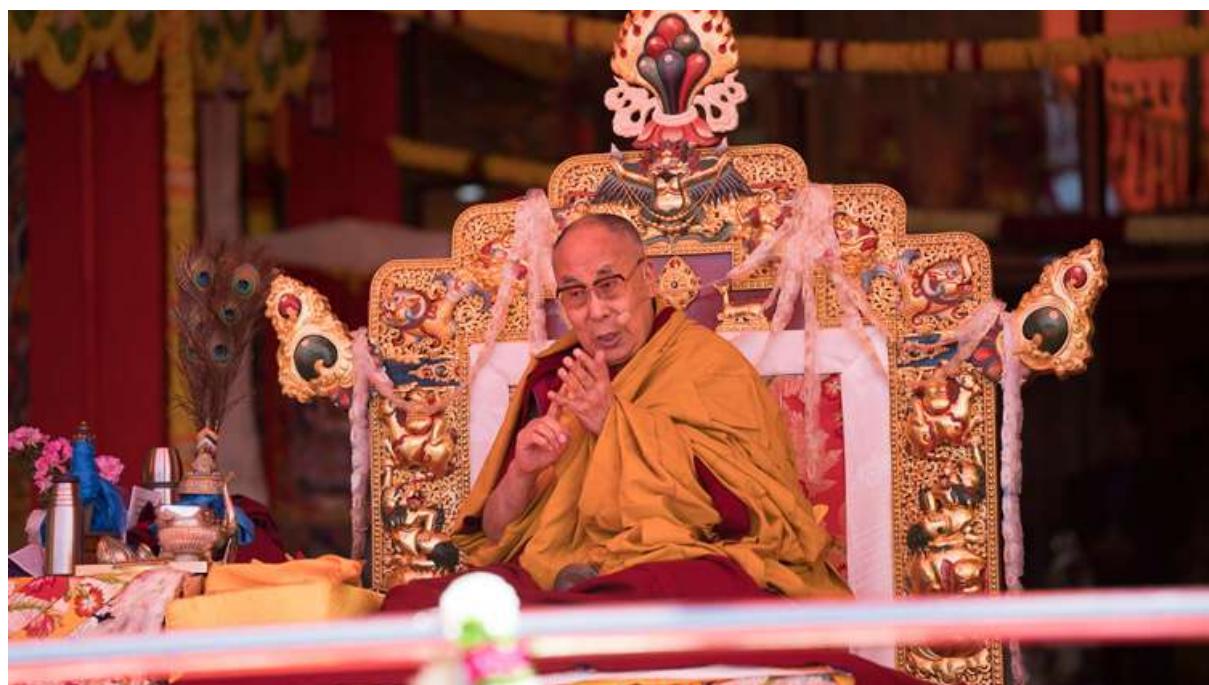
A member of the crowd of over 50,000 listening to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the final day of his teachings at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 10, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness explained that the empowerment and practice focuses on invoking Guru Padmasambhava who has a special commitment of care for the Tibetan people. This is expressed in a verse in the Yearning Song of Prayer, an invocation he wrote at the Kashag's request in 1980.

*In particular, when King Trisong Detsen and his son, the prince,
Urged you to care for the land of Tibet with your compassion,
You gave them your word, your unfailing pledge, that you would always work
for our benefit,
And so now we call upon you: care for us in your compassion.*

His Holiness recommended that the audience recite the Seven Line Prayer to Guru Rinpoche and the Vajra Guru mantra while he conducted his preparations for the empowerment.

In his preamble to it His Holiness mentioned that although we experience the mind it is something many scientists have dismissed as a mere function of the brain. As mind has no form and cannot be measured, scientists have yet to investigate it thoroughly. In the Buddhist tradition, however, seeking where the mind comes from, where it abides and where it goes, we search for its nature as it is. Ordinarily sensory perceptions keep us busy and distracted, but they cease when we search for the ultimate reality of mind—which is mere clarity and awareness. He recommended reading what Longchenpa has written about this.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the final day of his teachings at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 10, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Phuntsok/OHHDL

His Holiness remarked that the Perfection of Wisdom teachings that were the focus of the second Turning of the Wheel of Dharma provide a basis to establish emptiness. The third Turning of the Wheel introduced the mind of clear light. An understanding of both emptiness and the mind of clear light is a prerequisite to the practice of tantra. He mentioned that the early Dalai Lamas,

the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th were inclusive non-sectarian practitioners. Also, that after he met Terton Sogyal, Lerab Lingpa, the 13th Dalai Lama engaged in the practice of Vajrakilaya. In his own case, His Holiness said that several facets of Dzogchen have illuminated aspects of his other tantric practices.

With the completion of the empowerment, His Holiness announced that he'd come to the end of the three days of teachings. He pronounced himself happy to have been able to come and provide the people of Mönyul with some benefit. There followed the offering of Long-Life prayers to His Holiness based on White Tara the Wish-fulfilling Wheel. Towards the end, in addition to an elaborate gilded three dimensional mandala, he was offered silver statues of Nagarjuna and Shantarakshita.



Local artists performing traditional songs as part of the closing ceremony on the final day of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teachings at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 10, 2017.

Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

As part of the closing ceremony, His Holiness was invited to release the Tibetan edition of a book about his relations with the people of Arunachal Pradesh entitled 'Ocean and the Blue Mountain'. There followed a brief performance of songs and dance, including Yak and Snow Lion dances, to an accompaniment of drums, cymbals and flute that amused His Holiness.

MLA Jambey Tashi offered words of thanks, saying, "It fills my heart with joy on behalf of the people of this region to thank His Holiness for coming. This is your sixth visit since 1959. We promise to spread the message of compassion, non-violence and inter-religious harmony that you have given us."

"Everything has turned out well," His Holiness responded. "I enjoyed your cultural performances just now, especially the Yak whose head can turn all the way round. Today, the Yaks had a calf and the Snow Lions had cubs. The dancers in yellow reminded me of dancers from the Dö part of Tibet. I also appreciated the performers from Bhutan."



His Holiness the Dalai Lama planting a tree to inaugurate the project to plant 100,000 saplings at the conclusion of his teachings at the Yiga Choezin teaching ground in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 10, 2017.
Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness was asked to give his blessings to a project to plant 100,000 saplings. He did so saying that he had learned to value caring for the environment. As he left Yiga Choezin, he and the Chief Minister planted their own saplings and it was clear that every family was taking a sapling away with them. His Holiness's closing words were,

"Everything has gone well because of your faith and devotion—thank you. Be happy and take it easy. Of course, it's in the nature of samara that things can go wrong, but when they do, look at them from a wider perspective and they won't seem so bad. We'll see each other again."

After lunch at Tawang Monastery, His Holiness drove first to the Buddha Park where he consecrated the colossal statue of the Buddha that dominates the town. From there he proceeded to the Kalawangpo Convention Centre where 1000 professionals waited to hear him speak.



Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu presenting His Holiness the Dalai Lama with a souvenir at the start of his talk at the Kalawangpo Convention Centre in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 10, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

MLA Tsering Tashi introduced the occasion. His Holiness was invited to release the English edition of 'Ocean and the Blue Mountain' and a couple of other books. The Chief Minister presented him with a souvenir. His talk touched on world peace for which the essential provision is inner peace within individuals. He noted that there was little talk of peace after WW1, although there was after WW2. However, he suggested that the period of the Cold War may have avoided open conflict, but was not an era of genuine peace because it was based on fear.

Cultivating the inner peace he mentioned involves working with the mind—achieving peace of mind. This prompted him to discuss an unusual occurrence among people who have worked with the subtlest mind, the cases of people declared clinically dead, whose bodies remain fresh. Scientists, some of whom are taking an interest in this phenomenon, have no explanation as yet. Buddhists explain that the subtlest consciousness has not yet left the body, which begins to change when it does.

His Holiness believes that one route to inner peace is to cultivate what he calls inner values which he suggests are overlooked by modern education. He talked about a ten year project that is approaching fruition to design a curriculum to teach secular ethics, values and ethics that belong to no one religious tradition, but are found in common with them all.



A member of the audience asking His Holiness the Dalai Lama a question during his talk at the Kalawangpo Convention Centre in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 10, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

Taking questions from the audience he told someone who asked how to become a good person to become acquainted with a map of the emotions. Someone else asked if secular ethics were the solution to the impending clash of religions. He denied that such clash is imminent but drew a contrast between the ways Muslims in countries like India, Malaysia and to some extent Indonesia are familiar with living among people of other faiths, while Muslims in many of the Arab states are familiar only with Islam. His Holiness proposed that the notion of one truth, one religion is pertinent to an individual's personal practice, but in the wider community there are clearly several truths and several religions.

When asked if killing micro-organisms with the administration of antibiotics is non-virtuous, His Holiness acknowledged that micro-organisms may have life, but they are not conscious so eliminating them is not the same as killing a sentient being. He was also asked when consciousness appears in a foetus. He replied that he had asked doctors in the West whether in the case of a faultless sperm, ovum and womb if the three were to come together conception would take place. The answer is 'no', begging the question, what is the missing factor? Buddhists would say consciousness. which is without beginning or end.

District Commissioner Sang Phuntsok offered a word of thanks. He expressed appreciation to all the dignitaries and guests for coming, but thanked His Holiness especially. He said, "I believe he has come here under arduous circumstances because of his affection for the people of this region. I'm sure

we'll all try to be better human beings as a result of listening to him. I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to making this event a success and venture to express the hope that the day will not be far off when His Holiness will be able to return to Tibet by the route through this land that he took 58 years ago."

His Holiness will leave Tawang tomorrow on his way, via Guwahati and Delhi, back to Dharamsala.

<https://www.dalailama.com/news/2017/a-final-empowerment-a-long-life-offering-and-a-public-talk>

His Holiness The Dalai Lama Thanks Arunachal Pradesh Government For Memorable Visit

Tibet.net | April 10, 2017



His Holiness the Dalai Lama waves to the crowd in Tawang, April 10, 2017. Photo @ Jayang Tsing, DIIR

Tawang: On final day of public teachings attended by over 50,000 devotees, His Holiness the Dalai Lama thanked the Arunachal Pradesh government, in

particular Chief Minister Pema Khandu, for making the visit special and memorable.

His Holiness said the visit has been a memorable one and that he would cherish it forever.

He also thanked the masses from Arunachal Pradesh, Himalayan Region and Bhutan who have converged in droves, especially those from far-flung areas.

While addressing the multitudes on ‘Secular Ethics and Happiness’, His Holiness said secular ethics is the only way to bring lasting peace and happiness in the world.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama waves to the crowd in Tawang, April 10, 2017. Photo @ Jayang Tsiring, DIIR

“Peace in post World War II is built on fear. But genuine peace can come only through inner peace and through training of the mind,” said His Holiness.

His Holiness reasoned “a terrorist killing in the name of religion can never be true to his faith. However, efforts must be made to reach out to them as they are not born terrorist but circumstances made them so.”

His Holiness further advised: “It’s our action that brings comfort and discomfort and human intelligence and not rituals should be used to transform emotions.”

Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of the State requested His Holiness to confer the Kalachakra Teaching in Arunachal Pradesh in the near future.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Tawang, April 10, 2017. Photo @ Jayang Tsing, DIIR

<http://tibet.net/2017/04/his-holiness-the-dalai-lama-thanks-arunachal-pradesh-government-for-memorable-visit/>

Dalai Lama thanks Arunachal Pradesh government for memorable visit

The CEO Magazine | April 10, 2017

Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), April 10 Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama on Monday delivered his last sermon to thronging devotees here and thanked the Arunachal Pradesh government, especially Chief Minister Pema Khandu, for the invitation and facilitating his visit, which has drawn much flak from China.

Addressing devotees in chaste Tibetan at the Yid GaChosin monastery, the Dalai Lama said his visit to the northeastern state has been a “memorable one” and that he would cherish it forever.

He also thanked the people, particularly from far off villages, who gathered in large numbers to welcome and listen to him at all the places that he visited.

Giving a talk on the last day of his four-day visit to Tawang, the Tibetan spiritual leader also said secular ethics is the only way to bring lasting peace and happiness in the world.

“Peace in post World War II is built on fear. But genuine peace can come only through inner peace,” he said, at another event. The Dalai Lama gave a talk on ‘Secular Ethics and Happiness’ and stressed that inner peace can come through training of the mind.

Delivering an address to an audience assembled at Kalawangpo Hall, the Nobel Peace laureate reiterated that secular ethics must be achieved through education and not just through prayers or faith.

State Chief Minister Pema Khandu was also present at the event.

Replying to a query on what would be the state of secular ethics when presently the world is witnessing clash of beliefs, the Dalai Lama said: “Neither can destroy each other’s beliefs. So the best way is to make peace and live together.”

“A terrorist killing in the name of religion can never be true to his faith. However, efforts must be made to reach out to them as they are not born terrorist but circumstances made them so,” he said.

Emphasising on education as the key to bring in human understanding and values, the Dalai Lama lamented that western nations are not helping in bringing true values of education, due to which everyone is after material pursuit leading to untold human sufferings.

Responding to a question on Buddhist belief on Karma, the Dalai Lama urged the audience to follow Buddhist teachings only after having convinced themselves through investigation and experiments. He said followers of Buddhist philosophy have the liberty to reject it if they find it unsatisfactory.

On Karma, the Dalai Lama said, “It’s our action that brings comfort and discomfort.

Asked whether religious rituals have become more important than wisdom or philosophy, the spiritual leader declared that rituals are not important.

However, he emphasised on use of intelligence to transform emotions and not through rituals.

Earlier, the Dalai Lam released a book titled – ‘Ocean and Blue Mountains’ published by department of Karmik and Adhyatmik Affairs (DoKAA) in presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu and other dignitaries.

The book title refers to ‘Ocean’ as His Holiness and ‘Blue Mountains’ as the people of Arunachal Pradesh, and is a collection of memoirs of the special bond shared between the two. The Dalai Lama also released a book titled – ‘Crossing of the Frontiers’ describing his exile route from Tibet to India, published by Losel Nyinje Charitable Society and Monyul Social Welfare Association.

A book on Monyul was also released by him.

In the morning, the Dalai Lama gave his last sermon to devotees at the Yid GaChosin monastery ground on Rinzin Dhondup initiation followed by a long life offering ceremony.

He also blessed and distributed one lakh saplings to be planted in and around Tawang.

On his way to the Kalawangpo Hall, the Dalai Lama consecrated the statue of Lord Buddha at the heart of Tawang township.

On Sunday, the Dalai Lama consecrated the Tara Temple ‘Dolma Lhagang’, Guru Padmasambhava Statue cum Temple (Lumpo), and laid the foundation stone of Gyalwa Jamba (Kuber) statue to be built at Buri near the Indo-Bhutan border. He gave the name Jamtseling for the Jamba (Kuber) statue besides donating Rs 50,000 from his side for its construction.

The Dalai Lama was supposed to perform the rituals after landing at Lumla on April 4, which couldn’t materialise due to rescheduling of his programme.

China had fiercely objected to the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which it considers as “disputed” and part of south Tibet.

<http://theceo.in/2017/04/dalai-lama-thanks-arunachal-pradesh-government-for-memorable-visit/>

‘Dalai Lama’s successor must have China’s endorsement’

PTI | Kashmir Reader | April 10, 2017

BEIJING: China’s official think-tanks countered the Dalai Lama’s assertion that Chinese government cannot decide about his successor, saying the next highest monk of Tibetan Buddhism must have the endorsement of Beijing. “The government of the People’s Republic of China has proclaimed the power to approve the naming of ‘high’ reincarnations in Tibet, based on a precedent set by the Qianlong Emperor of the Qing dynasty,” said Wang Dehua, Co-Director, Centre for South Asia Studies, Tongji University in Shanghai. “In my opinion it’s ridiculous for the Dalai Lama to say he changed the centuries-old tradition, because the tradition was already changed in 1959. The central government will definitely support the Dalai Lama’s successor if he or she is selected according to Chinese laws and historical rules, and the Tibetan people’s will,” he told PTI here.

Speaking in Tawang, close to the Chinese border in Arunachal Pradesh, the Dalai Lama yesterday said the Chinese government cannot decide who will be the next Dalai Lama.

“Beijing’s bid to name my successor to undermine the Tibetans’ cause is ‘nonsense’,” he said.

“As early as 1969, I had said the Tibetan people will decide if this very institution of Dalai Lama should continue or not. If this institution is no longer relevant, it should stop,” said the Dalai Lama, who had fled Tibet back in 1959 to take refuge in Tawang.

“Nobody knows who or where the next Dalai Lama will be born or come from. Some indication (about his reincarnation) might come at the time of my death, but now there is no such indication,” he said, asserting that China has no role in selecting his successor.

The Chinese government is yet to react to his comments made from Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of Southern Tibet.

<http://kashmirreader.com/2017/04/10/dalai-lamas-successor-must-chinas-endorsement/>

Upset over Dalai Lama issue, China refuses to accept Indian Navy's role in hijacked ship rescue

By Saibal Dasgupta | TNN | April 10, 2017

BEIJING: China on Monday refused to acknowledge the role played by the Indian Navy and joint efforts by the navies of both countries in the anti-piracy rescue operation in the Gulf of Aden.

The Chinese foreign ministry ignored the role played by Indian naval ships and claimed full credit for rescuing the cargo ship which was hijacked by Somali pirates.

This is seen as a sign that China is still bristling about the visit of the Dalai Lama to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, which borders its Tibet region, despite repeated objections voiced by Chinese officials. Beijing is not prepared to send out signals of friendship by acknowledging that navies of the two countries worked together on a rescue operation, observers said.

The Indian Navy had said that INS Mumbai, INS Tarkash, INS Trishul and INS Aditya, which had been deployed to the Mediterranean, responded to a distress call from a Tuvalu-registered ship that was boarded by pirates. Indian Navy helicopters provided air cover while the Chinese vessel Yulin sent a team of 18 personal to sanitize the ship.

"The vessel Yulin set off for the area immediately," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said referring to their Chinese convey ship which had responded to the distress call. "Under cover of helicopters, special forces members of the navy rescued the 18 members on board. We believe the aforementioned operation demonstrated the effectiveness of Chinese naval forces in fighting against piracy".

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/upset-over-dalai-lama-issue-china-refuses-to-accept-indian-navys-role-in-hijacked-ship-rescue/articleshow/58113899.cms>

India's longest guest

By Nava Thakuria | New Delhi | The Statesman | April 10, 2017

Unfazed by China's relentless opposition, Tibetan spiritual leader, his Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, finally set foot on the soil of Arunachal Pradesh last week.

The Nobel peace laureate, who was in Guwahati on April 1 where he graced a number of events, was scheduled to fly to Tawang on 4 April but could not due to inclement weather and had to take the land route instead.

The octogenarian Buddhist leader travelled to Bomdila in Arunachal's West Kameng district via Tezpur town in central Assam. Next day, his party made it to Dirang on their way to Tawang, a Buddhist-concentrated locality of Arunachal, which the Chinese government claims as their area.

Earlier, the Indian external affairs ministry, in a strong statement, commented that "no artificial controversy should be created around the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

The Indian government has clearly stated on several occasions that the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. Hence no additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of the country."

Union minister for state for home, Kiren Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, commented before the Dalai Lama's arrival in his state, that the Tibetan Buddhist monk's visit to the Tibet-bordering Indian state was purely religious as such "no political angle behind his visit should be ascribed".

He continued, "Arunachal is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his Holiness' visit to the state. It's India's internal affairs." Rijiju, who practices Buddhism, strongly commented that New Delhi had never interfered in China's internal affairs and it expected Communist China to reciprocate it.

As various Chinese agencies, including the government-run media outlets opposed the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang, the banned United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) also discouraged his visit. It warned the Dalai Lama not to utter a single word against the Beijing administration from the soil of Assam.

However, no one endorsed the separatist militant outfit's warning. They feel that the Ulfa (Independent) has slowly turned into a puppet of Red China after them shelter along the south China-Myanmar border areas. In a formal letter addressed to the Tibetan religious leader, Dr Abhizeet Asom, the self-styled

chairman of Ulfa (I), argued that the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang would disturb peace and tranquillity in the state as the Beijing administration was opposed to any high profile individual's visit to Arunachal, terming it a part of south Tibet.

The Ulfa (I) letter said, "The caveat we would like you (Dalai Lama) to honour upon making the trip is that nothing against China will be uttered by you in private or public, because China has always been a friendly neighbour of ours and the relationship between China and Assam is truly very deep when it comes to the linguistic and cultural heritage of the two nations," said Dr Asom.

The militant leader, who is suspected to be based in London, wrongly pointed out that during the 1962 Sino-India war, the Peoples Liberation Army personnel "did not set foot on Assam soil", but in reality Chinese soldiers crossed Arunachal Pradesh and arrived in Tezpur until the Beijing administration received warnings from the American authorities.

Dr Asom, a practicing physician based in the UK, also criticised the Indians who extend moral support for a Free Tibet and raised voices against the Tibetan government-in-exile along with the Dalai Lama. Saying that former Indian Prime Minister, AB Vajpayee accepted Tibet as an integral part of China, the militant leader also argued that India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru also officially recognised Tibet as a Chinese region. He asserted that his party was fighting New Delhi for a "Swadhin Asom" (sovereign Assam) for decades.

But the Patriotic People's Front Assam welcomed the Dalai Lama to the North-east. It said Tibet is not China but rather is the actual northern neighbour of the region. The civil society group expressed the hope that his holiness' visit would strengthen the bond between the peoples of Tibet and India's Northeast.

It criticised China for using the armed outfit as a card against New Delhi. It claimed that the Ulfa (I) military head Paresh Barua, who was earlier hiding in Dhaka, is now a tenant of China's southern province bordering Myanmar. It also quoted intelligence sources that Barua is running an umbrella organisation of Northeastern militant outfits, which the Chinese elements were supporting as an act of revenge for India's continued hospitality to the Dalai Lama. In Guwahati, the Dalai Lama attended the concluding programme of The Assam Tribune's platinum jubilee and Dainik Asom's golden jubilee celebrations on 1 April.

Next day, he graced a public function at Gauhati University, where an Assamese translation of his autobiography My Land and My People was also launched in the presence of Assam governor, Banwarilal Purohit and chief minister, Sarbananda Sonowal.

He also joined in the Namami Brahmaputra festival at the heart of the city, which was inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee on 31 March on the bank of the river that originates in Tibet.

The Dalai Lama also visited Dibrugarh University in eastern Assam on 3 April where he addressed a select gathering. He emphasised the need for internal peace for every individual. Preaching ahimsa (non-violence), he pointed out that without karuna (compassion) it cannot emerge. In various interactions in Assam, the Dalai Lama termed himself as the longest guest of India. He recalled those days, when the Hun Chinese invaded Tibet and he had to escape from Lhasa in 1959.

He revealed that now he becomes a messenger of Indian culture to the world like a son of the great country. As the international media reported the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Chinese foreign ministry came out with the statement that by hosting the Tibetan spiritual leader "on a contested stretch of land on the India-China border New Delhi has caused serious damage to the relations between the two countries."

The foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying commented that China firmly opposed the visit by a man (the Dalai Lama) Beijing labels "a dangerous separatist" to the disputed border region and New Delhi would get no benefit out of it. Rejecting the arguments that the Dalai Lama's trip was solely religious in nature, Chunying said Beijing would lodge a formal protest with New Delhi in this regard.

However, the Dalai Lama clarified during a media interaction at Bomdila that New Delhi had never used him against Beijing. India is a land of peace, harmony and non-violence, he commented. The spiritual leader also urged the Chinese government to offer the Tibetans genuine autonomy and meaningful self-rule (if not independence). Welcoming the Dalai Lama in his state, Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu asked China not to advise India on "what to do and what not to do with His Holiness's movement inside the country".

He even asserted that China is not Arunachal's next-door neighbour but Tibet. The McMahon Line demarcates the boundary between India and Tibet, he claimed. The Dalai Lama previously visited Arunachal Pradesh in 1983, 1997, 2003 and 2009. Every time China reacted sharply and New Delhi made softer arguments, saying that it was very unfortunate.

But this time, with a new regime in New Delhi, there was no official reaction from Prime Minister Narendra Modi even though he was personally targeted by the Chinese government-controlled media outlets.

<http://www.thestatesman.com/features/india-s-longest-guest-1491776738.html>

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

Leaving Tawang for Guwahati and Delhi

Dalailama.com | April 11, 2017

Delhi, India- The courtyard of Tawang Monastery this morning was packed with people who had come to see His Holiness the Dalai Lama off. From the steps of the veranda he briefly spoke to them. First he asked those from Mön to raise their hands and then those from Bhutan.



The courtyard of Tawang Monastery packed with people from Mon and Bhutan listening to His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 11, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

"I've been touched to see so many of you, your faith and devotion, over the last three days. The Lama's responsibility is to teach, which I have done, and the disciple's is to put what he or she has learned into effect, which I'm confident you will do. As I said yesterday I feel it's important to focus on understanding the Two Truths and taking refuge in the Three Jewels.

"In the Kangyur we have 100 volumes of what the Buddha taught. With regard to the Perfection of Wisdom teachings, Nagarjuna and his followers elaborated on them extensively and their works can be found among the more than 200 volumes of the Tengyur. What's more, we have another 20,000 volumes of commentaries composed by Tibetan masters. I wholly agree with what Sakya Pandita said—'Even if you're going to die tomorrow, it's still worth studying and learning something today'. I read whenever I can, you should too.

"Many of you here today have come from Bhutan, one of the few independent Buddhist countries—my greetings to all of you. By and large Tibet and Bhutan have historically maintained good relations with each other. Thank you, Tashi Delek, see you again."



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the helicopter flight crew before his departure for Guwahati from the helipad in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India on April 11, 2017. Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

Devout people lined the road to see His Holiness off all the way down to the Tawang Helipad. From there he took off, the helicopter rising easily into a cloudless sky. To start with the pilot flew over Lumla, which had been on His Holiness's original programme, and flew round the huge new statue of Arya Tara before heading on down to Guwahati. He was received on arrival there by representatives of both the Assam and Arunachal governments. He had lunch in the airport before boarding a flight for Delhi, which he reached in the late afternoon.

Tomorrow morning, His Holiness will fly up to Dharamsala.

<https://www.dalailama.com/news/2017/leaving-tawang-for-guwahati-and-delhi>

Dalai Lama wraps up Arunachal Pradesh visit, leaves China fuming

Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama on Tuesday wrapped up his week-long tour of Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing had strongly objected to.

IANS | Zee News | April 11, 2017

Tawang: Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama on Tuesday wrapped up his week-long tour of Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing had strongly objected to.

The Dalai Lama left by helicopter for Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati, Assam, on Tuesday morning from Tawang helipad. Thousands of people lined up along the road to see him off.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu and other dignitaries also saw him off at the helipad, a government official told IANS.

"The Chief Minister thanked the Dalai Lama for his visit and requested him to visit Arunachal Pradesh again in the near future," the official said.

On Monday, the Nobel Peace laureate, who Beijing has called an "anti-China separatist", described his visit to Arunachal Pradesh as a "memorable one" that he would cherish forever.

He also thanked the people, particularly from far off villages, who gathered in large numbers to welcome and listen to him at all the places that he visited.

In fact, this is not for the first time that the 81-year-old Tibetan leader is visiting Arunachal or Tawang. In 1959, he escaped from China via Tawang and visited the state in 1983, 1997, 2003 and 2009.

The Dalai Lama was to start his week-long religious visit to Arunachal Pradesh from Tawang on April 4. But bad weather forced him to travel by road as his helicopter couldn't take off from Dibrugarh airport in Assam.

The Tibetan spiritual leader reached Tawang - the high point of his visit to this mountainous state -- on April 7 after traversing over 550 km from Assam's Dibrugarh and crossed the 13,700 feet Sela Pass.

The Dalai Lama stayed at the Tawang monastery belonging to the Gelugpa school of Mahayana Buddhism, which had a religious connection with Lhasa's Drepung monastery that continued during the British rule.

Beijing refers to this connection to claim Tawang as part of China after invading and taking over Tibet in 1950.

The Dalai Lama had stayed in the Tawang monastery for some days before he reached Assam after fleeing his homeland in 1959.

During his religious tour to Arunachal Pradesh, the spiritual leader consecrated the Thupsung Dhargyeling monastery at Dirang on April 6. On Sunday, he also consecrated the Tara Temple 'Dolma Lhagang', Guru Padmasambhava Statue cum Temple (Lumpo), and laid the foundation stone of Gyalwa Jamba (Kuber) statue to be built at Buri near the India-Bhutan border.

He gave the name Jamtseling for the Jamba (Kuber) statue besides donating Rs 50,000 from his side for its construction.

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/dalai-lama-wraps-up-arunachal-pradesh-visit-leaves-china-fuming-1995009.html>

Dalai Lama says Tibetan people should decide on his succession

By Sunil Kataria | TAWANG, India | REUTERS | April 11, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said on Saturday the Tibetan people should decide if they wanted to continue with his institution, adding that he wanted to convene a meeting of senior monks this year to start discussing his succession.

China, which brands the Nobel Peace laureate a dangerous separatist, says the tradition must continue and its officially atheist Communist leaders have the right to approve the Dalai Lama's successor, as a legacy inherited from China's emperors.

"Whether this very institution of Dalai Lama should continue or not is up to Tibetan people," the Dalai Lama told a news conference in the remote hill town of Tawang near the Chinese border in India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.

"So, consult people, if people feel now this institution (is) no longer relevant then this institution (will) automatically cease," the 82-year-old said, adding he wanted to start this year "some sort of preliminary discussion" on his succession.

A final decision on the fate of the institution would be taken when he reaches late 80s or 90, the Dalai Lama said.

Tibetan Buddhism holds that the soul of a senior lama, or Buddhist monk, is reincarnated in the body of a child on his death.

The Dalai Lama, who fled into exile in India after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959, denies espousing violence and says he only wants genuine autonomy for Tibet.

His week-long trip to Arunachal Pradesh, an eastern Himalayan region administered by New Delhi, but claimed by China as "southern Tibet", has raised hackles in Beijing.

The Dalai Lama also said he disagreed with U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" policy and the recent curbs on immigration saying that he admired America as a leader of the free world and expected the country to lead by that example.

The Dalai Lama now resides in the Indian hill town of Dharamsala, where his supporters also run a small government in exile. He has renounced any political role in leading the Tibetan diaspora.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/india-dalai-lama-reincarnation-copy-idINKBN17B07B>



POST ARUNACHAL VISIT

China says Dalai Lama "provokes" with visit to disputed border with India

By Christian Shepherd | REUTERS | April 12, 2017

China on Wednesday denounced in the strongest terms yet a visit by the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to a disputed stretch on the China-India border, saying he had provoked China by supporting India's claim to the region.

The Dalai Lama's week-long trip to Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as "southern Tibet", has infuriated China, where the Nobel Peace laureate is considered a dangerous separatist.

Indian officials have dismissed China's criticism of the Dalai Lama's second visit to Arunachal Pradesh in eight years, saying he is a spiritual leader who has a devoted following in the region.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said India had "indulged the 14th Dalai Lama and certain India officials to express political theories that provoke China".

"The 14th Dalai Lama has long ago gone past the scope of a religious visit as claimed by India," Lu said, speaking during a regular briefing in Beijing.

Chinese troops marched into Tibet and took control in 1950 in what Beijing calls a "peaceful liberation". Troops crushed an uprising against Chinese rule in 1959, when the Dalai Lama fled into exile in India.

In remarks bound to anger China, the Indian chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, told Reuters on April 5 that he regarded the land on the other side of the border as Tibet, not China.

"As far as the boundary issue is concerned, I have also maintained that we don't share our boundary with China, but we share our boundary with Tibet," Khandu said.

Lu said the Dalai Lama supported that stand.

"The Dalai clique already fully stands with the position of foreigners. His display cannot in the slightest impact China's position on the border and Tibet," Lu said.

"China has already made stern representations to India, and will take further measures to protect China's territorial sovereignty and national security," he added, without elaborating.

The Dalai Lama denies espousing violence and says he only wants genuine autonomy for Tibet.

The monk said on Saturday the institution of the Dalai Lama, the top reincarnated leader of the Tibetan Buddhist faith, should continue after his death. He was speak during his stay in the remote hill town of Tawang, near the border.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/china-india-dalailama-idINKBN17E1F5>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit will impact territorial disputes with India: China

Nagpur Today | April 12, 2017

Beijing: The Chinese foreign ministry has said the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh will negatively impact the settlement of territorial disputes with India. "We will take further action to safeguard China's sovereignty," the foreign ministry said on Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

China on Thursday accused India of "fuelling tensions" and damaging its interests by allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh while the state media called for answering "blows with blows" if New Delhi chooses to "play dirty".

"I can confirm (that) China has lodged protest in Beijing and Delhi," on Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing in Beijing.

The protest was lodged in Beijing with Indian Ambassador to China Vijay Gokhale. In Delhi, the protest was lodged with the competent officials of the External Affairs Ministry, Hua said.

Asked whether Beijing views India's permission to the 81-year-old Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh as amounting to questioning the 'One China' policy, Hua said, "I want to re-emphasise that on issues concerning China's major concern and core interests, territorial and sovereignty, China's position is consistent."

<http://www.nagpurtoday.in/dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-will-impact-territorial-disputes-with-india-china/04121522>

China slams Dalai Lama visit to Arunachal Pradesh as provocation

Press TV | April 12, 2017

Chinese officials have condemned a visit by Buddhist leader the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, a disputed region administered by India along China's Tibet region.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Wednesday that India clearly allowed the Dalai Lama and certain Indian officials to provoke Beijing during the Tibetan leader's week-long trip to the eastern Himalayan region.

"The 14th Dalai Lama has long ago gone past the scope of a religious visit as claimed by India," Lu said in a regular briefing in Beijing, adding that the Dalai Lama and Indian officials expressed provocative "political theories" during the controversial trip.

Lu said India and the Dalai Lama's position regarding the situation of Arunachal Pradesh and China's Tibet region would not deter Beijing from protecting its territorial sovereignty.



Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama gestures to Buddhist followers at Urgelling Monastery, the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama, in the district of Tawang in India's north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh on April 9, 2017. (AFP photo)

"China has already made stern representations to India, and will take further measures to protect China's territorial sovereignty and national security," he said, adding that the Dalai Lama's rhetoric "cannot in the slightest impact China's position on the border and Tibet."

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as "southern Tibet" and considers the Dalai Lama, a Nobel Peace laureate, a dangerous separatist. India rejects the claims on sovereignty and says the spiritual leader has a devoted following in the region. The monk has repeatedly insisted that he espouses a genuine autonomy for Tibet while condemning any form of violence to that end. He reiterated during the recent trip that he wanted his followers to protect the Dalai Lama institution after his death.

The war of words over Tibet escalated last month when Pema Khandu, the Indian chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, said that India regarded the Tibet on the other side of the border as an independent region and not part of China.

"As far as the boundary issue is concerned, I have also maintained that we don't share our boundary with China, but we share our boundary with Tibet," Khandu said earlier in April.

The Dalai Lama fled into exile in India in 1959 when Chinese troops launched a crackdown on those opposed to Beijing rule. China took control of Tibet in 1950 when troops marched into the area without facing any opposition.

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/04/12/517783/China-India-Dalai-Lama-visit>

From China, New Threats Over Dalai Lama's Arunachal Visit

By Nidhi Razdan | NDTV | April 12, 2017

Beijing: There's no let-up in a torrent of warnings from China over the recent visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, which concluded yesterday. The trip, Beijing said today, will "negatively impact the settlement of the territorial dispute with India" adding that "we'll take further action to safeguard China's sovereignty."

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet, and describes the 81-year-old Dalai Lama as a dangerous separatist. India denounces both claims. Last week, Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju asserted that Arunachal Pradesh is an "inseparable part of India" and asked China to refrain from "interfering in India's internal affairs," comments that earned him the wrath of state-run

media in China which accused him of failing in attempts to be "cute".



China said Dalai Lama's visit will "negatively impact" settlement of territorial dispute with India.

India has said that the Dalai Lama, who is a spiritual leader for millions, visited the northeastern border state for religious reasons. The Dalai Lama said on his controversial tour that "Tibet is a part of China but needs more development."

He has visited Arunachal Pradesh six times in the last eight years. This trip served special provocation for China because he visited the remote monastery in Tawang, close to the de facto border. Tawang is where he entered India in 1959 after trekking for 13 days through the Himalayas after he fled Tibet as a young monk after a failed uprising. He now resides in the hill town of Dharamsala where India allowed him to set up a government-in-exile, though he no longer handles any political office.

China, throughout his trip to Arunachal, issued belligerent comments, warning that India has "severely damaged" bilateral relations by enabling the tour. State-run media also singled out Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that "Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line."



Dalai Lama had spent three days in the Tawang Monastery after fleeing Tibet in 1959.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/more-action-to-safeguard-sovereignty-chinas-latest-threat-to-india-1680432>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit negatively impacts border dispute, says China

China says The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh violates India's commitment on the Tibet issue

By K.J.M. Varma | Live Mint | April 13, 2017

Beijing: Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh will have "negative impact" on the settlement of the border dispute, China warned India on Wednesday, accusing New Delhi of violating its commitment on the Tibet issue.

The Chinese foreign ministry said Beijing will take "further action" to safeguard territorial sovereignty and slammed the "provocative" statements of Dalai Lama and Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu who has said the state shares its border only with Tibet, not with China.

China claims parts of Arunachal Pradesh as “Southern Tibet”. In the strongest comments since 4 April when Dalai Lama began his Arunachal visit, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said the “provocative” statements of Tibet’s spiritual leader and Khandu “exceeded the scope of religious activities”.

Lu said despite China’s objection, India insisted on arranging the Dalai Lama’s visit “in the disputed areas of the eastern section of the China-India boundary”. He also said that “some specific Indian official” had indulged in provocative political statement but did not name Khandu.

“China has lodged representations with the Indian side and we will take further action to safeguard the territorial sovereignty and national security,” Lu said, without elaborating. “What India has done is violated the solemn commitment on Tibet-related issues and it also has negative impact on proper settlement of the territorial disputes between the two sides through negotiations,” the spokesperson said.

Lu said the boundary and Tibet-related questions “bear the political foundation of China-India relationship” and the two countries have reached “important consensus” of resolving the dispute through talks and consultations. “We hope that the Indian side bear in mind the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples and safeguard the political foundation of the bilateral relationship and do not take any provocative actions,” he said.

Asked to elaborate what “negative impact” he was referring to on the border dispute, Lu said, “I would like to correct one mistake in your remark: I said the Dalai Lama was visiting the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary. It’s not the Indian territory. The Indian government has made solemn commitment on Tibet-related issues and the boundary question,” he said.

“We have lessons to learn from history. When the Indian side violated commitments on the relevant issues, the Indian side insisted on arranging the visit of the Dalai Lama in the disputed section of the China-Indian boundary and indulged in provocative political statements. We have already expressed our solemn representations and it will of course have negative impact on bilateral relations,” the foreign ministry spokesperson said.

India and China have been negotiating to resolve the border dispute for more than 20 years but an agreement is yet to be reached. The dispute covers the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control.

While China claims parts of Arunachal Pradesh as Southern Tibet, India asserts the dispute also covers the Aksai Chin area, which China occupied during the 1962 Sino-India war.

Lu also termed the Dalai Lama's visit a "disgraceful performance", which will by no means change China's position on the border and Tibet-related issues nor the fact that the Tibetan government is "exercising effective administration".

"The Dalai Lama has disgraceful performance on the boundary question. This time he called himself the son of India and also backed up unfounded statement by the official of the so-called Arunachal Pradesh of India," Lu said. "The Dalai Lama attacked the Chinese government on Tibet-related issues, advertised his political views on splitting China. It showed the Dalai clique has already viewed itself as foreign," he said.

China was opposed to the Nobel laureate's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, particularly to Tawang, which happens to be the birth place of the sixth Dalai Lama in 1683. It is also at the centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

China's media and foreign ministry has repeatedly aired their opposition to the Dalai Lama's visit to the region. An article in the state-run *China Daily* on Wednesday said the people of Arunachal Pradesh live "difficult lives" under India's "illegal" rule and they look forward to returning to China.

Building on the argument in the leading daily, Lu claimed Tibet is achieving faster growth. "It will make people see clear that the Dalai Lama is "attempting to split China and damaging interests of all ethnic groups in China."

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/HKJs8LIGHbl2e9r6d07BiK/China-says-it-will-take-further-action-after-Dalai-Lamas.html>

Dalai Lama completes spiritual visit to Arunachal Pradesh under tight security

By Dr. Lalit Kishore | Merinews | April 13, 2017

Under tight security, the 14th Dalai Lama, on his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, addressed gatherings in Tawang at the local stadium and performed certain spiritual ceremonies and rituals.

He was welcomed by the state Chief Minister Pema Khandu who said that the people were blessed with the presence of HH the Dalai Lama. He thanked

Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making the visit possible despite stiff opposition from China.

The addresses by the Dalai Lama in Tawang were held during his visit from April 8 to 10. His Holiness gave teachings on Kamalashila's The Middle States of Meditation & Gyalsey Thokme Sangpo's Thirty-Seven Practices of a Bodhisattva at Yiga Choezin. He also conferred the Avalokiteshvara and the Rinzin Dhondup Initiations.

Several thousand Buddhist tribal and foreigners turned up to listen to the Dalai Lama's spiritual addresses during his sixth visit to the state. The Indian government has said that the trip was purely spiritual and China should stop raising 'artificial' controversies.

The Dalai Lama's trip has irked China with the warning that the visit would escalate India-China border tensions and has threatened to interfere in Kashmir as India had not paid heed to their protests.

The Chinese press has published a write-up saying that the people of Arunachal Pradesh were unhappy under the Indian government. China had been deeming the Dalai Lama as a troublemaker. It has been claimed by China on several occasions that Arunachal Pradesh was China's territory occupied by India.

<http://www.merinews.com/article/dalai-lama-completes-spiritual-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-under-tight-security/15924424.shtml>

Arunachal Pradesh not in India, it's a disputed region on border: China

China claimed that New Delhi, by arranging the Dalai Lama's activities in Arunachal Pradesh, "violated commitments" on the disputed China-India border issue.

By Sutirtho Patranobis | Hindustan Times, Beijing | April 13, 2017

Arunachal Pradesh is not Indian territory but is a disputed part of the Sino-Indian border, China said on Wednesday, adding that by allowing the 14th Dalai Lama to visit the region, New Delhi has violated its commitments on Tibet and the border dispute.

The ministry of foreign affairs (MFA) also claimed that the Dalai Lama and Indian officials made provocative statements, which will have a "negative impact" on settling the territorial disputes through negotiations.

“We have lessons to learn from history,” Lu Kang, MFA spokesperson said in a press briefing, which could be interpreted to be a warning about what could happen if the protracted Sino-India talks on the border question collapse.

Earlier in the day, the state-controlled China Daily wrote an editorial saying the people of South Tibet — their name for Arunachal Pradesh — were leading hard lives under India’s “illegal rule”.

“Under India’s illegal rule, the residents of Southern Tibet live difficult lives, face various kinds of discrimination, and look forward to returning to China,” the editorial said.

Both the article and the MFA, however, glossed over the periodic protests in Tibetan areas of China, where more than 130 Tibetans have self-immolated against Communist China’s policies in the region.

The Dharamsala-based Tibetan leader, Dalai Lama left Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday after spending more than a week in the border state amid the well-tuned dual attack of the Chinese government’s constant criticisms and the Chinese state media’s harsh editorials.

A day after the Dalai Lama left, Beijing fired another loaded salvo of criticism. Much of it was directly aimed at New Delhi.

“I said the Dalai Lama is visiting the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary. It is not Indian territory,” Lu said, when asked what commitments India had violated by allowing the visit.

“The Indian government made solemn commitments on Tibet-related issue and boundary question. We have lessons to learn from history. The Indian side violated commitments on the relevant issue and insisted on arranging the Dalai’s activities in the disputed section of the China-India border and indulged in provocative political statements.

“We have made our solemn representations (to the Indian government) and it will of course have negative impact on bilateral relations.

“We have already reached important consensus on the boundary question through dialogue and consultation. Indian side also has commitment on Tibet related issues. We hope Indian side will bear in mind the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples, safeguard political foundation of bilateral relations and not take any provocative actions,” he said.

Lu reserved his most critical adjectives for the Dalai Lama, calling him “disgraceful”.

"The Dalai Lama has had a disgraceful performance on the boundary question. He called himself a son of India and backed up the unfounded statement of so-called Arunachal Pradesh. He also attacked the Chinese government on Tibet related issue and advocated political view on splitting China. It shows the Dalai clique has already viewed itself as foreign," Lu said.

Calling the Dalai Lama's statements a "performance", Lu said it will not change China's position on the boundary question or on Tibet-related issues.

Echoing the China Daily editorial, he said neither will it change "the fact that local government of Tibet has been exercising effective administration of eastern section of the boundary. Still less could it change the fact that Tibet is achieving faster growth. It will only make people see clear his nature, that he is attempting to split China and damage interests of all ethnic groups of China under the cloak of religion."

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/arunachal-pradesh-not-in-india-it-s-a-disputed-region-on-sino-india-border-china/story-43VcC3YdIKzXrA7GJhgoJK.html>

Dalai Lama in Tawang: What next

By Sandeep Dikshit | The Tribune | April 15, 2016

The visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tawang and the Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit are part of Modi's scrimmage to preserve India's regional primacy that is not playing out well. The Modi government is now struggling to keep the strongman mask intact for domestic consumption.

ARUNACHAL Pradesh, the furthermost state from mainland India, features in the news only on two occasions. One, when its ideologically fickle legislators bend to the political wind blowing in Delhi and, two, when the China factor comes into play. This time it is His Holiness the Dalai Lama, on one of his rare visits to Arunachal Pradesh, that is providing fodder to the media.

Bangladesh too swims into national consciousness when a new government recalibrates its ties with New Delhi or if friendly overtures by Beijing get too sugary to bear.

Last week, both events took place simultaneously. The Dalai Lama made his seventh visit to Arunachal Pradesh in the six decades he has lived here in exile. And Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked the extra mile by receiving

Sheikh Hasina at the airport. Both illustrate the twin challenges — maintaining vibrant economic ties and keeping the neighbourhood sanitised — that Modi is trying to juggle while keeping the strongman mask intact for domestic consumption.

However, beneath the bravado, the sifting sands of international politics are becoming tough to navigate. China is examining both developments closely. India's publicisation of the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, deliberately announced three months in advance, preceded by the feting of a US Ambassador in Tawang may have prompted one of its senior leaders, once closely involved in border talks and therefore acquainted with all its intricacies, to reopen a settled issue.

He has suggested that as part of an overall border settlement, India hand over to China portions of Arunachal Pradesh. These are the Buddhist-dominated areas that are especially agog over Dalai Lama's visit. This stance by the retired official clearly goes against the painfully agreed upon Article VII of "Political Parameters and Agreed Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Border Question." These agreed to "safeguard due interests of their settled populations in the border areas."

The defence framework agreement with Bangladesh advertises desperation after China opened another front by transferring used submarines in its navy. Then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar was forced to shelve his preoccupation with Goa politics and make an air dash to Dhaka five days after China handed over the submarines to Bangladesh. Shortly thereafter, a training team of the Indian Navy landed in Bangladesh to elbow out Chinese sailors from sailing in sensitive areas of the Bay of Bengal under the pretext of acquainting Bangladeshi submariners with the intricacy of handling underwater boats.

Why did the Chinese offer the submarine bait to Bangladesh whose only two neighbours are the over-friendly India and a militarily-underequipped Myanmar? One reason is that a civil nuclear plant and submarines are Sheikh Hasina's efforts to portray herself as the builder of a modern Bangladesh. The second is that Bangladesh is also a crucial geopolitical location for a branch line of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) Project. Called the BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar) corridor, it has already won Bangladesh a \$24 billion credit offer from China. But the Chinese vision is competing against another economic corridor being underwritten by India, the US and its regional allies, chiefly Japan.

The Prime Minister's core adviser, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh nominee Ram Madhav, is convinced that the squaring up to China and its activities in the region are the inevitable stumbling blocks on India's path to greatness and world status. If only it was that simple.

The Indian strategy during the UPA decade was to insert itself in the South China Sea dispute to buy insurance from Chinese adventurism on the border. At the same time, the South Block took care to schedule summit meetings at frequent intervals to clear the air as well as keep communication channels open to eliminate all chances of a border flare-up turning ugly. In order to avoid giving the impression of India having moved into the American orbit, the UPA hung back from inking three military agreements with the Pentagon. The US was nevertheless kept interested in the India story with prospects of setting up nuclear plants and lucrative contracts for military. The Modi government has been struggling to maintain this balance. It paid the cost for inviting a US President to grace the Republic Day parade: India had to sign a military agreement that would permit US warships to replenish from Indian ports with minimal red tape. New Delhi was also compelled to spell out a position on South China Sea closely mirroring the American stance. As if to underscore this tilt, an American admiral let it be known that the US and India were sharing intelligence on the movement of Chinese naval ships. But once the government changed in the US, all these initiatives are up for a review. India had to be content with its National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary having conversations with their counterparts.

In contrast, to the assurance of a Trump-Modi interaction later in the year, the US President hosted his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping for a rare two days at his private top-end vacationing club. The spin from the South Block is that NSA Ajit Doval was able to convey Indian concerns about Pakistan and China during his interactions. The evidence is thin. True, the new American NSA, H R McMaster, will be here. But South Block should be concerned that all its previous battles to delink India from Afghanistan and Pakistan have been rolled back. His schedule lists all three countries, indicating India will again have to work hard to de-hyphenate itself from the other two.

The White House's hesitant tango with Russia, which is locked in a close energy relationship with China, is another dissuading factor in plumping for the Indian corner in case of a Sino-India security-related fracas. As compared to previous occasions, Moscow might be unwilling to play mediator after China rebuffed an attempt to arrange for a Russia-India-China meeting of defence ministers.

New Delhi would be aware of this predicament. This is the reason for India embracing the Russo-Chinese stance on all developments in the Middle East in a BRICS joint communique released earlier in the week. This also explains the invitation to all 10 ASEAN heads of government for next year's Republic Day parade.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/dalai-lama-in-tawang-what-next/391957.html>

Visitation, vexation

By Rabi Banerjee | The Week | From issue dated April 16, 2017



Leading the leader: (From left) Chief Minister Pema Khandu, the Dalai Lama and the chief of the Ling monastery in Bomdila | Salil Bera

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh has miffed China and is likely to affect bilateral ties

It was a chilly evening in Bomdila, a picturesque town in Arunachal Pradesh. The rain was intense and incessant. That, however, didn't dampen the mood of about 5,000 people who spilled out of the Thubchog Gatsel Ling Monastery and into the streets. They had come to see "his holiness", the Dalai Lama, who was on an 11-day visit to the state, starting April 4, and on his way to Tawang.

Women and children, flowers in hand, lined up on the streets to greet him. Inside the monastery, about 2,000 people stood in anticipation for hours. A team of Chinese folk dancers readied itself, while hundreds of people prepped their smartphones, eager for a selfie with the spiritual leader.

“What is this? Can we not expect some discipline mentioned in our religion?” the voice of the monastery spokesperson boomed from the speakers. The excited fingers paid no heed. People jumped out of lines to try and touch the Dalai Lama, 81, who was visiting the state after eight years.

A lot had changed in eight years. Even the remotest village in Arunachal now had fancy smartphones and cosmopolitan ambitions. The Dalai Lama, too, had changed. Since his last visit, he had softened his call for Tibetan freedom, instead insisting on maximum autonomy for the disputed region.

His visit drew mixed reactions from the 7,000 residents of Bomdila. The younger generation wanted to listen to him, but only as a religious teacher. Nothing more.

Said student activist Sanjoy Kabisu: “We are Indians and we will remain Indians. We only want his holiness to talk about religion, especially Buddhist religion. We want to know where it stands now. He won the Nobel Peace Prize. So, he better talk about love and peace. I would not accept his speech on political and boundary issues of Arunachal Pradesh. That is not his job.”

Sanjoy said the youth of Arunachal wanted to study and work in mainland India, but they had often been ridiculed by people in the big cities. “We are called Chinese and junglee, and even beaten up,” he said. “Many times we have to hide our identity when we go to Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata or even Guwahati. Many of my friends were denied accommodation in hostels or houses in metros. This happens because of the high-decibel speeches of religious leaders in our community. They have to stop themselves. Whatever problem India has with China, both countries would settle. We are Indians and we would give our response to China at an appropriate time.”

The youth of Arunachal seemed to second his opinion. Said Lopsang Drema, a college student in Bomdila: “When his holiness visited eight years back, I was a child. I remember that I had rushed to touch him. My dad told me he was god. Now, I want to see our god. [But] I am not moved much by the religious teachings.” Her T-shirt read “Stand for Tibet”. When asked about it, she said: “Yes, of course, we stand by Tibet. Such a small country with beautiful people. They should have the right of self-determination. In fact, we believe that Arunachal is part of Tibet. We don’t like the invasion of China in Tibet. We would prefer to be Indian then. If China leaves Tibet, I won’t mind going with Tibet.”



God, dames: The youth in Arunachal do not seem to be too interested in religion, but they want to see the Dalai Lama | Salil Bera

The Dalai Lama's visit would be important in a religious context as Arunachal Pradesh, where Buddhism once thrived, seems to be moving away from its teachings. "The young generation is not too religious these days," said Sumit Maitra, former professor of Tibetan studies at the University of Calcutta. "Look at Tibet itself, where the Dalai Lama used to live. It's more cosmopolitan and attracted to the western world."

Said D.B. Nobu, a member of the Ling Monastery: "This is the era of open media where the young generation is groomed differently. The Dalai Lama would definitely help us in restoring our religion in this sacred land."

The visit seems to have another goal, political in nature. India has been miffed about China blocking its bid to enter the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Recently, China also prevented the UN from blacklisting the Pakistani terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad, led by Masood Azhar.

It is being said that the visit was organised by the BJP government in Arunachal Pradesh, and that Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his ministers were the Dalai Lama's constant companions.

"It was the chief minister who escorted his holiness to Bomdila and would do so in other places, too," said Nobu. "He was the main inspiration behind the visit."

In Bomdila, a heavy security ring covered the Dalai Lama, including members of the Tibetan army and Indian security forces. The Central Reserve Police Force and the Arunachal Pradesh Police have been combing the entire state in preparation for the visit. Such was the level of protection that a security officer pushed aside a senior journalist and told the local police to “keep tabs on these media fellows”.



Devotees in Bomdila | Salil Bera

The Dalai Lama, however, alighted from his car armed with a smile. He walked to the Ling Monastery, one hand holding the monastery chief's hand and the other clutching Khandu's. Perhaps sensing the tension surrounding his visit, he stayed away from political talk. “I know India is a place where everyone can preach his or her religion,” he told the gathering. “There is no other place in the world like that. We, the Buddhist, don't have any god. But others might have. We would have to respect that.” He also said that Tibet was culturally similar to India, and there was “no difference” between the two.

For the youth, he brought a message of love. “It [love] can only be the best thing in the world,” he told them. “It can bring your enemy closer. Even an animal comes closer to you if you love it.”

His “enemy” China, however, reacted with hate. On April 5, China said it would defend its territorial sovereignty and that India, by allowing the visit, had caused “serious damage” to bilateral ties.

Ahead of the visit, Ma Zhanwu, the Chinese consul general in Kolkata, had said: “This is uncalled for. We would take appropriate steps if India does not cancel the Dalai Lama's trip to the disputed place. It would not help settle the dispute amicably.”

The Dalai Lama, however, brushed it aside. "They think I am a demon," he said in his speech on April 5. "But, many countries don't think I am so. I don't give prominence to all this."

When THE WEEK called up Ma to know what action would be taken, his publicity officer Yashi Surana said, "The consul general is busy and would not be available for further comment." Sources in the Chinese consulate, however, said Chinese businesses in India would be affected because of the visit.

<http://www.theweek.in/theweek/statescan/dalai-lama-visit-arunachal-pradesh.html>

Dalai Lama's Visit To Arunachal Pradesh Has Had 'Negative Impact' On Ties: China

Press Trust of India | NDTV | April 17, 2017

Beijing: China said today that the recent visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh has had a "negative impact" on China-India ties and New Delhi should not use the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader to "undermine" Beijing's interests.

"The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh had a negative impact on India-China ties. India should observe commitment on Tibet-related issues and should not use the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

He said it was only in this way that "we can create a good atmosphere for the settlement of the boundary question".

The Chinese spokesman's remarks came in response to India's Ministry of External Affairs statement on Friday that there was no change in New Delhi's position on Tibet being part of China. External Affairs Ministry spokesman Gopal Baglay has said India will continue to seek a fair and mutually acceptable solution to the vexed boundary issue.

China has lodged a diplomatic protest with India when the Dalai Lama began his visit to Arunachal Pradesh on April 4. He also visited the Tawang region close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), from where he entered India in 1959.

The China's foreign ministry criticised the visit, saying it will impact the boundary talks between the two countries.

The Dalai Lama visited Arunachal Pradesh from April 4-11.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-has-had-negative-impact-on-ties-china-1682346>

The Dalai Lama's Tawang Visit: The Aftermath

Perhaps this is New Delhi's way of holding its own against China.

By Padmapriya Govindarajan | The Diplomat | April 17, 2017

The Dalai Lama's decision to visit Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh earlier this month came after weeks of uproar from China. Chinese media had reported that the visit was engineered to upset China, which sees the region as a controversial zone, reminding India of its political commitments. The state of Arunachal Pradesh is viewed as an extension of Tibet by China. Although this is hardly the Dalai Lama's first visit to either Tawang or the state itself, Beijing has chosen to register its protest once more. The Indian government in return declared that the visit was purely spiritual and not geared toward generating any particular controversy.

The nine-day trip did face some postponement, but was eventually seen through. On the day before his visit to Tawang, the Dalai Lama, at a public address, spoke of his discomfort with rising intolerance and stressed the need for mutual respect and concern and for social well-being. He then began his first visit of this decade to Tawang, where he addressed a colossal gathering as the state's Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the event by thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the central government in New Delhi for their support in making the visit happen.

The Dalai Lama dismissed the idea that the Indian government was using him as a diplomatic tool, and then set aside concerns over Beijing's attempts at determining his successor. He said further that he would be alright if the relevance of the institution of the Dalai Lama were to be reviewed and that the final decision lay with the people of Tibet. He also made a tentative promise to return next January.

The Chinese foreign ministry has in turn responded by stating that this went well beyond activities of a religious nature. Further, the Chinese foreign ministry has called statements made during the visit provocative and hinted that the disputed border's status has been negatively impacted. In the

meanwhile, the visit brought joy to tens of thousands of people across the state as well as the country who traveled to attend the public addresses. The Dalai Lama consecrated a monastery, in addition to talking extensively about Buddhist teachings.

This visit has been in the pipeline since October 2016, when China made similar statements regarding India's political commitments. The Indian government, however, brushed those comments off, and is similarly standing its ground this time too. China has protested each of the Dalai Lama's visits to the state in the past, and no significant political fallout ensued in its wake. Perhaps the government has sensed a pattern toward this and does not believe that the repercussions will be harsh — or perhaps this is New Delhi's way of holding its own.

Padmapriya Govindarajan is a correspondent for The Diplomat, based in India.

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/04/the-dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-the-aftermath/>

The Monk Who Stung A Hornet

The Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit worsens Sino-Indian ties, as neighbours reap the benefits of their competing largesse

By Pranay Sharma, Outlook | April 17, 2017

It's like a slow and tense tango, but with more partners than two. At the centre of the stage, shedding its dormancy all of a sudden, is the Tibet issue. Its reappearance as a factor in Sino-Indian ties has sharpened the focus on a long-pending boundary dispute and reminded countries in the neighbourhood and beyond of the high stakes involved. But the Dalai Lama's ongoing visit to Arunachal Pradesh and the strong Chinese reaction to it are not just a matter of some extra needle coming into bilateral ties. At a time when the two Asian giants are involved in a game of brinkmanship trying to expand their ambitions of influence in South Asia and beyond, all regional players get pulled into the unfolding drama.

Yet, the Sino-Indian race for influence also offers opportunities, and challenges, for the neighbours, offering them tactical leverage to extract better bargains with both India and China to enhance investment opportunities. At the same time, there is also a creeping sense of worry on whether the thickening Sino-Indian rivalry, if left unchecked, could deteriorate into an armed conflict and drag them in, affecting their hard-won growth.



The Dalai Lama arrives at Thubchok Gatsel Ling monastery in Arunachal Pradesh
Photograph by AP

China, like it does elsewhere, has been investing heavily in South Asian countries to push through its One-Belt-One-Road (OBOR) Initiative and the New Silk Route project. It has been pouring billions into infrastructure in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh, developing roads, highways, ports, cities and airports in a bid to string up and link important road and sea lanes in these countries with its ambitious projects.

Over the past years, India too has been making significant investments in neighbouring South Asian countries—maybe not on China's lavish scale, but significantly more than what it had done in the past. In the process, it is these smaller neighbouring nations who are embroiled in a classic scenario of 'running with the hare and hunting with the hounds'—using the ongoing rivalry between the two aspiring powers to rake in the best deals. This has been the leitmotif in regional politics of late. "It is a reality we have to accept. All our South Asian neighbours are trying to take the best advantage of the situation and make the most of it," says former foreign secretary Kanwal Sibal.

The best example may be seen in Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's April 7-10 visit to India. New Delhi's ties with Dhaka have been growing steadily; indeed, they have improved after Modi became PM. Now, India wants to showcase this as a model of good neighbourly relations, something from which others in the region could also perhaps learn.

Over 30 agreements and MoUs are likely to be signed during Hasina's visit and a substantial Line of Credit is likely to be offered by India to boost trade and business ties. But what will be keenly watched by a number of countries, especially China, is the proposed agreement in the area of defence. China and Bangladesh already have a defence pact, under which Beijing has been supplying military hardware, including submarines and other equipment, to Dhaka. India may not end up with a defence agreement, but even an MoU will reflect the growing confidence between the two sides. For Hasina, this will require a delicate diplomatic balance between the two Asian giants.

The Bangladesh PM's visit, by all indications, is likely to be a great success. But how will it affect, or rather be affected by, the ongoing tension that has suddenly filled the air? And how crucial a role will Dhaka continue to play?

Tibet, one could argue, is an old thorn in India's relations with China. It had been the nub of the boundary dispute that had driven the two countries to war in 1962; in subsequent years, a series of Indian governments continued to use Tibet as an issue, in an unspoken manner, in their dealing with China. The salience which the Narendra Modi government accords to it could be gleaned from the little-observed fact (which may not have gone unnoticed in Beijing) that among the regional heads of state he invited for his swearing-in in May 2014 was the prime minister of the Tibetan-government-in-exile, Lobsang Sangay. Tibet, it was clear, was on the radar as a card.

Diplomatically for India, this has not been a great week. First, there was the African countries' statement, describing attacks on African students in Greater Noida as "xenophobic" and "racial". Then, out of the blue, the Donald Trump administration decided to break away from the stated American position on India-Pakistan relations by offering to mediate in bringing the estranged neighbours to the talks-table. Last of all was the escalating tensions with China on the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

Muddying the waters further, Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu made some remarks on Wednesday that raised doubts on whether there was a shift in India's position in accepting Tibet as an autonomous part of China. Arguing that the McMahon Line demarcates the boundary between India and Tibet and not China, Khandu said, "Let me get this straight, China has no business telling us what to do or not to do, because it is not our next-door neighbour."

Officially, India recognises Tibet as an autonomous part of China. However, since 2010, it had stopped reiterating this position in joint statements with China, perhaps to register its protest on Beijing's lack of support on issues key to New Delhi. Khandu is an elected political leader in India, but no diplomat. But the ministry of external affairs has so far not come out with any statement to clarify whether his remarks were an off-the-cuff response or indicated a shift in India's stand on Tibet.

So how should one read the ongoing war of words that is emanating from India and China on the Tibet issue?

Arguably, a reaction from China to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh was not totally unexpected. What was not expected, however, was the strident note in its criticism of the Indian decision to allow the Tibetan spiritual leader to travel to the Northeast state that lies along the unsettled boundary between the two sides—a region that China also claims as its own as 'south Tibet'.

Since the Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 and took refuge in India, he has visited Arunachal Pradesh several times—the last one being nearly nine years back when the Congress-led UPA government was in power in New Delhi. Therefore, as he too acknowledged, the Chinese reaction to his visit was "normal". He also clarified that though he was one of the long-standing guests of the country, "India had never used me against China". An irate China certainly does not subscribe to that placid view. It summoned Indian ambassador Vijay Gokhale in Beijing to register its protest against the Indian move and suggested that India should stop the "wrong action", "not hype sensitive issues", that instead "concrete steps" should be taken to safeguard growth in India-China relations.

Though India argued back that "no political colour" should be ascribed to the Dalai Lama's "religious and spiritual" activities and "artificial controversies should not be created around his ongoing visit to Arunachal Pradesh", China seemed least interested in climbing back from its position. Hua Chunying, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, pointed out that India had "obstinately" gone ahead in preparing the Dalai Lama's visit to the "disputed part" of the India-China border, causing "serious damage" not only to China's interest, but also to bilateral ties.

The Chinese media was equally unsparing. "With a GDP several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India's peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India's turbulent northern state borders China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?" the daily *Global Times* asked in a comment.

Should India see this as a warning from China?

In the past, the Modi government has shown its ability to moderate its Tibet policy, though keeping it at the centre in its dealing with China. While it had allowed the US ambassador Richard Varma to visit Arunachal Pradesh—the first American envoy to have been accorded that privilege—it has also pulled back on a number of occasions. For instance, though Modi had met the Dalai Lama as chief minister of Gujarat, he has not done so since assuming the

preiership. It also cancelled a meeting between the Tibetan spiritual leader and BJP president Amit Shah last year when Modi was to visit Beijing, keeping in mind Chinese sensitivities. It had allowed a conference of Chinese dissidents to be held in Dharamshala some years back, but had cancelled the visas of some prominent dissidents after China protested.

Will India again show the same wise moderation and finesse in its Tibet policy? If so, it could create the right atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Modi when they meet in Almaty for the SCO Summit in June. The Dalai Lama's visit won't be forgotten, but quiet diplomacy in the intervening two months should muffle the early rumbles of a crisis.

<http://www.outlookindia.com/magazine/story/the-monk-who-stung-a-hornet/298729>

Dalai Lama Arunachal visit: India should now honour its 'solemn' promises, says China

ANI | April 18, 2017

Beijing [China]: In wake of the growing tension between China and India over the Dalai Lama's impending visit to Arunachal Pradesh, China has categorically asked India to honour its solemn promises on Tibet-related issues.

"For some time, due to reasons known to all, the political foundation for China-India relations has been damaged, casting a shadow over bilateral relations and the boundary negotiations," China Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said in a media briefing here.

"What is imperative now is for the Indian side to take concrete actions to honour its solemn promises on Tibet-related issues as well as the important consensus reached by the two sides on settling the boundary issue, in particular never again using the 14th Dalai Lama to undermine China's core interests, so as to create a good atmosphere for greater mutual trust between the two countries and proper settlement of the boundary question," he added.

His response came to a query on the fate of New Delhi's relationship with Beijing in the future.

Earlier, with Beijing issuing a stern warning that the Dalai Lama's visit will have a "negative impact" on the settlement of the border dispute, India stated that its policy towards Tibet and border issue with China remained unchanged.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Gopal Baglay said, "Let me make it absolutely clear that there is no change whatsoever in the Government of India's policy towards the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China."

China is opposed to the Dalai Lama, who it regards as a separatist, visiting Arunachal Pradesh, particularly Tawang.

Meanwhile, India has repeatedly said that no political colour should be attributed to the Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit, which it described as religious and spiritual. (ANI)

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NA/MzA5NzQz/dalai-lama-arunachal-visit-india-should-now-honour-its-039-solemn-039-promises-says-china.html>

Others: <http://www.siasat.com/news/dalai-lama-arunachal-visit-india-now-honour-solemn-promises-says-china-1171726/>

India's stand on Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit is laudable, China respects strength: Lalit Mansingh

By Nirendra Dev | New Delhi | UNI | April 28, 2017

Stating that India has stoutly and rightly defended its stand during the recent visit of Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, former Foreign Secretary Lalit Mansingh has said that "China respects strength". "China respects strength. It does not worry much about good mannerism and humility," Mr Singh told UNI in a brief interview.

He was speaking here on the sidelines of a function yesterday wherein the Dalai Lama received the prestigious M L Sondhi Prize for International Politics for the year 2016.

"Such gestures of assertiveness (on Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit) is a rare display of firmness and sovereign rights by the Indian government with regards to China. Otherwise, we are used to timidity and playing things safe," he said.

"I find it refreshing and overdue. My only consideration is that this assertiveness should sustain," the former Foreign Secretary said.

Answering a question, he said the particular gesture by the Indian government wherein a Union Minister (Kiren Rijiju) was to accompany the Dalai Lama during his stay in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh all throughout is a "unique gesture" and is "appreciable".

"This was refreshing as avoiding reference to Tibet by India did not help India's diplomatic cause with regards to China or otherwise," he said.

The External Affairs Ministry had firmly said no "artificial controversy" should be created about the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

The 82-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader had visited Arunachal Pradesh earlier this month when Beijing registered its protest saying, "It (Dalai Lama's visit) goes against the momentum of the sound growth of bilateral relations and will not benefit India in anyway."

Braving strong reservation from China, the Indian government stood by its ground with the government making it clear that as a secular country India could not stop a spiritual leader's visit to any part, including Arunachal Pradesh.

Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, also considered Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pointman for Arunachal Pradesh affairs, had said, "Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory. People of Arunachal Pradesh are peace loving Indians, who desire to have friendly relations".

"There is no political angle behind his Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It is completely religious," Mr Rijiju has said.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Gopal Baglay has said on his part, "The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that His Holiness Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India".

<http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20170428/3100202.html>

China renames six towns in Arunachal in retaliation for Dalai Lama's visit

By Saibal Dasgupta & Indrani Bagchi | TNN | April 20, 2017

BEIJING / NEW DELHI: Responding to Dalai Lama's recent Tawang visit, China sent a strong message this week that Arunachal Pradesh was non-negotiable as the Chinese government on April 14 released "standardized" Chinese names of six towns in the north-eastern state.

Rewriting Tibetan names like Bumla into Mandarin, China aims to strike the Tibetans by 'Sinicizing' the names and at the same time challenge India's claim over Arunachal Pradesh which it regards as "South Tibet".

Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday that more standardized names of towns in Arunachal Pradesh would be made public.

Though the ministry tried to pass it off as routine, but Xiong Kunxin, professor of ethnic studies at Minzu University of China in Beijing, contradicted the foreign ministry saying that the renaming exercise was aimed to "reaffirm Chinese sovereignty" over the area. Indian experts said despite China's renaming exercise, India's control over the territory was indisputable.

The ministry of civil affairs in Beijing issued an order on April 14 saying that, "The official names of the six places using the Roman alphabet are Wo'gyainling, Mila Ri, Qoidengarbo Ri, Mainquka, Bumo La and Namkapub Ri". It did not give the existing names of the six towns in Arunachal Pradesh, but Bumo La could be BumLa, an area that was captured by China in 1962 but from which it later withdrew.

China had used a similar ploy naming islands in South China Sea or pulling out ancient records showing old Chinese names of islands to support its claims over the sea areas, and fight back similar claims from other countries including Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines. China also began announcing weather forecasts of the disputed area to prove that they are part of Chinese territory.

China may use old maps to justify new names

The new names will be shown in the international diplomatic arena as proof of China's claims, informed sources said. China might even pull out old maps and records to show that these names existed for hundreds of years. At present, it has scant historical record to support its claims besides the fact that the 6th Dalai Lama was born in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, and the Tawang monastery was linked to monasteries in China in the past.

P Stobdan, China expert and former diplomat said China is trying to get India to concede that it would never ever use the 14th Dalai Lama in future, a move they had made successfully with Mongolia in recent months. India has, in recent months, boosted the defences in Arunachal Pradesh. Stobdan also said the Chinese response came after Beijing made an assessment of how popular Dalai Lama's visit was to that state.

"The standardization came amid China's growing understanding and recognition of the geography in South Tibet. Naming the places is a step to reaffirm China's territorial sovereignty to South Tibet," the state backed Global Times quoted Xiong in an article on Wednesday.

What is likely to happen is that India and China may get into a cartographic battle if China forces international institutions and websites and search engines to use the Chinese words. Chinese foreign ministry refused to accept suggestions from reporters that the renaming was a retaliatory measure linked to the recent controversy over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. The move comes after China summoned India's envoy in Beijing Vijay Gokhale to protest the Dalai Lama's visit.

"About why we choose this time to announce standardization of names, China is now doing the second census of names of localities and an important part of it is to standardize names in ethnic languages," Lu Kang, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said. "In the next step we will also step up our study of those names in Tibetan ethnic languages and in the next step we will announce more standardisation of these names."

But Lu agreed that naming had "supported" China's territorial claims. "These names reflect from another side that China's territorial claim over South Tibet is supported by clear evidence in terms of history, culture and administration," he said.

He said that the renaming was a "legitimate" move because the names "have been passed on from generation to generation by people who have lived there for generations, the Tibetan ethnic and Monpa ethnic groups". "To issue these names it is actually carried out in accordance with our regulations about the names of localities and it is a legitimate action by the Chinese government," he said.

The foreign ministry reiterated its opposition to the Dalai Lama's visit. "Let me stress that about the Indian government's indulgence of Dalai Lama activities in disputed eastern section of the India China boundary and also about his anti-China activities, this is something we are firmly against. These activities are also against the Indian government's commitments to China."

"China's position on the eastern section of our boundary is consistent and clear," Lu said.

"These names have existed since ancient times, but had never been standardized before. Therefore, announcing the names is like a remediation," added Guo Kefan, a research fellow at the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences.

The latest move might make it very difficult for India to accept China's invitation to participate in its Belt and Road Forum on May 14-15. China needs Indian presence to enhance the credibility of the forum and the One Belt, One Road programme as a whole.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/china-renames-six-towns-in-arunachal-in-retaliation-for-dalai-lamas-visit/articleshow/58270993.cms>

Similar: http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2017/04/19/china-has-renamed-6-places-in-arunachal-pradesh-on-its-official-map_n_22045890.html

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/china-announces-own-names-for-6-places-in-arunachal-pradesh-1683199>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/opinion/op-ed/270417/renaming-wont-help-chinas-cause.html> by Claude Arpi

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/SEIePMT7E8faUaRVJiOD3N/Most-places-renamed-by-China-have-Dalai-Lama-Tibet-links-e.html>

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/chinas-renaming-of-places-in-arunachal-india-could-reply-by-calling-shantipath-as-dalai-lama-road-3398370.html>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/china-officially-changes-name-of-six-places-in-arunachal-pradesh-most-have-dalai-lama-links-4624670/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/china-defends-move-to-name-arunachal-pradesh-towns/1/932697.html>

China warns India against 'playing Dalai Lama card', calls it unwise

Agencies | Kashmir Observer | April 21, 2017

Beijing: India will pay "dearly" if it continues the "petty game" of playing the Dalai Lama card, Chinese media warned on Friday, dismissing as "absurd" New Delhi's reaction to Beijing renaming six places in Arunachal Pradesh.

Referring to allegations that it was "silly for China" not to have names for various counties and inventing them for six places in Arunachal Pradesh, an op-ed article in the state-run Global Times said "these comments are absurd."

"It is time for India to do some serious thinking over why China announced the standardised names in South Tibet at this time," the article titled 'India playing Dalai card worsens territorial spats with China' said.

The daily said "playing the Dalai Lama card" was never a wise choice for New Delhi. "If India wants to continue this petty game, it will only end up in playing dearly for it," the daily said.

"South Tibet (Arunachal Pradesh) is historically part of China and name of the places there is part of the local ethnic culture. It is legitimate for the Chinese government to standardise the names of the places," it said.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as 'South Tibet'. China on April 19 announced that it has "standardised" official names for six places in the north-eastern state and termed the provocative move as a "legitimate action". The Chinese move came days after Beijing lodged strong protests with India over the Dalai Lama's visit to the frontier state.

India on Thursday hit out at China for giving Chinese names to six areas of Arunachal Pradesh, saying assigning invented names to towns of the neighbour does not make illegal territorial claims legal.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Gopal Baglay also asserted that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.

Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesman Lu Kang said earlier that Chinese government is conducting the second nationwide survey on geographical names, "an important task to standardise the geographical names in the languages of ethnic minority groups."

He also said more standardised names will be announced later. "In the next step, we will also step up our study of those names in Tibetan ethnic

languages and in the next step we will announce more standardisation of these names," he said.

Highlighting China's stand on the border dispute, the Global Times said, "China has been making efforts to solve the territorial disputes with India, but over the past decades, India has not only increased migration to the disputed area and boosted its military construction there, but it also named Arunachal Pradesh, China's South Tibet, as a formal state of India in 1987."

"Putting the Dalai Lama into its toolbox against China is another trick played by New Delhi lately. New Delhi would be too ingenuous to believe that the region belongs to India simply because the Dalai Lama says so," it said. "India seems to have become trapped in its stubbornness to measure its strength with China.

But territorial disputes cannot be settled by comparing which side is stronger or which country has more leverage. Otherwise, there is no need for Beijing to sit down with New Delhi at the negotiating table," it said in an apparent reference to 19 rounds of India-China boundary talks.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488 km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC). While China claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet, India asserts that the dispute covers Aksai Chin area which was occupied by China during the 1962 war.

<https://kashmiroobserver.net/2017/regional-news/china-warns-india-against-playing-dalai-lama-card-calls-it-unwise-17033>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit: China said no to foreign ministers' meet in Delhi

Russia-India-China meet was to be held on April 14; Moscow was ready
By Shubhajit Roy | New Delhi | Indian Express | May 05, 2017

UPSET WITH the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, especially Tawang, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi refused to come to Delhi to attend the Russia-India-China foreign ministers' trilateral meeting in April, The Indian Express has learnt. Sources said the RIC ministerial meeting, to be hosted by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, was scheduled to be held in Delhi on April 14, but Wang refused to come for the meeting.

The Indian side tried to accommodate Wang and also suggested alternate

dates later in April — between April 20 and 30 — but the Chinese side did not agree to attend the meeting even then.

Sources said Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had confirmed his participation and was ready to visit India, but he was asked by the Indian side to hold on. The meeting was finally cancelled.

While Beijing officially conveyed that the minister's schedule did not permit him to attend the trilateral meeting, sources said the Chinese diplomats made it clear privately that Beijing was "extremely upset" with India over the Dalai Lama's visit.

Sources said this was one of the first actions taken by an angry Beijing. China had summoned the Indian ambassador in Beijing on April 5 and lodged a strong protest as the Dalai Lama began his tour of Arunachal Pradesh.

Warning New Delhi that Beijing would take "necessary measures" to preserve its territorial sovereignty and legal interests, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs had said the visit by the Tibetan spiritual leader could "severely damage peace and stability in the region" and "hurt ties" between the two countries.

New Delhi had said that the Dalai Lama was a "revered religious leader" who had visited Arunachal Pradesh on "half-a-dozen occasions" in the past, and had urged that no political colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities, and his visits to states in India. India had said no artificial controversy should be created about his visit.

But Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying had said: "China will take necessary measures to firmly preserve our own territorial sovereignty and legal interests. We ask India to stop this wrong behaviour.

Taking advantage of the Dalai Lama harms China's national interests. Do not speculate and expand the sensitive issues between two countries, do not purposely harm the negotiation of boundary as well as the foundation of our bilateral relation."

That was Beijing's sharpest reaction to the Dalai Lama's visit, the fourth in under a month. "Tibet-related issues involve China's core interest. China's standpoint on this issue is consistent and clear. India does not care about China's concern and negotiation and has purposely arranged the visit to

a disputed area of China-India boundary. India's invitation to the Dalai Lama to the disputed border region will severely damage peace and stability along border areas and hurt ties between the two countries," Hua had said.

China maintains that parts of Arunachal Pradesh, which it refers to as South Tibet, form part of the mainland and India's continued engagement with the Dalai Lama will cause damage to bilateral ties.

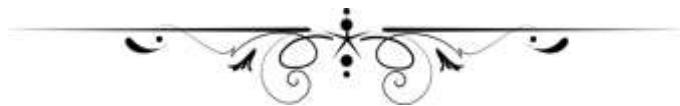
Beijing was also irked over Minister of State (Home) Kiren Rijiju's presence in Tezpur, which it perceived as official and political endorsement of the Dalai Lama's visit.

Ties between India and China have been strained since 2016, over Beijing's blocking of India's application to become a member of the elite Nuclear Suppliers' Group and efforts to designate Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist" at the UN.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-china-said-no-to-foreign-ministers-meet-in-delhi-4641195/>



INTERVIEWS



Tibet TV Exclusive: Interview with Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh

Tibet.net | April 11, 2017



DIIR's Tibetan Media Editor Ngawang Thogmed and Tibet TV Cameraperson Jigme Wangchen and Tenzin Choedup interviewing Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Tawang, April 11, 2017. Photo @ Jayang Tsing, DIIR

Tawang: In the light of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's historic week-long visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Media team of Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR): Ngawang Thogmed (Editor, Tibetan Media), Jamyang Tsing (Editor, China Desk), Jigme Wangchen (Tibet TV) and Tenzin Choedup (Tibet TV) secured an exclusive interview with Shri. Pema Khandu, Hon. Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

Below is the transcript of the interview

Question: What does it mean for you to have His Holiness The Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh after a gap of eight years?

Hon. CM : Yes, in fact I feel very much lucky as Chief Minister, during my time His Holiness has visited our State. And regarding His Holiness's visit this is not the first time. Actually the request which I had been putting forward started way back 2011 -12. At that time His Holiness assured that, yes, definitely he

will visit Arunachal Pradesh since he has a very special connection with Arunachal Pradesh. So, people are very happy, we feel very excited.

Question: We saw people of Arunachal Pradesh from all backgrounds show immense faith in His Holiness the Dalai Lama. An image of a 2-year old child praying wholeheartedly has gone viral. How do you think even a 2-year old understands the spiritual importance of His Holiness?

Hon. CM: You know so that's the speciality about Arunachal Pradesh, particularly the Mon Tawang people. So in fact, we are very much fortunate that His Holiness stepped on our soil way back in 1959 and we had been very fortunate enough to receive his first ceremony here in Tawang monastery. So that becomes His Holiness coming out of the country giving preaching, it was we here in Tawang that we received His Holiness preaching way back in 1959. So I think that the spirit of the people, they have lots of faith in religion and they have tremendous faith in His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Question: What messages His Holiness The Dalai Lama, do you see personally useful in your life, especially in your political life or when you face political dilemma?

Hon. CM: Actually you have asked good question. To me personally, I must say I am very much like you know a great follower of the 14th Dalai Lama. I find him quite genuine with practical mind. So, I belong to a political family. So the moment I became the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, I will give you a little background of Arunachal Pradesh: we are having 26 major tribes and more than 110 sub tribes. So that becomes very difficult for a politician to manage. Sometimes it becomes very, very difficult. At that point of time I always think about the ceremonies which His Holiness has given to me; to be broad minded and to accept and listen to all the problems. So you know in that way I always try to, you know get things clear.

Question: So could you please tell us more about the request you made to His Holiness recently about conferring the future Kalachakra initiation in Arunachal Pradesh specially in Tawang region. So can you please elaborate?

Hon. CM : We are being very fortunate that we Arunachal Pradesh has hosted one Kalachakra way back in 1983, that was in Dirang. So after that it has been such a long time we could not host Kalachakra here in Arunachal Pradesh. So during this visit of His Holiness, I on behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and the Mon people, I have requested His Holiness to initiate Kalachakra in the coming years. The reason why I have been putting this request to His Holiness is that you know people here, whenever people come to me for some other work they would also make it a point to tell me that

people out here have lots of faith in His Holiness. So, when I have put forward this request to His Holiness, His Holiness also said, "definitely, I will keep that thing in my mind, but provided everyone you know should learn Bodhi language" which I also insist my own people that since I am Buddhist. So I always request my own people that we should understand, we should learn more about Bodhi. So the government of Arunachal Pradesh has long back introduced Bodhi language in the subjects of schools and all. So now the young generations are having good knowledge of Bodhi as a subject. So in the coming days I definitely, look forward to seeing younger people taking more active participation in learning Buddhism & language. I am hopeful that the Kalachakra initiation will soon be conferred here.

Question: Yesterday afternoon His Holiness visited your late father's memorial park. So what are your experiences or what personally do you feel about that?

Hon. CM: In fact, my late father was the leader of Arunachal Pradesh and he was a very popular man. He was quite acceptable to all the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, all the people of Arunachal Pradesh and His Holiness always regarded him as a very good friend. And this time it was a great coincidence you know my late father's memorial has been recently built and His Holiness 'visit is also just coinciding at the same time. So it's a blessing you know, especially for the family members. It's a blessing for us to have His Holiness consecrating the Stupa and inaugurating the museum. So we felt very blessed and lucky.

Question: What has been your most personal and special occasion during His Holiness' visit to the museum?

Hon. CM: I was there walking along with His Holiness, so at the first moment when there was a very huge poster in which my late father and His Holiness were both standing, so you know it really touched my heart when His Holiness showed his hand and touched my dad's heart and he just pat for a while, you know that really touched my heart. It was very wonderful.

Question: Across the Himalayan Region, from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, there is historically and culturally a special relation with Tibet. And do you think His Holiness's relation with Mon region is special?

Hon. CM: Yes, I think so personally. His Holiness has a very special relation with Mon people as I already mentioned that Mon people were the first to receive His Holiness while traveling from Tibet to here in India. So that makes a very big bondage between His Holiness and people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Lastly I would also like to express my heartiest thanks to Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay la and his entire team from Central Tibetan Administration and the private office of His Holiness for guiding us, for facilitating us you know His Holiness' visit here in Arunachal Pradesh and making this program a grand success. Thank you.

<http://tibet.net/2017/04/tibet-tv-exclusive-interview-with-chief-minister-of-arunachal-pradesh/>

The Dalai Lama's visit is purely religious

By Rabi Banerjee | The Week | From issue dated April 16, 2017

Interview/ Pema Khandu, chief minister, Arunachal Pradesh

Why is the Dalai Lama visiting Arunachal Pradesh after eight years?

The reasons are purely religious. We wanted him and invited him to come to Arunachal Pradesh.



So, you took the initiative.

Yes, I did, after becoming chief minister.

But China called it a violation of the border agreement.

We are not sharing a border with China, but with Tibet. So, I think China has no role to play.

But China claims Tibet is a part of it.

I don't fall into the group that believes this. I think the ministry of external affairs should give a befitting reply to China. But, if you ask me personally, I think China has no role in Tibet.

China called it a political visit.

How come? He is a leader of Buddhists all over the world. He can visit any place in the world. He can roam freely in India as India has Buddhism and is a secular country.

But China says that, as long as there is a border dispute regarding Arunachal Pradesh, India should not allow such visits.

There is no border dispute. Arunachal Pradesh is part of India and so is Tawang. Also, no border dispute in the world should be mixed with religious affairs.

So, would the Dalai Lama only give religious speeches?

Yes, he would.

Do you consider the Dalai Lama as part of India?

Yes. He is very much part of the Indian culture. He has been staying [in India] for over 50 years. No government in India has ever questioned his movement. He is a part of us.

<http://www.theweek.in/theweek/statescan/interview-pema-khandu.html>

'Renaming six places in Arunachal Pradesh by China doesn't make sense ... Don't know why China was so scared'

By Rohit E David in The Interviews Blog | TOI | April 28, 2017



Lobsang Sangay is a legal scholar and Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile. He spoke to **Rohit E David** on Dalai Lama's recent visit to Arunachal Pradesh, China's belligerent response and its impact on the relationship between Delhi and Beijing:

What is your response to China renaming six places in Arunachal Pradesh?

It actually doesn't make any sense. These names are more Chinese than the traditional names. From their point of view, they wanted to take an action and that's why they have done this.

China called in India's ambassador to China to lodge a protest. Your comments?

This is standard response. I wasn't surprised. This happens when one government is unhappy. They want to politicise Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

What has been the impact of Dalai Lama's visit?

From the very beginning we have said that His Holiness's visit to the state was spiritual. He has been there six times. This was his seventh visit to Arunachal Pradesh. There was tremendous love everyone saw during his visit. I don't think any politician can get as much love and affection as His Holiness got.

How do you respond to China's stance that India will pay dearly if it plays the Dalai Lama card?

This is a standard Chinese procedure. When personalities like Barack Obama or George W Bush meet Dalai Lama, they also tell them to be ready to face consequences. Next day it's business as usual. Even during this visit there won't be any consequences. In the last seven years, India's relation with China has remained the same. We want to thank all governments who had allowed His Holiness's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. Not many people know but this visit was actually postponed two to three times. China says that it was a deliberate move. No, it wasn't.

Why does China dislike Dalai Lama's visit?

His Holiness is a monk. He talks about ahimsa, karuna and mahakaruna. I don't know why they are so scared.

Do you see Dalai Lama staying in Arunachal Pradesh for good?

No. He is a traveller. He likes to go around the world and India. He would go to Bodh Gaya once a year, south India, Himachal Pradesh. Wherever there are Buddhists, he will go there. He will keep going to Arunachal Pradesh.

Do you feel Dalai Lama's successor should have China's endorsement?

No. They are communist and atheist. They don't believe in religion. I don't know why they want to interfere in religious matters. If they are so interested they should find the reincarnation of Mao Zedong. He has done good work for China.

What do you have to say about China's claims on Tibet?

Historically, Tibet was an independent country. During the eighth century, Tibet was so powerful it extended its empire all the way to China. A puppet emperor was also imposed by the Tibetan military. So, during 821-23 a treaty was signed which said that Tibetans will be happy in Tibet and Chinese in China. This was signed by both representatives. Right now, Tibet is under occupation. Our hope is that we gain genuine autonomy as per Chinese laws. We want that envoys of Dalai Lama meet with Chinese authorities, have dialogue and negotiate an agreement for genuine autonomy within China.

Do you consider Dalai Lama an Indian?

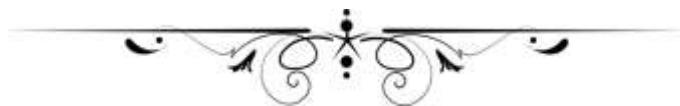
Dalai Lama has said that he is a 'son of India'. Obviously he was born in Tibet and is a Tibetan in his heart and mind. His Holiness says his body for 57 years has had 'dal' in India. His brain is filled with the scholarship, knowledge and wisdom of Nalanda University. He is the greatest living Nalanda scholar. I was born in India. We are proud and grateful that the Indian government has provided refuge. We have also contributed to the success of the unity and diversity of this nation.

How do you respond to China's claims on Tawang?

There is not much of a claim. In 1914, when Simla Agreement was signed, Chinese officials participated in the meet. Tibet was represented by Lonchen Shatra. Sir McMahon represented India. On the sideline they also signed McMahon Line demarcating the border between Tibet and India. They also signed a trade agreement. So, in the Simla Agreement and the border negotiations, the Chinese ambassador first initialled the agreement but did not sign. His disagreement was on the border between Tibet and China. Now, this is a new issue they are raising about Tawang.

<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/the-interviews-blog/renaming-six-places-in-arunachal-pradesh-by-china-doesnt-make-sense-dont-know-why-china-was-so-scared/>

COLUMNS AND BLOGS



Dalai Lama fumes China again

By Vivek Shukla | The Times of Israel | March 27, 2017

Tibetan spiritual leader, the 14th Dalai Lama is scheduled to visit Arunachal Pradesh (India), including Tawang. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and has objected to the visit. It has claimed that Dalai Lama's visit would inflict severe damage on the Sino-Indian relationship and on peace and stability on the border. However, India has rejected the claim of China saying that the visit of Dalai Lama was purely a religious one. Many observers believe that the increased intensity of the Chinese reaction to the activities of the Dalai Lama also stems from the attempts to exert control over the process of reincarnation of the Tibetan Buddhist leader. The Dalai Lama is 81 years old and has confirmed that he will not be reincarnated in territory controlled by China. But the Communist Government of China which is an atheist has proclaimed that the Dalai Lama will be reincarnated on its territory.

Why does China get upset with the visit of Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh?

China does not view the Dalai Lama as merely a religious leader but categorises him as a separatist political activist too. This is the reason why China objects to the presence of Dalai Lama anywhere in the world.

His Holiness Dalai Lama has visited Arunachal Pradesh in 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2009, and China has shown the similar opposition to India each time during his visit. The use of aggressive language by the Chinese Foreign Ministry is a typical Chinese style of diplomacy. It is very assertive but India does not take it too seriously.

Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) is the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama and the current Dalai Lama might possibly reincarnate at Tawang itself. If this were to happen, it would accentuate the difficulties of Beijing because then, there would be two Dalai Lamas (one being the reincarnation of the current Dalai Lama and the second would be the Beijing-appointed Dalai Lama, as per the last year declaration of China).

Moreover, China has staked claim over Arunachal Pradesh and by masquerading the issue of Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, it is reigniting the issue again.

International Buddhist Conference, Rajgir (Bihar, India) –

Apart from the Dalai Lama, the conference was attended by multiple spiritual leaders like the Sangha heads of Cambodia and Bangladesh, the Mahanayakas and the Anunayakas of Sri Lanka, the Khambo Lama (the supreme Lama) of Mongolia and the Buddhist representatives from Vietnam,

Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, few republics of Russia, all the other three Buddhist sects from Tibet and the Karmapa.

China got worried that the Dalai Lama, being one of the principle figures in the conference was getting spiritual exposure with political implications for China. China was worried that the Dalai Lama was getting the wide international backing of the Buddhist world to embolden its leadership role in the politico-spiritual field.

Why is the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama a serious issue for China?

It is absurd that China has been pushing its decision to impose the next Dalai Lama on the Buddhist world through their own mode of appointment, whereas the sole right of reincarnation in Buddhism is allotted to the Dalai Lama itself. How can the atheist Communists decide the appointment of a religious head? China is still suffering from the consequences of having selected their own Panchen Lama. The selected Panchen Lama gave a speech at the Chinese People's Political Conference this month but he is not yet recognised as the Panchen Lama by the six million people of Tibet in China. China is worried that the people of Tibet, upon the issue of reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, should not get disgruntled by the Chinese authorities, otherwise there would be serious chaos in the region on the lines of Xinjiang province in China. The Dalai Lama is strategizing on how the issue of reincarnation should be handled and they are moving to bring all the Tibetan Buddhism sects together to decide on the issue. In other words, the Dalai Lama is strategizing to prevent division of Tibetans on the issue of reincarnation and if such a procedure would be agreed upon by all the sects of Tibetan Buddhists, then China would find it near to impossible to appoint its own Dalai Lama in place of the current Dalai Lama's choice.

What would happen if the 15th Dalai Lama happens to be a child?

In this hypothetical situation of Dalai Lama being reincarnated as a child, there could be a Regency Council to aid and advise the child Dalai Lama. But the issue at hand here is that the child Dalai Lama would be vulnerable to manipulation as the Regency Council would exercise a lot of power over the child Dalai Lama. China would be particularly worried that the authority of the new Dalai Lama should not grow even marginally because it could have serious political implications for China in the Tibet region. Seeing the trend of growing prominence of the current Dalai Lama, China is trying its level best to undermine the stature of Dalai Lama as an authority over Tibetan religious sphere.

The Tibetans have never agreed on the formulation that Tibet was always a part of China. Chinese have shifted their date of control over Tibet several times since 1949. So, in essence, if the Chinese are not sure of the history, they cannot force the Tibetans to agree on their argument to stake absolute

control over Tibet. The Shimla Accord of 1914 between British India, Tibet and China recognises the territory of Tawang and Arunachal Pradesh as the legitimate part of India. China claims that it demands Arunachal Pradesh from India to respect the Tibetan sentiments as historically, it was a part of Tibet. But the Tibetans have recognised the validity of the Shimla Accord of 1914 each time, thereby annihilating the claims of China over the region.

The times are surely tough for China in the matters of exercising its control over Tibet. The future depends on the reincarnation or emanation of the next HH Dalai Lama, the 15th.

<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/dalai-lama-fumes-china-again/>

Dalai Lama in Tawang

By Salman Haidar | The Statesman | March 30, 2017

Tawang has a very particular place in India-China affairs. When in 1959 the Dalai Lama fled from Tibet and made his way to India the route he chose took him through Tawang where he and his small entourage of fugitives crossed into India, to be received and welcomed with befitting honour. Even without this momentous event, Tawang has occupied a prominent position in the affairs of the India-Tibet border lands: an earlier Dalai Lama, the sixth, belonged to Tawang where he caused a great monastery to be built that exists even today as a place of pilgrimage, and continues to house precious relics of the earlier pontiff. Tawang's significance is further enhanced by its location on the traditional route from the Tibetan uplands to the plains of Assam. And to underline its strategic significance, this was the path of the invading Chinese army in 1962 whose armed foray into India left an enduring scar.

Since those troubled days, Tawang has been largely quiescent; some bilateral political differences remain unresolved and can flare up, border defences are always alert, but there is no current sense that political differences could be leading towards dangerous confrontation. Both countries have been careful to exercise restraint, and to implement a number of confidence building measures (CBMs) to ensure calm along the border, including mutual withdrawal of advanced forces out of range of each other so as to prevent inadvertent confrontation. By and large, these efforts have worked satisfactorily so that there has been no recrudescence of the tension and warlike gesturing that were once frequently encountered along the eastern border between India and China.

On the ground, much has happened in Tawang after restoration of tranquility and wary resumption of relations: both India and China have put much effort into developing their frontier regions through better infrastructure and closer

integration. In India, the State of Arunachal Pradesh (AP) has been established and taken its place among the States of the Indian Union, a development that China has not accepted de jure but has not contested on the ground, and though there have been several Chinese pinpricks to underline its own claims in the area these have not led to any serious confrontation between rival forces. In India, Arunachal Pradesh enjoys the same status as other Indian States. To emphasize its fully established jurisdiction, India recently cleared the way for a visit to AP by the US Ambassador, though this was not well received in Beijing: it was one among quite a few recent developments that have had India and China at odds with each other as they have taken steps to make a more forceful assertion of their respective positions in and around AP.

The Dalai Lama's visit thus comes at a time when there is some churning on the border and some revival of the border differences between the two countries. In light of Tawang's historical importance in India-China matters, there is a particular significance in its inclusion in his itinerary. To be taken into account, too, is that Tawang has been inching its way up the ladder of disputed bilateral issues, as a result of steadily strengthening claims from China, which were initially expressed in informal channels and followed up later in more official fashion. As a result of all this background experience, the visit can be expected to arouse a certain amount of controversy. Within Tibet sentiment in favour of the Dalai Lama has never faltered and remains strong today, decades after his flight. He is very well received wherever he travels, which cannot but be a source of concern to China, especially because there are intermittent outbreaks of disorder in Tibet where allegiance to the exiled spiritual leader and what he represents is firmly rooted.

Apart from Tawang, a number of differences between India and China have been under the scanner lately as China has become regionally more active and has developed closer ties with India's nearest neighbours, but nevertheless the overall relationship between the two countries remains friendly and cooperative. China is India's largest trading partner and a valued associate in some multilateral forums like the environmental agency, and top-level visits from either side have underlined their shared desire for enhanced cooperation in the future. Thus bilateral relations continue on a steady course but geopolitical factors can pose new challenges at this time of change in international affairs. The Trump Administration in USA is in the process of reshaping that country's global commitments, which could have reverberations in many parts of the world, including Asia, which, with China in the van, is already outstripping other regions in economic development.

The broader question is whether, as USA under Mr. Trump reduces its overseas commitments, others will advance to occupy the vacated space and assume a more prominent international role. US retreat could thus become

the trigger for a far-reaching geo-political shift, with others, led possibly by China, ready to play a more forward part. Already there are signs of rivalry in the Asian region between China and USA, both major economic and military powers whose interests may drive them in different directions even if USA is on a path to reduce its own external commitments. Chinese activity in the South China Sea, where it is at odds with most of its maritime neighbours, has contributed to some incidents involving contested sovereign claims and rival views on freedom of navigation in the high seas. In some of these matters, especially freedom of navigation, which could affect India's fast developing merchant fleet, India may be more than an interested bystander and could feel the need to do something to back standing international agreements, which could bring it into disagreement with China, and this in turn could serve the purpose of those who would wish to see some form of collective effort for reducing China's prominence. There are thus many issues at stake and India-China relations need careful handling.

To return to the Tawang visit, the Dalai Lama himself, despite all the opprobrium he receives from China, is a figure of elevated spiritual stature with universal appeal extending far beyond his Tibetan homeland. Nevertheless, his supporters in Tibet and elsewhere may be concerned to utilize his presence in such a sensitive part of the India-China border as an opportunity for public demonstrations that would serve as a reminder of the situation in Tibet, especially as during the visit the President of India is expected to share the stage with the Dalai Lama at a festival to celebrate the great river Brahmaputra. With these high dignitaries present, India will be stretched to show both its respect for the Dalai Lama and its wish to develop relations with China.

The writer is India's former Foreign Secretary

Source: <http://www.thestatesman.com/opinion/dalai-lama-in-tawang-1490817939.html>

The Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit: More steps are needed to check the Chinese designs

By SD Pradhan in Chanakya Code | April 01, 2017

China's reactions to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh only confirm its double speak and nothing else. China's spokesperson Lu Kang expressed China's 'serious concerns' and that this would seriously damage India-China bilateral ties. China interestingly also asked India to make "a choice".

China of late has taken a number of steps in violation of the Sino-Indian Agreement on Political parameters and Guiding Principles for the settlement of the Boundary Question of 2005. While Article VII stated that “the two sides shall safeguard due interests of their settled populations in the border areas”, Article IV stressed that “the two sides will give due consideration to each other’s strategic and reasonable interests, and the principle of mutual and equal security.” The agreement not only suggested that China would not demand the territory where Indians are residing but also agreed that it would take care of India’s strategic and reasonable interests. What China today is doing is against the Indian strategic and reasonable interests and on which India has several times pointed out that its concerns over Chinese plans.

China, by constructing the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) over India’s area which is under illegal occupation of Pakistan, has violated all past agreements and has certainly projected that when it comes to its own strategic interests, it does not care about international norms and its own words. The Chinese have also done a similar act in the South China Sea where it is constructing artificial islands in violation of international norms as has been brought out by the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

An analysis of China’s policies reflect its sinister design of changing the geographical features to strengthen its claims in its periphery. If in the South China Sea, it constructs artificial islands and militarise them, in India’s north they are constructing the CPEC and have placed its forces in PoK. It is consistently pursuing the plan of ‘One Road, One Belt’ to establish its hegemony. In Tibet since its occupation it has completely changed the demographic pattern. Hans are in majority in the major towns while the Tibetans have been pushed to rural areas. Since 2006, over 2 million Tibetans, both farmers and herders, have been involuntarily “rehoused”- through government-ordered renovation or construction of new houses-in the TAR; hundreds of thousands of nomadic herders in the eastern part of the Tibetan plateau have been relocated or settled in “New Socialist Villages”. China is also trying to negotiate with Bhutan to settle its border in a manner that would enhance India’s vulnerabilities in that region. China is seeking to advance its strategic interests in the India (Sikkim)-Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction, which overlooks the narrow neck of land (called the Chicken’s Neck) which links India’s North East with the rest of India. China is also constructing dams on the Brahmaputra / Yarlang Tsangpo which would divert its waters away from India and Bangladesh.

China is also taking steps to control the strategic areas in the Indian Ocean. Its policy of establishing Air Defence Identification Zone in East China Sea, which overlaps with that of Japan and its plans to repeat it in the South China Sea reflects its expansionist policy and determination to use muscular approach to acquire areas in its periphery. In essence, China is now making

serious attempts aimed at exerting its control over the areas in its periphery, defending and advancing its sovereignty claims and establishing its hegemony in the region using economic relations as one of the tools and removing the influence of US. In short these three objectives determine Chinese policies towards its neighbours.

Towards India, it is guided by one basic factor. China considers India as its long term rival in the region. It perceives India as an obstacle in its hegemonic designs. Its policy of “string of pearls” is the outcome of this perception that is aimed at keeping India under pressure. Strategically China considers Pakistan as an important pawn in its game plan to checkmate India. Hence it is providing substantial assistance to Pakistan in defence and nuclear fields and is extending diplomatic support against issues connected with India. By developing close ties with Pakistan, China has also achieved its strategic objective of linking its western province with the Indian Ocean through the land route. In essence, viewed from the above perspective, India is perceived by the Chinese security establishment as the long-term rival in Asia, for strategic, economic, cultural and regional leadership. China's support to Jaish-e Mohammad chief and opposition to India's joining the NSG are also the product of this thinking.

Therefore India needs to look at the larger game plan of the Chinese and should device a counter strategy to protect its strategic and legitimate interests. By allowing the US diplomat and then Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh India has tried to convey a message that India would protect its sovereignty in the region despite unreasonable reaction of China. However this is certainly not sufficient. India needs to convey that it can have a re-look at the Tibet Policy to put pressure on China. India may clearly indicate that India's acceptance of the Chinese suzerainty over Tibet was conditional- it depended on the Tibetans being given genuine autonomy. However, as the Tibetans are subjected to atrocities and denied autonomy, India is compelled to reconsider its approach towards Tibet. Reciprocity must be the guiding principle hereafter in India's response to the Chinese demands on the status of Tibet. In addition, there is a need for a serious diplomatic effort by all its neighbours who are adversely affected the Chinese designs to take a united approach against the Chinese machinations.

<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/ChanakyaCode/the-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit-more-steps-are-needed-to-check-the-chinese-designs/>

Why China, India and the Dalai Lama are pushing the boundaries in Tawang

A small Himalayan district is the focus of intense diplomatic heat stemming from long-standing, unresolved border issues reignited by a planned visit from the Tibetan spiritual leader

By Debasish Roy Chowdhury | South China Morning Post | April 01, 2017

Last month, the Australian cricket team dropped by the Dalai Lama's McLeod Ganj monastery in northern India seeking "peace of mind". Ahead of a Test match in a fractious series with India marked by sniping between the two sides, Aussie skipper Steve Smith asked the Tibetan spiritual leader for help with his sleep. The monk rubbed his nose against his, and Smith went back to his hotel hoping for better sleep during the five-day Dharamsala Test.

The Dalai Lama's other recent engagements have been far less reassuring for some, rubbing them up the wrong way. Beijing, for one, is losing sleep over his planned trip this week to Tawang, a small district on the western flank of what India calls its Arunachal Pradesh state in its northeast and China claims as its own South Tibet territory. This sleepy 2,000 sq km Himalayan district with less than 50,000 people has become the newest flashpoint between China and India, sparking a fresh round of jousting over their disputed border and the Dalai Lama.

Inviting the Dalai Lama "to the contested area will inflict severe damage on the China-India relationship", foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang warned after the trip was confirmed. In matching rhetoric, minister Kiren Rijiju in Narendra Modi's cabinet announced he would meet the Dalai Lama at Tawang. It will be a rare public appearance for a minister of Rijiju's rank by the side of the Buddhist monk as India tends to avoid such high-profile official meetings in deference to China's sensitivities. "India is more assertive [now]," Rijiju was quoted as telling the media.

Experts baffled by China-India border stand-off amid improving ties

Relations between China and India have become strained of late. India complains China is preventing it from bringing to book Pakistan-sheltered terrorists, blocking its entry into an elite group of nuclear suppliers and pushing ahead with infrastructure projects in Pakistan that threaten its security interests. China is wary of India's active courting of the United States and its eagerness to involve itself in distant disputes such as the South China Sea.

On their disputed border and the Dalai Lama, whose presence in India is resented by China, they increasingly appear less inclined to abide by the

discretion exercised in the past. Beijing raised a stink when Delhi allowed US ambassador Richard Verma to visit Tawang in October. In December, the Dalai Lama was invited to the Indian president's official residence, the first such public meeting in 60 years. Last month Beijing lashed out at India for inviting the Dalai Lama to a government-sponsored Buddhist seminar.

How India and China go to war every day – without firing a single shot

The Dalai Lama is inextricably linked with the border dispute between the two Asian giants. The Tawang monastery's historical ties to Tibetan Buddhism is an important basis of China's claim to the 90,000 sq km India-administered Arunachal Pradesh, which lies to the south of the so-called McMahon Line drawn up by the British. It is treated as the de facto border between China and India in what is known as the eastern sector of their border. The McMahon Line was agreed to by Britain and Tibet in a secret deal in 1914 and never recognised by China, giving Beijing the legal basis to deny it recognition even while accepting the status quo.

In a rare interaction with the foreign media last month, Lian Xiangmin, director of contemporary research of the Beijing-based China Tibetology Research Centre, stressed Tawang's links to Tibet by citing that the Tawang monastery was a subsidiary of one of the three major temples of Tibet, the Drepung monastery near Lhasa. "Tawang is a part of Tibet and Tibet is part of China. So Tawang is a part of China," he said.

Such reaffirmations of Tawang's links to Tibet, and by extension China, have been emanating frequently from Beijing lately. More so since the Dalai Lama in 2008, for the first time after fleeing from Tibet to India in 1959, declared Tawang was part of India. Up until 2003, he had maintained that Tawang was historically Tibetan, not Indian.

China-India-Pakistan triangle: When Xi meets Modi, a little less love this time

"The Dalai Lama's assertion that Tawang is part of India is against the core interest of the Chinese people. He advocates Tibetan autonomy but is really seeking independence. By allowing him a platform, the India government is going back on its promise of not allowing the Tibetan government in exile to engage in activities undermining China's sovereignty," Wang Dehua, director of the Institute for Southern and Central Asian Studies at the Shanghai Municipal Centre for International Studies, told This Week in Asia.

Apart from their dispute in the eastern sector, China and India lay claim to Aksai Chin – 38,000 sq km of snowy wasteland sandwiched between India's Jammu and Kashmir state and China's Xinjiang (新疆) and Tibet (西藏) – in

what is termed the western sector of their border. The two sides fought a month-long border war over their conflicting claims in 1962, in which India was dealt a humiliating defeat. They have since managed to maintain peace at the border, but 19 rounds of talks to settle the boundary haven't gone anywhere. China's original approach was to give up its territorial claim in the east in return for retaining control over Aksai Chin in the west. That way each side would keep the area they control. But over time, Beijing has increasingly been pressing for concessions in the east, especially Tawang, which is unacceptable for the Indians.

Deal breaker

"Deng Xiaoping (鄧小平) had offered to make concessions in the east if India recognised China's claim lines in the west. India lost the opportunity by not taking that offer. India refuses to compromise in the east or in the west. It doesn't want to give away an inch of land, all it wants to do is take. That's not how you negotiate," said Wang. "Now even if China does allow concessions in the east, it should at least get Tawang and its surrounding areas."

Wang echoes other voices in the Chinese establishment pressing claims on Tawang even if India gets to keep the rest of Arunachal. In a recent interview to a Beijing publication, Dai Bingguo, China's former top diplomat who led the boundary negotiations with India for a decade to 2013, said the border dispute would be resolved if New Delhi parted with Tawang, which he called an "inalienable" part of Tibet.

India's China policy off target, says Modi's Mandarin-speaking 'guided missile'

"If the Indian side takes care of China's concerns in the eastern sector, the Chinese side will address India's concerns elsewhere," he said in the interview, published just before China and India held a strategic dialogue in Beijing in February. China and India, he went on to say, were standing in front of "the gate towards a final settlement" of the border and "India holds the key" to that gate.

Indian diplomats say Chinese insistence on Tawang goes against the grain of a 2005 agreement that there would be no exchange of territories with "settled populations", and Tawang clearly fits that category. Ashok Kantha, former Indian ambassador to China, for one, says he is puzzled by the noise China is making over the Dalai Lama and Tawang.

"Pending a boundary settlement, the clear understanding since 1993 is that we will work on the basis of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The fact remains that Arunachal is on our side of the LAC," said Kantha. "We do not raise questions about Chinese movements in Aksai Chin even though we consider

it to be part of our territory. So I do not understand when they complain about things we do on our side of the LAC. That is a departure from a fundamental agreement.”

The LAC, which works as the unofficial border, denotes the demarcation line based on actual troop control on the ground by the two sides. In the eastern sector, the McMahon Line is treated as the LAC.

What a stronger Modi means for China

Nitin Pai, a co-founder of the Indian think tank and public policy school Takshashila Institution, sees the Chinese shift of emphasis from the west to the east as part of a general pattern of hardening its position in all territorial disputes, from the South China Sea to the Himalayas. “It is linked to Beijing’s perception of a geopolitical environment which is moving increasingly in its favour,” said Pai, pointing out that China behaved no differently when the Dalai Lama visited Mongolia in November.

China called off talks with Mongolian officials over soft loans and blocked Mongolian mining trucks at the border in response to the trip. Beijing was pacified only after Ulan Bator promised not to let in the Dalai Lama ever again. Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying subsequently said: “We hope Mongolia will truly learn lessons from this incident and truly respect the core interests of China.”

Succession battle

Apart from Tibet, Tawang and Mongolia are the other possible sources of the 81-year-old 14th Dalai Lama’s successor, which also partly explains Beijing’s extra sensitivity to both.

While Tawang was the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, the fourth came from Mongolia. “Tawang remains sensitive not only because it is the most significant populated area in the entire territory disputed between China and India, but also because it is inhabited by Mon people who follow Tibetan Buddhism and revere the Dalai Lama. Tawang can very well be where the next Dalai Lama reincarnates,” said Dibyesh Anand, author of Tibet: A Victim of Geopolitics, and head of the department of politics and international relations at the University of Westminster in Britain.

Traditionally, the Dalai Lama chooses the Panchen Lama to find his spiritual successor. The Dalai Lama is understood to have the ability to choose where to reincarnate and it is up to the Panchen Lama to find the child he is reborn as. The Dalai Lama selected a six-year-old boy to be his Panchen Lama in 1995. Three days later, the boy and his family were kidnapped, never to be

seen again. The Chinese government then chose another six-year-old as replacement.

The Dalai Lama has repeatedly said he may be the last one, and whether he will reincarnate or not would depend on the circumstances after his death. China has made it clear that it will choose the next Dalai Lama.

Apart from China's interest in locking in the succession in its favour after the Dalai Lama passes away, its posturing aims to isolate him while he is alive and "quarantine the Tibet issue" internationally, said Anand. "The active profile of the Dalai Lama and his followers in exile keeps Tibet alive as a political issue that can be used by India or US for their own strategic purpose. For China, a border dispute with India is a matter of strategic interest, but Tibet is about nationalist intransigence. This is a battle for public diplomacy and internal order, as well as a flexing of geopolitical muscle."

Debasish Roy Chowdhury is the Deputy Editor of This Week in Asia.

<http://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/2083799/why-china-india-and-dalai-lama-are-pushing-boundaries-tawang>

Dalai Lama's Northeast Visit: The Tibetan spiritual leader is free to travel to any part of India, but using him as strategic tool is diminishing prospect

By Rudroneel Ghosh in Talking Turkey | TOI | April 3, 2017

With the Dalai Lama embarking on his 10-day Northeast tour, India has done well to brush aside China's protests against the Tibetan spiritual leader's sojourn, especially to the Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh. The Dalai Lama is a revered figure who has made India his home after seeking asylum more than five decades ago. Under government patronage, he is free to travel to any part of India, including Tawang. Hence, Chinese protests should not be taken seriously.

But where, however, New Delhi needs to proceed carefully is in using the Dalai Lama as a strategic instrument. The Dalai's trip to Tawang is strong signalling to China that Arunachal Pradesh is indeed a part of India and this reality is unalterable. However, the question that needs to be asked is how much dividend can the Dalai accrue to India. Will using the Dalai for strategic ends provide India with a clear benefit vis-à-vis China? Will it resolve differences between New Delhi and Beijing or harden existing positions?

I ask these questions because I have been to Tibet and seen for myself how integrated it has become with the rest of China. Beijing has invested massively in Tibet's infrastructure development, benefiting the material lives of local people. In fact, Beijing's big-ticket Silk Road Economic Belt project of transnational connectivity is aimed at opening up new economic opportunities for China's western provinces, including Tibet. Consider also that recently Chinese authorities granted a record number of 118 foreigners permanent residence status in Lhasa. This shows how confident Beijing is about Tibet.

Against this backdrop, using the 81-year-old Dalai Lama as a strategic tool in India-China relations is a diminishing prospect. I don't see it resolving New Delhi-Beijing differences or brokering new understanding between the two countries. It is a minimalistic leverage for New Delhi at best. That said, the Dalai Lama is a hugely respected spiritual leader and he should be free to travel to any part of India. Chinese protests on this score are irrational and shouldn't be heeded.

<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/talkingturkey/dalai-lamas-northeast-visit-the-tibetan-spiritual-leader-is-free-to-travel-to-any-part-of-india-but-using-him-as-strategic-tool-is-diminishing-prospect/>

Dalai Lama's Tawang visit spiritual retreat or strategic response?

By Nani Bath | Arunachal Times | April 03, 2017

India permitted the Dalai Lama to visit Tawang in 2009, which China claims as 'an integral part of the Southern Tibet region and is alienable from China's Tibet in terms of cultural background and administrative jurisdiction'. He is permitted again this year in spite of strong Chinese reactions or 'warnings'.

The People's Republic of China and India emerged as independent nations almost simultaneously. India, under the leadership of Nehru, desired to have its economy developed so as to feed the teeming millions. The very first step Nehru took was to establish friendly relations with India's neighbours while remaining non-aligned to either of the blocks (Socialist and Capitalist). China was wary of India's reactions when it invaded Tibet in 1950. Since India had its own sets of problems, Nehru showed no inclinations to deter the establishment of Chinese rule in Tibet. India refused Tibet's appeal for help, and Nehru is believed to have told the Tibetans to negotiate for a peaceful settlement.

When, in 1951, Major Ralengnao Khating, a young Naga officer, with 200 soldiers occupied Tawang, the PRC did not protest. Major Khating had ordered the locals not to obey the orders of Tsona Dzongpens of the Tibetan Government.

Mao's China was ideologically committed to prevent imperialist tendencies of the USA, and was advocating for unity of the developing countries. This provided an opportunity for India and China to come together. The "Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet Region of China and India", also known as Pancheel Agreement, was signed between India and China in 1954.

The 1954 Agreement, for the first time, referred Tibet as 'the Tibet region of China'. Not only did Tibet's sovereign rights get compromised but India also had to give up its extra territorial rights in Tibet, such as the military escorts in Gyantse and Yatung; post offices, telegraph and telephone services and 12 rest houses.

Anti-Chinese and anti-communist revolt that broke out in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, on 10th March 1959 was brutally crushed by the Chinese military. Thousands of Tibetans, mostly lamas, were massacred. On the suggestion of his Cabinet, the 14th Dalai Lama fled the capital probably to avoid a Chinese crackdown.

On 31 March, the Dalai Lama reached Indian border and sought political asylum. India was more than happy to host the spiritual-cum-political leader along with thousands of his supporters.

Chinese PLA's inability to stop the Dalai Lama from crossing over to India plus India's willingness to host him had put China in an embarrassing position at the global level. Furthermore, Nehru's 'forward policy' was perhaps construed as an extension of the imperialist policy of the British by Mao.

The Chini-Hindi Bhai-Bhai slogan that reverberated across the Himalayas suddenly turned silent. The silence was broken by the sounds of Chinese mortars and machine guns on 20th October, 1962. Mao's China attacked India with an aim to 'teach Nehru a lesson'. Many, including Indira Gandhi, did opine that Mao's actions of 1962 had hastened Nehru's death.

Several rounds of border talks yielded no positive results. The visit of the Chinese president Xi Jinping in India in 2014 was also not helpful in resolving the vexed boundary issue.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra, 'Inches towards Miles', could not go beyond 'Inches'.

Both India and China remain suspicious of each other till date. China thinks that India is a party of the United States' 'Containment Policy', while India believes that China is effectively pursuing the policy of 'Encirclement' in Asia. In the fight between two Asian giants, it is the citizens of Arunachal Pradesh who suffer for no fault of theirs. The Government of India always framed its policy vis-à-vis Arunachal Pradesh based on strategic and 'nationalist' considerations.

A long-standing territorial dispute between India and China was allowed to be spill over into the international arena by China when it blocked India's development plan at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as it contained a 60 million dollar project for Arunachal Pradesh.

China's plan, initially, was not to issue visa to the people of Arunachal Pradesh, claiming that 'Arunachalees do not need visa to visit their own country'. Later, however, it changed its stance and started issuing 'stapled visa'. Since it is not a normal stamped visa, many from the state are denied permission by the Government of India to visit China.

Then Member of Parliament and present MoS (Home), Kiren Rijiju urged New Delhi to adopt a concrete strategy so that Arunachalees do not face 'humiliation again and again'. Rijiju's logic, simple and straight, was that '..... the border problem will continue and the Arunachalees can never participate in any international event in China'.

In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was believed to have issued warning against Beijing's policy of issuing stapled visas to residents of Arunachal Pradesh. A tit-for-tat response from New Delhi was expected, but what Modi did was to announce electronic visas for Chinese tourists. His announcement reversed the past policy of holding back easing visas for Chinese nationals in protest against Beijing's practice of issuing stapled visa.

Except for 15-km stretch between Beting, the last Indian village in Lumla and Kheney in Tashigang of Bhutan, India and Bhutan is connected by all-weather road. The Government of Bhutan is reluctant to allow construction of this stretch of the road because of various factors-both political and strategic. One of the reasons could be that Bhutan does not wish to anger China as Beijing considers Tawang as a geographical and cultural extension of mainland China. If it is allowed, the distance between Guwahati and strategically significant Tawang will be reduced by around 200 kilometers, while the travel time is likely to decrease by over six hours.

The coronation of Jigme Singye Wangchuck, father of the present king of Bhutan, took place at a very young age. Some months before his official coronation, the Government of Bhutan unearthed a plot to kill the young monarch involving some Tibetan refugees. The investigation revealed that

Gyalo Thendup, brother of the Dalai Lama, was the alleged kingpin of the plot. There are hundreds of Tibetan refugees in Bhutan, who fled with the Dalai Lama in 1959 (many had already accepted Bhutanese citizenship). Bhutan is not only apprehensive about the Dalai Lama's influence but is equally concerned about the 'material influence' from Mon region. The Gombu/ Gombe Kora festival is held every year in the month of March/ April in Tashigang area of Bhutan. Hundreds of people from Tawang and West Kameng participate in the festival. In one such festival, some Monpas (or may be Tibetan refugees) were seen spending lakhs of rupees in arrow shooting game.

Two violent incidents rocked the otherwise peaceful Mon region- one in 2014 and another in 2016. The first one was the mob attack against the three MLAs, Pema Khandu, Jambey Tashi and Tsering Tashi of Tawang district. Their vehicles were damaged in Bomdila by the mob suspecting that they had a hand in the death of Tsона Gontse Rinpoche, who was found dead in New Delhi on May 16, 2014.

Lama Lobsang Gyatso (also known as Anna Lama because of his association with Anna Hazare), General Secretary of the Save Mon Region Federation (SMRF), was arrested by the district police. The SMRF has been leading a movement against several hydroelectric dams which are coming up in the region. Lama's supporters demanded his immediate release and started to protest in front of the police station and the police resorted to firing, killing two persons and injuring six others.

These incidents seriously dented the political image of the Khandu family. The young Khandu (Pema), the present Chief Minister, perhaps desires to establish peace in the region by inviting the Dalai Lama.

India, being a democratic country and a responsible member of the international community, is bound by established rules and norms to have allowed our guests, including refugees to visit any part of the country. It is the responsibility of the government of the day to ensure safety and security of any individuals in the country. The Dalai Lama, being our reverend guest, is free for his religious preaching anywhere in the country, may it be Tawang or any other place.

Critics have, however, maintained that the state should not have anything to do with the visit of a religious figure, in this case the Dalai Lama. This argument is significant in the context of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, under the leadership of Pema Khandu (a Buddhist), gearing up all its machineries for the visit of a religious head.

Will the government extend similar courtesies in the event of the visit of other religious figures in the likes of Imam Bukhari or Paul Dinakaran? Would the

government keep three-four Fortuners (costing around 25 lakhs each) at the disposal of other similar dignitaries as well?

Unlike in the past, the present Indian leadership has the potential to deliver. I have no doubt that our desire of getting the Indian Railways extended up to Tawang would come to a reality. But for now, we would be satisfied with a daily Rajdhani Express from Naharlagun to New Delhi.

Kiren Rijiju indicated that New Delhi is planning to construct a road along the international boundary (McMohan Line) from Mago-Thingbu in Tawang to Vijaynagar in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh to boost infrastructure. This may also come true. But, before that, it is important that the ongoing Trans-Arunachal Highway (Rs 24,000 crores project announced by the UPA Government under Manmohan Singh) is implemented properly. Almost all strategically important defence roads (manned by BRTF) are in dilapidated conditions.

Today's Bomdila-Tawang road is as same as what I saw some 15 years ago. Hayuliang-Chaklagam road, which is around 55 kilometers, takes three to four hours. A defence part (looks like Bofors howitzer gun) lays unattended on the roadside because the road is so narrow that the Indian Army trucks find it difficult to negotiate its turns.

So, what is the use of political chest-thumping without matching it at the ground level?

My take on the issue is that China considers Tibet as the core, and Tawang the periphery. Their claim over Arunachal Pradesh is only symbolic. Secondly, friendly relations with our neighbouring countries would help us develop peacefully. India had already acknowledged "Tibet Autonomous Region" is a part of China territory in lieu of China acknowledging Sikkim as part of India territory in 2003. So would India's half-hearted support with full of rhetoric help change China's Tibet policy?

Third, India's foreign policy objective of permitting the Dalai Lama to visit Tawang whenever China vetoes UN declaration of Masood Azhar as a terrorist is highly deplorable.

Fourthly, India suffers from 'democratic-surplus'. We debate a lot but are not firm in our actions. A CIA paper reveals that Nehru wanted to have a deal on Aksai Chin, in exchange of the Indian ownership of Arunachal Pradesh, but his view was opposed by some leaders in the Congress party.

Last, Chinese leadership may say something but do something else. The quality of Chinese leaders is aptly reflected in Akshay Kumar's dialogue in his

film Rowdy Rathore, ‘Jo main bolta hoon woh main karta hoon ... jo main nahi bolta woh main definitely karta hoon’.

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<http://www.arunachaltimes.in/dalai-lamas-tawang-visit-spiritual-retreat-or-strategic-response/>

Why China Is Fuming Over the Dalai Lama's Visit to Tawang

A border dispute with India plus Beijing's sensitivity toward the Dalai Lama's actions are a potent combination.

By K.S. Venkatachalam | The Diplomat | April 04, 2017

His Holiness Dalai Lama's upcoming visit to Tawang, in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, on April 4 has created great consternation in China. In a veiled threat, the Chinese foreign ministry has warned India not to facilitate the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to Tawang, saying the visit may severely impact India-China relations.

Ever since the Dalai Lama, and his tens of thousands of disciples, escaped Chinese oppression by fleeing to India in 1959, China has been closely monitoring his movements in India and abroad. China views him as a “splittist” (or separatist) who has consistently refused to accept Chinese control over Tibet. In reality, the Dalai Lama has accepted Tibet is a part of China, but has only demanded autonomy for Tibet, a predominately Buddhist region with a distinct language, ethnic group, and culture. The Dalai Lama, who had initially fought for a “Free Tibet,” realized that his demand was impractical, as it would be virtually impossible to take on the might of China. He accepted Tibet’s status as a subregion of China, but stuck to his call for autonomy under Chinese sovereignty. To date China has been unwilling to accept this demand.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang has not been taken kindly by China, as they consider Tawang to be part of southern Tibet, and, therefore, a part of China. India, on the other hand, has repudiated their claim, citing a treaty signed by the British and Tibetan representatives, popularly called the “Simla treaty,” under which Arunachal Pradesh was declared to be part of India. China had rejected the treaty on the grounds that the then-Tibetan government was not representing a sovereign country and had illegally entered into an agreement with the British. Arunachal Pradesh became one of the main focal points that led to the Sino-Indian war in 1962, where the Chinese entered 45 kilometers

inside Arunachal Pradesh but vacated to avoid international pressure. However, they did manage to occupy over 30,000 square kilometers in the Aksai Chin area, which they have refused to vacate. Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh continue to be a major thorn in Sino-India relations. In spite of holding 16 rounds of border talks, no agreement is in sight. Enjoying this article? Click here to subscribe for full access. Just \$5 a month.

The Chinese foreign ministry has now sent out feelers to India indicating that, if New Delhi agrees to concede only Tawang (and not their earlier claim of the whole of Arunachal Pradesh), Beijing can consider handing back over 30,000 sq km of land in Aksai Chin. On the other hand, there are now indications in the Indian establishment that if China is willing to forgo its claim on Tawang as well, India may be willing to concede Aksai Chin to China.

Interestingly, the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping had once proposed a similar agreement, saying China was ready to forgo its claim over Arunachal Pradesh if India agreed to accept Aksai Chin to be part of China. India at the time outright rejected the offer. The Chinese government criticized India for not being open-minded about finding a mutually acceptable solution to resolve the dispute.

Lately, China has been flexing its geopolitical muscle, not only with India. Recently, Beijing came down heavily on Mongolia for allowing the Dalai Lama to visit. Fearing economic sanctions, Mongolia was pressured to kowtow to the Chinese and agree not to allow the spiritual leader to visit their country in the future — despite the fact that many Mongolians also consider the Dalai Lama to be their spiritual leader. In fact, the word “Dalai” is Mongolian for ocean, meaning Dalai Lama can be roughly translated as “ocean of wisdom.”

In fact, China has been monitoring all of the Dalai Lama’s visits abroad and has been consistently putting pressure on foreign capitals not to allow him to visit their countries. There is a growing feeling in China that Western countries are using the Dalai Lama as a pawn to embarrass China. The Dalai Lama has become a revered figure not only among Buddhists but people following all religions. His lectures and teachings on compassion and peaceful and thoughtful approaches to life and conflict has endeared to him to the world community. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his efforts to peacefully reconstitute a unified Tibet, despite protests from China.

April 4 will not be the Dalai Lama’s first visit to Tawang. In November 2009, he was allowed by the Indian government to visit Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese had also protested then, but this time the protest appears to more strident. One of the reasons for China’s discomfort is that the Dalai Lama, because of his advancing age, may anoint his successor from Tawang. China wants to control future reincarnations of the Dalai Lama and thus have tighter

control over Tibetans. If the Dalai Lama's reincarnation is found in a traditionally Tibetan area that lies outside China's control, they fear another generation of Tibetan opposition to Chinese rule. In spite of the annexation of Tibet, the Tibetans still continue to revere the Dalai Lama and look for his spiritual guidance. Over 200 Tibetans have immolated themselves during the last few years, protesting against Chinese restrictions on their culture. China, as part of a deliberate strategy, has relocated tens and thousands of Han Chinese in Tibet to check any attempt by the locals against any possible uprising.

The present leadership in India will not buckle under China's pressure, as it is unhappy with China's role in blocking its membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and also for putting a technical hold on India's bid to designate the Pakistan-based chief of Jaish-e-Muhamamd (JeM) as a terrorist. It is for this reason India has decided to take a calculated risk by facilitating the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang.

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<http://thediplomat.com/2017/04/why-china-is-fuming-over-the-dalai-lamas-visit-to-tawang/>

With China, India should hold its ground on inviting the Dalai Lama to Arunachal

By Amit Dasgupta | Hindustan Times, | April 04, 2017

I have long admired His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I continue to do so.

My feelings are not unique. He has an extraordinary following across the globe. His demeanour and wisdom are inspiring. His books are sought after. His presence is uplifting. Like many, I respect him.

He also regularly advocates the need for a Tibet free of Chinese hegemony. I find it perfectly understandable, given his harrowing escape and the constant hounding of Tibetans by Beijing.

Over the years, the Chinese government and official media have branded him as 'a splittist', a 'wolf in sheep clothing' and a trouble maker.

The Dalai Lama's growing international stature, including his Nobel prize, have been an extraordinary challenge for Beijing, which has found it difficult to handle a frail and gentle man, who speaks softly, laughs a lot and advocates

love, reconciliation and brotherhood. Consequently, it has resorted to a petulant vocabulary that is official and insulting, so as to discredit and distance him.

A sense of unilateral touchiness and sensitivity has, in fact, been a hallmark of China's foreign policy, including on Taiwan.

More importantly, it has regularly resorted to threats and harsh retribution if anybody, including governments are not mindful of its concerns. Many took this seriously and publicly shunned His Holiness, including, in fact, the Vatican. Several refused to publicly acknowledge a relationship with Taiwan.

But this did not stop others.

Very recently, Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego was not only ticked off by the Chinese government for inviting the Dalai Lama to address the students but also threatened with retaliation. He was called a lackey of Indian agents, who – in the words of the official Chinese media – were determined ‘to divide China’. Pradeep stood his ground. This would, most certainly, not have been easy.

It is in this context that the recent decision of the Government of India to invite His Holiness to visit Arunachal Pradesh and the historic Tawang Monastery gains importance. It might well emerge as the game changer in Indo-China relations.

Beijing has, understandably, threatened that the decision would impact bilateral relations. Given how low India-China relations are at present, it hardly matters.

How India stands up to Beijing's threats would determine India-China relations for the future. It would also send a message to many other countries, as to whether bullying can be a viable foreign policy strategy.

A fundamental platform of China's foreign policy has been its pathological inability to craft relationships based on mutual understanding. China has constantly used its economic and military might to resort to intimidation and arm-twisting. For a nation determined to lose friends, Beijing under Xi Jingping with his ‘forceful diplomacy’ has consistently failed to understand that it is persuasive diplomacy and not force that wins friends and influences people, especially in a global community that is confronted with significant challenges.

Now is the time for New Delhi to re-craft its terms of engagement with Beijing. Where Xi Jingping seriously miscalculated is that he took Prime Minister Modi hospitality as subservience, when it was, in fact, a hand of friendship. He

needs to recall that Beijing's behaviour in 2016 could not have won any friends in New Delhi.

It remains to be seen as to how firm India's resolve is. Would India consider, for instance, the next President of India from Arunachal Pradesh?

Amit Dasgupta is a former diplomat

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/with-china-india-should-hold-its-ground-on-inviting-the-dalai-lama-to-arunachal/story-fNI9u7ob75Kn8I9mpkcgI.html>

When religion and politics mix: the Dalai Lama and India–China relations

By Jabin T. Jacob | East Asia Forum | April 05, 2017

Amid loud protest from Beijing, the Dalai Lama is slated to visit Tawang in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh from 5–7 April. The visit follows a public meeting with the president of India in December 2016 — the first in some 60 years — and a mid-March address at a major Buddhist conference in the state of Bihar, where the Dalai Lama shared the stage with India's minister of culture.

Beijing's vigorous condemnation of the visit presages a fresh round of tensions in the India–China relationship.

The Chinese have been trying to portray Tawang and Arunachal Pradesh as the central issues in the India–China boundary dispute. In doing so, they are trying to repudiate a significant clause of a landmark 2005 bilateral treaty. The clause states that 'settled populations' in each country's border areas would not be disturbed in the process of reaching a boundary settlement.

Tawang, with India's largest Buddhist monastery and a population of roughly 11,000 at last count, is as 'settled' as they come. This Chinese volte-face, related to continued challenges to their legitimacy in Tibet, may be one reason why boundary negotiations have not made real progress in recent years. Self-immolations in Tibetan areas in China continue, with the latest reported in March. Regaining Tawang — the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama — is seen as important to the Chinese government in its battle against the present 14th Dalai Lama.

In 2008, to Beijing's displeasure, the Dalai Lama acknowledged the legitimacy of the colonial-era McMahon Line between today's Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet. Added to this are Chinese worries about whether or not the Dalai Lama will 'reincarnate', that is, find his successor. If he does so in non-Chinese controlled territory, or even not at all as he has sometimes declared, it will likely ensure a continued challenge to Chinese authority in Tibet.

The Dalai Lama last visited Tawang in November 2009. So the current visit, hosted by yet another Indian central government minister Kiren Rijiju, himself a Buddhist and from Arunachal, is not entirely a novelty.

And yet there are indications that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government is trying to sell the Indian public a certain sense of muscularity in its China policy.

The BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi first signalled a combative approach vis-à-vis China by inviting both the Tibetan Sikyong — the prime minister equivalent of the Central Tibetan Administration — and the Taiwanese representative in New Delhi to his swearing-in in May 2014.

Still, India's very real lack of economic capacity ensures that a 'Tibet card', if it exists, is an entirely notional one. While India tries to use Buddhist soft power as a diplomatic tool, one need only look at how quickly the Mongolians regretted their welcome of the Dalai Lama in November 2016. That the Indian ambassador to Mongolia met with him should highlight India's involvement in the visit. Beijing responded by reading Ulaanbaatar the riot act and imposing an economic blockade.

When the Mongolian ambassador asked India to raise its voice against China's unilateral action, an Indian foreign ministry spokesperson declared in a media briefing that the ambassador's comment had been misconstrued. India would commit only to supporting Mongolia through its 'monetary crisis', with a US\$1 billion credit line announced during Modi's visit in May 2015, the spokesperson confirmed. Mongolia decided to apologise to China the month after the visit.

There are other contradictions on the Indian side. Well over half of India's Buddhists are converts from India's lowest Dalit or 'untouchable' castes. These neo-Buddhists, who have adopted a mix of the major Buddhist schools and view religion as a means for political and social emancipation, have little-to-no visibility in India's Dalai Lama-driven Buddhist showcase and public diplomacy. Even those Buddhists following Tibetan variants along India's frontier areas are largely ignored, Kiren Rijiju being one exception, in India's majoritarian electoral politics.

To return to geopolitics, the Dalai Lama issue foregrounds, among other issues, New Delhi's increasing engagements with China's rivals. These include the United States — the previous US ambassador visited Tawang in October 2016 — Taiwan, Japan and Vietnam. All of this is taking place against the backdrop of a promising, if also troubled, bilateral economic relationship. The scale of India's demand for infrastructure development and manufacturing investments can only be met by China.

Many Indians are unhappy at what they perceive as China's consistently anti-India policies. Examples include China's continued blocking of attempts at the UN to sanction Pakistani terrorists, and its refusal to support India's membership of the Nuclear Supplier's Group. Many perceive India's decision to officially embrace the Dalai Lama as a long overdue response to Chinese unfriendliness. The real question is whether Indian policymakers are adequately prepared for the next stage of Chinese reactions.

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Source: http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2017/04/05/when-religion-and-politics-mix-the-dalai-lama-and-india-china-relations/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=socialnetwork

The Dalai Lama in Arunachal: Why Are the Chinese So Angry?

By Ambassador Ranjit S Kalha | April 05, 2017

The recent visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama [HHDL] to Arunachal Pradesh has brought forth a torrent of protests from Beijing; each becoming shriller by the day. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying went so far as to say that HHDL's visit had "severely damaged China's interests and China-India relations" and further that "China expresses firm opposition to this visit and will lodge stern representations to the Indian side". The Chinese press was no less virulent with the Global Times going so far as to say that "New Delhi may have under-estimated Beijing's determination to safeguard core [emphasis added] interests..." The question is why is Beijing so deeply riled and its reaction so virulent and why has it taken such a hard line position?

There is no doubt that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the Indian Union and as such HHDL is free to visit any part of India, particularly if his mission is concerned with religious affairs. No government in India in the past has ever relented on this aspect, although sometimes discretion has been

exercised. It would, however, be worthwhile also to examine the issue from China's perspective; so as gain understanding on what can be expected from India's northern neighbour, with whom we share a long and an un-demarcated Line of Actual Control [LAC] on our northern borders.

It is not the first time that the Chinese have expressed their ire at HHDL's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and particularly to Tawang. This is HHDL's seventh visit. In the past Chinese protests have died down once the visit was over and things have returned to normal. The sensitivity of the Chinese to this territory and happenings there is also not of recent origin. As far back as 8 September 1959, PM Zhou wrote to Nehru that "this piece of territory corresponds in size to Chekiang province of China and is as big as 90,000 square kilometres. Mr. Prime Minister, how could China agree to accept under coercion such an illegal line that would have it relinquish its rights and disgrace itself by selling out its territory —and such a large piece at that?" If Mao and Zhou in 1959, at the height of their power, could not contemplate abandoning claims to NEFA [as it was then known] in favour of India unilaterally; it becomes exceedingly difficult for the present Chinese rulers to act otherwise. But much has happened since then and circumstances change as do policies.

The present rulers of China base their acceptability and legitimacy to rule on the promise of rejuvenating China, both economically and politically and by stressing that never again would the Chinese people have to face a century of humiliation as they did in the past. The century of humiliation is the period commonly referred to from 1840 to 1949; when the People's Republic was founded. The key point being that China is now politically united under a strong government and in economic terms it is the second largest economy in the world. It aspires to a status of equality with the US and be recognised along with the US as the two great powers of the day. Recently Fu Ying, the Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress [NPC], speaking in the US had this to say about China's present attitude on territorial disputes.

"China stumbled into the 20th Century with its capital under occupation of Imperialist armies and for over a century China suffered the humiliation of repeated foreign aggression and bullying. That is why the Chinese people are very sensitive about anything that is related to the loss of territory and would never allow such recurrence even if it is an inch of land [emphasis added]. This is something that the outside world needs to keep in mind when trying to understand Chinese behaviour."

The present Chinese leadership under President Xi Jinping faces multiple domestic challenges at home, as well as an uncertain US attitude on its eastern seaboard. Domestic challenges range from a slowing economy, an ageing population, wide income disparities and environmental degradation.

The Chinese are unsure on whether Trump might push them towards a trade war; particularly since he refuses to back down on alleged Chinese currency manipulation and unfair trade practices. The Chinese leadership is also heading towards the 19th Party Congress later this autumn, where the leadership for the next five years is nominated/selected. Although Xi Jinping's leadership is by no means under challenge, yet he cannot have his way in the run up to the Party Congress, unless he is seen to be a "strong" leader.

Thus when the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes a stern position and its protests are rather virulent in tone; these are not only meant for India to contemplate, but are also designed to show the Chinese government's domestic audience on how "tough" its stand has been on the issue of Chinese territorial integrity. The Chinese see the visit of HHDL to Arunachal Pradesh and particularly Tawang as a challenge to their territorial integrity. It is for this reason HHDL is dubbed as a "splitist" and they know that his visit even for religious purposes has political overtones that resonates amongst the people of the sub-Himalayan region. The Chinese leadership cannot afford to be seen as "weak" on a matter considered by them to be a core issue. Strategically it makes no sense for the Chinese to open yet another front on its South-Western borders at this stage, when it is faced with far more pressing issues on the South China Sea and on the issue of Taiwan. But there are limits to Chinese patience. We have to keep in mind that China's economy is five times larger than India's and its military expenditure three times as large. China is capable of initiating action in all five formats; land, sea, air, space and cyber.

It is well within our sovereign rights to invite HHDL to visit any part of India, including Arunachal Pradesh. What we should be careful about is not to give un-necessary provocations to the Chinese while asserting our rights. And pique over the Chinese attitude to our membership of the NSG or the Chinese behaviour over Masood Azar are much better dealt with in other forums. It is in our strategic interest to see that the Sino-Indian border remains peaceful, as it has over the last several decades.

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Source: <http://rskalha.blogspot.in/2017/04/the-dalai-lama-in-arunachal-why-are.html?spref=fb>

In response to his post in the facebook, Ms. Nirupama commented the following lines on 06 April 2017.

Tawang is irrevocably a part of India

China does not accept this reality but there is little that it can do to alter this short of a full-scale military offensive which is highly unlikely. Sowing disaffection among the population is a non-starter too. The people of Tawang are totally Indian.

The border between India and China in Arunachal Pradesh is disputed by China.

The presence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in India is a source of tension in the relationship. China has an extremely narrow perspective on the issue. We have done a magnificent job over the last fifty eight years offering refuge to the people of Tibet and their spiritual leader and helping preserve their cultural and religious identity despite Chinese hostility. As Indians we can be proud.

It is true that the Dalai Lama has been to Tawang on a number of occasions in the past.

But these earlier visits had taken place in a less tense atmosphere in bilateral relations. The slope is more slippery today. Re-emergent China and rising India are both governed by aspirational nationalisms.

What next after the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang?

Will the status quo along the Line of Actual Control continue as it has over the last forty years (remain free of conflict)? What geopolitical or strategic advantage have we gained by the Tawang visit? Are we just taunting the Chinese? Or assuaging domestic opinion in India who are itching to see the Chinese given their just desserts?

My takeaway: are we are running the risk of burying the last 30 years in our relations with China? There was nothing seriously wrong with what we did during that period. We got time to review, reconstruct, reinforce and that was not a bad thing. For whatever reason, we have now bought ourselves a new ticket to ride.

Meanwhile in Mar a Lago Presidents Trump and Xi sit down to talk. A little pragmatism, as my mother would say, never harmed nobody.

Nirupama Rao, Former Foreign Secretary of India

Dalai Lama in Arunachal: Delhi Pays Back China in the Same Coin

by Jyoti Malhotra, The Quint, April 5, 2017

(In this context, China on Wednesday said that it will lodge a diplomatic protest with India for "obstinately" allowing the Dalai Lama to visit "disputed" Arunachal Pradesh, causing "serious damage" to bilateral ties.)

India and China are having their roughest week in the past year as Beijing threatens to downgrade the bilateral relationship in the wake of the ongoing visit of the Tibetan holy leader, the Dalai Lama, to Arunachal Pradesh.

The Dalai Lama's visit to the monastery in Tawang has been postponed due to bad weather, but he is still expected to go there. The Chinese are furious that Delhi is allowing the visit because the area – the Chinese claim the region as South Tibet – is disputed and believe India is deliberately violating the status quo by having the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju accompany the Tibetan holy leader on his 12-day visit to Arunachal.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to his visit and interfere in India's internal affairs," Rijiju said, insisting that China should not create an "artificial controversy."

Clearly though, the Indian government is enjoying China's open discomfiture.

Picking on China

Delhi has had to bite its tongue twice over the last year. First, when none other than the Chinese President Xi Jinping refused Prime Minister Modi's request in July 2016 to allow India to accede to the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Second, towards the end of 2016, Beijing denied Delhi the comfort of having the UN censure Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Masood Azhar by disapproving sanctions against him.

Delhi is now paying China back in its own coin. Officials point out that "things cannot get worse than they are already." Delhi has been smarting so long under China's perceived arrogance that it decided to pick on its Achilles heel – Tibet and the Dalai Lama.

Tackling the Dragon

Interestingly, the Tibetan leader's visit to Arunachal is coinciding with Xi Jinping's travels to Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida later this

week. It is highly unlikely that the Dalai Lama will figure in that conversation, but the world will watch for clues as to how the US has strategically decided to deal with China.

Will Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner's business dealings come in the way of a tough approach which Trump had cited earlier, relating to Chinese companies taking away American jobs?

Meanwhile, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is said to have had an important meeting with the US Defence Secretary James Mattis in mid-March, where both men discussed the Afghanistan-Pakistan conundrum. Moreover, the Dalai Lama is expected to visit the US later in June.

After a long, long time, a new great game in Asia is afoot wherein the centre of gravity – or contention – is Beijing, with everyone else, including Delhi, being forced to respond to China's moves.

Tension Simmering on the Border

Allowing the Dalai Lama to go to Arunachal Pradesh is a manifestation of Delhi's determination to seize the initiative.

China has told India that it remains "resolutely opposed to the visit" and that India should not undertake any action that will further complicate the border issue.

But the truth is that Beijing has resiled from its own 2005 agreement when it agreed upon the two "guiding principles" to help resolve the border issue.

The entire 4,057 km-long border – from Aksai Chin in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east – is disputed between the two countries.

In 2005, the Manmohan Singh government took the initiative to resolve the border again. The guiding principles in effect stated that there would be no exchange of populations and that a future resolution of the border would take into account geographical features such as hills and valleys.

But in a couple of years, as the Chinese became economically stronger, the country believed it could afford not to compromise with India on the border issue. Remember that in 2008, China was the last country to accept the India-US nuclear agreement and its concomitant entry into the NSG.

India-Pakistan-China Triad

Watching the trajectory of the China-US relationship will be essential for Indian foreign policy observers – and indeed, all those interested in Indian politics – because that relationship will have a direct impact on India's unfolding relations with China.

Significantly, Modi will soon meet Xi Jinping himself in June on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan. Started in 2001, the SCO is a China-led organisation and this time around will admit both India and Pakistan as full-fledged members.

Certainly, Modi will have the satisfaction of meeting a leader who seems to be much needled by the Dalai Lama – and who goaded Modi personally last year.

As for the Chinese threat that India should back off otherwise the deteriorating relationship will have an impact on the border issue, Indian officials say the Chinese can only ramp up their strategic relationship with Pakistan in the west in order to make life more troublesome for India.

But India seems to be prepared for that – at least, for the time being. Modi still hasn't taken a strategic decision to resume talks with Pakistan, despite small ongoing initiatives.

In fact, at the SCO meeting in Astana, Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will also meet. Question is: Is India-Pakistan-China thaw on the cards on the steppes of Kazakhstan?

India, Safe Haven for Tibetan Refugees

As for the Dalai Lama, he is returning to the route he once took exactly 58 years ago, in the sunset of his life. He knows he must make full use of every week and month that is available to him, from pronouncing a future Dalai Lama to securing free and safe spaces for the growing Tibetan refugee community in India.

As he travels to the Tawang monastery where his incarnation, the sixth Dalai Lama, was born, the Dalai Lama is surely hoping that the Modi government will reciprocate by continuing to give the Tibetan refugees all the help that they need.

The writer is a journalist based in New Delhi and writes on the overlap between domestic politics and foreign affairs.

<https://www.thequint.com/opinion/2017/04/05/dalai-lama-arunachal-tawang-visit-delhi-pays-back-china-in-equal-coin>

China's immature and dangerous behaviour on Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang

By Ashali Varma in No Free Lunch | April 05, 2017

I wonder if the Chinese policy makers have ever taken a step back to think that the Dalai Lama is a very admired person in India and the world. Their hissy fits about him meeting world leaders or travelling to Arunachal Pradesh, do not make an iota of difference to anyone in the real world. In the alternate reality that China lives in, it thinks both Arunachal Pradesh and the Dalai Lama belong to it. This makes China look ridiculous and helpless because no matter how much it screams, the Dalai Lama will travel and meet the world leaders and Arunachal Pradesh still belongs to India.

The point is that China can't fool the world all the time by its outlandish demands and rogue behaviour. It gave North Korea and Pakistan the bomb – two rogue countries. It refuses to accept Masood Azhar is a terrorist, even though the world recognises this. It goes against every international law and grabs as much of the sea and land for itself, while the world looks on as a parent would to a very disturbed and out of control child.

Two leaders I would personally blame for China's consistent bad behaviour is Nixon who wanted very much to deal with China and Nehru who, for reasons we will never know, insisted China become a member of the UN Security Council instead of India. This will haunt us forever. Had India had the powers that China has in the UN, Pakistan would have been declared a terror state with sanctions against it, which would have made it behave. India would have been saved years of terror attacks and Kashmir would have been peaceful. We would have saved thousands of innocent lives and our borders would have been more peaceful.

And without American friendship, China would not have a huge trade surplus with the US and would not be able to think and act like its a world leader and can swallow up as much land and sea as it wants. Without a voice in the Security Council, China would not have been able to get away with the massive proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and we would not have heard a squeak from it regarding Arunachal Pradesh and the Dalai Lama.

I can almost bet that China would not have been able to take Aksai Chin or make inroads into Tawang in 1962. Yes , with India at the big table we would have had the necessary checks and balances against it.

Now the world has to contend with an immature bully whose strong arm tactics; total indifference to human rights; partial to hegemony; frighteningly

against all International Law; having the defence and offence capacities; and determined to have its way.

If the world does not stand together to take down China and Pakistan a peg or two and make them accountable to International Law than we can expect more belligerence and a very unstable future for the comity of nations.

DISCLAIMER : Views expressed above are the author's own.

<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/no-free-lunch/85090/>

Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh notwithstanding, China's increasing activity on LAC is a concern

By Rajeev Bhattacharyya | First Post | April 05, 2017

China's disapproval of the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh notwithstanding, it has continued with its objective to build robust infrastructure in the region contiguous to the disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC). At least two more roads in the Tibet Autonomous Region are nearing completion that will soon reach the Line of Actual Control (LAC) ahead of Mechuka in West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

"Two roads at Chuningla Pass and Seruptangla Pass in the Mechuka subdivision on the LAC built by the Chinese have almost reached the border and are expected to be completed within a few months," said a local resident who serves as a porter for the Indian Army. He claimed to have gone to China for photography on several occasions. The hilly and meandering route from LAC to Mechuka was one of the entry points of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 1962 and it had reportedly reached a place called Gurudwara which is only 15 kilometres from the subdivision headquarters. However, unlike in Tawang and Anjaw, the deployment of Chinese troops is thin across the middle region of Arunachal Pradesh which includes the West and Upper Siang districts.

Another local porter explained that the PLA usually comes in vehicles for inspection of the LAC after every two weeks or so and then returns after a few hours.



The advanced landing ground in Mechuka. Photo courtesy: Rajeev Bhattacharyya.

being conducted in villages near the town. Sometimes, entire villages are vacated for a few hours for the routine mock drills. An advanced landing ground has been completed in the heart of the town, bunkers constructed at all vantage points in the surrounding hills and exercises have been stepped up in the past three years.

Mechuka and many Buddhist settlements in Arunachal Pradesh near the LAC had maintained links with Tibet before the aggression in 1962. Some elderly residents said that even “annual taxes” were paid to the authority in Tibet — a practice that came to an end after the war. A small monastery atop a small hill in the southern fringe of the town has even preserved rare Tibetan religious texts which are on display for tourists.

China has been claiming 90,000 square kilometres of territory in the North East, which includes the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh and the contiguous areas of three districts on the north bank of the Brahmaputra in Assam.

Arunachal Pradesh has a 1,126 kilometre-long International Border with China-ruled Tibet (second in length after Jammu and Kashmir which has a 1,597 kilometre-long frontier). On the Indian side, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has embarked on the construction of roads in several border districts, but the pace has been slow and work almost comes to a halt during the rainy season. At Mechuka, the road has reached beyond Yarlung, but is still 14 kilometres short the border. This is part of a network of 27 strategic border roads in Arunachal Pradesh that have a combined length of 804 kilometres.

But the Indian Army is not taking any chances and especially after an incident two years ago when the PLA had crossed the border at Chuningla Pass and ventured more than 100 metres into Indian territory. There were heated arguments between the two sides for a few hours until the Chinese withdrew to their territory.

When this correspondent visited Mechuka last October, “war games” were

Observers feel that the expanding infrastructure in China across the LAC, including roads, railway, and fibre optics, is aimed at integrating the frontier region with the mainland and facilitating faster mobilisation of troops supported by a strong air defence system.

The growth of infrastructure in China has led to a spurt in intrusions by its army into Indian territory as the data released by the government reveals. There were a total of 180 incidents in 2011 which went up the following year including the episode in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng where two Chinese patrols refused to budge for a couple of days till the arrival of Indian forces. Another patrol even painted 'China' on the rocks near Charding-Nilung Nala at Demchok in Ladakh on 8 July, 2012. Chinese troops had occupied Hundred Hill in Anjaw as recently as 2009, territory that India claims.

The author is a senior journalist in Guwahati and author of Rendezvous With Rebels: Journey to Meet India's Most Wanted Men.

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/dalai-lamas-visit-to-arunachal-pradesh-notwithstanding-chinas-increasing-activity-on-lac-is-a-concern-3368386.html>

Row over Dalai Lama: India and China need to step back and de-escalate tensions

By Rudroneel Ghosh in Talking Turkey | April 06, 2017

With the war of words escalating between India and China over Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, both New Delhi and Beijing need to take a step back and analyse the consequences of their actions. China has even gone so far as to state that the Dalai's tour will severely affect New Delhi-Beijing ties. This is totally unnecessary. Beijing gains nothing by turning the Dalai visit into a prestige issue. Besides, let's be realistic that Tibet is going nowhere. It has become an integral part of China and nothing will change this fact in the foreseeable future.

That the Dalai Lama himself doesn't want Tibet's independence from China but just meaningful autonomy shows that no one is challenging the territorial integrity of China here. Hence, China doesn't need to get worked up to the extent of actually putting the New Delhi-Beijing relationship on the line. At the same time, the Indian government would have known that having Union minister of state Kiren Rijiju accompany the Dalai Lama to Arunachal would have riled up China. This again was unnecessary and the Dalai Lama could have done the tour on his own.

The reason I say this is because both New Delhi and Beijing need to ask themselves what is the end game here. Will confrontation or a freeze in

diplomatic ties help either side? China today is trying to make a difficult economic transition from a manufacturing-driven economy to an innovation-driven consumption economy. And India is a sizeable market for both Chinese investments and goods. Hence, downgrading relations with India doesn't help Chinese interests.

Similarly, India too is at a critical juncture in its economic journey. It needs to create 10 million new jobs every year for its youth or risk being stuck with a demographic time bomb. And as far as India's neighbourhood is concerned, New Delhi already has to deal with a difficult Pakistan. Thus, issues with China are best contained amicably.

It is quite possible that Beijing's recent tirade against New Delhi is a product of Chinese internal politics. After all an important Communist Party of China National Congress is slated to be held later in the year with various party factions jostling for vital posts in the party-state architecture. If Beijing's outburst is linked to this, then the Chinese leadership should also understand that India too has its own compulsions. Is it really willing to risk the entire gamut of India-China ties over an 81-year-old spiritual leader's visit to Arunachal?

Both India and China would do well to hit the refresh button, de-escalate tensions, and bring their relationship back to cooperation and mutual respect.
DISCLAIMER : Views expressed above are the author's own.

<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/talkingturkey/row-over-dalai-india-and-china-need-to-step-back-and-de-escalate-tensions/>

Weather Gods stand between Dalai Lama and Tawang

By Ajai Shukla | Business Standard | April 06, 2017

The weather Gods in Arunachal Pradesh might succeed in what Beijing has failed to do --- preventing His Holiness The Dalai Lama from visiting Tawang during his nine-day tour of Arunachal Pradesh.

If, on Thursday and Friday, heavy snowfall blocks the Dalai Lama from crossing the 13,700 feet-high Sela Pass, through which runs the road from Bomdila and Dirang to Tawang, he might have to drive back to Tezpur without visiting the frontier district that Beijing covets so avidly.

From Tezpur, he would drive to Itanagar to continue his tour of the rest of Arunachal Pradesh.

Weather has played spoilsport since Tuesday, when the Dalai Lama's scheduled helicopter flight from Guwahati to Tawang was cancelled because of bad weather. That forced the Buddhist leader to drive for seven hours to Bomdila.

Currently in Dirang, the towering Sela Pass and another bumpy, seven-hour drive stands between the Dalai Lama and Tawang. The local Monpa community is also weighing the possibility of the Dalai Lama walking a few kilometres to cross Sela, if the snowfall permits four-wheel-drive vehicles to convey him a substantial way to the pass.

While that would be a dangerous task for an 82-year-old person, locals proudly remind Business Standard of the steeliness of this monk who walked three weeks across the Tibetan plateau in 1959, from Lhasa to the Sino-Indian border, with China's Red Army on his heels.

Arunachal Pradesh and its political leaders are in combative mood, encouraged by New Delhi's new willingness to eyeball Beijing. Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijuju, who has made a political career of baiting Beijing, twisted around China's oft-repeated formulation that Taiwan "is an inseparable part of China" to declare that "Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India and China should not object to [the Dalai Lama's] visit and interfere in India's internal affairs."

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu threw petrol on the flames with his reported statement that his state does not share a border with China, only with Tibet.

On Wednesday, China served a sharp reminder to India that such statements tread on dangerous turf. The foreign ministry spokesperson in Beijing declared: "I would like to reiterate that Tibet-related issues bear on China's core interests."

In unusually threatening language, the foreign ministry spokesperson warned: "The Chinese side will take necessary means to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests."

Earlier on Wednesday, China's foreign ministry had summoned the Indian envoy to Beijing, Vijay Gokhale, to convey an official diplomatic protest.

While the Dalai Lama has backed India's claim over Tawang in recent years, this was not always the case. After India's independence in 1947, one of its first foreign policy acts was to write to the (then independent) government of Tibet in Lhasa, asking it to ratify the Simla Convention, which laid down the

McMahon Line as the boundary between Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh (then North East Frontier Agency, or NEFA).

The Tibetan government, headed by the Dalai Lama, however saw the departure of the British from the sub-continent as an opportunity to formally reclaim lost territories --- one of them being Tawang, which the McMahon Line had ceded to the British.

Tibetan claims over Tawang continued even after Communist China invaded Tibet and established Chinese rule over the country in 1950. Only in 1951 did Indian troops enter Tawang and ensure the departure of the Tibetan official who administered the Tawang bowl.

Tibet, therefore, claimed Tawang when it was an independent country. However, the Tibetan government-in-exile's obligations to India do not permit it to continue with that claim.

<http://ajaishukla.blogspot.in/2017/04/weather-gods-stand-between-dalai-lama.html>

What can China do about Dalai Lama's Tawang visit?

There can be four scenarios.

By Rajeev Sharma | Daily O | April 06, 2017

Expect a drastic deterioration in India-China bilateral ties in the coming weeks and months.

Not that Asia's number three and number one economies (India and China, respectively) were enjoying the best of relations in the recent past, but the ongoing visit of Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh has changed the scenario radically.

Now in the aftermath of this event, the two giant Asian neighbours are bound to let go of their velvet gloves and get at each other like gladiators.

China is most likely to be the initiator of aggression this time. Well, aggression doesn't mean in military terms, though the same cannot be ruled out 100 per cent given the high-decibel noises made by China over the issue of Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, his eighth since he fled China and crossed over to India in 1959.

China has explicitly warned India of "necessary measures" it will take to safeguard its core interests - a characterisation of its strategic red lines vis-a-vis India which keep expanding every other day.

Through its favourite mouthpiece among the vast arsenal of state-owned media at its command, *The Global Times*, China has threatened India that New Delhi may have "underestimated" Beijing's resolve to protect its core interests.

India will be ignoring this veiled threat from China at its own peril. India cannot afford to lower its guard at this point of time by all means - militarily, strategically, diplomatically or politically.

The million dollar question is: what can China do?

China can really push the envelope by several means, if it actually means to walk its talk.

Scenario one: China can launch another big ticket incursion into India, this time perhaps not in Ladakh but in Arunachal Pradesh where the Dalai Lama is currently visiting.

But then it would be a soft response, given the current power matrix and the current state of international politics when China is not having the best of relations with the US. It would inevitably lead to a long-drawn battle of wits rather than anything else as China would be deemed as a cry baby internationally in that event without scoring any brownie points.

Scenario two: China launches "surgical strikes" in Arunachal Pradesh while the Dalai Lama visit is still on.

But what will be the purpose of such an action as it would mean virtual declaration of war against India? That too over the visit of a Buddhist monk to a region which China claims to be its own! China would be isolated in the international community from day one, nay the first minute!

Scenario three: China launches a trade war and imposes severe curbs on Indian imports. But, apart from being a soft response, it would harm China more as the current balance of trade is blatantly in favour of China - and has always been.

Scenario four: China does none of the above but turns the heat on India by announcing the next big strategic plans of cooperation with Pakistan.

But what more can be done by China vis-a-vis Pakistan - a relationship which is already deeper than the oceans, higher than the mountains, stronger than

steel and sweeter than honey? After all China is already selling fighter aircraft and submarines to Pakistan and working on the \$51 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

All the above-mentioned scenarios are a big no-no for a power like China which is already behaving like a superpower and pretending to put itself on a par with the world's only superpower, the US. China, of course, cannot be unmindful of the fact that the superpower status has its own trappings.

A superpower cannot be seen to be working on knee-jerk reactions like taking extreme measures in response to a monk's visit somewhere. That would be tantamount to using a missile to get rid of a flea!

Despite all the bravado, China doesn't appear to have many aces up its sleeve. There are many reasons for this.

One, China knows in the hearts of its heart that it is not dealing with the India of 1962 when the two neighbours fought their only and unequal war.

Two, China is shortly going to host a major international summit to propagate its ambitious One Belt, One Road project. Any misadventure with India at this stage will inevitably deflect attention from this biggest foreign policy outreach by China in decades.

Three, India has been cleverly playing the Taiwan card with China of late and this covert strategy is far more ominous for China than the overt strategy of unleashing Dalai Lama as a counterbalancing strategic tool vis-a-vis China.

Four, politically speaking, China would be ill-advised to take India head-on at this stage when Indian PM Narendra Modi is undeniably ensconced as India's strong man and is capable of implementing "the complete jaw for one tooth" kind of reprisal policy.

In conclusion, China doesn't have many chips in its repertoire. If despite that China chooses to embark on some kind of misadventure, the call would be completely China's. After all, it's time for China to finally understand that Arunachal Pradesh and Kashmir are to India what Tibet and Taiwan are for China.

China gets zilch in trying to thwart Dalai Lama's Arunachal Pradesh visit.

The writer is an independent journalist and a strategic analyst.

<http://www.dailyo.in/politics/india-china-dalai-lama-arunachal-pradesh/story/1/16548.html>

Why is China hurting its ties with India over the Dalai Lama's Tawang visit?

After all these years, do the Chinese expect the 82-year-old to lead a revolution to 'liberate' Tibet?

By Colonel R Hariharan | Daily O | April 07, 2017

China does not seem to have realised that India, under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is different from the one ruled by the Congress for a decade.

It is difficult to understand why Beijing is getting worked up over the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang.

The Buddhist spiritual leader fled his homeland and arrived in India, nearly six decades ago, as a young monk of 24 to save himself from the Chinese Army, who sought to crush the mass uprising in Tibet.

After all these years, do the Chinese expect the 82-year-old to lead a revolution to "liberate" Tibet?

Apparently, some sections of the Chinese leadership think so, however absurd it may seem, particularly as the Dalai Lama has repeatedly been saying that his demand was that Tibetans gain autonomy to preserve their identity and religion.

Whether he visits Tawang or not makes not an iota of difference to the status of Tibet and China's territorial disputes with India.

These problems won't vanish into thin air if the Dalai Lama prays at the monastery in Tawang.

The territorial disputes between the two countries have long been on the dialogue table, and are waiting to go through the ordeal of serial talks for the umpteenth time. No light is visible at the end of the "dispute tunnel" as neither side has decided to look to a resolution.

What then does China achieve when its foreign ministry demands that "India stop using the Dalai Lama to do anything that undermines China's interests" and that the "Indian side not hype up sensitive issues between India and China," or by calling the Indian ambassador to China, Vijay Gokhale to lodge a protest?

China's hype over the Dalai Lama's movements has done one thing: it has given wide publicity to his visit.

It has raised a lot of heckles among the public leaving little manoeuvring space for both the governments.

The Dalai Lama does not make front-page news in India till the Chinese make a noise about him. The Indian media makes very little space for him.

The Tibetan cause has to jostle for media coverage in the land full of sadhus (including the corporate ones who have entered our breakfast serial and shampoos), spiritualists, fakirs and a whole tribe of religious leaders whose messages the electronic media beams 24x7.

The Chinese have indeed done a favour to the Tibetan leader by creating a ruckus over his visit.

We can now expect the Dalai Lama's address at the Dirang monastery to be widely broadcast.

Beijing, on the other hand, would do well to read his message: "Situation inside Tibet is tragic. The situation in 21st century will be miserable if it continues like this. The world suffers from short-sightedness which is not good. We shouldn't bully each other."

Pondering on the last sentence of Dalai Lama's message would help cool tempers to take a realistic view of the situation.

China feels that by disregarding its concerns and "obstinately" arranging the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of Sino-Indian border, India is "causing serious damage" to its interests as well as India-China relations.

It is difficult to believe that the Dalai Lama's visit would cause more damage to the bilateral ties when the Chinese have repeatedly trampled upon India's concerns.

It has blocked India's efforts to get Pakistan-sponsored terrorist Azhar Masood blacklisted by the UN, although it knows India has been under serious threat from Pakistan-based jihadi terrorist outfits.

Can it be worse than China finalising the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with utter disregard to India's objections, and start executing the project on Indian territory illegally occupied by Pakistan?

China should seriously ponder how it is dealing with India. India is not Mongolia to be browbeaten by words. Beijing needs good relations with New Delhi as much the latter does. But they won't improve with threats or warnings.

India is not China; it is a vocal democracy where public perception impacts how India acts, probably, much more than it does in China. The earlier the Chinese realise the better the relationship-building will be.

Source: <http://www.dailyo.in/politics/tibet-india-china-dalai-lama/story/1/16569.html>

Is the Dalai Lama's 'reincarnation' in Arunachal Pradesh the real worry for the Chinese?

The Dalai Lama had visited Arunachal Pradesh six times before this. But he was not as old then.

By Manoj Joshi | Scroll | April 08, 2017



Biju Boro / AFP

China has reacted with anger at the visit of the Dalai Lama to Tawang, declaring that New Delhi has “severely damaged China’s interests and China-India relations.” Considering that this is the seventh visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, it is only a mark of the current poor state of the Sino-Indian relations that we are hearing such rhetoric. In any case, given how badly Beijing damages Indian interests through its relationship with Pakistan, the statement is not likely to cut much ice in New Delhi.

Adding salt to China’s injury is the statement of the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, which the Chinese term as “southern Tibet”, observing that his state only shares a border with Tibet, not China.

There is little doubt that the Narendra Modi government has gone out of its way to use the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan issue to needle China, beginning with the invitation to the Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile, Lobsang Sangay, to Modi's oath-taking ceremony in 2014. This time around, the added insult to Beijing was that the Dalai Lama was received at Tawang by the Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh. Just what India seeks to gain from this, however, is not clear.

For many Indians and indeed the world, the Chinese reaction to the Dalai Lama is not easy to understand because India has formally and repeatedly accepted that it recognises Tibet as being part of China. Yet, the Chinese have elevated the necessity to maintain control over Tibet to one of their "core interests", second only to ensuring that Taiwan is not recognised as a separate nation.

Where it all began

The issue of Tibet and the Dalai Lama begins with the very conception of a nation, before the emergence of a nation-state. Empires waxed and waned and functioned in an era where ethnic identities were quite different from today. Before 1912, China was part of the Qing Empire, likewise before 1947, India was part of the British Empire. There are concepts of Sinic or Indic civilisational areas, but to claim that these had clearly marked out borders would be incorrect.

As for Tibet, its relationship with Chinese empires fluctuated over time. Despite Chinese claims to the contrary, the Tang Empire did not control the Tibet-Qinghai region. Tibet was conquered by the Mongols who later conquered China and founded the Yuan empire that lasted between 1270-1354. But their ties with the Tibetans was unique, often termed as a patron-priest relationship and they ruled Tibet in quite a different way from the manner in which they administered China.

The Ming dynasty ruled China between 1368 and 1644 and they more or less left Tibet alone, though they, too, welcomed Tibetan religious leaders in their court. Tibet came under the sway of a number of autonomous Mongol kings with Tibetan religious leaders as the preceptors. One such relationship led to the emergence of the Dalai Lama, the fourth of whose reincarnation was from the family of powerful Mongol chief Altan Khan. However, the apogee of the Dalais came with the fifth Dalai Lama who, in 1642, became the spiritual and temporal ruler of the country.

Two years later, in 1644, the Manchus overthrew the Ming and established the Qing empire. The Manchus, too, accepted the Tibetan religious leaders as their spiritual advisers. And it was not surprising that they invited the Dalai Lama to Beijing. Contemporary records show that their 1654 meeting was

more of a summit of two rulers than anything else. As historian Sam van Shaik puts it,

“Though modern Chinese historians have taken this visit as marking the submission of the Dalai Lama’s government to China, such an interpretation is hardly borne out either by the Tibetan or Chinese records of the time.”

The sixth Dalai Lama was born near Tawang in 1683 and was enthroned in 1697. But he died prematurely amidst turmoil arising from factional quarrels between the Mongol temporal authorities of Tibet. Eventually, in 1720 the Kangxi emperor sent an army with the seventh Dalai Lama at its head, to re-establish his authority. This marked the beginning of the first entry of Chinese armies into Tibet. Nearly two centuries later, in 1910, the Manchu armies again invaded Tibet and deposed the 13th Dalai Lama, but their rule was short lived as the Manchus themselves were overthrown in 1912.

After the overthrow of the Manchu empire, the 13th Dalai Lama issued a declaration of independence for Tibet and expelled its representatives. The current, 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, escaped from Tibet via Tawang in 1959 and has been in exile in India since then, along with more than 1,50,000 of his compatriots.

A brief history

Now, it is interesting that two of the China-based empires who controlled Tibet were themselves foreign – the Mongols and the Manchus. Yet, Beijing is staking claims for the imperial boundaries of the Qing empire as being those of the People’s Republic of China. True, it is not very different from India, which took as its boundaries the ones established by the British Empire. But just as Indians cannot claim that the Northeast was always part of Mother India, neither can the Chinese make similar claims on areas like Xinjiang and Tibet.

Imperial boundaries are also often based on self-aggrandisement and exaggeration. This was more so in the case of Qing China which refused to accept that they had any equal in the world. So, either you were directly administered by the emperor, or his vassal or tributary. And there was a lot of fiction here, independent states like Vietnam were classed as vassals and European traders as tributaries.

China claims it “liberated” Tibet in 1949. This was actually a military operation by the People’s Liberation Army against the Tibetans who had been independent since 1912. The poorly armed Tibetans resisted, but were overwhelmed. They signed a 17-point agreement which was drafted by the Chinese and signed under duress by the Tibetans. Under this, the Tibetans accepted “returning to the motherland of the People’s Republic of China”. In

return the Chinese said they would give “national regional autonomy” and would not alter the existing political system in Tibet and the status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama.

Needless to say, the Chinese violated their side of the agreement from the very outset and finally, when conditions became difficult, the Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 and repudiated the agreement. The PLA now unleashed a massive campaign of repression which was revisited again during the Cultural Revolution in 1966 when many monasteries were destroyed and Tibetan scriptures burnt.



The Dalai Lama. Credit: Anuwar Hazarika/Reuters

What the Chinese want

All this history has been retailed here because the current Chinese quarrel with the Dalai Lama is that while he is willing to accept that Tibet is an autonomous part of China, which as the above history indicates it was for varying periods of time, the Chinese now want him to declare that Tibet has always been a part of China, which is factually incorrect.

Over the years, especially in the 1980s and 1990s, there have been efforts between the Chinese and the Tibetans to negotiate a settlement. In 2002-2004, the Dalai Lama’s brother Gyalo Thondup and his special envoy, Lodi Gyari, also visited Tibet. Some of the more recent ones were encouraged by the United States, which, ironically played an earlier role in throwing the

Tibetans to the wolves when they first used them to fight the Chinese and then, when they made up with Beijing, abandoned them. But little came out of all this and in 2008, the Dalai Lama said he had given up hope of negotiations with China on Tibet.

In 2011, on a visit to Lhasa, Xi Jinping, then Vice-President, had stood in front of the Potala Palace, the Dalai Lama's traditional seat and called on the country "to thoroughly fight against the separatist activist activities by the Dalai clique...." Two years later, Yu Zhensheng, ranking Politburo standing committee member in-charge of Tibet, made an extensive tour of Tibet and reiterated Xi's views and declared that the Dalai's call for autonomy was against the Chinese constitution.

"Only when the Dalai Lama publicly announces that Tibet is an inalienable part of China since ancient time... can his relations with the CPC [Communist Party of China] Central Committee possibly be improved."

Worry about 'reincarnation'

Now, of course, we are at the endgame. The Dalai Lama is ageing. His "reincarnation" is on the mind of the Chinese.

Tibetan Buddhists believe that everybody is reborn, but people have little control over their own reincarnation, since that is governed by their karma. What complicates matters is the unique Tibetan idea that a person is not immediately reincarnated after death. The superior Bodhisattvas, called tulku, of whom the Dalai Lama is the seniormost, it is believed are able to determine whether and where they will be reborn – and when.

They are supposed to leave clear instructions about the process, so that there is no ambiguity, and the process is not manipulated or misused by anybody for their own personal or political interests. The reincarnated Dalai Lama has thus to be not selected – but found. Incidentally, the first Dalai Lama was not found in his lifetime, but Gendun Drup, a shepherd turned monk, who died in 1474, was considered such after his death.

The current Dalai Lama has, however, said that it would be better that the centuries-old tradition ceased "at the time of a popular Dalai Lama". Better to have no Dalai Lama than "a stupid one", the Dalai Lama told the [BBC](#). On his own website, the Dalai Lama [explains](#) it thus:

The Dalai Lamas have functioned as both the political and spiritual leaders of Tibet for 369 years since 1642. I have now voluntarily brought this to an end, proud and satisfied that we can pursue the kind of democratic system of government flourishing elsewhere in the world. In fact, as far back as 1969, I made clear that concerned people should decide whether the Dalai Lama's

reincarnations should continue in the future. However, in the absence of clear guidelines, should the concerned public express a strong wish for the Dalai Lamas to continue, there is an obvious risk of vested political interests misusing the reincarnation system to fulfil their own political agenda. Therefore, while I remain physically and mentally fit, it seems important to me that we draw up clear guidelines to recognise the next Dalai Lama, so that there is no room for doubt or deception.

The Chinese have said that this is not acceptable.

As of 2007, the State Administration for Religious Affairs in China had decreed that the reincarnations must be approved by government else they would be declared invalid.

The Chinese have done this before and have been planning for life after the current Dalai Lama. On May 15, 1995, the current Dalai Lama named a six-year-old boy Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama. The Panchen Lama is the second most important leader among Tibetan Buddhists, part of the process by which each new Dalai Lama is chosen. On May 17, 1995 the Chinese authorities installed another boy, Gyaincain Norbu, in his place as the 11th Panchen Lama. Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family have been [missing](#) and have not been seen in public since that day.

The Dalai Lama is aware that the Chinese are waiting for his death and will recognise a 15th [Dalai Lama](#) of their choice.

It is clear from their recent rules and regulations and subsequent declarations that they have a detailed strategy to deceive Tibetans, followers of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition and the world community... I have a responsibility to protect the Dharma and sentient beings and counter such detrimental schemes...

It is particularly inappropriate for Chinese communists, who explicitly reject even the idea of past and future lives, let alone the concept of reincarnate Tulkus, to meddle in the system of reincarnation and especially the reincarnations of the Dalai Lamas and Panchen Lamas. Such brazen meddling contradicts their own political ideology and reveals their double standards. Should this situation continue in the future, it will be impossible for Tibetans and those who follow the Tibetan Buddhist tradition to acknowledge or accept it.[SEP] [SEP]

The Chinese seem to realise that they could never rule Tibet without the Dalai Lama's spiritual authority. Given the current relationship between China and the Dalai Lama, you can be sure that the Dalai Lama, even if he decides to "reincarnate", will not choose to do so in any Chinese controlled area. So, we are likely to see a Dalai Lama selected by the Chinese, who will have little

respect among the Tibetans, or possibly another one in an area outside Chinese control, say, Mongolia or India, who will not be able to exercise his authority in Tibet, which explains the Chinese anger whenever the Dalai Lama visits any of these places.

This reincarnation issue is perhaps also the reason why China has of late been insistently pressing its claim to Tawang. What the Chinese worry about now is the prospect of a Dalai Lama reincarnating in Tawang and its environs and establishing his spiritual authority over the Tibetans.

Tawang is one of the great monasteries of Tibetan Buddhism built at the instance of the fifth Dalai Lama in 1680-81. Tawang became part of British India through the Simla Convention of 1914 arrived at between the Tibetan government and the British government. Till 2003, even the Dalai Lama maintained Tawang was Tibetan, but since then he changed his position and now he says that Tawang is a part of India.

The Chinese, too, earlier did not think much about Tawang being in India. After all, they occupied it for several months during the 1962 war and then pulled out. Thrice they have indicated that they were willing to trade off their eastern claims for India's western ones in Aksai Chin. But now their position has hardened.

The Tawang issue, the Dalai Lama's visit all seem to have put Sino-Indian relations in a time machine taking us to the 1950s and 1960s. All the positive vibes that were there in the early 2000s have vanished and both countries will be the losers for it.

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<https://scroll.in/article/834033/the-dalai-lamas-reincarnation-in-arunachal-pradesh-is-the-real-worry-for-the-chinese>

China's official/quasi-official blasts on Dalai

By Saurabh Kumar | Oped | The Pioneer | April 08, 2017

Vitriolic Chinese reactions to the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang and other monasteries in Arunachal Pradesh have attracted astounded adverse attention in the country, and rightly so. But it would not be prudent to sit back with their dismissal as quirks of the inscrutable Chinese. Unreasonable and unpredictable or whatever, this is the neighbour India has to live with. An all-out effort to understand the Chinese stance — in the sense of being able to fathom what is on their mind — is called for, obviously, in order to enable

crafting of a fitting response to such bellowing. And not just at the level of the Government's diplomatic machinery, which has had a long tradition of assigning some of the country's finest diplomats to grapple with the dragon's fire-spewing moves, but also at the "people to people" level if negative public opinion feedback loops and spiraling vicious cycles that can lead to things getting out of hand are to be avoided.

A first — but vital — step in that direction, it seems to this student of the "Middle kingdom", is to monitor how news about this and other such delicate matters is presented by the Chinese Government to its own citizenry. It is sometimes assumed that there is no such thing as public opinion in China, in the sense that public opinion is a crucial factor influencing decision-making in open societies. This is not true, and quite simplistic and naive in fact. No doubt there is a sharp asymmetry in the ruling dispensation's capacity to control public opinion in India and China because of their vastly different, divergent, socio-political systems but that cannot be taken to mean that public opinion is not a factor to be reckoned with in the course of decision-making in the latter. And not just in recent years because of the digital media (though, of course, greatly accentuated by the advent of the I-net) but inherently so.

It is not commonly appreciated how insecure the leadership in China is because of the lack of (formal) legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party's (CPC) rule. They are acutely conscious of that gaping hole and never ever take its permanence for granted, public projections of the Chinese State to the contrary notwithstanding. Everything that is done, or that the leadership refrains from doing, is governed by that overriding consideration. In particular, the "line" to be taken by the State-controlled propaganda organs which includes the media, above all, on anything and everything for it is that which shapes popular opinion.

Ever since the cataclysmic April 1989 events at Tiananmen, the nightmare scenario the CPC leadership seeks to avoid is a coincidence of discontent at the ground level over any issue on which there is, or can be, divergence/difference of opinion in the top echelons of the Party capable of resulting in a schism on the question of invocation of the ultimate source of power — the gun in the hands of the PLA — to deal with the situation. In 1989, there was a sharp split on that very question with the then Premier, Zhao Zi Yang, sympathetic to the student protesters at Tiananmen and, but for the prestige and influence of Deng Xiao Ping (who swung the decision to call in the PLA to deal with the protesters), the CPC could have been swept into the dust bin of history.

Providing suitable content for the State-controlled media, and propaganda machinery as a whole, therefore, is a key task — and perhaps the foremost challenge — for the top leadership of the CPC. It is anything but random or accidental. Especially in case of India, which has enjoyed high prestige among

the Chinese people traditionally as the land of Buddhism. And that is what makes the exercise of monitoring the projection of India (or any country or any issue, for that matter) made in the official and quasi-official Chinese media for the Chinese people through selection of (and slant given to) news a most interesting and rewarding one.

It is in this context that the attention of readers is invited to the following translation of the editorial in the semi-official Global Times of April 6, 2017 on the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. It was also carried by the English version of the newspaper the same day but not in full. Both versions are presented below together, in one piece, through the italics/strike-through contrivance: Additional sentences/phrases in the Chinese version missing in the English version are put in italics, while sentences/phrases in the English version not carried in Chinese are shown by a strike-through.

Not all differences between the Chinese and English versions are substantive or significant, of course. Some stem from differences in the manner of translation, so fall in the category of the purely stylistic and linguistic. But overall, a reading of the editorial with a focus on the difference between the two versions is instructive. The photograph, unattributed to anyone and without a mention of whose picture it is, is as carried in the English version.

Why were some terms/phrases/assertions not used/include in Chinese? Conversely, why was a straightforward translation of the editorial not carried in English in full, instead of putting out an edited version? These are unlikely to have been indeliberate decisions. If so, the reasons underlying the fine-tuning that has gone in to tailor each to their respective audience — the Chinese populace (domestic) and audiences in India and elsewhere (foreign) respectively — can tell us something about the considerations that are likely to have prevailed in the mind of the editors.

Of course, those reasons can only be surmised, not established beyond doubt. But it is not difficult to discern plausible patterns on the basis of contextualisation, against the background of the larger political environment prevailing within that intellectually challenging country and the baffling nature of its polity. This will be attempted in the succeeding part of the article next Saturday on this page.

India's use of Dalai Lama card crude and tactless

The 14th Dalai Lama started his visit to the so-called "Arunachal Province" in India (South Tibet of China) on Tuesday. This is the South(ern) Tibet region of China. The Dalai Lama has been facilitated to the disputed region A-province before, but what makes this trip different is that he was received and accompanied by India's junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju all the way through. Also When China raised the concern over the visit, Rijiju the Minister,

commenting with strange logic, commented demanded) that China shouldn't intervene in their should respect India's "internal affairs." Rijiju is India's Bharatiya Janta Party's youngest Parliamentarian, youthful and aggressive with a proclivity to project a proud (hard-line) posture.

When the Dalai Lama clique fled from Tibet, he sought shelter at Dharamsala of India, thus the Dalai question became one of the problems that upset Sino-Indian relationship, which became his base camp. New Delhi takes a stance that opposes the Dalai Lama engaging in anti-China activities on the soil of India; however, it has long attempted to use the Dalai Lama as a card.

When India emphasizes the relationship with China, it would place a tight control on the Dalai. When it has a grudge against China, it may prompt the Dalai to play certain tricks as a signal sent to China.

Recently, India has been strongly dissatisfied with China for not supporting its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani terrorist group, to a UN Security Council blacklist was disapproved by China, resulting in some Indians calling for a boycott of Chinese goods. The Dalai's high profile sponsored visit to Arunachal Pradesh this time is widely seen outside and within India as New Delhi using the monk as a diplomatic tool to put pressure on China.

But this is a clumsy and rude move. The Dalai is a highly politicised symbol in China's diplomacy. For any country, its attitude toward the Dalai Lama almost affects *more or less determines the entire relationship* with China. The West has fully recognised the nature of the Dalai as a diplomatic card and is extremely prudent in using it. When the Dalai travels to the capital of a Western country, who will meet him, when and where would be carefully weighed.

(*It is surprising that*) an Indian Minister accompanied the Dalai Lama, and not long back he was received by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee. This has violated all conventions regarding treatment accorded to the Dalai Lama by New Delhi in recent years. At a time when the Dalai has been given a cold shoulder in many places of the world, New Delhi is bucking the trend and treating him as a favorite ("hot potato").

It is worth mentioning that India is dissatisfied with China mainly in the international multilateral field, while the Dalai Lama question is purely a China's domestic issue. *India's use of the Dalai card in order to vent spleen at its frustration in multilateral forums is like flying into a rage out of humiliation (or losing mental balance out of anger and paranoia)..*

China also suffered setbacks when applying for the membership of international organisations. Its proposal to blacklist some terrorist group had

also been refused. However, as dissatisfied as China was, it didn't make an issue of them. *The India of today comes out as a "tender faced but glass hearted" spoilt child ("over sensitive" and rather peevish). May be that Western public opinion, which never tires of directing fire at China in a bid to run it down, is coaxing India with a view to getting it to spoil everything (between China and India).*

New Delhi probably overestimates its leverage in the bilateral ties with China. The two countries in recent years have continuously strived to improve their relationship and the peace on the border area has been maintained. India has benefited from the good momentum of bilateral relationship as much as China *probably no less than China and its resulting dependence on peaceful cooperation between the two countries is likewise not as low as that of China.* To tell the truth: If New Delhi ruins the Sino-India ties and the two countries turn into open rivals, can India afford the consequence?

Indians must also consider how many "diplomatic tools" China could come up with if it were to (be inclined to) develop them against India! With a GDP several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India's peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India's turbulent northeastern States border China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?

It is hoped that the Indian side will maintain calm and restraint and not pander to populist and nationalist public opinion. China considers India as a friendly neighbour and partner and wishes to patiently resolve some of the knotty problems between the two countries. China has never provoked bilateral disputes or made any pressing demand on India over the Dalai Lama. New Delhi should be reasonable; it should not make capricious demands upon the Chinese side and should respond to Beijing's goodwill with goodwill.

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<http://www.dailypioneer.com/columnists/oped/chinas-officialquasi-official-blasts-on-dalai.html>

India must not give in to Chinese intemperance

By Soli J Sorabjee | The New Indian Express | April 09, 2017

Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang and China's Reaction: Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of numerous Tibetans. India received him warmly after his escape from Tibet. The Dalai Lama has clarified on numerous occasions that he is not advocating separation of Tibet from China. His concern is for preserving the cultural and spiritual rights of the Tibetan people. A series of religious discourses by the Dalai Lama will begin in Tawang on Saturday and he will leave on 11th April.

China's tirade against India emanates from its stand that Arunachal Pradesh is Chinese territory. China took umbrage to minister Kiren Rijiju's statement that "China should not object to the Dalai Lama's visit and interfere in India's internal affairs". The Chinese tabloid Global Times threatened that Beijing could interfere in turbulent Kashmir in retaliation. It said in its editorial that if New Delhi chooses to play dirty, Beijing would not hesitate to answer blows with blows. India must not be cowed down by China's intemperate and abusive reaction. It should be emphasised that Arunachal Pradesh is part of India and it is not China's business who should visit that part of India.

Mental Make-up of MPs & MLAs: Shiv Sena member of Parliament Ravindra Gaikwad beat an Air India officer on duty with his slippers because he was not allowed a business class seat to which he was not entitled. Air India and five other airlines blacklisted Gaikwad and refused to fly him in their aircrafts. Thereafter good sense or pragmatism prevailed and Gaikwad expressed regret in a letter written to the Minister and described the incident as unfortunate. Meanwhile, MPs of Shiv Sena, which is an ally of the BJP in Maharashtra, created noisy scenes in Lok Sabha and threatened to boycott an NDA meeting on 10th April unless the ban on Gaikwad was lifted. Interestingly, the Air India employees' unions had backed the carrier's decision to ban the MP while the AI Cabin Crew Association on Friday morning stated that Gaikwad will continue to be a risk to flight safety and flight operations, and to cabin crew safety on board, and hence government must think long and hard about letting Gaikwad off.

The association further said that the MP's actions were criminal acts of violence and for the Ministry or Parliament to allow such a person to get away without even a rap on his knuckles or even forcing an apology to all Air Indians and indeed all Indians, would be a crying shame. Unfortunately, Air India on Friday afternoon lifted the flight ban on Gaikwad, apparently following orders from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which advised Air India and other private airlines to revoke the ban in view of the apology tendered and undertaking by Gaikwad of good conduct in future. It seems that the decision to lift the ban with immediate effect follows a meeting between Minister of

State for Civil Aviation and Air India CMD on Thursday evening to resolve the impasse over the flight ban. It is indeed a crying shame that Gaikwad has got off lightly and a bad precedent has been set.

Forced Nationalism: The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh wants students to be filled with the sentiment of ‘nationalism’. The concerned minister said that from the coming academic session students and teaching staff will sing national anthem in the morning and national song in the noon before leaving college. According to the minister, youngsters need to learn the values of the society and enquired what’s wrong in requiring students to sing national anthem in colleges and universities. There is no doubt that national anthem is soul stirring. The moot question is whether by forcing students to sing is nationalism nurtured? National anthem can be played and sung in schools or colleges and also voluntarily by a group of students. That would preclude any controversy and protests about the singing of national anthem by Muslim organizations. It appears that recently Meerut Municipal Corporation decided to start its proceedings with singing Vande Mataram. No problem. But the tendency to impose any action should be checked. An instance is the dress code recently mooted for youngsters studying in various campuses across the state.

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<http://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/columns/soli-j-sorabjee/2017/apr/09/india-must-not-give-in-to-chinese-intemperance-1591537.html>

Monk in the midst of muck

By Claude Arpi | The Pioneer | April 09, 2017

China speaks big and loud, but it has not been able to win the hearts of the Tibetans 60 years after their so-called liberation. How can the Communist leadership convince the people of Arunachal to join the authoritarian regime?

Buddhists believe in the concept of sacred places or *peethas*. During the 10th century, the great Indian yogi Tilopa said that *peethas* are to be found inside your own self, though “outer *peethas* are mentioned in the scriptures for the benefit of simple fools who wander about”. *Peetha* or not, Tawang is undoubtedly a special spot, a place of power. Is that why the ‘Hidden and Blessed Land of Mon’ is so coveted by China?

Located near the tri-junction between India, Tibet, and Bhutan, south of the McMahon Line, Tawang is today perhaps one of the most strategic districts in

the country. Though before October 1962, no Chinese had ever set foot in the area, Beijing still dreams of controlling it. In the recent weeks, China has vociferously and threateningly reasserted its claim, but despite the noise in the Chinese media (and the protest of the Chinese spokesperson), the Narendra Modi Government saw no reason to not go ahead with the visit of the most honoured guest of India, the Dalai Lama.

HISTORY OF THE PLACE

'Lama Geno', in Monpa language could be translated as 'the Lama knows'. It is what Tsangyang Gyatso, the young Sixth Dalai Lama, wrote with his finger on a stone in Ugyeling, his native village south of Tawang, in 1688. A high delegation had just arrived from Lhasa looking for the reincarnation of the Fifth Dalai Lama who had passed away a couple of years earlier in Tibet. The boy 'knew' that the Lamas had come to 'take him back' to Tibet.

It is just one of the numerous stories or legends in Mon Tawang; the Monpas are fond and proud of these legends. Today, Beijing tries to use the fact the Tsangyang Gyatso is born in a village south of Tawang to prove that the area belongs to China; but given the fact that Shiva resides in the Kailash, would that make the area around the sacred mountain part of India? Moreover, suppose the 15th Dalai Lama is reborn in Ladakh or Kinnaur, would it make J&K or Himachal Pradesh part of the Middle Kingdom? Chinese logic serves its own interests.

THE SIMLA CONVENTION

History caught up with Tawang in 1913 when two intrepid British 'explorers', Capts Frederick Bailey and Henry Morshead, of the Survey of India scouted the Tibetan side of the 'snow line' in search of a northern border for India. Their experience and notes would be invaluable for Henry McMahon, India's Foreign Secretary during the Simla Conference in 1914 during which Lonchen Shatra, the Tibetan Plenipotentiary, sat on equal footing with McMahon and Ivan Chen, the Chinese representative. On their first day in Simla, the three plenipotentiaries had verified their respective credentials whose bona fide was accepted by all. Today, China denies this, but it is a historical recorded fact. The Convention signed by India and Tibet (and only initialed by China) did not solve the tricky Tibet-China frontier issue, but the border between India and Tibet was fixed in the form of a thick red line on a double-page map — that was the McMahon Line.

After the Chinese troops of Zhao Erfeng, the warlord of Sichuan, entered Lhasa in 1910 and tried to capture the Dalai Lama, London thought that it would be better for India and Tibet to have a demarcated border, though for centuries, trade, cultural, and religious exchanges had been going on between

the Land of Snows and the subcontinent without hindrance or formal guarded border posts. Between good neighbours, a fence is not required.

In the early 1930s, though the Buddhist neighbour in the north remained friendly and peaceful, Sir Olaf Caroe, the far-sighted Foreign Secretary, thought it was time to assert the Red Line as India's border with Tibet; as a result, the first Indian expedition went to Tawang in 1938.

INDIA BECOMES INDEPENDENT, TIBET IS INVADED

Life continued for a few years; India became independent, the Tricolour flag continued to float over Dekyi Linka, the Indian Mission, but soon clouds started accumulating in the roof of the world's blue sky. Without warning, in October 1950, Communist China invaded Tibet.

A dying Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel got the ball rolling to protect India's borders. With Sir Girija Shankar Bajpai, the Secretary General of the Ministry of External Affairs, he took the initiative to set up a North and North-East Border Defence Committee under Maj Gen Himatsinghji, the then Deputy Defence Minister. The Committee's first decision was to take over the administration of all Indian territories south of the McMahon Line. The experience of Kashmir, where India reacted too late, was not to be repeated.

Assam Governor Jairamdas Daulatram (NEFA was then part of Assam) ordered a young but highly decorated Naga officer, Maj Bob Khathing, to march to Tawang. On January 17, 1951, Bob, accompanied by 200 troops of Assam Rifles and 600 porters, left the foothills for the historic mission. During the following weeks, the young officer showed his toughness, but also diplomatic skills. In the process, the Monpas were delighted to get, for the first time, a proper administration.

THE DALAI LAMA TAKES REFUGE

Eight years later, Tawang made news when a fleeing Dalai Lama crossed the border at Khenzimane, north of Tawang, and took refuge in India. A few days earlier, the young Lama had sent a telegram from Lhuntse Dzong in Southern Tibet to Jawaharlal Nehru: "Ever since Tibet went under the control of Red China and the Tibetan Government lost its powers in 1951... the Chinese Government has been gradually subduing the Tibetan Government." He asked the Prime Minister: "I hope that you will please make necessary arrangements for us in the Indian territory."

According to Har Mander Singh, the Political Officer posted in Bomdila, a junior Tibetan officer reached the border post on March 29 and informed the Assam Rifles that the main party consisting of the Dalai Lama, his family, ministers, and tutors would be entering India on March 31.

On the appointed day, the Dalai Lama and his party reached Khenzimane. "His Holiness was riding a yak and was received by the Assistant Political Officer, Tawang. They proceeded to the checkpost without halting at the frontier," wrote the Political Officer. On April 3, 1959, Nehru answered the Dalai Lama: "My colleagues and I welcome you and send you greetings on your safe arrival in India. We shall be happy to afford the necessary facilities for you, your family and entourage to reside in India. The people of India who hold you in great veneration will no doubt accord their traditional respect to your person."

After resting a few days first in Tawang and then in Bomdila, on April 17, the Dalai Lama reached Tezpur in Assam from where he issued a statement denouncing China's occupation of Tibet. The rest is history. Beijing never digested the fact that India granted asylum to the Dalai Lama. Incidentally, when the Dalai Lama crossed the border in 1959, China did not claim the area south of the McMahon line. Several articles appeared in the Chinese media about the so-called 'Tibetan rebellion' which had started on March 10, and the subsequent flight of the young monk to India, but in the Communist literature in April/May 1959, there is not a single word about Tawang being part of China.

But as a mark of their displeasure, the Chinese entered the Indian territory north of Tawang in October 1962, using the same tracks that the Dalai Lama passed through three years earlier. The Indian Army was woefully unprepared and the infrastructure non-existent. It was a watershed in Indian history.

NUMEROUS VISITS TO THE STATE

Since then, the Dalai Lama visited Arunachal Pradesh six times between 1983 and 2009. The Tibetan leader's first trip was in 1983, when he toured some of the Tibetan settlements in the State, as well as Bomdila, Tawang, and Dirang. In December 1996, he came back to Itanagar, and in October the next year, he was again in Tawang. In May 2003, the spiritual leader travelled to Tawang before visiting Itanagar in December. The last trip was in November 2009 when he was received in Tawang by the late Chief Minister (and father of the present CM) Dorjee Khandu. Each time China protested, but not as vociferously as during the present trip.

CHINA IS FURIOUS AGAIN

Why did China react so mildly the previous times? Probably, China has today become 'bigger'; it refuses to be contradicted by 'smaller' nations. Beijing also knows that the visit of the Dalai Lama to Tawang means a reassertion of India's border in the area.

Beijing used batteries of ‘experts’, including a wanted ULFA dissident, to project its case. Lian Xiangmin, a ‘Tibetologist’ at the China Tibetology Research Center in Beijing, warned India: “These are sensitive areas. Such a visit by the Dalai Lama touches sensitive issues and will undoubtedly negatively affect China-India relations.”

Lian used ‘Chinese’ logic to make his point: “One of the three major temples of Tibet is Drepung monastery near Lhasa, and Tawang was a subsidiary of Drepung, and in history, Tawang’s monks went to Drepung to study *sutras*. Tawang under Drepung also made contributions to the local Government. So Tawang is part of Tibet and Tibet is part of China, so Tawang is part of China. So this is not much of a question.”

For centuries, the Buddhist Himalayan belt had close connections with Tibet; most of the monasteries in Ladakh were affiliated to monasteries in Western Tibet; similarly for Kinnaur, Spiti, Lahaul or Sikkim, which were linked with other religious centres in Tibet. According to the logic of Lian, should all these areas also become Chinese?

WINNING THE HEARTS

China speaks big and loud, but the regime in Beijing has not been able to win the hearts of the Tibetans more than 60 years after their so-called liberation. In these circumstances, how could the Communist leadership convince the population of Arunachal Pradesh to join the authoritarian regime?

Beijing should take note of the Dalai Lama’s immense popularity in Arunachal. Despite the short notice, tens of thousands came to get the Lama’s blessings. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, who accompanied the Tibetan leader on his journey to Bomdila, remarked: “We are humbled and will remain ever grateful to His Holiness. He has fulfilled the prayers of thousands of devotees who have waited eight long years to hear and see him in person.”

The entire State and district administrations, as well as local lamas and politicians were seen as the Dalai Lama arrived in Bomdila. His immense popularity deeply irritates Beijing whose propaganda is unable to win the ‘masses’, whether on the Tibetan side of the border or in the Indian Himalaya.

In Tawang, not only the entire local Monpa population will throng to have a glimpse of the Bodhisattva of compassion, but large flocks of Bhutanese, too, who have trekked from the neighbouring districts of Tashigang and Tashiyangtse, and Buddhist pilgrims from the remotest village of Upper Subansiri, West Siang or Upper Siang districts, who would have travelled for days to have a once-in-a-lifetime *darshan*.

Beijing does not know how to react to such popularity and reverence for the Tibetan leader. It is probably inconceivable for an atheist mind.

The Modi *sarkar* has taken the right decision by letting the visit happen; it is not only a question of religious freedom, but Delhi has also reasserted its border with China. If China is under the impression that Delhi's policy is going to change, it is mistaken; Beijing has to reconcile and live with it.

It is perhaps time for China to hold serious discussions with the Dalai Lama; he is the only one who can unlock the vexed Tibetan issue. But before that, the Chinese leadership has to learn *samata* or equanimity from India.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/sunday-edition/sunday-pioneer/tarot/monk-in-the-midst-of-muck.html>

India Need Not Worry About China's Bluster on Tawang and the Dalai Lama

By Kanwal Sibal | The Wire | April 09, 2017

China's policies in Tibet are reprehensible. The destruction of Tibetan patrimony during the cultural revolution was terrible. The suppression of the human rights of Tibetans, the demographic changes being wrought in Tibet through Han migration, the damage being done to the region's fragile ecology (China's record of environmental destruction on its own territory legitimises concerns about its activities in Tibet), the increasing militarisation of Tibet when no external threat to China's control of that territory exists, the water projects being built on the Brahmaputra disregarding lower riparian rights – all of this has a central bearing on not just the Tibetan question but India-China relations too.

The large number of cases of self-immolation by the Tibetans in protest against China's suppression of the Tibetan community is glossed over by those in our country who are otherwise vociferous on rights issues in India. No distinction is made between the non-violent methods being used by the Tibetans to obtain their rights and the Uighur in East Turkestan, who are resorting to violence against the Chinese authorities and the Han Chinese. The reports coming out of East Turkestan about the suppression of Islamic practices there do not seem to agitate those in India who are critical of the Indian government's policy of giving the Tibetan leader the right to function across the country in his religious capacity.

China's spectacular economic growth has given it financial and military sinews that it is aggressively exercising to advance its interests. It has begun to bully and intimidate other countries, with its expansionist tendencies becoming pronounced of late in the East China and South China seas. China defines its core interests arbitrarily and then expects others to respect them even when they clash with the core interests of others. Its policies in our region have been extremely provocative for years, but they have got used to an equation where any resistance to their policies towards us and in our region is seen as a provocation by India.

A regime that accepts no dissent

The Dalai Lama has been in India since 1959. Over 58 years, China has surely assessed objectively the extent of support he receives from India to destabilise Tibet. India has not interfered in direct contacts between his emissaries and China. We have not instigated him to seek independence and have not discouraged him from accepting a genuinely autonomous Tibet as part of the People's Republic of China (PRC). China's inability to find a solution to the Tibetan question is the political failure of an authoritarian regime that accepts no dissent. China cannot expect others to accept a solution to the Tibetan question that denies a people its political, cultural and religious rights, that relies on military occupation and demographic change, and that goes against our own democratic, pluralist and humanist principles.

Worse, China uses its military occupation of Tibet against the wishes of its people to make demands on Indian territory in the name of the suppressed Tibetans. In recent years it has become more assertive in its claims – calling Arunachal Pradesh South Tibet – and has now begun to specifically claim the Tawang tract as the minimum condition to consider a settlement. Besides violating the 2005 agreement on guidelines and parameters for a political settlement of the boundary question, China, by making the claim to Tawang public through its erstwhile chief negotiator for the boundary question, has bound its own hands and ours for the future. China will not withdraw this claim and we will never accept it. Instead of recognising Chinese chicanery, some Indian commentators are worried by what China might do if we allowed the Dalai Lama to tour Arunachal Pradesh and visit Tawang, as we have done.

The Dalai Lama has visited Arunachal Pradesh six times since 1983, including his visit to Tawang in 2009. Our foreign ministry is right in decrying Chinese attempts to create an artificial controversy around the latest visit. The tone of Chinese statements is unacceptable. It is not India but China that is severely damaging the bilateral relationship by not only making untenable territorial claims on Indian territory, but also its policies south of the Himalayas, especially the building up of the political and military capacity of an inveterately hostile Pakistan against us. Its hubris prevents it from seeing the

glaring contradiction between its position on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Arunachal Pradesh. It considers the building of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through PoK and the presence of its enterprises and PLA personnel there as legitimate even though it violates India's sovereign rights over that territory. It has prevented international financial institutions from funding even minor development projects in Arunachal Pradesh because it claims the territory is disputed, but will not apply its own logic to PoK.

The proposition that we should find a compromise formula with China on the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang in order to put the issue back into the freezer, or at least ban the international and Indian media, except news agencies, from Tawang during the visit, as we did in 2009, is elevating pusillanimity to diplomatic discretion. Such a step under Chinese pressure would imply acceptance that India does not have full sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh. In any case, what compromise formulas have the Chinese explored on our border differences (they have actually hardened their position in recent years), the CPEC, the persistent opposition to our membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the designation of Masood Azhar as an international terrorist by the UN – even though the last two issues have been raised at the highest levels with the Chinese leadership? We are being asked by our own people to make a compromise over vital bilateral territorial issues of core interest to us when the Chinese are unwilling to compromise over multilateral issues that do not touch their core interests. The Chinese are accusing India of obstinately going ahead with the Dalai Lama's visit but do not think they are being obdurate in making unrealisable claims on "South Tibet", pursuing the CPEC and opposing India on the NSG and Masood Azhar issues.

Who will bear the cost?

China would have us believe that if bilateral ties are severely damaged, India alone will bear the cost and not them. It is time that we took a leaf from China's book and imposed economic costs on the Chinese for their political misconduct in the same way as they have sought to impose costs on Japan, Mongolia and now South Korea over political differences. Our trade deficit with China has reportedly risen to around \$60 billion, which means that we are enabling China to build more than one CPEC every year at our expense. In the process, China is destroying our manufacturing sector. Independently of the current controversy, we should better protect our economic interests vis a vis China.

China's bluster that it will take necessary measures to firmly preserve its territorial integrity and legal interests and summoning us to stop our 'wrongful' behaviour need not be taken too seriously. India has no territorial claims on Tibet and we are not yet questioning Chinese sovereignty over Tibet, although

we had recognised an autonomous Tibet as part of the PRC and not a militarily occupied Tibet that gives China the right to make additional claims on India. China should be careful in not taking overbearing positions and should conduct itself responsibly. Its call on us not to expand differences over sensitive issues that can harm the foundation of our relations should primarily apply to its own behaviour.

Commentators who are questioning India's "adventurism" over the Dalai Lama visit and scare-mongering about possible Chinese military action are encouraging China's psychological warfare. It is a fallacious view that from 2009 to 2015, China believed it had a strong motive for minimising its differences with India. Because the Manmohan Singh government was too timid in dealing with China – remember the then foreign minister calling the Depsang intrusion 'acne on a beautiful face' which could be removed by an ointment and who said Beijing was an attractive place to settle down – and Modi tried to initially engage Xi Jinping personally does not mean that China had embarked on any genuine peace process with India. Our membership of BRICS is not courtesy China. We were opposed to the interventions in Libya and Syria independent of China's position. Our position on multipolarity was concordant during the unipolar phase even with France, not to mention that we have been proponents of multipolarity in Asia too, keeping in mind China's unipolar ambitions in the Asian region which have now become more open with its OBOR project. Navigation rights in the South China Sea (SCS) are important to us as 40% of our trade passes through these waters. China's conduct in the SCS has implications for our interests in the Indian Ocean. To argue, as some commentators do, that China's nine-dash line is justified because of the US threat and imply that China could legitimately teach India and SCS states a lesson for the positions they are taking is an astonishing view. That China was looking to India to avert a US-China potential conflict and that India let China down is an imaginary proposition. That it is now being touted as good reason for China to be belligerent towards India is stupefying.

Prem Shankar Jha believes India is helpless militarily and that China has the option to teach us a lesson just as in 1962 but I have a very different understanding of the size of forces China can meaningfully mobilise on the Tibetan frontier, our capacity of monitoring the movements, the air power at our disposal and the lessons we have learnt from the 1962 debacle to make sure it is not repeated. We are reasonably confident in our ability to neutralise any Chinese military action on the boundary.

We have not had an actual military clash on the border since 1967. In 1987 an actual clash was averted. If the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang is enough reason for China to start a military conflict with India then the worst fears about China's rise would have been proved true and it would pay a lasting price for its misadventure.

Kanwal Sibal is a former foreign secretary of India

<https://thewire.in/122468/122468/>

Chinese Bellicosity over Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang

By Lt Gen JS Bajwa | Issue Net Edition | April 09, 2017

True to form the Chinese reaction to the Dalai Lama's presence in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh has drawn the expected bellicose bluster from Beijing. Having made Arunachal Pradesh and of late Tawang as a 'core' issue, which has to be endorsed by any nation seeking bilateral relations with China, it had no option but make the right belligerent noises to parry its own people.

China has reiterated that it will go to any extent to protect its 'core' interests. The claim to the territory of Arunachal Pradesh is one of them. In recorded history there had been no Chinese presence in Arunachal Pradesh so to claim it as Chinese 'core' interest is bordering on the ludicrous. As Chief Minister rightly observed, Arunachal Pradesh has a border with Tibet and not China. That brings to fore the question of whether the Chinese can rightfully stake a claim of Tibet as being a part of China.

It is generally agreed that Tibet was an independent country prior to Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368 CE), and that Tibet has been ruled by China only since 1959. The nature of the relationship between Tibet and China in the intervening period is a matter of debate. While the People's Republic of China (PRC) claims that Tibet has been under Chinese rule since the Yuan Dynasty, the Republic of China (ROC) claims that it was only during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912 CE) that Tibet was brought under the Chinese rule after it ended a brief Nepalese rule from 1788-1792 CE. It will be recalled that the Chinese claims in the South China Sea are based on what was claimed by the ROC. In this case the ROC and PRC claims are not coinciding. PRC is adept at shifting its stance to maximise its claims.

Tibetan Government in Exile claims that Tibet was an Independent state till the Chinese invaded it in 1949/50. Western scholars claim that Tibet and China was ruled by Mongols during the Yuan Dynasty and that Tibet was independent during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 CE). Thereafter it was ruled or more accurately, subordinate to the Qing Dynasty. Some scholars say that Tibet was independent from 1912-1950.

Due to Tibet's isolation and its pacifist inward looking existence, it did not dominate or even figure prominently on the world stage. As a result, the western colonial powers did not see any economic or geo-strategic advantage in having a presence there. As a consequence Tibet remained a forbidden land. The Second World War completely dampened any enthusiasm for Tibet if there was any left by 1945. The Chinese were quick to appreciate the situation and take advantage and once for all permanently alter the ambiguous status of Tibet. Even though the Communist government had been in power for less than a year and the internal situation in China still volatile with pockets of resistance to the Communists in the South.

The Nationalists forces of Chiang Kaishek were finally defeated and Hainan Island captured in 1950. At the same time China had ventured to enter Tibet with a rag tag force and conquered it. The Western powers were fatigued after the long war and had no stomach for more. A war, which drew in the US against the Russians and the Chinese (who were sucked in because of the reluctance of the Russians) was already waging in Korea. India had no forces to spare. Kashmir had taken in available troops. Internal security needs were paramount. The dramatic global situation enabled China to conquer Tibet and get away with it.

Therefore, the Chinese claim of Southern Tibet (Tawang) seems outlandish!! Of course the Chinese can bury you with filibuster and "alternate facts" to overwhelm ones sense of judgement.

The issue of McMahon Line as the boundary between India and China in Arunachal Pradesh began figuring in notes which were exchanged between India and China post 1954 when India firmed its boundary on the maps in public domain. It was in 1959, when Chou Enlai first stated in a letter that there is a dispute and that there is this 'so called' McMahon Line. Its alignment was disputed and subject to the two sides cartographic interpretations. India also referred to the clause of the alignment following the 'highest watershed' and consequently unilaterally gave up its claim on those tracts of territory which were figuring north of the 'watershed'. This unilateral action by India, however, did not impress the Chinese and they continued to claim areas south of the 'watershed'.

To the extent, that in 1959, the Chinese forcefully occupied Longju and have held it since. In contrast, in 1962, after having routed the Indians in Kameng the Chinese forces withdrew north of Tawang and even north of the McMahon Line as interpreted by them in this sector. Had they stayed back in Tawang it would have been impossible for India to have evicted them. So why did they withdraw? It is obvious that there were serious pressures for them to do so. The whole game of claiming Arunachal Pradesh began well after that war.

Coming back to the issue at hand, the State controlled Chinese media is saying things more ‘undiplomatically’ than their spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Stating that India was ‘using’ the Dalai Lama to make a statement after China stone walled India’s entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and in blocking the blacklisting of Masood Azhar as a terrorist. China also blatantly brushed aside India’s objections to its presence in POK (including Gilgit-Baltistan). These are ‘core’ issues as far as India is concerned. How can China demand that India respect China’s ‘core’ interests but overlook what China does to India’s ‘core’ interests.

China has threatened that it can up the ante in other areas. In Eastern Ladakh the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has certain disputed areas. These have been identified and mutually agreed. But the Chinese have at times erupted in some other areas such as Chumar and added to this list. However, their claims cannot go beyond the LAC to claim any territory. In the Himachal Pradesh-Utrakhand sector, the International Boundary along the main watershed is sacrosanct with a few pockets of dispute. China had tried to instigate Nepal to dispute the location of its western tri junction but Nepal has not done so, however, China has its own interpretation of this point.

So this unwarranted statement threats and bellicosity is a classic one by a ‘bully’; a hegemon. China needs to be aware that its actions and diplomatic and military posturing are all being interpreted by the nations in the region and globally. It could seriously mar its image and give fillip to the ‘China threat theory’ because of which it had so painstakingly clarified that its rise was peaceful. Not only that, it even watered down the ‘rise’ part of it and restated it a ‘peaceful development’.

There is no way China can take away even a square foot of Indian territory by force. China needs to adopt a mature responsible stance with regard to the boundary issue.

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<http://www.indiandefencereview.com/news/chinese-bellicosity-over-dalai-lamas-visit-to-tawang/>

The Dalai Lama Factor in Sino-Indian Relations

By Shashi Tharoor | Project Syndicate| April 10, 2017

NEW DELHI – Relations between India and China haven't been particularly warm in recent months. But they have lately taken on an icy chill, with Chinese leaders furious over the Dalai Lama's visit to the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as its own.

On April 8, over loud protests from China's government, the Dalai Lama addressed devotees from far and wide at the historic monastery in the border town of Tawang, where the sixth Dalai Lama was born more than three centuries ago.

India and China view both the Dalai Lama and Arunachal Pradesh very differently. From India's perspective, the Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan Buddhist community, and so has the right to minister to his followers at the great Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Tawang. And, because Arunachal Pradesh is a state of the Indian union, what happens there is India's decision alone.

In China's view, however, Arunachal Pradesh is not really India's. Yes, it officially belongs to India, but only because of the McMahon line, a boundary drawn by British imperialists in 1911, which China no longer accepts (though China did settle its boundary with Myanmar along the same line). The Chinese government refers to Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.

In any case, says China, the Dalai Lama is not a spiritual leader, but a political one. And, given his support for Tibetan self-rule (Chinese officials angrily call him a "splittist"), his visit to a sensitive border area is being viewed as a deliberate provocation.

According to China's spokesman, allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh could harm bilateral relations, with India "facing the consequences." China has also summoned Indian Ambassador Vijay Gokhale to register a formal protest.

India, for its part, has taken a conciliatory approach. The Ministry of External Affairs first attempted to assuage China, stating that "no additional color should be ascribed to the Dalai Lama's religious and spiritual activities." And, in the face of China's increasingly intemperate fulminations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government reiterated its respect for the "One China" policy, urging China's government not to generate "artificial controversies."

But China has not been mollified. Instead, when the Dalai Lama arrived in Arunachal Pradesh, Chinese official media declared that China might be

“forced to take tough measures.” The Global Times, an English-language tabloid published by the Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece the People’s Daily, took a particularly belligerent tone. Citing China’s GDP, which is “several times higher than that of India,” and its military capabilities, which “can reach the Indian Ocean” – not to mention its proximity to troubled Kashmir – it asked, “if China engages in a geopolitical game with India,” who will win?

The same Global Times editorial stressed that this visit by the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh was different from his previous six – the last of which was in 2009 – because he was “received and accompanied” by India’s junior home minister, Kiren Rijiju. India sees nothing unusual in Rijiju, an Arunachali politician, being present for a major spiritual occasion. In democracies, such public events involving popular religious figures are common, and politicians often enjoy the attention they attract by attending them.

But China prefers to use Rijiju’s attendance as evidence that the event is, in fact, political, suggesting that India is using the visit as “a diplomatic tool to put pressure on China.” The fundamental point, the Global Times stressed, is that the Dalai Lama “is a highly politicized symbol in China’s diplomacy,” so much so that a country’s attitude toward him affects almost “the entire relationship” with China.

Yet surely China must recognize that it has not, in recent years, given India’s government much reason to accommodate its sensitivities. In fact, it has responded to Modi’s efforts at outreach with a series of insults.

For example, in 2014, Modi not only welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping to his hometown, Ahmedabad, on his own birthday; on that same trip, he also lifted the previous government’s restrictions on Chinese investments in sensitive sectors of the Indian economy, such as ports and telecoms. Chinese soldiers promptly crossed the disputed frontier with India in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, going so far as to pitch tents on land that India considers its sovereign territory.

That mini-crisis was followed by a series of policy setbacks that reflected China’s scant regard for India’s sensitivities on various issues. China opposed India’s bid (strongly supported by the United States) for membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group. It blocked India’s request to name Masood Azhar, the head of Jaish-e-Mohammed (a Pakistani terrorist group), to a United Nations Security Council blacklist, despite support for the move from the council’s 14 other members.

China has also built a “China-Pakistan economic corridor” through Pakistan-controlled parts of Kashmir. China itself recognizes that the territory is

disputed, yet its government completely ignored India's objections to the violation of its sovereignty.

Against this background, China's expectation that India will respect its sensitivities is a bit rich. Yet China's arrogant approach is not new. In fact, its reaction to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh is of a piece with its behavior in the South China Sea, where China insists that sovereignty should be determined according to its "nine-dash line."

China expects other countries to fall into line when it makes such a demand, as the Philippines has done under President Rodrigo Duterte. And China has proved willing to turn up the heat on those that don't, such as Japan and Vietnam.

But India is somewhat bigger than China's other regional neighbors, and is made of sterner stuff. Rather than escalate the conflict over the Dalai Lama's visit further, China's leaders should allow passions to subside and relegate the episode to yesterday's news. If they don't, and instead move to follow through on their threats, they may well discover that India, too, has cards to play.

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Source: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/china-india-dalai-lama-visit-by-shashi-tharoor-2017-04>

A monk's Himalayan signals rattle Beijing

By Wasbir Hussain | Deccan Chronicle | April 12, 2017

New Delhi actually sought to brush off the Chinese murmurs by saying Beijing was creating an "artificial controversy".

During the past eight days, from a height of 10,000 feet, atop the Indian Himalayas, an 81-year-old Buddhist monk has rattled China as never before. Yes, one is talking of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's tallest leader, who has made a tour of Arunachal Pradesh, choosing to lament the "tragic" situation in his homeland, Tibet, criticise Beijing's "censorship of the media", rejecting China's right to decide on his successor, saying it was for the Tibetan people to take a call on the next Dalai Lama. He made a clear distinction between the regime in Beijing and the Chinese people — the Chinese people are "wonderful and cultured" while the government there is "totalitarian". Well, the Dalai Lama said 90 per cent of Tibet wants him back there while a "large number of the 400 million Chinese Buddhists, too, wants me", a direct claim of

his mass support back home. This has been the Dalai Lama's seventh visit to Arunachal Pradesh since his flight from Tibet in March 1959, and he may have only reiterated most of the things he said, but the tour this time stands out for two reasons.

First, Beijing's response, both before and during the Dalai Lama's visit has been the sharpest and most confrontationist in decades. Second, New Delhi appears to have gone out of its way to facilitate the monk's visit with the frontier state's BJP chief minister Pema Khandu accompanying the Dalai Lama right from his departure from Guwahati on April 4. Inclement weather forced the Dalai Lama to travel by car, undertaking an arduous journey through bad roads with serpentine bends. This, of course, enabled more of his followers to catch a glimpse of their revered spiritual guru as the motorcade stopped by, thereby providing maximum opportunity to the media to engage with him. The result has been more quotes and bytes flowing out of this visit, amplifying its impact globally. China began by accusing India of "using" the Dalai Lama to undermine Beijing's interests, ignoring diplomatic semantics, and had even summoned the Indian envoy in Beijing to formally lodge a protest. Beijing upped the ante with foreign ministry spokesman Hua Chunying saying China "will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests". The Indian response too began on expected lines with junior minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, saying the Dalai Lama was a guest of India, a democratic nation, and was free to go anywhere in the country.

New Delhi actually sought to brush off the Chinese murmurs by saying Beijing was creating an "artificial controversy". But Mr Khandu took the discourse to an entirely new level with the Press Trust of India quoting him as saying: "China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do. It is not our next-door neighbour. India shares a boundary with Tibet, not with China. In reality, the McMahon Line demarcates the boundary between India and Tibet." The Dalai Lama actually is near central to India's border dispute with China largely because of the 400-year-old Tawang monastery's links to Tibetan Buddhism. The Chinese argue that the Tawang monastery was a subsidiary of the Drepung monastery near Lhasa, one of the three major temples in Tibet. India, of course, considers Tibet an integral part of China while rejecting Beijing's claims over about 90,000 sq. km (35,000 sq. miles) in Arunachal Pradesh. In fact, Tawang, where the Dalai Lama stayed for five days this time, is just about 40 km short of the McMahon Line drawn up by the British. This line is regarded as the de facto border between China and India. The Chinese do not recognise this boundary "line" because it was created as part of a secret agreement by Britain and Tibet in 1914. Beijing does accept the status quo, and talks, as we know, are on for long to resolve the border dispute.

It is no surprise to see a far more assertive Delhi this time because there is a government that has an absolute majority in Parliament and has proved its strength yet again by winning India's largest state, Uttar Pradesh, in the just-concluded elections. The so-called "nationalist" fervour is at its peak in the country at the bidding of a large section of individuals and groups close to the ruling BJP. Moreover, New Delhi has a lot of axes to grind. First, it was Chinese President Xi Jinping himself who cold-shouldered Prime Minister Narendra Modi's request in July 2016 to allow India to accede to the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Then, of course, there's the case of Beijing scuttling the move that would have had the UN censuring Jaish-e-Mohammed kingpin Masood Azhar by not approving sanctions against him. Now, can China execute its threat of action against India over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal? Not really. First, 2017 is not 1962. India is strong militarily. Second, India is a huge market for Chinese products and with the balance of trade heavily tilted in Beijing's favour, market forces would not like the Communist bosses to indulge in any misadventure. And last, but not the least, Beijing cannot afford to push New Delhi to the wall because India can be a key stakeholder in China's "one road-one belt" policy, by far the country's biggest foreign policy push. To cap it all, India has many aces up its sleeve, including the Taiwan card, apart from the one on Tibet. As things stand now, it is only the Dalai Lama who can afford to crack a few jokes. "I am a Marxist, I like its equal system. I'm against Leninism... The next Dalai Lama could be a woman... an attractive woman..." For New Delhi, caution is the word. There is no scope of lowering the guard in the dizzy Himalayan heights. For China, the Dalai Lama would continue to rattle the Communist regime, threatening its image globally, and keep putting spokes in Beijing's design on the reincarnation issue to pick the next Dalai Lama.

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/opinion/columnists/120417/a-monks-himalayan-signals-rattle-beijing.html>

What China doesn't get about Dalai Lama's popularity in Tibet and India

His immense popularity obviously irritates Beijing whose propaganda is unable to win the masses.

By Claude Arpi, Daily O | April 12, 2017

The Dalai Lama's ongoing visit to Arunachal Pradesh, particularly to Tawang, the Land of Mon, has generated a great flow of ink. As usual, the Chinese were the first to shoot; their propaganda machine is far better organised than their Indian counterparts, who have a tendency to go into "sleep mode".

Last month, a briefing was organised in Beijing to explain to the Indian and foreign journalists what happened in 1959. Lian Xiangmin, director of Institute of Contemporary Tibetan Studies, reiterated China's claims over Tawang.

"One of the three major temples of Tibet is Drepung monastery near Lhasa, and Tawang was a subsidiary of Drepung and in history, Tawang's monks went to Drepung to study sutras. Tawang under Drepung also made contributions to the local government. So Tawang is part of Tibet and Tibet is part of China, so Tawang is part of China. So this is not much of a question."

Perfect logic with Chinese characteristics!

Connections

For centuries, the Buddhist Himalayan belt had close connections with Tibet. In Ladakh for example, most of the monasteries were affiliated to monasteries in western Tibet; ditto for Kinnaur, Spiti, Lahaul or Sikkim, linked with other religious centres in Tibet. According to Lian's logic, all these areas should become Chinese!

However, it was Delhi's responsibility to brief the Indian media on the correct historical position of Tawang. This was not done. It is worth noting that no matter who has been in power in Delhi, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi, the Dalai Lama has consistently been considered India's honoured guest.

Is China under the impression that this policy is going to change? No, it won't and Beijing has to live with it. Regarding Tawang, when the Dalai Lama crossed the border in 1959, Beijing did not claim the area south of the McMahon Line as its own. If it had been China's territory, Chinese troops would have followed him, no?

People sit on a roadside as they wait to welcome Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.

Tawang was an afterthought for Beijing, whose position changed after the Kongka Pass incident in October 1959, when Beijing realised that India was questioning the Chinese road passing through the Indian territory. Thereafter, Beijing's stand got more aggressive and NEFA suddenly became China's territory to use as a bargain chip against its occupation of the Aksai Chin. China may speak big, but the regime in Beijing has not been able to win the hearts of the Tibetans on the Roof of the World.

In these circumstances, how could the Communist leadership convince the population of Arunachal Pradesh to join its authoritarian regime? One has only to look at the current events in Xinjiang to realise that the Monpas and other

Himalayan populations will never want to live under a repressive regime, like the Uyghurs have to. Let us hope that Beijing will note how immensely popular the Dalai Lama is in Arunachal Pradesh.

This is obvious just by looking at a few photos of the gatherings in Bomdila, Dirang and Tawang, which circulated on the social media. The video of the Dalai Lama's encounter in Guwahati with a jawan of the 5 Assam Rifles who received him when he crossed the Indian border at Chuthangmu, north of Tawang, on March 31, 1959, was extremely touching. Both were moved to tears; the old soldier tellingly remarked that at that time the other side of the border was Tibet, not China.

Travel

Chief minister Pema Khandu, who accompanied the Tibetan leader on his journey to Tawang, remarked: "His Holiness had solemnly resolved to visit Arunachal Pradesh no matter what. Despite the inclement weather that forced cancellation of his chopper, he decided to travel by road."

The entire state and district administration, as well as local lamas and officials, were seen around; of course, for politicians it was a question of good "political" karma to be seen with the Nobel Peace prize laureate. During the seven-hour drive by road, under inclement weather conditions, the Tibetan leader must have recalled his first stop at Bomdila.

In April 1959, the Dalai Lama had rested a few days at the hill station before moving to the plains of Assam and Mussoorie; he stayed with Har Mander Singh of the Indian Frontier Administrative Service, who was the Political Officer in Bomdila, overseeing the entire Kameng Frontier Division. Nearly 60 years later, the Dalai Lama still remembered his first dal, cooked by Mrs Singh.

Programme

This time, despite a revised programme, large crowds came to get the Dalai Lama's blessings. His immense popularity obviously irritates Beijing whose propaganda is unable to win the masses, whether on the Tibetan side of the border or in the Indian side.

The reception in Tawang has been memorable: not only have tens of thousands of local Monpas thronged to have a glimpses of the "Bodhisattva of Compassion", but also large flocks of Bhutanese trekking from the neighbouring districts of Tashigang and Tashiyangtse have come, as well as pilgrims from the remotest village of Upper Subansiri, West Siang or Upper

Siang districts, who would have travelled for days to have a once-in-a-lifetime darshan.

Some analysts call this a Tibet card, but it is far more than a "card". With the visit, India reiterated that Arunachal Pradesh is an inalienable part of the nation. And for the local population, it was a unforgettable moment of joy to have their Lama back in their midst.

Though Beijing does not know how to react to the popularity and reverence for the Tibetan leader, it will have to make do with it.

(Courtesy of Mail Today) <http://epaper.mailtoday.in/1168343/mt/Mail-Today-Issue-April-12,-2017#page/10/2>

<http://www.dailyo.in/politics/dalai-lama-visit-tawang-arunachal-pradesh-china-india-tibet/story/1/16645.html>

Cross signals across the Himalayas

By M. K. Narayanan | The Hindu | April 15 2017

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was in Arunachal Pradesh recently, which has greatly ruffled China's feathers. Any reference to Arunachal Pradesh ('Southern Tibet' as China prefers to call it), in context or out of context, has the effect of raising temperatures in Beijing. The prolonged stay of His Holiness in the Tawang Monastery was, hence, the straw that broke the camel's back.

The mild-mannered Dalai Lama spoke with unusual candour during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, seeming to be at times even obliquely critical of China, something he had previously avoided. All these years, he had displayed remarkable restraint, despite constant Chinese provocations. On this occasion, his statements should, therefore, have come as a surprise to China.

Choice of words

Nothing that the Dalai Lama said during his visit can even be remotely viewed as accusatory of China, but the words he employed — "I've long forgiven China's Communist Government for occupying Tibet"; we support a 'One China policy', "all we want is the right to preserve our culture, language and identity"; "the 1.4 billion Chinese people have every right to know the reality (of Tibet)", "once they know the reality they will be able to judge", "until now there has been only one-sided, wrong information" — had the effect of a whiplash and was bound to irk China. What should have provoked the Chinese even more is that at one point, reacting to Chinese objections to his Arunachal

Pradesh visit, the Dalai Lama said, “I am the messenger of ancient Indian thoughts and values. I thank the Government of India for the support.”

So far, China’s reactions have been on predictable lines, though perhaps more incendiary than in the past. Beijing has issued a series of warnings, viz., that the Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh would cause “deep damage” to Sino-Indian ties, that New Delhi would need to make ‘a choice’ in its dealings with the Tibetan spiritual leader, that India had breached its commitment on the Tibet issue, taking particular umbrage at the Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister’s statement that the State did not share its borders with China but with Tibet and asking India to stick to its ‘political pledges’ and not hurt China-India relations.

Official démarches were couched in still more intemperate language. Some were in the nature of a threat, that the visit would escalate disputes in the border area, fuel tensions between the two countries, impinge on China’s major concerns and core interests, territory and sovereignty, and thus damage India-China relations. Chinese official media and the Chinese Communist Party, in turn, stepped up pressure on the Chinese government to take action against India. The China Daily observed that “if New Delhi chooses to play dirty... Beijing should not hesitate to answer blows with blows”. Chinese official spokespersons have rounded off this kind of diatribe by affirming that issues concerning Tibet have a bearing on China’s “core interests”.

China’s verbal outbursts on this occasion do not conform to type, even where they relate to the Dalai Lama. For China, a visit by the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, including a sojourn in the Tawang Monastery, one of the holiest of Tibetan Buddhism, is no ordinary matter. As it is, China has certain deep-seated concerns about increasing political instability in areas such as Tibet, apart from the happenings in Xinjiang as well as other security problems. The Dalai Lama’s visit to Tawang at this time could, hence, look like a provocation.

Very recently, China had floated the idea of an Integrated National Security Concept, reflecting the extent of its prevailing insecurities. This has introduced certain ‘redlines’, that China would never compromise its legitimate rights and interests, or sacrifice its “core national interests”. On more than one occasion during the current exchanges, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokespersons had referred to issues concerning Tibet (and Southern Tibet) as having a direct bearing on China’s “core interests”.

Current China-India exchanges, hence, need to be examined from the purview of both international relations as well as the domestic situation prevailing in China. It must not be overlooked that the Sino-Indian conflict of 1962 occurred soon after China’s disastrous Great Leap Forward, in which a large

number of Chinese perished, and the Dalai Lama fleeing Tibet and taking sanctuary in India. In 1962, Beijing had masked its intentions skillfully, while India, in the absence of any major overt action by China, was lulled into a false sense of complacency.

We need to ensure that there is no repetition of lack of vigil on our part. In 1959-60, the Dalai Lama had not quite attained the same international stature that he currently enjoys as the most revered symbol of Tibetan Buddhism. Yet, China was even then willing to risk a conflict with India, then the undisputed leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, angered by the grant of asylum to the Dalai Lama. The stakes for China are, if anything, greater today, as it seeks to emerge as a global leader. China would like to ensure that its 'rear' remains quiescent, rather than troubled, so as to devote its energies to attain its goals.

The Tawang factor

Indian commentators keep referring from time to time to the fact that China had shifted its stand on Tawang. This may be true, but there is little doubt about the centrality of Tawang (the birth place of the sixth Dalai Lama) in China's scheme of things for this region. During several rounds of discussions on the Sino-Indian border, my counterpart as the Chinese Special Representative for boundary talks, Dai Bingguo, made it amply clear to me that Tawang was non-negotiable. In 2005, China signed an Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question (Dai Bingguo and I were the signatories) which stipulated that areas with settled populations would not be affected in any exchange. Even before the ink was dry, China began to dissimulate as far as Tawang was concerned, even though Tawang is the most 'Indianised' place in the entire Northeast. All this leaves little scope for compromise with regard to areas like Tawang.

Understanding the way the Chinese mind works is important. It tends to be eclectic, contextual and relational, leaning towards systemic content and history. Chinese thinking tends to be convoluted and its methodology obtuse. Chinese assertiveness is often rooted in strategic insecurity and a perceived sensitivity to domestic tensions. China constantly flaunts its 'exceptionalism' and its 'uniqueness'. Chinese exceptionalism tends today to be largely historical and revivalist. A combination of Mao's utopianism and Deng Xiaoping's realism has left China in a kind of philosophical vacuum. It has led to an excess of nationalism and nationalistic fervour, making China's objectives clear-cut.

China's policymakers are cautious by temperament but are known to take risks. They are skilled at morphing the gains favoured by each past civilisation

and adjusting these to modern conditions. They prefer attrition to forceful intervention, a protracted campaign to gain a relative advantage.

Currently, China has jettisoned the Guiding Principles laid down by Deng Xiaoping, “coolly observe..., hide your capacities, bide your time”. Buoyed by its military muscle, and with a defence budget of \$151.5 billion (2017) which is much larger than that of all other nations with the exception of the U.S., China is no longer willing to remain a status quo power, or play by existing rules governing the international order. India must realise this, and avoid being caught unawares.

The OBOR outlier

As it is, China is constantly seeking ways to isolate India. It is engaged in building advantageous power relations, acquiring bases and strengthening ties with countries across Asia, Africa and beyond. China's latest One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative signifies its new outreach, extending from the eastern extremity of Asia to Europe — the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor represents its most significant strategic aspect — and has the backing of most countries in the region. India is an outlier in this respect, and perhaps the only major Asian nation that has not yet endorsed the concept. If as China anticipates that OBOR has the potential to alter the status quo across the region with most nations accepting a long-term commitment to China, India could find itself friendless in Asia and beyond.

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When the Dalai Lama visited Tawang

By G. Parthasarathy | The Hindu Business Line | April 19, 2017

China all but exploded. Managing political and trade dealings with a pushy Beijing calls for courage and attention to detail

The recent visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh produced a hysterical reaction from China. The foreign office officially protested against the visit. China's foreign policy mouthpiece, the *Global Times*, went ballistic, threatening India with dire consequences and asserting that India should remember that it is substantially weaker than China, both economically and militarily. Lecturing and criticising India on a number of foreign policy issues accompanied this.

What China fears

The ‘Middle Kingdom’ evidently feels emboldened to adopt such pressures after it has succeeded in annexing territories across its maritime borders, using coercive diplomatic, economic and military pressures. China has embarked on a determined quest for hegemony beyond its land and maritime borders.

The Chinese termed the Dalai Lama’s visit, particularly to the monastery town of Tawang, a “provocation”. This, despite the fact that it was the sixth visit of the Dalai Lama to Tawang. The Tawang monastery was founded in 1681 with the blessings of the fifth Dalai Lama. It assumes a special place in Tibetan hearts and minds as the sixth Dalai Lama was born in Tawang. China has ruthlessly coerced the Buddhist clergy and people in Tibet into virtual submission. Its remaining fear is that circumstances may arise in which the next Dalai Lama is born in Tawang. The spiritual independence and heritage of the persecuted Tibetans would then remain linked with India.

The McMahon Line was declared as the border between India and Tibet under a tripartite accord signed in 1914. Tawang was on the Indian side of the Line. China repudiated this accord. But following independence, India took control of Tawang in 1951. China, in turn, laid claim to large parts of Arunachal Pradesh, well beyond the borders defined in 1914. Beijing asserted that it never recognised the McMahon Line.

With rhetoric over the border escalating, Prime Minister Zhou Enlai stated in 1956 that while China never recognised the McMahon Line, the Line was an “accomplished fact”. He added that China should “recognise this Line”. In April 1960, he offered to “accommodate” the Indian point of view on the eastern sector if India agreed to address China’s concerns on the “western sector” across the Ladakh-Tibet border, where China had constructed a vital strategic road linking Buddhist-dominated Tibet to the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang region.

Changing borders

India’s borders with China in the western Tibet-Ladakh sector have changed through the 19th century. The stalemate following the Dogra incursion into Tibet, led by General Zorawar Singh in 1841-1842, and the subsequent takeover of Ladakh by the British, resulted in the Johnson Line drawn by the British in 1865, becoming the border with Tibet. Xinjiang was then not a part of China. The borders drawn in the Johnson Line included large parts of Aksai Chin, linking Tibet and Xinjiang. When geopolitical circumstances changed, the British drew the border with China along a new line in 1899, known as the McCartney-MacDonald Line, which gave the Chinese access to Xinjiang. This

was informally accepted by China. It leaves the strategic Karakoram Pass under India's control.

What Zhou Enlai offered prior to the 1962 conflict was acceptance of the McMahon Line in the east in return for India's acceptance of the McCartney-MacDonald Line. This was a proposal that many believe Prime Minister Nehru would have been well advised to accept. Chinese claims were, however, refuted. India was drawn into a conflict for which the country was ill-prepared militarily and psychologically, thanks to the earlier "*Hindi Chini-Bhai Bhai*" sloganneering.

China now believes that the military, economic and technological asymmetry between it and India is so great that it need not pay even lip service, or adhere to Zhou Enlai's proposals, which were reiterated by Deng Xiaoping in 1979. China now expects India to make serious territorial concessions in Arunachal Pradesh (at the very least handing over Tawang and some other strategic areas) in return for anything closely corresponding to the 1899 proposals in the Ladakh sector. It is for this reason that Beijing has refused to even spell out the positions where the 'Line of Actual Control' arising from the 1962 conflict lie. One can expect no change in this position in the foreseeable future.

Bolstering India's case

The main reference points that India can use to bolster its case lie in the very well negotiated April 2005 agreement on the "Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question". Article VI of the agreement states that the boundary should be "along well-defined and easily identifiable natural geographical features, to be mutually agreed upon between the two sides". Article VII states: "In reaching a boundary settlement, the two sides shall safeguard due interests of their settled populations in the border areas." Both these articles render Chinese claims on Tawang and areas on the Indian side of the McMahon Line in Arunachal Pradesh largely untenable. But China is not going to be influenced by words alone. The border dialogue between the two countries thus has to be focused on strengthening confidence-building measures to maintain peace along the borders. But we should never forget that the Chinese are supreme realists and will not hesitate to use military power when expedient. New Delhi has been steadily reducing the share of its defence budget. It now is barely 1.6 per cent of GDP. Is India doing enough to ensure that China cannot prevail in any standoff along our borders? This needs much greater attention from our parliamentarians.

It would be foolish to cut our noses to spite our faces by discouraging trade and investment ties with China. However, we should have no doubt that in its quest for hegemony in Asia, China will give no diplomatic space to countries

like Japan, India and Vietnam to enhance their economic influence. This is reason enough for us to avoid seeking membership of the Chinese-dominated Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. China's recent unprecedented abstention in the UN Security Council in the face of an American diplomatic onslaught on Russia on developments in Syria, shows that Beijing can dump even major allies when it suits its interests. Dealing with a hegemonic China is going to require considerable courage, skill and attention.

The writer is a former High Commissioner to Pakistan

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/g-parthasarathy/how-india-should-respond-to-chinas-response-to-dalai-lama-visit-to-tawang/article9650537.ece>

The Politics of Reincarnation: India, China, and the Dalai Lama

Will the Dalai Lama reincarnate in Tawang?

By Tshering Chonzom Bhutia | The Diplomat | April 20, 2017

The Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh from April 7 to 11 garnered plenty of media attention. One of the most prominently discussed questions centered around the Dalai Lama's reincarnation.

The Chinese side was unequivocal in not only objecting to the visit but also commenting on the reincarnation issue. The Chinese position, as encapsulated in remarks by scholars from important Chinese think tanks, is that the Dalai Lama's reincarnation has to be approved by the Chinese government and selection has to be based on a combination of not just "historical rules" but also current "Chinese laws." The reference to Chinese laws is with respect to the 2007 State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) regulation delineating procedures for the selection of reincarnated monks, including eligibility conditions, application procedures and the government and religious institutions to be approached for approval. The regulation basically excludes "any foreign organization or individual" from the reincarnation selection process, obviously in an attempt to legitimize China's authority and exclude the Tibetan Diaspora (and others) in the selection of the next Dalai Lama.

The Chinese have consistently maintained that any reincarnation must be determined on the basis of the late 18th century procedure instituted by the

Manchu Qing rulers of China. Under this “golden urn system” of selecting reincarnations, the names of prospective candidates would be placed in an urn, from which lots would be drawn to pick the real incarnation. Therefore, any other method being suggested by the Dalai Lama is seen as contrary to established rules and illegitimate, for it denies the Chinese government’s authority in the process.

Much of the recent interest in the issue was sparked by comments made by local officials in Tawang – Deputy Commissioner Sang Phuntsok and Tsering Tashi, a local legislator – who expressed their wish for the next Dalai Lama to be reincarnated in Tawang. Robert J. Barnett from Columbia University too saw the visit as significant in this context. According to Barnett, it may be an attempt by the Dalai Lama to replicate some of his predecessors’ practice of visiting “places where they would later be reincarnated as babies.” He also saw the visit as a way to nudge the Chinese and to tell them that they have no control over the reincarnation process. Jayadeva Ranade, formerly additional secretary in the Indian government’s Cabinet Secretariat, and currently, head of the Center for China Analysis and Strategy, too saw the visit to Tawang as “a way of subtly sending the message on reincarnation.” An article on the topic by Wall Street Journal opines, “Anticipating his own death, he [the Dalai Lama] may wish to signal that he could choose, as Tibetan tradition allows, to be reborn in Tawang.”

The Dalai Lama himself commented on the subject at the press meeting that was scheduled on April 8, the second day of his stay in Tawang. The meeting lasted about one and half hours and was held following lunch after his religious sermon to about 50,000 devotees.

Two sets of questions and comments were raised with respect to the issue of reincarnation. One set of questions pertained to the deep desire of the people of Tawang for the Dalai Lama to be reborn there and whether, as many have been conjecturing, the visit’s sole purpose was to decide on this issue. The Dalai Lama’s immediate response was, “It is difficult to say.” Reminiscent of his earlier position according Buddhist Mongolians a role in deciding his rebirth, similarly, on this occasion, he added more stakeholders to the list – Arunachalis, Ladakhis, and Chinese Buddhists as well as some Europeans. Without necessarily stating that they could have a say in his rebirth, he remarked that all of these followers have at various occasions expressed their desire for the Dalai Lama to be reborn in their respective home regions. He characteristically asked, “Just one soul, how can I divide?” So, based on the Dalai Lama’s own comments, the question of where he will be reborn remains open.

At the same time, he referred to his earlier statement that “at the time of my death, some indication might come” and clarified that at present there have

been no indications. In an attempt to put the discussion to rest, he jokingly recalled an previous encounter with the media in Newark, in the United States, when he was asked similar questions. “I took out my glass and looked seriously and asked, ‘Do you think my reincarnation quite urgent or not?’ And they answered ‘no’ and so, I want to repeat it [here].” Belying the sense of urgency prevalent around him, the 81-year-old added that this question could come up in 15 to 20 years, but “at this moment” the reincarnation issue was not “relevant.”

With the exact purpose of the Dalai Lama’s visit to Tawang unanswered, the next set of questions were directed at his earlier statements wherein he had suggested that he may not be reborn and that he may be the last Dalai Lama. In September 2014, a German daily published a summary of an interview of the Dalai Lama titled “The Dalai Lama will have no successor.” The lengthy German transcript of the interview, however, provided a more nuanced understanding of the Dalai Lama’s thoughts on the issue. Contrary to the sensational title of the summary report, the Dalai Lama twice hinted at a desire to be “reborn.” In one instance, he quoted the lines of his favorite prayer from Shantideva, an eighth century Buddhist monk from Nalanda, which in the original reads: “For as long as space remains,/ For as long as sentient beings remain,/ Until then may I too remain, /To dispel the miseries of the world.”

During the press meeting in Tawang, the Dalai Lama’s response to the question seeking clarification on this point was not very different from what he stated in the 2014 German interview. The main difference was that he referred to the Shantideva prayer right at the beginning of the press meeting, even before a question on the issue was posed to him. In response to the question, he added that the continuance of the institution of the Dalai Lama is up to the Tibetan people: “If people feel this institution no longer relevant, then this institution can cease.” A similar statement from the Dalai Lama was the source of the initial clamor over the reincarnation issue in 2014. In Tawang, however, the Dalai Lama did not leave room for speculation, as he added, “But judging [the] present situation and many Mongolians really also [are] showing deep devotion to the Dalai Lama. Besides the Tibetan refugees, thousands of local people from Arunachal to Ladakh [are] very, very devoted.” That would seem to imply that people do feel the institution of the Dalai Lama is “relevant” and that a future reincarnation would take place.

Having said this, the Dalai Lama revealed plans to hold a meeting of heads of various Tibetan religious sects as was held in 2011, following which he had issued a detailed policy statement on the reincarnation issue. He added, “Therefore, now I think this year, I may start work for next same kind of meeting.” Note that the meeting of religious heads in 2011 also included the late Tsongkhapa Rinpoche, an ethnic Monpa from Gontse Rabgyeling Monastery,

Bomdila. The Dalai Lama, during this visit, stopped by the monastery on April 5, where the abbot of the monastery made “a prayer that His Holiness visit again and again and that the unmistakable reincarnation of the late Tsongpa Rinpoche be found.” With his reincarnation yet to be found, it would be interesting to see if a Monpa would find a place in the meeting of religious heads the Dalai Lama apparently plans to hold.

Though the Dalai Lama did not commit to being reborn in Tawang, his political successor, the current head of the Central Tibetan Administration, Sikyong Lobsang Sangay, is on record as stating in an article in 2008 that the next Dalai Lama could be a Monpa. Recommending emanation as a viable alternative to reincarnation given the uncertainty of a post-Dalai Lama situation, Sangay suggested that “it would be wise for HHDL to appoint a young man of fifteen or twenty years of age, perhaps with part Monpa heritage in view of the importance of the state of Arunachal Pradesh in the dispute between India and China.” (Emanation in Tibetan Buddhism is different from reincarnation as the latter manifests itself only after the previous incarnation has passed away. Emanation, on the other hand, can occur before death and manifest in various ways. The Dalai Lama dwells on the subject in his 2011 statement as well, wherein he says that “it is possible for the Lama to appoint a successor who is either his disciple or someone young who is to be recognized as his emanation.”)

Sangay’s statement underlines the inter-linkage of the India-China border issue and the issue of Dalai Lama’s reincarnation, drawing more attention to Tawang’s place in the debate. Having the Dalai Lama on one’s side accords a sense of legitimacy to India and China’s respective positions on the border issue.

For China, the McMahon Line that was born out of the Simla Agreement of 1914 and signed between the Tibetans and British India is a colonial legacy that does not hold any legitimacy. Further, to recognize the McMahon Line would have serious implications for China’s claim to Tibet as an “inalienable part of China” and in effect, delegitimize its “liberation” of the region in 1950. Therefore, a lot is at stake from a Chinese perspective. To stake a claim over Tawang is to reinforce its claim over Tibet.

For India, it was positively fortuitous to have had the Dalai Lama recognize the validity of the Simla Agreement and state in 2008 that “Tawang is a part of India” as it somewhat tilted the scale with respect to the border dispute in favor of India. Hypothetically speaking, a 15th Dalai Lama that is selected by and in China is bound to renege on his predecessor’s position. In fact, an Indian expert argues that “if now, the Dalai Lama [referring to the current, 14th Dalai Lama] were to say, as the Chinese want him to, that Tibet had always

been a part of China, then in the Sino-Indian border talks, India's insistence on McMahon line would become extremely weak."

From a Tibetan perspective, playing along with this sense of insecurity prevalent among a certain section of the Indian strategic community (and perhaps the government too) by providing New Delhi with an edge in the border dispute with China does not seem to be a bad political move. China has remained intransigent to the Sino-Tibetan talks on the one hand, and at the same time, is making strenuous efforts to marginalize the Tibet issue internationally. On the contrary, for the Dalai Lama to be able to go to Tawang and reiterate that the region is part of India reinforces the position that Tibet, in the first half of the 20th century, exercised de facto sovereignty and possessed treaty-making powers.

The question is whether India is willing to go so far. Pema Khandu, the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, did take such a leap. He denied China as "our next-door neighbor" and instead argued that "McMahon Line, in reality, demarcates the boundary between India and Tibet." However, this will certainly remain a one-off statement, as India will not wish to cross the red line set by China on the Tibet issue. Reportedly, Kiren Rijiju, the minister of state for home affairs who defended India's decision to allow the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, accompanied the Dalai Lama only up to Dirang (West Kameng district) and did not make the journey further ahead to Tawang, indicating a sense of caution at the central level in India.

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<http://thediplomat.com/2017/04/the-politics-of-reincarnation-india-china-and-tibet/>

Chinese angst at Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit-II

By Saurabh Kumar | Oped | The Pioneer | April 22, 2017

A national brainstorming exercise to identify 'out of the box' options for resolution of the Tibetan 'imbroglio', long misperceived to be a liability for India, may not be out of place at this juncture — an alternative approach befitting two 'civilisation-states' that are 'strategic partners' for a dozen years now

Continuing with its focus on coverage of the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh in the Chinese Press, this second part of this article takes up the April 6 Global Times editorial (featured in full in the first part in this column on

Saturday April 8, 2017) for detailed perusal, with an eye on possible leads to gauging the “goings-on” on the Chinese side.

The comparative reading of the Chinese and English versions of the editorial that is attempted below is aimed at exploring the implications of the carefully crafted projections of India (and India-China relations) for the two separate audiences targeted by China’s propaganda machinery — the domestic Chinese populace and external (Indian and other foreign) readers, respectively. Although it might seem to be textual analysis, it is the broader sub-text that is under the lens really.

The overall aim is to explore what insights, if any, can be harvested from such parsing.

Significant omissions

The most notable nugget emerging out of this comparative reading turns out to be the fact that in Chinese, the editorial is found to have avoided a frontal reference to the border dispute.

The stark description “disputed territory” used in the English version of the editorial w.r.t. “Arunachal Province” (or “A-province”, as it is often abbreviated in Chinese) had been avoided in the Chinese one. Instead, the Chinese editorial used the following more muted description to convey China’s claim to that area (referred to as “South(ern) Tibet” in Chinese lexicon):

“This is the South(ern) Tibet region of China”, after adding the word “so called” before the words “Arunachal Province in India” in the preceding sentence.”

A relaxed re-reading of the opening sentences of both versions of the editorial would make the significance of this point clear.

This (manner of covering the border issue in the Chinese Press) is in keeping with the consistent trend of coverage of India-China relations in the Chinese media in recent years (since ‘normalisation’ of relations post-1976), of the matter being played down. References to the border “dispute” are rare and subdued (as an “issue” or “problem”, not “dispute”). And no specifics of the claims and counter-claims of each side, such as the Chinese claim of Tawang or Arunachal Pradesh belonging to China, brought out in the public domain directly.

It is a positive feature, obviously, for it serves to avert complications stemming from an aroused public opinion, as elaborated later. It deserves wider, and more salient, note in the country than is the case at present — its value must not be lost sight of amidst disappointment at Chinese fulminations.

Dalai Lama/Tibetan factor

Another noteworthy ‘omission’ pertains to the question of the role of the Dalai Lama/Tibetan factor in Sino-Indian relations.

In the English version, the clause “thus the Dalai question became one of the problems that upset Sino-Indian relationship” replaces the anodyne words “which became his base camp” in the Chinese one.

Thus, quite clearly, that clause is an “add-on” — for external projection only.

It is almost a verity with commentators on Sino-Indian relations, not only foreign but also Indian, that the presence of the Dalai Lama (and the Tibetan issue in general) has been a major complicating factor for the India-China relationship, and a liability for India in its dealings with China. But that is not what the above suggests.

Why has the charge of the Dalai Lama being a *casus belli* in the Sino-Indian relationship (a central part of the externally projected Chinese narrative on Sino-Indian relations, swallowed in toto by apologists for China) been restricted to the English version of the editorial aimed at foreign audiences, and not included in the Chinese one meant for the domestic audience ?

Might this be because it might not carry conviction with the Chinese people? Is there a credibility issue here (for the Chinese leadership) due, in turn, to the high standing the Dalai Lama probably enjoys among large sections of the Chinese populace at large, despite unrelenting vilification? The latter may be overtly irreligious under tutelage but inclined nevertheless to believe (in Buddhism or other religious orders) secretly. And perhaps even be harbouring a soft corner for India as the land of Buddhism (bolstered now by the new found popularity of Yoga post-2015 visit of PM Modi).

Indian culpability

Likewise, how are the following caustic sentences in the Chinese editorial (dropped from the English version), to be understood?

“This has violated all conventions regarding treatment accorded to the Dalai Lama by New Delhi in recent years..... India’s use of the Dalai card in order to vent spleen at its frustration in multilateral forums is like flying into a rage out of humiliation (or losing mental balance out of anger and paranoia)
.....The India of today comes out as a “tender faced but glass hearted” spoilt child (over sensitive and rather peevish). May be that Western public opinion, which never tires of directing fire at China in a bid to run it down, is coaxing India with a view to getting it to spoil everything (between China and India).”

It is hoped that the Indian side will maintain calm and restraint and not pander to populist and nationalist public opinion. China ... wishes to patiently resolve some of the knotty problems between the two countries. ... (New Delhi) should be reasonable; it should not make capricious demands upon the Chinese side"

As a laboured attempt to justify the prickly official stance (on the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh resulting in a downturn in relations with India) to their citizenry, obviously — by seeking to posit Indian culpability in the entire matter and to absolve China of all responsibility by presenting it as a victim of Indian shenanigans.

Likewise the words shown in *italics* in the following sentence of the editorial in Chinese (dropped in the English version):

"The Dalai's high profile sponsored visit to Arunachal Pradesh this time is widely seen outside and within India as New Delhi using the monk as a diplomatic tool to put pressure on China."

Agent provocateur

Interestingly, the editorial does not dare to make bold to tell the Chinese people "who started it all" (the recent spat), a common sensical criterion used by most persons to draw their own conclusion about rival claims in any altercation that comes to their notice.

In the English version, there is a clear preface "When China raised the concern over the visit", before bringing in Minister Rijiju's remark that "China should respect India's internal affairs". But that preface is missing in Chinese. Thus the reader receives no indication that the Indian Minister's remark was a reaction, not an initiation of a tiff by him.

Chinese readers are presented instead with a picture of an unreasonable Indian Minister making an aggressive "demand", based on "strange logic", unprovoked. With no mention, needless to add, of his remarks reaffirming India's 'One-China policy' and with the following sentence helpfully added at the end of the paragraph (which the English version aimed at Indian and external audiences eschews completely, not surprisingly):

"Rijiju is India's Bharatiya Janata Party's youngest Parliamentarian, youthful and aggressive with a proclivity to project a proud (hard-line) posture."

Bravado and Bluster

And finally, the following sentences in Chinese (dropped in the English version) reveal anxiety to reassure the populace that China retains the upper hand vis-a-vis India and that the matter will not go out of control:

“...its (India’s) dependence on peaceful cooperation between the two countries is likewise not as low as that of China... Indians must also consider how many ‘diplomatic tools’

China could come up with if it were to (be inclined to) develop them against India !”

General observations

Overall, the Chinese editorial is clearly more vituperative and shrill in its tone (than the English version, which is hard-hitting but not so charged).

This is rather unusual and needs explanation, for the general trend in the Chinese media is the other way round — the English language news platforms of China are ahead of the Chinese ones in signalling official displeasure and in conveying warnings in situations like these, in which Chinese diplomacy wishes to browbeat, or influence the behaviour of, the other side.

That is because anything that appears in the Chinese media, in Chinese, will be in full view of Chinese public opinion, and therefore requires the leadership to live up to it. That makes it difficult for them to backtrack or ignore transgressions or rejections of publicly articulated Chinese positions/demands (by the other side). It makes the leadership vulnerable to the charge of capitulation, or at least weakness — something that does not go down well with the Chinese people because of vile memories of China’s humiliation at the hands of foreign powers historically.

The propaganda machinery of the Chinese State, therefore, has to be extremely careful in giving public expression to any discord in the country’s external interactions. Differences are generally not made known to the Chinese people unless things have deteriorated beyond a certain point (such that withholding information about that setback is no longer feasible realistically).

The state of play in this regard is somewhat akin to answers to Parliament question (on external relations) in India and other democratic countries, where the Executive is extremely circumspect about what it places on record and very careful in striking the right balance between the competing considerations

of avoiding charges of concealment, on the one hand, and of disclosure causing damage to national interest or working out to the advantage of the other side, on the other.

One reason for the strident tone of the editorial in Chinese meant for the domestic audience could be insecurity — a defensive mind-set hidden behind the demanding, school-masterly style of Chinese diplomacy. The above-mentioned markers suggest a certain diffidence on the part of the Chinese leadership in facing the court of its public opinion.

Editorial in perspective

That blip apart, it has to be noted that the substantive (information) content of the editorial, and of other items and commentaries on the subject (not featured here) as well, has been in keeping with the general trend noted above — of caution in reporting, lest matters go out of hand.

[The English language Chinese press, of course, has had a field day in hitting out at India wantonly but it means nothing since it does not represent anything authentic (unlike content in the Chinese Press, which is a record of the leadership communicating with its people); only propaganda material. But it is what makes the headlines and so gets attention in our country, unfortunately, to the total neglect of the real stuff in Chinese. It is ironical that it does not strike anyone as anomalous that the entire discourse on China in the country should be based on material in English helpfully provided by the Chinese to peddle what they wish you to know or keep your attention on, away from their weak points!]

Right from the time of the first official Chinese statement on the subject, which came on October 24, 2016 (at the US Ambassador's remarks of October 21, expressing support for India's claim to Arunachal Pradesh after his visit to Tawang) and the second a few days later, on October 28, 2016 at the time of GOI's announcement of permission for the Dalai Lama to visit Tawang. These, and subsequent statements (including the one on February 15, 2017 on protests over the visit of the Taiwanese legislator's delegation to India which had an obvious bearing on the "One-China" question), were reported upon (in the Chinese language press) more or less factually, not in a charged manner, or not at all.

All the way up to March 20, 2017, when the official spokesperson's statement urged India to "respect China's core interests..." This was w.r.t. inauguration of the international seminar in Rajgir by the Dalai Lama in the company of the Union Minister for Culture. But even then, it (this official protest statement) was, notably, not reported in the Chinese Press, official or Global Times.

Subsequent statements, after commencement of the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, were increasingly more hard hitting but not reported in the Chinese Press again until the editorial of April 6. That was the first high-pitched attack in Chinese, and it seems to have come after perceived official GOI and Arunachal Pradesh government's (publicly visible) involvement in the visit arrangements etc.

Conclusion

Interesting and revealing though it is, a single editorial can hardly serve as the basis for definitive conclusions, even if it be contextualised and seen against other commentaries.

It can only illustrate the potential value of regular monitoring of the Chinese press, as an aid to clearing the haze created by the powerful propaganda machinery of the Chinese State. The latter is extremely adept at obfuscating perceptions of adversaries, as part of the favourite Chinese stratagem of seeking to manoeuvre them into a position of (psychological) disadvantage. In this context, the possibility of India underestimating its soft power in China hinted at by this foray into Chinese media coverage is a valuable lead. It should not to be dismissed without due consideration.

The jury is still out as to what it all adds up to. In the absence of conclusive evidence, the default hypothesis naturally has to be one of abundant caution — the straightforward one that the Chinese verbal virulence portends harsher diplomatic consequences that can be expected to seek to pre-empt perceived possibilities of (further) changes in long-standing Indian policy practice pertaining to Tibet (and the Dalai Lama), amongst others. It would be necessary to prepare for that contingency.

A national brainstorming exercise to identify "out of the box" options for resolution of the Tibetan 'imbroglio', long misperceived to be a liability for India, may not be out of place at this juncture.

Frontal repudiation of the existing "one China policy" is an, but not necessarily the best, option. Even though that approach has resulted in India "giving away something for nothing" — a very basic blunder in diplomacy — repeatedly (i.e. more than once, not just at the time of the primordial error of the 1954 Agreement recognising China's "sovereignty" over Tibet consequent to the PLA's march into Tibet, instead of just "suzerainty"), the remedy may not lie in consciously committing a countervailing "wrong" in the hope of setting the first one right.

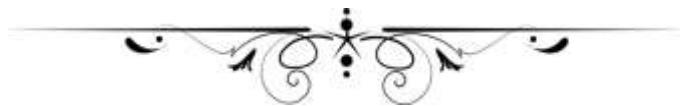
But neither will it do for India to simply continue to be a spectator to decimation of Tibetan Buddhism and culture, quintessentially Indian.

A forthcoming article will explore possibilities of an alternative approach in the framework of a radical review of India-China relations in their entirety, not just the Dalai Lama or Tibet issue in isolation. As befitting two “civilisation-states” that are, moreover, self-declared “strategic partners” for a dozen years now, no matter that one of them had no compunction in mercurially jettisoning the “bhai-bhai” relationship with a “bye-bye” in less than a decade in the initial round of their interaction as newly independent nations.

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<http://www.dailypioneer.com/columnists/oped/chinese-angst-at-dalai-lamas-arunachal-visit--ii.html>

EDITORIALS



Of Secular Ethics

The Sentinel | April 05, 2017

In the course of his speech at Dibrugarh University, the Dalai Lama stressed the need to have a curriculum on ‘secular ethics’ in the education system in order to ensure that the virtues of love, compassion and the feeling of oneness permeate human beings for a peaceful society. This is a theme that has found a prominent place in the speeches of the Dalai Lama during the last few days with good reason. The Dalai Lama has rightly seen the urgency for such a course of action in a world that has spent far too much time on conflicts and belligerent stances that are more likely to stoke violence and war on societies all over the world. He is of the view that compassionate feeling or thinking about humanity must come from the generations of the 21st century that have been witnesses to violence in the form of war and conflicts, in order to bring peace. In other words, he has entrusted the responsibility of ensuring peace on those who have suffered the most from conflict and violence. And this is as things should be, because it is those who have suffered the most from violence that should realize the importance of the appropriate action to replace conflict and war with reason and logic that can strengthen the action for peaceful coexistence.

One cannot gloss over the impression that the Dalai Lama’s decision to talk about ‘secular ethics’ is an oblique way of reminding people that there is really no need to bring religion into any notions of ethical conduct. After all, ethics has to do with the moral principles governing or influencing human conduct. Good conduct that hinges on the virtues of justice or fairness, equality and polite and peaceful behaviour is essentially secular in character even though there has always been an attempt to bring religion into ethics in order to give the impression that our religious identity is what promotes good conduct. In his first speech at Guwahati last Saturday, he had said, “It is not through prayers but through education and awareness that we can make the world a peaceful place.” Even if it might be difficult for some people to attribute such a remark to a religious or spiritual leader, that is what the Dalai Lama believes and seems determined to make others too believe—in the cause of universal peace. Unfortunately, the word secular has been misused far too often in this country. Of the half-a-dozen meanings of the word (some quite unexpected) the two that are relevant to our usual requirements are: (a) ‘not religious, sacred or spiritual’; and (b) ‘not subject to or bound by religious rule’. Dalai Lama’s use of the phrase ‘secular ethics’ could well be a way of making sure that the word ethics does not get the kind religious colouring that the word

secular has acquired in Indian usage. What the Dalai Lama is clearly trying to tell us is that our education should promote ethics and that this should have nothing to do with religion. Nor should ethics be seen as having only religious underpinnings as many of us think is the case.

We are all familiar with the expression ‘value-based education’. It is an expression that many people use rather recklessly without understanding the implications or even having clear ideas of what is meant by it. During the last few days the Dalai Lama has been talking about just a few of the values that we hear about but are afraid to talk about largely because we are often not quite sure of what these values are. During the last few days, the Dalai Lama has been talking about just a few of the important values that are precious and need to be cherished. He has done this with vision, clarity and purposefulness and in the hope that the youth of the 21st century are aware of the challenges that face them and are determined to face them in hitherto untried ways because the very perspective of the demands of world peace has been missing from our calculations.

<http://www.sentinelassam.com/editorial/story.php?sec=3&subsec=0&id=304053&dtP=2017-04-05&ppr=1#.WQnIY6L-uUk>

Call China's bluff

By Prof K Nageshwar | THE HANS INDIA | April 05, 2017

The simmering tensions in Sino-Indian ties are set to exacerbate in next couple of days, if one goes by Chinese fulminations and threats to India of serious repercussions over Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. Dalai Lama, the spiritual guru of Tibetans, set out for Arunachal Pradesh from Assam on Tuesday.

He will visit Tawang monastery, which is the largest monastery in India and second largest in the world after the Potala Palace in Lhasa. It is near where Dalai landed in India 58 years ago for asylum. He said Tibetans agree Arunachal Pradesh is a part of India. But, the Chinese claim it as South Tibet and, hence, consider him a traitor.

Though the McMahon Line drawn by the British has been the de facto border, China refuses to recognise it, and wants all of Arunachal Pradesh. India lays claim to Aksai Chin area under the Chinese on the north-west.

Unfazed by the Chinese sinister designs, Modi government resolutely stood its ground and even made a scathing attack against China for poking its nose in India's internal affairs.

Irritants between China and India have escalated of late. India is accusing China of torpedoing its move to get Pakistan-based terrorists named global terrorists. China is also blocking India's entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group and UN Security Council. China thinks India is seeking to be US pivot, and is interfering in far distant area like South China Sea.

But, China does not practise what it preaches. India respects territorial integrity of China, but it is not vice versa. China is already ringing India to cause it strategic unease by providing India's neighbours with financial muscle and deals.

It blatantly ignores Pak-abetted terrorism and practises double standards – It calls Dalai Lama a terrorist, but not Masood Azar who plotted Mumbai blasts. It is also going ahead with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through Gilgit-Baltistan, a part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, despite India's objections.

Despite this, India has let China become its largest trading partner with bilateral trade currently pegged at \$72 billion. The huge \$46 billion trade deficit with China does not worry India, but strategic skew does.

China fears any Indian overt support to Tibetan protestors for freedom on its soil would lead to global celebrities and, in course of time, nations joining their cause. This explains its serious warnings to India.

New Delhi is certainly doing it right in standing up to its giant hegemonic neighbour. Its message is loud and clear. It can seek strong ties with Taiwan and forge closer links with nations in dispute with China in South China Sea. It has a strong defence ally in the US.

However, India wants to pursue these tactics only to break China's resistance to India's efforts to make Pakistan mend its ways. China can be made to understand this only at political level. To that end, PM Modi needs to keep up his energetic and sustained engagement with China to help it bridge the trust deficit. But India should not put up with bullying anymore.

<http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Editorial/2017-04-05/Call-Chinas-bluff/291206>

Dalai Lama in Arunachal: China piles diplomatic pressure, but relations can't be a one-way street

TOI Editorials | April 07, 2017

Beijing has kicked up a furious diplomatic row over the Dalai Lama's ongoing visit to the northeast – including Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh – claiming that the Tibetan spiritual leader's tour will seriously damage its ties with "obstinate" New Delhi. Such strident pronouncements, bordering on threats, are unbecoming of Beijing. If the latter sincerely believes in cordial India-China relations it would do well to be more diplomatic in its responses. New Delhi, meanwhile, has been absolutely right in stating that the Dalai Lama is free to visit any part of India and Arunachal Pradesh certainly fits this description.

Besides, this isn't the first time the Dalai Lama is visiting the Tawang monastery in Arunachal. Why Beijing should mount such a fusillade of protests now is incomprehensible. By those standards, India ought to be breathing fire and brimstone over construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through PoK that is claimed by India. Moreover, Beijing is used to riding roughshod over Indian concerns. For example, it blocks New Delhi's entry to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and permanent membership of the UN Security Council, even as it coddles Pakistani terrorists such as Masood Azhar and tilts towards Pakistan as the latter mounts a proxy war against India.

The truth is China's strategy is based upon India's desire to avoid unpleasantness. But if India doesn't stand firm and yields to Chinese pressure, Beijing will push New Delhi around and deprive it of any bargaining power with respect to China. Beijing must know that diplomatic ties can't be a one-way street. If China starts a trade war with India, it will damage Chinese interests more given the massive trade surplus Beijing enjoys vis-à-vis New Delhi. With the Chinese economy already slowing down, that shouldn't be an appealing prospect for Beijing.

China's state-controlled media is not shy of pointing out that its military and economic power is vastly superior to India's. But if China is such a great power, it needs to ask itself why it feels so threatened by an 81-year-old man who is considered an icon of non-violence and spirituality across the world, and who does not challenge China's suzerainty over Tibet. Just as New Delhi sticks to a 'One China' policy, Beijing too must adhere to a 'One India' policy. For the India-China relationship to progress smoothly, Beijing can't expect to have its cake and eat it too.

<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toi-editorials/dalai-in-arunachal-china-piles-diplomatic-pressure-but-relations-cant-be-a-one-way-street/>

Tone the rhetoric down on Arunachal

ET Editorials | April 07, 2017

India has nothing to gain by entering into a war of words with Beijing on Arunachal Pradesh. Action speaks louder than words. India considers Arunachal Pradesh to be an integral part of the country and allowed spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, the Dalai Lama, to visit that state. If Beijing wants to take offence, it has the freedom to, but no offence is meant. Beijing, on the other hand, is building a so-called corridor of peace with Pakistan over territory that is part of the Jammu and Kashmir occupied by Pakistan.

Its pro-Islamabad policies include refusing to identify Pakistan-based terrorists as terrorists and trying to keep India out of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Beijing is also trying to worm its way into the rift it imagines has been created in New Delhi's relationship with Kathmandu. India and China are both members of the Brics grouping of large emerging economies and bear the responsibility of serving as the locomotives of world growth, by continuing to grow fast, even as the rest of the world falters.

Further, both have taken on huge commitments to make their growth green, fighting climate change not only for the sake of the world but for protecting their own huge domestic populations from the murderous effects of air and water pollution. In their long history of civilisational coexistence and give-and-take, there have been active hostilities only over a short period, post-Independence.

Sensibly, both countries have decided to settle their differences over where precisely their borders are through negotiations rather than through the use of force. Neither can hope to coerce the other into seeing one-sided sense. Chinese media have dangled the bait of a heated verbal exchange. Refusing to bite would be the right response for New Delhi and the Indian media.

This piece appeared as an editorial opinion in the print edition of The Economic Times.

<http://blogs.economictimes.indiatimes.com/et-editorials/tone-the-rhetoric-down-on-arunachal/>

Their old ways

Fuss over Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang shows failure of India, China to fashion a new modus vivendi

Editorial | Indian Express | April 08, 2017

The ongoing visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, his seventh, has evoked strong reactions from Beijing. Arunachal Pradesh is a part of India, and New Delhi has never prevented the country's "longest staying guest", as the Dalai Lama describes himself, from visiting any part of its territory.

Tawang, which he is visiting for the fifth time, is home to the world's second largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery after the Potala Palace in Lhasa. As the spiritual leader of the community, the Dalai Lama has every right to visit and preach at Tawang. New Delhi could not have stopped the visit, as Beijing appears to suggest it should have done. Suggesting that New Delhi staged this visit in order to use the "Dalai Lama card" against China, gives little credit to his intelligence and wisdom, and the evolution of his own position on Tibet and China over the decades of his exile.

China has said that the visit has "severely damaged peace and stability in the region" and "hurt bilateral relations". On his earlier visits too, Beijing objected, but the escalation in the rhetoric this time, with warnings from other quarters of retaliation in Kashmir, and a letter from ULFA's Paresh Barua asking him not to damage India-China relations "from Assam's soil", show how much has changed between the two countries since 2009, the last time the Dalai Lama visited Tawang. Beijing's steady outreach to India's neighbours on all fronts, the Belt and Road initiative, India's own energy interests in the South China Sea, its desire to join the NSG, its strategic and economic ambitions, show how the core interests of both countries have expanded. The Trump presidency has introduced new variables. But instead of discussing a new modus vivendi, as befits two big neighbours with global aspirations, India has been content to view ties with Beijing through a narrow security prism, reducing it to Masood Azhar and China's ties with Pakistan.

The angry rebuke from Beijing has shown that communication between the two sides is in serious neglect. China has said before that the boundary issue was a "leftover of history, and it cannot be resolved overnight". That is absolutely right. The way forward from the Dalai Lama's visit is for both sides to ensure that the tensions are not ratcheted up, and find ways to talk with each other more. February's strategic dialogue came after a long hiatus, and did little to address the gap in engagement. Both countries have too much at stake to needle each other to the point of destabilising the entire region.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/dalai-lama-india-arunachal-pradesh-dalai-lama-tawang-visit-china-4604305/>

Dalai Lama's Arunachal visit

Editorial | The Echo of India | April 09, 2017

Why China has overreacted to the Dalai Lama's current visit to Arunachal Pradesh baffles an explanation. The Tibetan religious leader had visited Arunachal Pradesh several times in the past – in 1983, 1996, 1997, twice in 2003 and in 2009. Each time China expressed its displeasure but not in the manner it has done this time. There is a not-so-veiled threat that peace in the border region may be disturbed. It is true that the military equation between China and India has been changing over the years and decades. China is undoubtedly far stronger than India militarily but India has come a long way since 1962. China may hit India but India can certainly hit back and inflict 'unacceptable' damage on it.

The scenario has, indeed, changed a lot. Today, India has the Russian-built Sukhoi MK 3 aircraft that has a range of five thousand kms and can carry nuclear warheads. India has the 5000 kms plus range Agni V missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads that can hit any place in China. It has the submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) that can deliver nuclear warheads from under water that can hit their targets 3,500 kms away. New Delhi has already decided and announced that it has undertaken a massive project of railroad expansion in Arunachal Pradesh, at an estimated cost of Rs. 70,000 crores. Three lines are proposed to be built: one from Bhalukpong adjacent to Tezpur in Assam right up to Tawang on the Sino-Indian border (378 kms); the second from North Lakhmpur in Assam to Silapathar (248 kms); and the third from Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh to Rupai in Tinsukia district of Assam (227 kms).

The construction of the railway network in Arunachal Pradesh is a sequel to the raising of the Mountain Strike Corps consisting of two infantry divisions, two independent armoured brigades, two independent artillery brigades and all other supporting branches. The proposed expansion of railway lines will enable India to move men and materiel to the borders in quick time. In case China embarks on a military adventure again, there will be no repetition of 1962. China knows it. China's contrived anger at Dalai Lama's latest visit to Arunachal betrays its admission of the fact that its massive logistic build-up against India in Tibet is going to be neutralized to a large extent in not-too-distant a future. The row over Dalai Lama's visit and the threats and fulminations emanating from Beijing are aimed at deterring India from being prepared for defending itself against a future attack.

<http://echoofindia.com/editorial/dalai-lama-s-arunachal-visit-125919>

For China and India, cooperation is in the interests of both sides

Thorny issues remain between the world's two most populous nations, such as the presence of the Dalai Lama, but the benefits of friendly relations are very clear

SCMP Editorial | April 09, 2017

The economic benefits from China and India, the world's two most populous nations, having friendly relations would be enormous. But in the way are three main issues: A decades-old border dispute, Chinese support for India's arch-rival Pakistan and New Delhi's backing of the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. The latter has put in jeopardy years of negotiations with a visit to the frontier town of Tawang, a pivotal area for Beijing when it comes to Tibetan affairs. It is a provocation that is as incendiary as it is unnecessary.

Tawang is part of the 84,000 sq km eastern Himalayan area disputed by China and India, known to Beijing as Southern Tibet, but to New Delhi, which administers it, as the state of Arunachal Pradesh. It lies to the south of the so-called McMahon Line, the de facto border between the rivals that was secretly drawn up by Tibet and India's former colonial power, Britain, in 1914. It was a time of internal strife in China and the deal has never been recognised by Beijing. The town is home to a monastery revered in Tibetan Buddhism and is said to be the birthplace of the popular sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso. Ordinarily, those would be justification for a spiritual leader of the religion to visit.

But the Dalai Lama represents more than his faith, being also a beacon for calls for Tibetan independence. He fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule, spending two weeks in Tawang, and now lives in exile in Dharamsala in India's north. Growing trade and investment links between China and India, and ongoing negotiations on the disputed border, have led New Delhi to tread warily on sensitive issues. But it has cast aside such caution with the Dalai Lama's visit, calling it an internal and religious matter, but ensuring a political dimension by having the Nobel Peace prize recipient accompanied by the home affairs minister, Kiren Rijiju.

Beijing is understandably angry and has lodged an official objection. Such actions undermine progress and interests, when the two sides should be cooperating to boost economic benefits and resolve disputes.

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/2086103/china-and-india-cooperation-interests-both-sides>

Editorial: India Needles China Via Dalai Lama

By Sunil Dang, Editor-in-Chief THE DAYAFTER | April 13, 2017

In geo-political set up, countries close to India by virtue of trait and culture are standing against New Delhi. However, our diplomats are not ignorant of this. They have been trying hard in this regard. As result, two of such nations — Bangladesh and Australia — came close to India in the last fortnight. But, Teesta Treaty failed to see the light and hence PM Modi's plan to federalize Indian foreign policy. By putting hitherto into the Teesta Treaty, Mamata Banerjee might have garnered political dividends but it would come at the cost of West Bengal. Post Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's state visit, India has scored in SAARC and NSG, which New Delhi must sustain in future because Beijing has survived the Washington ire with limited options. It also looks that Indian government is trying to remind the global leadership about the Tibet issue by needling China through Dalai Lama. With one shot in Syria, Donald Trump has broken the myth that he is a 'beck and call' person of the Kremlin. His decision of 59 strikes in Syria has given clear message to both Beijing and Pyongyang that they shouldn't follow Moscow with blind eye. This act would force Homeland Security to stop investigating Donald Trump's integrity towards America because Trump has done the same which Americans and global leadership expects from an American president. But, Trump needs a course correction while tackling ISIS as terror organizations have started to target places of worships as we witnessed recently at Lal Shahbaz Qalandar Sufi shrine in Pakistan, Charar-e-Sharif in Kashmir and at Christian palaces of worships in Egypt.

After long exercise to bring peace in Kashmir, the valley is still facing unrest which became visible when only 7 percent people turned out to cast their votes in recent Lok Sabha by-polls. Hence, we need a law where an election would be deemed to be cancelled if it registers below the particular percentage of net electorates in the constituency. When Kashmir valley is facing unrest, former Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri's statement to initiate Indo-Pak bilateral talks would further fuel the fire in J&K. His statement has come at a time when Pakistani military is illegally trying to kill Kulbhushan Jadhav, for alleged spying charges, puts doubt over Pakistan's commitment towards peace. It might be Islamabad's ploy to pressurize New Delhi to initiate bi-lateral talks rather cornering Pakistan on the global platforms. If Kashmiris are losing heart with the government, Delhites are also facing the same. In MCD Polls, all parties are facing heavy infighting and all three major parties are ready to make cartel with other to create hurdles in the work of the winner party which is happening in current Delhi assembly. If AAP wins MCD Polls, BJP-Congress would continue to create problems for AAP and vice versa. However, I am eagerly waiting for the Presidential Polls, especially after LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi failed to make any cut into the list of probable candidates. Though, BJP is short of

near 22,000 votes to have its own president, a likeminded group is working hard to make a pure RSS-BJP man walk the lawns of Raisina Hill.

Both India and China decided to separately revive its 2,000 year old business routes at same time. But, Indian plans still exist on papers while China has launched 12,000 kms long China (Yiwu) to London freight corridor spanning through seven Baltic and other European nations. China has done it at a time when its economy has registered its worst growth in last 25 years. Similarly, Indian government needs to create new business routes if it wants to register the robust growth, which its leaders have been vowing since the inception of their government. The government of India has done a great job by meeting its GST deadline and the tax reforms are going to be implemented by July 1st, 2017. However, it's high time for Modi government to crackdown on the bank NPA now.

Though, India is full of festivities, coming three months have no major festival. Hope, entire government and private offices would run in full swing in this period pumping the Indian economy to new levels.

<http://www.dayafterindia.com/2017/04/13/editorial-india-needs-china-via-dalai-lama/>



सत्यमेव जयते

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PRESS BRIEFINGS**



Visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama (HHDL) to Arunachal Pradesh

MEA Press Release, April 04, 2017

His Holiness the Dalai Lama (HHDL) is on a visit to Arunachal Pradesh. According to his website, His Holiness has visited Arunachal Pradesh on six earlier occasions. The dates and places visited earlier by him in Arunachal Pradesh are given below (source: www.dalailama.com)

- (i). 1983: March 24 – May 6[(March 24-27), Miao (March 27-29), Tenzingang (March 29-April 10), Bomdila (April 10-11), Tawang (April 11-17), Dirang (April 17-29), Bomdila (April 29-May 4), Itanagar (May 4-6)]
- (ii). 1996: December 7 – 16 [Miao (December 8-11), Tezu (December 11-14) & Mirig (Miring) (December 14-16)]
- (iii). 1997: October 9 – 21 [Tenzin Gang (October 10-13), Bomdila (October 13-14), Dirang (October 14-15), Tawang (October 15-21)]
- (iv). 2003: April 29 – May 9[Tenzingang (Apr 29 - May 1), Dahung (May 1), Bomdila (May 1-3), Dirang (May 3) & Tawang (May 3-9)]
- (v). 2003: December 11-17 [Miao (December 11-13), Tuting (December 13), Tezu (December 13-15), Mechuka (December 15), Itanagar (December 15-17) & Chowkham (December 17)]
- (vi). 2009: November 8-15. He commenced visit from Tawang on Nov 8 and was there for 4 days.

The Government has clearly stated on several occasions that HHDL is a revered religious leader, who is deeply respected as such by the Indian people. No additional colour should be ascribed to his religious and spiritual activities and visits to various states of India.

The Government, therefore, urges that no artificial controversy should be created around his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

New Delhi
April 4, 2017

http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28301/Visit_of_His_Holiness_the_Dalai_Lama_HHDL_to_Arunachal_Pradesh

Official Spokesperson's response to a query on the visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh signals a change in India's policy on Tibet or on the boundary negotiations

April 14, 2017

In response to a query on whether the visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh signals a change in India's policy on Tibet or on the boundary negotiations, the Official Spokesperson said:

"Let me make it absolutely clear that there is no change whatsoever in Government of India's policy towards the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. Similarly, our approach to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question remains unchanged."

http://www.mea.gov.in/media-briefings.htm?dtl/28393/Official_Spokespersons_response_to_a_query_on_the_visit_of_Dalai_Lama_to_Arunachal_Pradesh_signals_a_change_in_Indias_policy_on_Tibet_or_on_the_bound



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
PRESS BRIEFINGS**



Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference on March 31, 2017

FMRC | March 31, 2017

Q: The Dalai Lama is going to visit Arunachal Pradesh next week. Has China already protested to the Indian authorities?

A: We would like to express serious concern on relevant developments. China's position on the issue of the eastern part of China-India borders is clear-cut and consistent. The Dalai group has long engaged in anti-China and separatist activities and made its disgraceful performance on the border issues between China and India. India is very clear about the seriousness of issues related to the 14th Dalai Lama and the sensitivity of its border issues with China. Under such circumstances, India still invites the 14th Dalai Lama to visit disputed areas of China-India borders. This will gravely damage the peace and stability of the border regions between China and India and China-India relations.

China firmly opposes the 14th Dalai Lama's visit to areas where China and India have territorial disputes and has stated our concerns to India for multiple times. We again urge India to stick to its political commitment on Tibet-related issues and our important consensus on border issues, not to make any move that could further complicate the border issues, and not to give the group of the 14th Dalai Lama a stage to carry out anti-China and separatist activities, so that we can maintain the healthy and steady growth of China-India relations.

Q: It would not be the first time that Dalai Lama visited the "Arunachal Pradesh". He has been there in the past two years. China protested his visits before. Does this mean that China may protest as it always does, but it will not affect China-India relations?

A: China and India are two important developing countries. We are also neighbors. To maintain friendly relations between two developing countries is for sure in the interests of the two peoples. However, relations can only be developed on the basis of adhering to certain principles. As you just said, in the past, things that provoked China's firm opposition did occur, and they did cause harm to China-India relations. Therefore, we have asked India to earnestly honor its political pledges and avoid damaging China-India relations. Otherwise, India only stands to get hurt.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1450613.shtml

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on April 5, 2017

FMPRC | April 05, 2017

Q: According to Indian media reports, the Dalai Lama is visiting the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary at the invitation of the government of the so-called "Arunachal Pradesh". What is China's comment on that?

A: In disregard of China's concerns, the Indian side insists on inviting the Dalai Lama for activities in the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary. It severely hurts China's interests and the China-India relationship. Firmly opposed to that, the Chinese side will lodge stern representations with the Indian side.

The Chinese side holds a consistent and clear position on the eastern section of the China-India boundary. The Indian side knows well the role of the 14th Dalai Lama. Arranging his activities in this sensitive area where China and India have territorial disputes not only violates India's commitment on Tibet-related issues, but also fuels the border dispute. It runs counter to the sound momentum of the development of bilateral relations and will do no good to the Indian side.

The Chinese side will take necessary means to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests. We call on the Indian side to immediately stop its erroneous move of using the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests, refrain from hyping up sensitive issues between the two sides and undercutting the foundation for boundary negotiation and bilateral relations, and take concrete actions to safeguard the overall interests of the bilateral relations.

Q: With regard to what you said about Dalai Lama's visit, the Indian side said that no color should be added to this particular issue. An Indian minister stated that the "Arunachal Pradesh" is an integral part of India. The issue between India and China, as far as the border dispute is concerned, is about the line of actual control. China should not interfere in India's domestic affairs. What is your reaction?

A: It is without any doubt that China upholds the principle of not interfering in others' domestic affairs. And China's stance on the eastern section of the China-India boundary is also clear-cut. India's insistence on arranging the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary has gone beyond the scope of domestic affairs. We are all clear about who

the Dalai Lama is and what role he plays. As I said, by inviting the Dalai Lama for activities in the sensitive area where China and India have territorial disputes, the Indian side has violated its commitment on Tibet-related issues, and escalated the boundary dispute. We call on the Indian side to stop its erroneous act of using the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests.

Follow-up: The Indian official said it is a purely religious visit by the Dalai Lama, and he has visited this place 6 times earlier, and nothing particular significant should be attached to this. What is your comment on that?

A: We have noted the statement by the Indian official. But may I ask, do you really believe that the Dalai Lama is a purely religious figure? The answer is obvious. Since the Dalai Lama is not a purely religious figure, how can we say that his activities in the sensitive disputed area are for religious purposes only and nothing else? I believe you are all clear-headed on this and can see through all the arguments. We hope that the Indian side will respect China's interests and concerns on this issue, and stop using the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests.

Q: You mentioned in your reply that Dalai Lama's visit would escalate a border dispute between India and China. In what sense will it escalate the dispute? What measures is China likely to take as you said that India went ahead with the visit in disregard of China's concerns. In terms of lodging representations with the Indian side, has it been conveyed to the Indian ambassador to Beijing?

A: I would like to reiterate that Tibet-related issues bear on China's core interests. The Chinese side holds a consistent and clear position on the eastern section of the China-India boundary. In disregard of China's concerns and representations, the Indian side insists on arranging the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed part of China-India boundary. It certainly will hurt China's interests and the China-India relationship, and will bring nothing good to the Indian side. We ask the Indian side to stop using the Dalai Lama to undermine China's interests. We also hope that the Indian side will not hype up sensitive issues between the two countries, but take solid steps to safeguard the overall interests of the bilateral relationship. We have said multiple times before that a sound and stable relationship between China and India, who are close neighbors and major Asian countries, is in the interests of not only the two countries, but also stability and prosperity of the whole region. We hope to maintain the sound momentum of bilateral relations, but it requires the joint efforts of both sides. The Chinese side will lodge solemn representations with the Indian side about this.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1451507.shtml

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on April 6, 2017

FMPRC | April 06, 2017

Q: You said yesterday that China would lodge representations with the Indian side about Dalai Lama's visit to the "Arunachal Pradesh". Can you now confirm that China lodged the representations? Can you tell us which Indian official received the representations?

A: The Chinese side has lodged representations with the Indian Ambassador to China in Beijing, and the relevant official of the Indian Foreign Ministry in New Delhi.

Q: Is China's objection to Dalai Lama's visit to the "Arunachal Pradesh" driven by the view that India is questioning the one-China principle by inviting the Dalai Lama?

A: I want to stress once again that on major issues concerning China's territorial sovereignty and national security, China's position is consistent. The boundary question and Tibet-related issues bear on China's core interests. By extending an invitation to the Dalai Lama and approving his activities in the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary, the Indian side has breached its commitment on Tibet-related issues, further escalated the boundary dispute, and undermined mutual trust and relations between China and India. The Chinese side opposes the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed area and any country's provision of venues for his anti-China separatist activities. As I have said, the Chinese side has lodged stern representations with the Indian side in Beijing and New Delhi respectively. We urge the Indian side to stop its erroneous act of using the Dalai Lama to harm China's interests.

Q: You just said that other countries should respect China's core interests. Media reports say that the reason why India invited the Dalai Lama to the "Arunachal Pradesh" was because China did not respect India's core interests in issues such as joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). What is your comment on that?

A: We have unequivocally expressed our opposition to India's approval of Dalai Lama's activities in the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary. We will not speculate about India's motive. What I want to stress is that India has violated its commitment on Tibet-related issues, fueled boundary dispute and hurt China's interests and China-India relations by arranging Dalai Lama's activities in the disputed eastern section of the China-

India boundary in disregard of China's concerns. The Chinese side is firmly against that. Mutual respect and mutual accommodation of each other's core interests and major concerns serves as a foundation for the steady growth of China-India relations. The Indian side should honor its commitment, match its words with actions, stop its wrong moves and do more to increase mutual trust with China and safeguard the overall interests of China-India relations with concrete actions.

As for India's application for the NSG membership, the Chinese side has elaborated on its position many times. It is a multilateral issue that should be resolved by all NSG members through consultation. The Chinese side supports NSG members in working out, on the basis of thorough discussion, a non-discriminatory solution that is applicable to all non-NPT states through open and transparent inter-governmental procedures.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1451770.shtml

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference on April 12, 2017

FMPRC | April 12, 2017

Q: Indian media reported that during his activities in the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary, the Dalai Lama bashed the Chinese government again on the issues of reincarnation and about Tibet. At the same time, some Indian officials repeatedly made inappropriate remarks about the boundary question. What's China's comment on this?

A: Recently, in disregard of China's concerns, the Indian side insisted to arrange activities for the 14th Dalai Lama in the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary and indulged the provocative political remarks by the 14th Dalai Lama and specific Indian officials. It shows that activities by the 14th Dalai Lama far exceeded the scope of the so-called "religious activities". It is against the solemn commitment that the Indian government has made on Tibet-related issues and will have negative impact on the proper settlement of the territorial dispute between China and India through negotiations. China has lodged solemn representations with the Indian side. We will take further steps to preserve our territorial sovereignty and national security.

In the past, the 14th Dalai Lama had disgraceful performances on the boundary question. This time, he called himself "the son of India", backed up the unfounded remarks of officials from the so-called Arunachal Pradesh, bashed the Chinese government on Tibet-related issues and advertised its

political pursuit of splitting China. It is clear that those of the Dalai clique completely view themselves as foreigners. Dalai's performance can't affect China's position on the boundary and Tibet-related issues. It can't change the historical fact that the local government of Tibet of China has exercised effective administration over the eastern section. It can't change the fact that Tibet has enjoyed rapid progress with the support of the big family of China. His performance will only reveal his attempt to split China and undermine the interests of the Chinese people, including those of the Tibetan ethnic group under the disguise of religion.

I must stress that the boundary question and Tibet-related issues bear on the political foundation of China-India relations. Both sides have already reached important consensus to address the boundary question through negotiation and consultation. The Indian side has made solemn commitment on Tibet-related issues. We urge the Indian side to bear in mind the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples, maintain the political foundation for the development of bilateral relations, refrain from provocative actions that undermine boundary negotiations and bilateral relations and preserve the larger picture of China-India relations with concrete actions.

Q: Can you clarify in terms of what does China think would be the negative impact of Dalai Lama's visit on the settlement of the boundary question? You said that India violated its commitment on Tibet-related issues. Was it the commitment that India won't allow its territory to be used for anti-China activities?

A: First, I must correct you. Where the 14th Dalai Lama visited under the guise of religion and with the indulgence of the Indian government is the disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary. You can't just call it the Indian territory.

As for the commitment of India, the Indian government has made solemn commitment with the Chinese government on the boundary question and Tibet-related issues. There're historical lessons of damage to bilateral relations when the Indian side broke its commitment. I've made clear China's positions just now. China is strongly against the Indian side's indulgence toward Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed section of China-India boundary and especially the connivance of the provocative remarks by the Dalai Lama and specific Indian officials. We've lodged serious representations with India. What India has done will have negative impact on the efforts to properly settle boundary disputes through negotiations between the two sides.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1453181.shtml

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference on April 17, 2017

FMPRC | April 17, 2017

Q: After the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed territories in the east section of the China-India border, the Indian government clarified that there's no change to the position of Tibet being part of China and will continue to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. What's your comment on this?

A: I have noted relevant statements. For some time, due to reasons known to all, the political foundation for China-India relations has been damaged, casting a shadow over bilateral relations and the boundary negotiations. What is imperative now is for the Indian side to take concrete actions to honor its solemn promises on Tibet-related issues as well as the important consensus reached by the two sides on settling the boundary issue, in particular never again using the 14th Dalai Lama to undermine China's core interests, so as to create a good atmosphere for greater mutual trust between the two countries and proper settlement of the boundary question.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1454241.shtml

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference on April 19, 2017

FMPRC | April 19, 2017

Q: The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs said on April 14 that it has come up with new standardized names for six places in "Arunashal Pradesh". What is the reason for this issuing of the standardized names? Is this a response to the Dalai Lama's visit to that place? Chinese media also reported that the renaming would help China's position in its boundary talks with India. Can you comment on that?

A: With regard to the Indian government going ahead and allowing the 14th Dalai Lama to visit the controversial eastern part of the China-India boundary, our solemn position on that has been repeated multiple times. You must be very clear with it, so today I will not repeat it.

I also have seen the notice put up by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. China holds a consistent and clear position on the eastern section of the China-India boundary. The competent authorities in charge of managing China's

geographical names were exercising their lawful rights in publicly releasing these names in accordance with Regulations on the Management of Geographical Names and relevant regulations of the State Council. It is legitimate and appropriate. These names are passed down by ethnic minority groups like Menba and Zang who have long been living and working in the region, and they have been calling these places as such for generations. These names reflect from another angle that China's territorial claim over South Tibet is supported by clear evidence in terms of history, culture and administration.

Q: Further to what you said about the standardization of the names for the "Arunachal Pradesh", why has it taken so long for China to do this? The timing of this coincides with China's protest over the Dalai Lama's visit to these areas. Can you clarify whether this is a retaliatory response to India?

A: I can repeat for you that the Chinese government firmly objects to the Indian government allowing the 14th Dalai Lama to carry out anti-China separatist activities in disputed eastern section of the China-India boundary, and we have clearly pointed out that by doing this, the Indian side violated the solemn pledges it once made to China.

As for the timing of the announcement for these standardized names, in fact, I can tell you here that the Chinese government is conducting the second nationwide survey on geographical names, an important task of which is to standardize the geographical names in the languages of ethnic minority groups. Going forward, relevant authorities will step up their research and verification on geographical names recorded in Zang language. More standardized names will be released when the time and condition is right.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1454907.shtml

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CHINA



India using Dalai Lama card risks worsening bilateral ties

By Yu Ning | Global Times | March 06, 2017

Despite objections by China, India will host the Dalai Lama in a disputed region on the China-India border in the coming weeks. On Friday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang warned India of the seriousness of the Dalai issue and the sensitivity of the boundary question, and urged it to refrain from actions that would further complicate the question. Responding to Geng's remarks, Indian media outlet the Daily News & Analysis quoted Indian official sources as saying that the "Tibetan spiritual leader" was on his way to India for a religious trip and New Delhi was surprised at Beijing's new-found "sensitivities" as the Dalai Lama has undertaken numerous such visits earlier.

These Indian officials apparently didn't realize, or deliberately ignored, the severe consequences the Dalai Lama's trip would bring. The 14th Dalai Lama is by no means a spiritual leader but a Tibetan separatist. Allowing the Dalai Lama to visit the disputed area will inevitably trigger confrontation, undermine the stability of the region and sour Sino-Indian relations.

For a long time, some Indians have considered the Dalai Lama as a strategic asset. They believe that India could gain many benefits by using the Dalai issue as leverage. For instance, making an issue of the Dalai Lama could serve as a diplomatic tool to deal with China's growing economic and political influence in South Asia. However, they overestimate the political value of the Dalai Lama and his group while miscalculating China's determination to safeguard its core interests.

An increasing number of Western leaders have shut the door on the Dalai Lama in recent years after realizing the Dalai card is ineffective. In the wake of a string of countermeasures by China, Mongolia's government pledged to extend no more invitations to the Dalai Lama in late December. Against such a backdrop and at a time when a China-India strategic dialogue was just held to improve bilateral relations, the decision to receive the Dalai Lama in the disputed region is unwise. Leveraging the Dalai Lama issue to undermine Beijing's core interests risks dragging the two countries into a state of hostility.

The good momentum for the bilateral relationship in recent years shouldn't be disrupted. In future, there is great potential for the two countries to tap into cooperation. As the two biggest emerging economies, they have vast common interests on establishing a new global financial order, tackling climate change and other major issues. Now China and India have come to a critical period to further upgrade bilateral ties.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1036203.shtml>

China opposes India's invitation of Dalai Lama to visit disputed areas

Xinhua| March 31, 2017

BEIJING, March 31 (Xinhua) -- China is firmly opposed to any visit by the Dalai Lama to the disputed border region between China and India, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Friday.

Spokesperson Lu Kang made the comment when asked if China has protested to India about the Dalai Lama's scheduled visit next week to a disputed zone in the eastern part of the China-India border area.

"China is gravely concerned about this. Our stance on the eastern part of the China-India border is clear and consistent," Lu said at a routine press briefing. Lu said the Dalai Lama has long engaged in anti-China separatist activities and has behaved disgracefully on the China-India border issue.

India understands the seriousness of the Dalai Lama issue and the sensitivity of the border disputes, he said, noting that India's invitation to the Dalai Lama for activities in the disputed border areas will gravely damage peace and stability of the border areas, as well as bilateral relations.

Lu said China demands the Indian side meet its political commitments on Tibet-related issues and abide by the consensus reached by the two sides on border issues.

He urged India to refrain from taking actions that could further complicate the China-India border issue and to not provide a platform for separatist activities of the Dalai Lama clique in order to safeguard the healthy and stable development of bilateral ties.

"Maintaining a good relationship between the two big developing countries serves the interests of the two peoples. But China-India relations are based on certain principles," Lu said.

Similar incidents have happened in the past and triggered opposition from China, resulting in harm to bilateral relations, Lu said.

"Therefore, we urge the Indian side to deliver its political commitments on this issue so that bilateral relations won't be hurt. Otherwise, it will also be detrimental to India," the spokesperson said.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/31/c_136175273.htm

India using Dalai Lama's visit to upset Beijing: analyst

By Liu Xin | Global Times | April 04, 2017

The 14th Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed zone along the border of India and China on Tuesday will hurt Sino-Indian ties because China opposes any official invitations to the Dalai Lama, a Chinese expert said.

The Dalai Lama began his nine-day visit to "Arunachal Pradesh," called South Tibet in China, on Tuesday, the Hindustan Times reported.

"The Dalai's visit to the controversial area, especially Tawang, which China hopes will be returned, will affect relations between China and India," an expert from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, who requested anonymity, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

He said Tawang is also the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso, which gives the place religious meaning to Tibetans.

India's Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju was quoted by The Hindu as saying that the Dalai Lama's visit is "purely religious," and that there is no political angle behind the visit.

But the Chinese expert said that this is not the first time India has used the Dalai Lama to express its displeasure to China, especially when bilateral talks fail to include their demands or to pander to domestic anti-China issues.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said at a regular press conference last week that China is firmly opposed to any visit by the Dalai Lama to the disputed border region between China and India.

"China is gravely concerned about this. Our stance on the eastern part of the China-India border is clear and consistent," Lu said.

"India should deliver its political commitments to China on Tibet-related issues, including opposition to separatists," said the expert, noting that China would take steps against any government which invites the Dalai Lama to express its position to the international community.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1040773.shtml>

China firmly opposes India's invitation to the Dalai Lama

CCTV.com | April 05, 2017

The 14th Dalai Lama is scheduled to visit the eastern border area between China and India. The area has been subject to a decades-long territorial dispute between the two countries. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying says the proposed trip will seriously damage relations between China and India.

"India is clearly aware of the seriousness of the Dalai Lama issue and the sensitivity of the border issue. In such circumstances, India's invitation to the Dalai Lama to the disputed border region will severely damage peace and stability along border areas, as well as hurt ties between our two countries. China resolutely opposes the Dalai Lama visiting the border area for any reason and has expressed grave concern. Our position on the Sino-Indian eastern border is clear and consistent. India is clear about the role that the Dalai Lama plays. India's invitation violates its promises on the Tibet issue and provokes the China-India border issue. It won't bring any benefit to India or China-India relations. We urge India to stop using the Dalai Lama to damage Chinese interests. India should maintain China- India relations and refrain from hurting boundary negotiations," Hua said.

<http://english.cctv.com/2017/04/05/VIDEAc3zafNqYTDI2nHVdxTK170405.shtml>

China to lodge representations to India over Dalai Lama's visit

Xinhua | April 05, 2017

BEIJING, April 5 (Xinhua) -- China said on Wednesday it will lodge solemn representations to India over the Dalai Lama's visit to the disputed border region.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks at a routine press conference, responding to media reports that the Dalai Lama, regarded by China as a political exile who has attempted to split Tibet from Chinese territory under the cloak of religion, arrived in the so-called "Arunachal Pradesh" for a visit on Tuesday.

Despite China's concerns, India persisted in arranging the Dalai Lama to visit the disputed zone in the eastern part of the China-India border area, severely damaging China's interests and China-India relations, Hua said.

"China firmly opposes this and will lodge solemn representations to India," Hua said.

"Our stance on the eastern part of the China-India border is clear and consistent," Hua said. "Well aware of the Dalai Lama's role, India reneged on its commitments on Tibet-related issues and stirred up the border dispute by hosting the Dalai Lama in the sensitive disputed region," Hua said.

This move runs counter to the development of bilateral relations and will not bring any good to India, the spokesperson said, warning that China will take necessary measures to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and legitimate interests.

The spokesperson demanded India immediately stop using the Dalai Lama to damage Chinese interests and refrain from playing up the sensitive issues between the two countries or damaging the foundation for border talks and bilateral relations.

"India should work to protect the big picture of bilateral relations with real action," Hua said.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/05/c_136184934.htm

China slams India for provoking border conflict with Dalai invite

Global Times | April 05, 2017

China's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday criticized India for provoking a border conflict by inviting the 14th Dalai Lama to the controversial eastern part of the China-India border which, the ministry said, will "bring no benefits to India."

The Dalai Lama's visit to "Arunachal Pradesh," called South Tibet in China, severely damages China's interests and Sino-Indian relations, Hua Chunying, Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson, told a daily briefing.

"China firmly opposes this and will lodge solemn representations to India," Hua said. "Well aware of the Dalai Lama's role, India reneged on its commitments to Tibet-related issues and stirred up the border dispute by hosting the Dalai Lama in the sensitive disputed region," Hua added.

This is not the first time that the Dalai Lama has visited South Tibet and called the region Indian territory, which means he is committed to separating the nation, Zhu Weiqun, head of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, told the Global Times.

"India is losing its dignity as a big power by playing around with such a figure," Zhu said.

"Since the Indian government expressed its disappointment over the recent strategic dialogue with China, inviting the Dalai Lama could be seen as a way to vent its grievance," said Zhao Gancheng, director of the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.

India and China held a strategic dialogue in February, exchanging ideas on a number of issues, including India's application to the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Because of the problems in bilateral ties, India is using the Dalai Lama as a bargaining chip, Zhao told the Global Times.

However, in the long run, the Dalai Lama is not the primary problem in Sino-Indian relations, and it's not a problem that cannot be solved, Mao Siwei, China's former consul-general in Kolkata, India and a South Asian expert, told the Global Times.

The Dalai Lama had also been invited to a Buddhism conference in India in March, where he shared the stage with Indian government officials.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1040985.shtml>

New Delhi using Dalai as diplomatic tool harms Sino-Indian ties

By Liu Jianxi | Global Times | April 05, 2017

The 14th Dalai Lama has been invited by New Delhi to Tawang, a disputed region on the China-India border this week. The Dalai Lama is expected to be received by India's Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju this time, a move that gives the trip some official implications.

Beijing has voiced concerns over the issue, but New Delhi claimed that China shouldn't intervene in its "internal affairs." This is absurd.

The Dalai Lama has long been active in anti-China separatist activities under the guise of religion. New Delhi inviting the Dalai Lama to sensitive region

gravely damages the China-India relationship.

Unlike his predecessors, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to have taken a different stance on the Dalai issue, raising public engagements with the monk and challenging Beijing's bottom line. The Dalai Lama was received by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee in December, and invited by Pema Khandu, "chief minister" of "Arunachal Pradesh," to Tawang this month. "It's a behavioral change you are seeing. India is more assertive," Rijiju openly said in an interview with Reuters earlier.

Amid Beijing-New Delhi conflicts, the Dalai Lama is now openly used by India as a diplomatic tool to win more leverage.

New Delhi is dissatisfied with Beijing's stance over its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist. Therefore, Delhi attempts to play the Tibet card against Beijing. In fact, China has never thought of making trouble for India, and is handling these issues in accordance with international practices and UN regulations.

India is also exploring the option of linking the strategic border district of Tawang with a railway network, another provocation against Beijing. India has also invited a "parliamentary" delegation from Taiwan in February.

New Delhi may have underestimated Beijing's determination to safeguard its core interests. Many countries have pledged not to extend invitations to the Dalai Lama. As the two largest emerging economies, China and India have great potential for cooperation.

New Delhi should overcome its suspicions against Beijing. China doesn't allow India to free ride on its economic growth while jeopardizing Beijing's core interests.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1040828.shtml>

India's use of Dalai Lama card tactless

Editorial | Global Times | April 06, 2017

The 14th Dalai Lama started his visit to "Arunachal Pradesh" (South Tibet of China) on Tuesday. The Dalai Lama has been to the disputed region before, but what makes this trip different is that he is received and accompanied by India's Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju. When China raised the concern over

the visit, Rijiju commented that China shouldn't intervene in their "internal affairs."

When the Dalai Lama clique fled from Tibet, he sought shelter at Dharamsala of India, thus the Dalai question became one of the problems that upset Sino-Indian relationship. New Delhi takes a stance that opposes the Dalai Lama engaging in anti-China activities on the soil of India; however, it has long attempted to use the Dalai Lama as a card.

When India emphasizes the relationship with China, it would place a tight control on the Dalai. When it has a grudge against China, it may prompt the Dalai to play certain tricks as a signal sent to China.

Recently, India has been strongly dissatisfied with China for not supporting its membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Its request to name Masood Azhar, head of Pakistani militant group, to a UN Security Council blacklist was disapproved by China, resulting in some Indians calling for a boycott of Chinese goods. The Dalai's visit to Arunachal Pradesh this time is seen as New Delhi using the monk as a diplomatic tool to put pressure on China.

But this is a clumsy and rude move. The Dalai is a highly politicized symbol in China's diplomacy. For any country, its attitude toward the Dalai Lama almost affects the entire relationship with China. The West has fully recognized the nature of the Dalai as a diplomatic card and is extremely prudent in using it. When the Dalai travels to the capital of a Western country, who will meet him, when and where would be carefully weighed.

Before this trip, the Dalai Lama was received by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee in December. At a time when the Dalai has been given a cold shoulder in many places of the world, New Delhi is bucking the trend and treating him as a favorite.

It is worth mentioning that India is dissatisfied with China mainly in the international multilateral field, while the Dalai Lama question is purely a China's domestic issue. China also suffered setbacks when applying for the membership of international organizations. Its proposal to blacklist some terrorist group had also been refused. However, as dissatisfied as China was, it didn't make an issue of them.

New Delhi probably overestimates its leverage in the bilateral ties with China.

The two countries in recent years have continuously strived to improve their relationship and the peace on the border area has been maintained. India has benefited from the good momentum of bilateral relationship as much as China. If New Delhi ruins the Sino-India ties and the two countries turn into open rivals, can India afford the consequence?

With a GDP several times higher than that of India, military capabilities that can reach the Indian Ocean and having good relations with India's peripheral nations, coupled with the fact that India's turbulent northern state borders China, if China engages in a geopolitical game with India, will Beijing lose to New Delhi?

China considers India as a friendly neighbor and partner. China has never provoked bilateral disputes or made any pressing demand on India over the Dalai Lama. New Delhi should respond to Beijing's goodwill with goodwill.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1041035.shtml>

India's use of Dalai Lama as leverage irresponsible

China Daily | April 06, 2017

New Delhi not only allowed the 14th Dalai Lama to visit Southern Tibet, a historical Chinese territory India has illicitly occupied and refers to as "Arunachal Pradesh", but the spiritual leader of "Tibetan independence" was also escorted on his trip by India's junior minister of home affairs.

To Beijing, that is a double affront.

The Times of India, for one, made it crystal clear: "Dalai Lama and Tibet: India's leverage against China", is the headline of an article published on Monday that says "Tibet and the Dalai Lama can help India counter in some measure the vice like veto China exercises on India's entry to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its move to bring Pakistan-based terrorist mastermind Masood Azhar under UN sanctions".

Calling Southern Tibet "an inseparable part of India", Kiren Rijiju, the Indian junior minister, said: "China should not object to the Dalai Lama's visit and interfere in India's internal affairs."

Rijiju might think himself cute in borrowing a line from Beijing's diplomatic representations, but he has ignored the fundamental distinction here: Like Taiwan and any other part of China, Tibet is a part of Chinese territory no matter whether New Delhi agrees or not. Southern Tibet, on the other hand, was stolen from China by his country's former colonial master taking advantage of China's internal strife.

Should he have any questions regarding the status of Southern Tibet, Rijiju can consult the historical archives. Neither the "McMahon Line", by which New Delhi justifies its actual control of Southern Tibet, nor the present-day "Arunachal Pradesh" has Beijing's endorsement. In other words, Indian occupation of the area is legally untenable. Using it as leverage, therefore, is not just unethical. It is outright illicit.

Despite the historical dispute, the China-India border area has by and large remained peaceful recently, particularly since Beijing and New Delhi began to get serious about border talks.

If New Delhi chooses to play dirty, however, Beijing should not hesitate to answer blows with blows.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2017-04/06/content_28810176.htm

Dalai Lama's trip a betrayal of the country

By Xi Rao | China Daily | April 12, 2017

The Dalai Lama's recent visit to "Arunachal Pradesh", as it is called by its illegal Indian occupiers, has once again put the Southern Tibet region of China in the spotlight. The region was separated from China by the so-called McMahon Line in the early 1900s, which was a line the then foreign secretary of the British-run government of India, Henry McMahon, proposed as part of the Simla Accord, a treaty that was never validated.

Even after fleeing to India in 1959, the Dalai Lama did not promote India's "sovereignty" over Southern Tibet at first. Yet, that gradually changed. He called Southern Tibet "Arunachal Pradesh" in his memorandum to then Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. He said in an interview with local media during his visit to the region in 2003 that "Arunachal Pradesh" is part of Tibet. In 2008, he said in an interview with The Times of India that the McMahon Line is "a legal border", and "Arunachal Pradesh" is India's territory. In 2009, in spite of the Chinese government's opposition, the Dalai Lama visited the region under the name of a trip of reminiscence.

His latest visit to the region, at the invitation of the Indian government, shows that he can't wait to give away Tawang district, the holy land of China's Tibet where the sixth Dalai Lama was born, in exchange for India's support for the survival of his separatist group. His trip is testimony to his betrayal of himself, the people, the country, as well as regional peace.

Thubten Gyatso, the 13th Dalai Lama and the predecessor of Tenzin Gyatso, or the current 14th Dalai Lama, said clearly in 1930, three years before he passed away: "The British people indeed showed their will to tempt me. But I know sovereignty must not be lost." His principle of "not getting close to the British, and not betraying the central government" is well known. Tenzin Gyatso should finish his predecessor's unfulfilled cause. Instead, he wants to sell the land to a foreign country.

The Dalai Lama is betraying the Tibetan people. Southern Tibet is the holy land in the hearts of Tibetan people, and has inalienable connections in religion, ethnicity, culture and history with the rest of Tibet. The Memba people and others living in the region have a similar culture and traditional customs as Tibetan people, and are blood compatriots with the Chinese people.

Under India's illegal rule, the residents of Southern Tibet live difficult lives, face various kinds of discrimination, and look forward to returning to China.

Last, but not least, the Dalai Lama has betrayed regional peace. Solving the border dispute in a peaceful manner will require the courage and wisdom of the peoples of China and India. The Dalai Lama's visit to the sensitive region benefits neither. China and India have engaged in border issue negotiations for more than 20 years, which has yet to yield any final conclusion. Depending on India for a living, the Dalai Lama's eagerness to please his master is understandable, but he is going too far by selling Southern Tibet in exchange for his master's favor.

Incomplete statistics show he has described himself a "son of India" more than 20 times on public occasions in recent years. He just hopes to add weight to his identity as a "son of India" by selling the territory to India this time, ignoring the trouble he is making for the settlement of China-India border issues, regional peace and stability.

One identity of the 14th Dalai Lama that history will record for posterity is he is a troublemaker.

The author is a Beijing-based commentator on international studies.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2017-04/12/content_28886117.htm

OTHERS



Full text of ULFA[I] Chairman's Open Letter to Dalai Lama

By Anirban Kalita | Times of Assam | March 29, 2017

ULFA[I] Chairman Dr Abhizeet Asom writes an Open Letter to Dalai Lama on Assam-China relationship and issue of Assam's sovereignty. Dr Abhizeet Asom distributed the letter to Media on March 28, 2017. Read the full text of the Open Letter by ULFA[I] Chairman Dr Abhizeet Asom below:

To
Dalai Lama
Your Holiness Dalai Lama,

It is with deepest of regret rather than welcoming to my homeland Assam with open arms, I am having to address you with disdain, being a sincere admirer of your scholarship.

Your Holiness, Assam is of course not a strange place for you. I believe that, the day you stepped on to Assam's soil in 1959 would be as fresh in your as if it was yesterday. It would have been it been wonderful if you would have stopped in Assam and fulfilled the prophecy of Guru Rinpoche Padmasambhava and built the last vestige of Buddhist philosophy for all time in a Sovereign Independent Assam negotiating the restoration of Sovereignty of Assam from India, taking cognisance of the fact that the British Colonial power was very unfair not to restore the Assam's Sovereignty in 1947 which passed to British East India Company by default. In contrast, a conquered Ava (Burma) although was ruled as a region under the Bengal Presidency has been returned to a Sovereign country by the same colonial power.

In the list of Indian illegal occupation is of course is Nan Zang (Southern Tibet). The cunning Indian Premier of the day, Nehru grabbed the opportunity of attempting to undo the acceptance of Tibet a part of China in 1951, made you a very special "Guest" in keeping with the scheme of things to keep NEFA [North Eastern Frontier Agency] ceded to British India by Tibetan emissary at Delhi without the knowledge and agreement of the Chinese imperial representative to the Simla conference of 1914. Despite the deceitful drawing of the McMahon line then, and your Holiness's acceptance that your homeland is an autonomous region of China, you perpetrating the fallacy of 1914 by recently reiterating that Tawang belongs to India; If it is not double talk, what is it, your Holiness? I am really astounded that you have succumbed to appeasement from an eminent position you have in the world stage, to support India's occupation of Nan Zhang.

Your Holiness, I believe you must be aware of the ancient Kham region of Yunan. You might as well be aware that is the reason of my country getting the name Assam today is from the Khamti word Ha-Kham. My organization, the United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) is in the vanguard of returning Assam to her glorious past which our citizens desperately aspiring to achieve. As a Tibetan politician, not being a stranger to Assam and her history, I would urge you to acknowledge that Assam is an occupied land and her freedom should resonate with your Holiness. In 1959, you came down through one of the many tracks that have existed from the connectivity between ancient Tibet and Assam. It is a very important factor. Strategically Tibet has been described as the underbelly of China and Assam could be used as a spring board by the enemies of China in the event of hostilities against your country.

India's military adventure against China is most likely will be in the form repetition of India's aggression against China in 1962. Indian policy of hegemony and supremacy is raising its ugly head again. Hence, India is rebuffing China's offer of peaceful settlement of the border discord which was also on offer from Premier Zhou Enlai [Chou en Lai] in the 60's.

Your Holiness's unwise plan to go to Tawang despite China objecting to your visit is a great concern to us. Because the situation can escalate and China's restraint not to have a military confrontation with India might be overridden by necessity and a war might become inevitable.

This time China is not fighting a rag-tag Indian military of 1962. India has kept her nuclear arsenal ready on Assam's soil to use against your country. In neutralizing Indian military power China is also likely to unleash an immense counter offensive which will be a disaster for Assam. Moreover, your beloved Tibet also likely to suffer heavily from your host's action.

Hence, if I may suggest, if your Holiness indeed decides to come to Assam, it is possible to turn it to an opportunity of an ambassador of peace and something meaningful to your legacy. However, the caveat we would like you to honour upon making the trip that nothing against China will be uttered by you in private or public; because China has always been a friendly neighbour of ours and the relationship between China and Assam is truly very deep in linguistic and cultural heritage of the two nations. We won't tolerate India's view to be propagated from Assam's soil.

1. Looking at it optimistically, Your Holiness might consider reviving the Buddhist heritage of Assam which has contributed so much to Tibet of yore

A. The Hoygriva of Hajo need to be restored to Avalokiteśvara's worship heritage of the Dolois of Assam.

- B. The hidden history of Gautam Buddha and Hajo be brought to light so that Hajo gets the rightful place in Buddhism.
 - C. Fulfilling, Guru Riponche Padmasambhava's prophecy with the help of the Buddhist world a Vihar be built to study the philosophy of Buddhism and study natural sciences.
2. Being a spiritual leader condemn India's brutal oppression is Assam especially slaying of 855 students during the the democratic and non violent Assam Movements '79 – '85.
3. For the sake of the whole region, including Nan Zang, your Holiness could persuade India to restore the Sovereignty of Assam and the other bona fide Nations of the region including Sikkim.

I trust your Holiness will treat this appeal as an olive branch on behalf of the people of Assam and hope that you will reciprocate the kindness and generosity bestowed upon you in 1959.

Wishing your Holiness a long life, peace and happiness.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Abhizeet Asom
Chairman
United Liberation Front of Asom [Independent]

<https://www.timesofassam.com/headlines/full-text-ulfa-i-chairmans-open-letter-dalai-lama/>