

TIBETAN DIASPORA

Population:	Approximately 127,935 [Approximate world-wide distribution: India 94,203; Nepal 13,514; Bhutan 1,298; the rest of the world 18,920]
Constitution:	The Charter of the Tibetans-in-Exile
Judiciary:	Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission: The Chief Justice Commissioner and two Justice Commissioners are elected by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile out of a list of nominated candidates submitted by a selection committee of three to five members constituted by Chief Justice Commissioner, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Sikyong (President).
Legislature:	Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile with 45 members is directly elected by the exile population. The term of office is five years.
Executive:	The Kashag (Cabinet) is the apex executive body. The President is directly elected by the exile population for a term of five years. The President nominates other members of the Kashag to the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile to give its approval for their appointment.
Major NGOs:	Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), Tibetan Women's Association (TWA), Gu-chu-sum Movement, National Democratic Party of Tibet (NDPT)
Foreign Missions:	Based in New Delhi, Kathmandu, Washington D.C., Geneva, Tokyo, London, Brussels, Canberra, Moscow, Pretoria, Taipei and São Paulo.
Livelihood:	Agriculture, agro-industries, handicraft exports, woollen garment-selling enterprise and service sector.

TIBETAN NATIONAL FLAG



During the reign of the seventh-century king, Songsten Gampo, Tibet was one of the mightiest empires in Central Asia. Tibet, then, had an army of about 2,860,000 men. Each regiment of the army had its own banner. The banner of Yö-Ru Tö regiment had a pair of snow lions facing each other; that of Yä-Ru Mä a snow lion with a bright upper border; that of Tsang-Ru-Lag a snow lion standing upright, leaping towards the sky; and that of Ü-Ru Tö a white flame against a red background.

This tradition continued until the Thirteenth Dalai Lama, while retaining the snow lion motif, designed a new banner and issued a proclamation for its adoption by all the military establishments. This banner became the present Tibetan national flag.

Symbolism

- The white triangle in the centre represents a snow mountain and symbolises Tibet, which is known as the snow land.
- The six red rays symbolise the six original tribes of Tibet.
- The red and dark-blue rays alternate with each other to symbolise the unflinching determination of Tibet's two protector-deities to guard the country's spiritual and secular traditions. One protector-deity, namely Nechung, is red in colour while the other, namely Palden Lhamo (Sri Devi), is black in colour.
- The sun symbolise the equal enjoyment of freedom, as well as spiritual and secular well-being, by the people of Tibet.
- The valiant stance of the two snow lions symbolises complete victory for Tibet's spiritual and secular policies.
- The three blazing gems held aloft by the snow lions symbolise the Tibetan people's reverence for the three sources of spiritual refuge; namely the Buddha, his teaching and the community of monks and nuns.
- The two-coloured circular motif held by the snow lions symbolises the voluntary adherence to the Ten Divine Virtues and Sixteen Human Moral Codes.
- The yellow border symbolises the perpetual flourishing of Buddhism in all directions.

(Adapted from The Tibetan National Flag published by the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA), Dharamshala, India)



TIBETAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Let the radiant light shine of Buddha's
wish-fulfilling gem teachings,
the treasure mine of all hopes for happiness
and benefit
in both worldly life and liberation.
O Protector who hold the jewel of the
teachings and all beings,
nourishing them greatly,
may the sum of your virtuous deeds grow full.
Firmly enduring in a diamond-hard state,
guard all directions with compassion and love.
Above our heads may divinely appointed rule
abide
endowed with a hundred benefits and let the
power increase of four-fold auspiciousness.

May a new golden age of happiness and bliss
spread
throughout the three provinces of Tibet
and the glory expand of religious-secular rule.
By the spread of Buddha's teachings in the ten directions,
may everyone throughout the world
enjoy the glories of happiness and peace.
In the battle against dark negative forces
may the auspicious sunshine of the teachings
and beings of
Tibet and the brilliance of a myriad radiant
prosperities
be ever triumphant.

CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

Background

In 1949 the People's Liberation Army of China marched into Tibet's eastern provinces of Kham and Amdo, seizing control over eastern Tibet's headquarters, Chamdo, the following year. In 1951, the so-called 17-Point Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet was forced upon the Tibetan Government and populace. The P.L.A. then advanced further west and in 1959 brutally crushed the Tibetan National Uprising in Lhasa. This forced His Holiness the Dalai Lama to escape into exile in India, followed by some 80,000 Tibetans who settled in India, Nepal and Bhutan as refugees. Currently, the exile Tibetan population is about 127,935, out of which more than 90,000 live in India.

On 29 April 1959, His Holiness the Dalai Lama established the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in the north Indian hill-station of Mussoorie. In May 1960, the CTA moved to Dharamshala.

The Tibetan people, both in and outside Tibet, look to the exile administration as their moral and legitimate representative. Because of this, and the administration's commitment to truth, non-violence, genuine democracy and freedom as its inviolable principles, an increasing number of member of parliaments and general public around the world recognize the CTA as the legitimate and true representative of the Tibetan people.

Right from its inception, the CTA set itself the twin tasks of restoring freedom for Tibet and rehabilitating Tibetan refugees. The rehabilitation includes three important programmes:

a) promoting education among the exile population; b) building a firm culture of democracy; and c) paving the way for self-reliance so that the Tibetan people are able to survive with self-esteem and confidence that flows from not having to depend on external assistance.

One of the main reforms undertaken by His Holiness the Dalai Lama was the democratization of the exile Tibetan polity, beginning with the inception of a parliament – then named the Commission of Tibetan People’s Deputies – on 2 September 1960. The parliament gradually matured into a full-fledged legislative body, thus coming to be known as the Assembly of Tibetan Peoples’ Deputies (ATPD). Since 2006 it has been termed the Tibetan Parliament in-Exile (TPiE).

In 1990 His Holiness the Dalai Lama announced further democratisation, which increased the members of the Tibetan Parliament to 46. The Parliament was empowered to elect the members of the Kashag or the Cabinet members, which was made answerable to the Parliament. Similarly, the Tibetan judiciary, known as the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission, was instituted in 1992 under the provisions of the Arbitration Act of the Government of India.

The newly-empowered Tibetan Parliament adopted the exile Tibetan constitution which was titled *The Charter of the Tibetans-in-Exile*.

In 2001 the Tibetan Parliament, on the advice of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, amended the *Charter* to provide for direct election of the Kalon Tripa (the highest executive authority) by exile Tibetans. The Kalon Tripa, in turn, would nominate the other Kalons (Cabinet members) and seek the Parliament's approval for their appointment. The first directly-elected Kalon Tripa – Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche – took the oath of office on 5 September 2001. He was elected to the post for the second term in August 2006.

On 10 March 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama announced his wish to retire from his political position, and thereafter, devolved his entire political and administrative responsibilities to the democratically elected Tibetan leadership. On 8 August 2011, Dr. Lobsang Sangay was sworn in as the third directly-elected Kalon Tripa. In 2012 he became the first Sikyong after the devolution of political authority.

Subsequent amendments were made to the *Charter* to change the official title of Kalon Tripa to Sikyong (Political Leader) in September 2012. He was re-elected as Sikyong for a second term in 2016. In April 2017 the official title of Sikyong when referred to in English was changed to “President” of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Today the CTA has all the departments and attributes of a free democratic administration. However, it must be noted that the CTA is not destined to take power when freedom returns to Tibet.



THE FIVE-FIFTY VISION

The Five-Fifty Vision of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) is that freedom will be restored to Tibet and that His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama will return to his homeland. This Vision motivates and shapes all of CTA's activities.

The CTA strives to realize this Vision through a policy of nonviolence and dialogue with the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC). CTA has followed the Middle Way Approach (MWA) for many years and will continue to follow this approach going forward. MWA has received considerable approval and support throughout the international community and is viewed as a realistic path toward a mutually beneficial and viable resolution of the issue of Tibet.

The Five-Fifty Vision calls for resolving the issues around Tibet's political future within the next five years. CTA will try to achieve this result by means of the MWA. At the same time, CTA will devote substantial attention and resources to sustaining and strengthening the resilience of the Tibetan populace both in and outside Tibet, via the Tibetan freedom struggle and by preserving and promoting Tibetan culture and its unique identity for the next fifty years if needs be.

With respect to the Five-Fifty Vision, “Five” and “Fifty” are mutually reinforcing and complementary. “Five” is derived from the commitment of CTA that Tibet’s political future, and His Holiness’ return to Tibet, should be resolved within the next five years. ‘Five’ thus expresses an urgency and a focus that will drive CTA priorities and activities over the near term.

“Fifty” indicates that the CTA must also focus on the survival and strengthening of the Tibetan people in and outside Tibet over the next fifty years if this is needed. These efforts will include programs and activities to preserve and promote Tibetan culture and identity, lead the Tibetan Freedom Movement around the world, and assure the viability and sustainability of the CTA and Tibetan communities in India, Nepal and Bhutan. “Fifty” thus conveys the commitment to a long-term struggle and to the long-term preservation and strengthening of Tibetan culture and people inside and outside Tibet.

CONSTITUTION

The Charter of the Tibetans-in-Exile

The *Charter of the Tibetans-in-Exile* is the supreme law governing the functions of the Central Tibetan Administration. It was drafted by the Constitution Redrafting Committee and referred to the Assembly of Tibetan Peoples' Deputies for approval. The assembly adopted the *Charter* on 14 June 1991.

Based on the spirit of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the *Charter* guarantees equality for all Tibetans before the law and ensures fundamental rights and freedom without discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, race, language and social origins. It provides a clear separation of power among the three organs of the administration: the judiciary, legislature and executive.

Before the *Charter* came into being, the CTA functioned primarily along the lines of the draft democratic constitution for future Tibet which was promulgated by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 10 March 1963.

Over the years, the *Charter* was amended on a regular basis. After the devolution of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's political and administrative powers, the *Charter* was again amended accordingly to distribute the powers within the three bodies i.e. the judiciary, legislature and executive.

THE JUDICIARY



Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission

The Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission was founded on 11 March 1992 in accordance with Article 62 of the *Charter of the Tibetans-in-Exile*. It is the apex judicial organ of the Central Tibetan Administration. It is responsible for adjudicating all civil disputes in Tibetan communities. It however does not entertain any issue, if doing so is seen to be in contravention of the laws of the host countries. Similarly, it does not handle criminal suits, as this is the preserve of the respective land of abode.

The Commission aims to render equal protection before the law to all Tibetans. In essence, the judiciary is an organ where people can raise their grievances against the administration.

The Commission is comprised of a Chief Justice Commissioner and two Justice Commissioners. The Chief Justice Commissioner chairs commissioners' sittings and adjudications. However, while adjudicating suit(s) the commissioners exercise equal power. The Chief Justice Commissioner has the dual role of being the administrative head of the Commission.

The Chief Justice Commissioner and the two Justice Commissioners are elected by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE) out of a list of nominated candidates submitted by a selection committee of three-five members constituted by Chief Justice Commissioner, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the President of CTA as and when vacancy arises. The Chief Justice Commissioner holds office for a term of five years or until he/ she reaches the age of 65. The two other commissioners can hold office till the age of 65.

However, TPiE by a motion of two-third majority is authorized to impeach them before the expiry of their tenure.

Article 67 of the Charter has given the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission the power to unanimously formulate Laws and Regulations for its own functioning. Therefore, till date the Commission has formulated a Tibetan Civil Procedure Code, a Judiciary Code and Evidence Law.

According to the Judiciary Code and Civil Procedure Code, there are three tiers of the Justice Commission: the Supreme Justice Commission, the Circuit Justice Commission and the Local Justice Commission. There are, as of now, three full-fledged Local Justice Commissions: the Southern Local Tibetan Justice Commission in Bylakuppe, the Northern Local Tibetan Justice Commission in Dehradun and the Ladakh Local Tibetan Justice Commission in Leh. The Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission and the Local Justice Commission are serviced by Justice Secretariats which provide secretarial and administrative services to the Commissions.

THE LEGISLATURE



Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile

Instituted in 1960, the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile is the highest legislative organ of the Central Tibetan Administration. The creation of this democratically-elected body was one of the major reforms that His Holiness the Dalai Lama brought about in his efforts to introduce a democratic system of administration based on a combination of traditional values and modern norms.

The parliament consists of 45 elected members: 10 representatives with a minimum of two women candidates from each of the three traditional provinces of Tibet i.e., U-Tsang, Dhotoe and Dhomey; two representatives from each of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism and native Tibetan Bon religion; two from each of the Tibetan communities in North America and Europe; plus one from Australasia and Asia (excluding India, Nepal and Bhutan).

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile is headed by the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker who are elected by the members of parliament. Elections are held every five years. Every Tibetan who is 18 years or above has the right to vote and those who are 25 or above have the right to contest elections to the parliament, irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex or place-of-birth.

Parliamentary sessions are held bi-annually with an interval of six months between sessions. However, with a simple majority recommendation from either the Kashag, the TPiE or the Standing Committee of the parliament, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker may call for additional sessions of the parliament. When the parliament is not in session, there is a Standing Committee of eleven members: two members from each province and one from each religious denomination.

As representatives of the people, the Members of Parliament undertake periodic tours of Tibetan communities to make an assessment of the people's overall conditions. On their return, they advise the administration about the grievances and matters needing attention.

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile also maintains communication with the public through the Local Tibetan Assemblies established in 37 major Tibetan communities in exile. The *Charter* provides for the establishment of a Local Tibetan Assembly in a permanently settled community of 50 to 150 Tibetan families or has a population of over 200 to 600 people. The Local Tibetan Assemblies are scaled-down replicas of the TPiE. They supervise the activities of their respective local administrative heads and also make laws for their own communities according to local needs. These laws must be practiced by the respective local communities.

The TPiE is serviced by the Parliamentary Secretariat which provides it with secretarial and administrative services.

THE EXECUTIVE



Kashag (Cabinet)

The Kashag is the apex executive body of the Central Tibetan Administration and its members are the Kalons (cabinet members) of the exile administration. It implements the policies laid down by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and administers the Tibetan community in exile. The *Charter of the Tibetans-in-Exile* stipulates that the Kashag should have maximum of eight members, including the Sikyong, formerly known as the Kalon Tripa, who is the executive head. The cabinet members head the departments under the Kashag; these are Religion and Culture, Home, Finance, Education, Security, Information and International Relations and Health.

In March 2001, the Tibetan Parliament - on the advice of His Holiness the Dalai Lama - amended the *Charter* to provide for the direct election of the Kalon Tripa by exile Tibetans. In May 2001, Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche was elected as Kalon Tripa marking another democratic milestone in reforming the Tibetan polity. Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche was re-elected in 2006.

In May 2011, on the advice of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Parliament amended the *Charter* and democratic reforms further deepened with the devolution of His Holiness' political responsibilities to the elected Tibetan leadership. The Kashag was then headed by Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche and so he became the first Kalon Tripa post-devolution. In March 2011, Dr Lobsang Sangay was elected as the Kalon Tripa and assumed office on 8 August 2011.

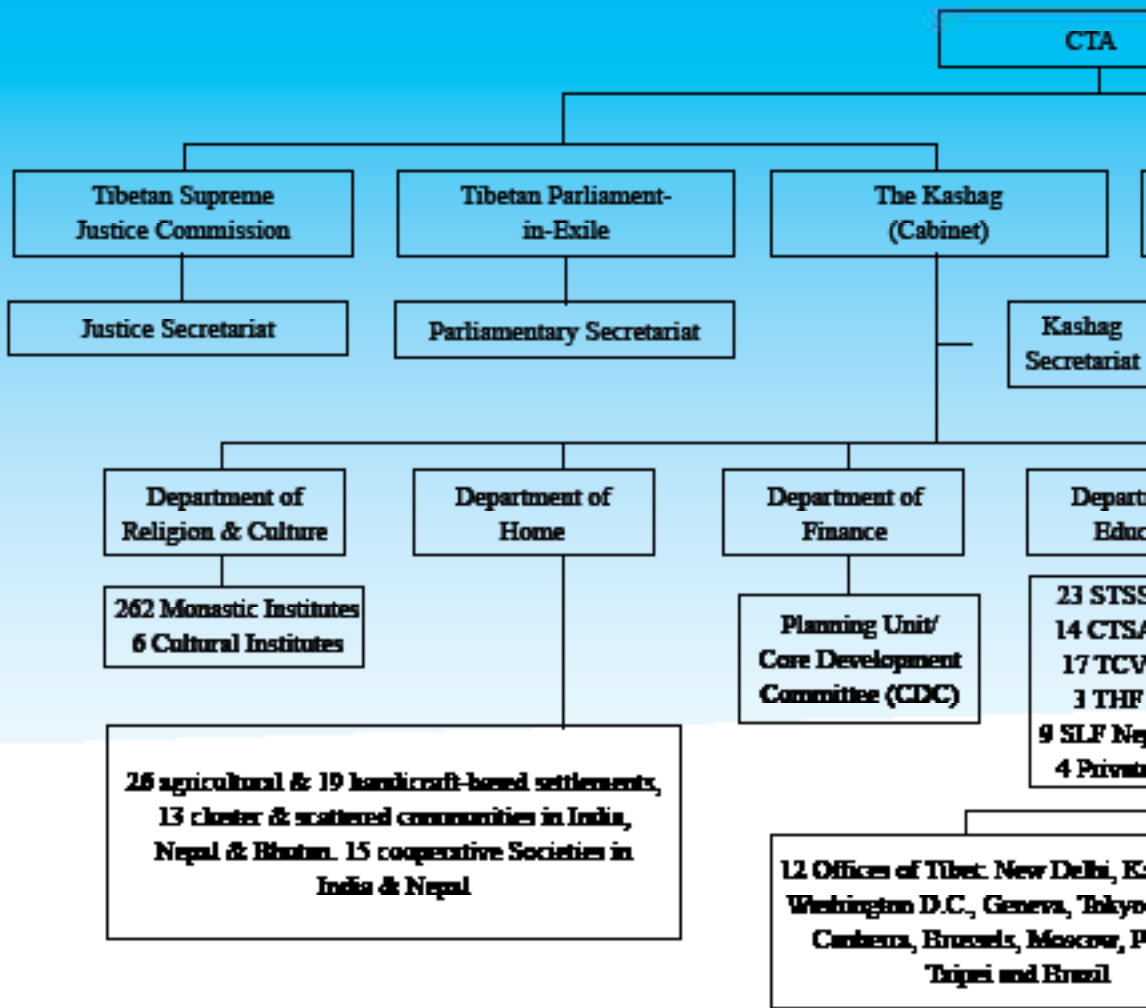
In September 2012, the Tibetan Parliament changed the official title from “Kalon Tripa” to “Sikyong”. However, since April 2017 the English terminology for “Sikyong” has been changed to the “President” of Central Tibetan Administration, while the Tibetan title remains the same.

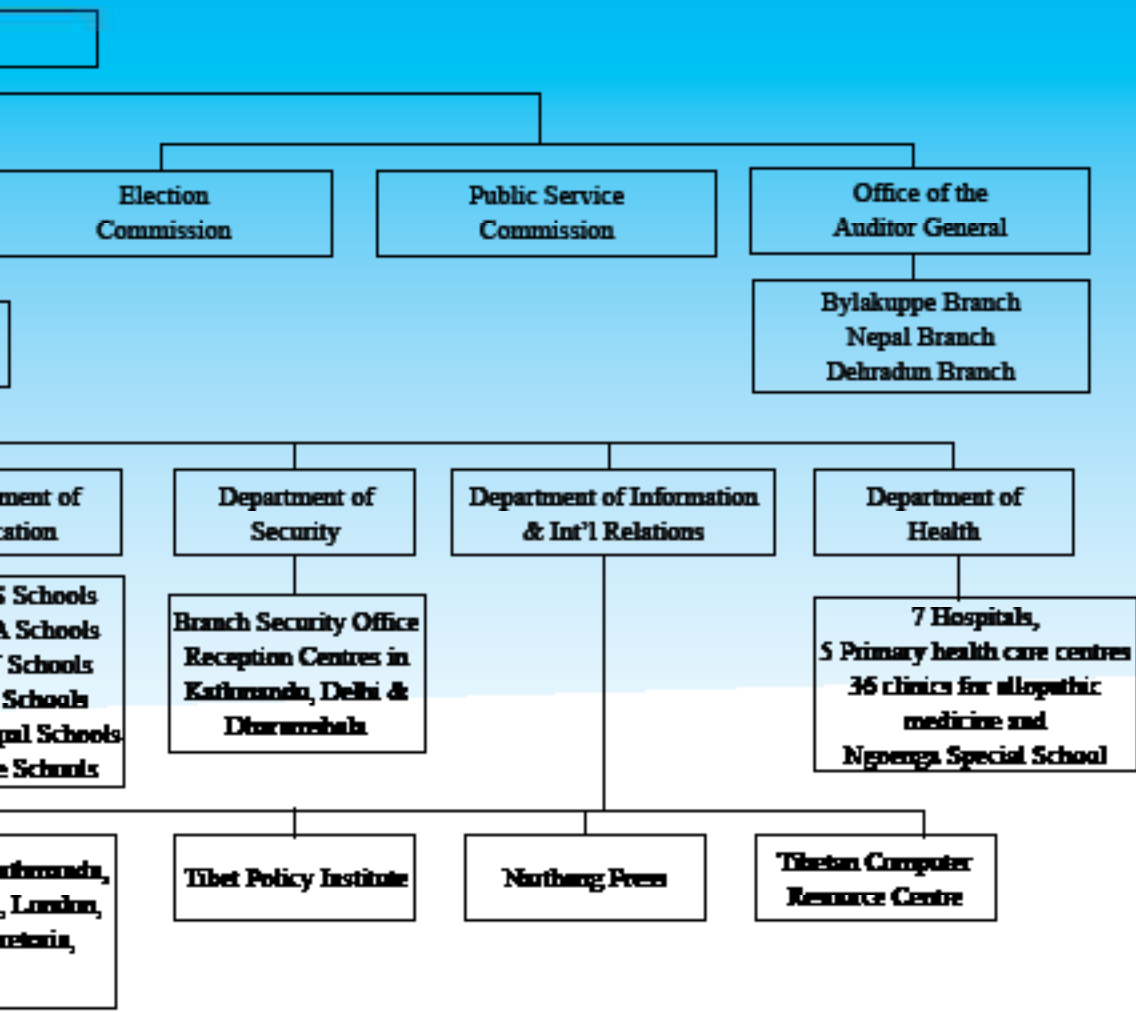
The Kashag is serviced by the Kashag Secretariat, which manages day-to-day secretarial and administrative activities such as presenting the political, administrative and public welfare-related issues to the Kashag. This office transmits the Kashag’s decisions to the administration’s departments and to respective individuals or organisations for follow-up and implementation.

The Secretariat has a sub-office called History Documentation and Interim Placement Section. Its primary responsibility is to compile documents on the Tibetan struggle and reconstruction in the post-1959 period of the CTA.

A secretariat for the Tibetan Task Force on Negotiations also comes under the Kashag and is directly supervised by the Sikyong (President). Its prime task is to perform secretariat and liaise with the Task Force members, particularly with the Sikyong and Envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE







MAJOR DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE KASHAG

Department of Religion and Culture _____



The Department of Religion and Culture seeks to preserve and promote Tibet's spiritual and cultural heritage, which is being annihilated by the occupying Chinese authorities in Tibet. This Department, then known as the Council for Religious Affairs, was established by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in April 1959.

The Department supervises 262 monasteries and nunneries in India, Nepal and Bhutan and looks after the welfare and education of approximately 41,151 monks and nuns living in these monastic institutions. The Department provides support services to these institutions and maintains close contacts with Buddhist centres around the world.

In addition to the monasteries and nunneries, there are cultural centres for studying both spiritual and secular traditions of Tibet. Few of these centres are autonomous bodies financed by the Government of India, others are self-financed.

The prominent cultural institutions under the auspices of the Department of Religion and Culture are the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts in Dharamshala, Tibet House in New Delhi, the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in Dharamshala, the Central University of Higher Tibetan Studies at Sarnath in Varanasi, Norbulingka Institute for Tibetan Culture at Sidhpur near Dharamshala, and the Manjushree Center of Tibetan Culture in Darjeeling.

Following the sustained global initiatives undertaken by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Department also carries out various activities to promote friendship and cooperation among various world religions, the spirit of universal responsibility and the values of secular ethics.

Department of Home _____



The Department of Home, registered as the Central Tibetan Relief Committee, looks after the welfare and rehabilitation of Tibetans in exile. It supervises 26 agriculture- based settlements, 19 handicraft-based settlements and 13 clustered and scattered communities in India, Nepal and Bhutan. It carries out developmental projects in these settlements and also provides livelihood support to needy people in the communities.

The Department commissions a settlement officer in each settlement to represent the department and the Central Tibetan Administration at large. The public at the grass-roots level have the right to either elect their own local settlement officer or request the Department to appoint one. In order to encourage democratic practices at the grass-roots level and to enable the community to attain political maturity, the exile administration has been making concerted efforts to encourage people to elect their own leaders.

The Department works in close co-operation with the Government of India and international organizations involved in helping Tibetans to improve their livelihoods. Facilitating employment generation and promoting self-reliance among the Tibetans has been the main task of the Department since it came into being.

After a series of consultations held within various ministries of the Government of India as well as with the concerned State Governments and the Central Tibetan Administration, India's Ministry of Home Affairs formalized the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy-2014 for the welfare and rehabilitation of Tibetan refugees living in India. Under this policy Tibetan refugees are entitled to receive many benefits and considerations from the Central as well as respective State Governments.

The Department also provides financial and other assistance to the Tibetan Handicraft and Co-operative Societies in India and Nepal. The Federation of Tibetan Co-operatives in India was formed in order to make Tibetan co-operatives more sustainable and effective.

Department of Finance _____



The Department of Finance oversees the exile administration's expenses and generates revenues. The main source of its income is the annual voluntary contribution (*dang-lang cha-ngul*) from exile Tibetans. Every Tibetan living outside of Tibet makes an annual contribution of a certain sum based on his/her age, work and place of residence. All salaried Tibetans contribute a prescribed percentage of their salary, and those engaged in business contribute a fixed amount from their net profit to the administration.

The Department formulates the annual budget of the exile administration and submits them to the Parliament for its scrutiny and approval.

The Department works to help mobilize resources and support development efforts of the Tibetans living in South Asia. It acts as a nodal agency for development assistance provided by bilateral, multi-lateral and other institutional funding agencies.

The Planning Unit of the Department assists the Central Tibetan Administration in formulating the plans of various Departments. It helps in integrating various plans according to the human, physical and economic resource development needs of the Tibetan community.

Department Of Education_____




The Department of Education (DoE) is the apex body responsible for looking after the educational and welfare needs of Tibetan children in exile. Under the framework of the Basic Education Policy adopted in 2004, it strives to impart knowledge and skills and more importantly secular ethics to Tibetan youth.

Currently the department oversees 68 co-ed schools with 19,034 children throughout India and Nepal through different administrative systems; Tibetan Children's Village, Tibetan Homes Foundation, Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society, Central Tibetan School Administration, Snow Lion Foundation (Nepal) and private Tibetan schools. The schools are managed autonomously by the school systems while the policy guidance, teachers and curriculum developments are provided by DoE. Comprised of both boarding and day schools, the institutions range from pre-primary to senior secondary levels.

While the DoE provides scholarships for higher education in India and Nepal, it also helps to find scholarships and opportunities for bright Tibetan students to study abroad. Similarly, sponsorships are being awarded to needy and underprivileged children in order to provide them a decent education. DoE prepares the Tibetan curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12 as well as textbooks for Social, Science and Mathematics in Tibetan language up to eighth grade. The DoE counsellors visit schools on a regular basis and provide guidance and counselling on career choices while the Terminology Section engages in standardizing and coining new terms in Tibetan.

These multifarious services are catered to through the department's six major sections; Academic (Traditional and Modern), Scholarship and Sponsorship, Education Council, Counselling and Guidance, Terminology and Administration.





The primary responsibility of this Department is to ensure the security of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Department has a Branch Security Office in McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala which arranges public audiences with His Holiness and helps new arrivals from Tibet in applying for, and seeking renewal of, their RCs (Registration Certificates) from the Government of India.

The Department also oversees its Reception Centres in Dharamshala, Kathmandu and Delhi to look after new arrivals from Tibet. The new arrivals usually escape at first into Nepal from where they are sent to Delhi and eventually to Dharamshala. The Reception Centres provide food, lodging and travel expenses, free medical facilities as well as guides-cum-interpreters to the new arrivals. These centers help new arrivals, who come with SEPs (Special Entry Permits), in obtaining RCs so that they can join schools or monasteries.

Department of Information and International Relations_____



The Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) provides the information dissemination and advocacy work for the CTA. It informs, educates and engages Tibetans and the international community about the political, human rights, and environmental situation in Tibet and is involved in strengthening human rights advocacy for Tibet at the UN and other international platforms.

The DIIR runs a Media Bureau providing tri-lingual (Tibetan, English and Chinese) news dissemination through its channels: Tibet TV, Tibet.net, Bod.Asia, Xizang-Zhiye and Social Media Desk. It publishes periodicals and books to engage in information and advocacy work both in the virtual and physical space.

The DIIR serves as an international relations office for the exile administration and liaises with international governments, parliaments, media, Tibet Support Group networks as well as Tibetan communities outside of India, Nepal and Bhutan.

All 12 foreign missions of the exile administration fall under DIIR. These Offices of Tibet function as the CTA's official agencies and are based in New Delhi, Kathmandu, Washington D.C., Geneva, Tokyo, London, Brussels, Canberra, Moscow, Pretoria, Taipei and São Paulo.

The DIIR also supervises the Tibet Policy Institute, Narthang Press, and the Tibetan Computer Resource Centre (TCRC). While Narthang Press fulfills the CTA's printing requirements, TCRC provides all the Information Technology needs of the CTA, which includes securing and developing three official CTA websites, a secure communication system, and developing database and analysis of malware.



The Tibet Policy Institute (TPI) strives to serve as an intellectual hub and resource for Tibetan scholars across the globe. It aims to become an internationally recognized and effective platform for Tibetan scholars to articulate their arguments on the issue of Tibet that will shape the perception of the international community and influence global government policies regarding Tibet and the Tibetan people.

The TPI also serves as a think tank to assist the Kashag in identifying strategic issues and challenges for Tibet and the Tibetan people, and provides analysis or recommendations.

Department of Health_____



The Department of Health was established in December 1981. It is registered in the name of Tibetan Voluntary Health Association (TVHA) under the Indian Society Registration Act XXI 1860. It looks after the basic health care needs of Tibetan refugees through a network of seven hospitals, five primary health centres and 36 clinics across India and Nepal, including the Ngoenga School for Children with Special Needs.

The following autonomous bodies are under the auspices of the Department.

- Central Council of Tibetan Medicine (CCTM) serves to preserve and promote the rich tradition of Sowa-Rigpa and to protect patients, public and professionals by ensuring standards of medical education and training. It prescribes a minimum standard of education in Sowa-Rigpa (the Tibetan system of medicine).
- Men-Tsee-Khang, also known as the Tibetan Medical and Astro Institute, Dharamshala, has 56 branch clinics in various parts of India and Nepal. Its main objective is to preserve, promote and practise Sowa Rigpa, the ancient Tibetan system of medicine, astronomy and astrology.
- Tibetan Delek Hospital has been providing allopathic health care services in Dharamshala since 1971. It functions on income-generating projects in order to be more self-sufficient. The hospital services are offered either at minimal rates or, in cases of genuine need, free of charge. Since its inception, the hospital's range of services has increased from a small dispensary to the multi-facility hospital with 45 patient beds.

CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

Election Commission



The Election Commission is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering election processes. It is responsible for organizing and overseeing all electoral matters, which includes the election of the President (Sikyong), Members of Parliament, Local Assembly members, Regional Tibetan Freedom Movement representatives and their presidents. Although the local administrative heads of most Tibetan communities are appointed by the CTA, people have the right to elect them if they so wish. In this case, the Election Commission conducts the election of local administrative heads as well. If the CTA decides to call a referendum to get people's verdict on a matter of extreme importance, the task falls upon the Election Commission to conduct such a referendum. General elections are held every five years and any Tibetan above 18 years of age is entitled to vote. Tibetans aged 25 and above can contest for parliament, while those aged 35 and above can run for the Sikyong (President).

The Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by the parliament on the recommendation of a special committee constituted by the Supreme Justice Commissioner, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the President. During the time of the General Election for Sikyong (President) and Members of Parliament, two Additional Election Commissioners are required, and the Parliament appoints them in the same way as that of the Chief Election Commissioner.

The Chief Election Commissioner can hold office for a term of five years or until he/she reaches the age of 65. The *Charter of Tibetans-in-Exile* makes it clear that the term of the two Additional Election Commissioners are from the "official announcement of the date for commencement of the Tibetan General Election to the declaration of the final results of the Election." All heads of the Tibetan communities and Tibetan settlements or welfare officers are entrusted with the role of Regional Election Commissioner.

Public Service Commission



The Public Service Commission (PSC) is one of the three autonomous bodies of the Central Tibetan Administration. The main responsibility of the PSC is the recruitment and management of the human resources of the CTA.

The Commission comprises of a Chairperson and two to four other members who are elected by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile out of a list of nominated candidates submitted by a selection committee constituted by Chief Justice Commissioner, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Sikyong (President).

The Chairperson and other members of the Public Service Commission hold office for a five-year term or until they reach the age of 65, whichever comes first.

Office of the Auditor General



The Office of the Auditor General is responsible for auditing the accounts of all the CTA departments and its subsidiaries. It also audits the accounts of most of the public institutions like the co-operatives, trading concerns, educational and cultural institutions, hospitals, health centres and so on.

The Office also evaluates the efficiency, propriety and management performance of the departments as well as their subsidiary offices and functions as a financial watchdog of the CTA. The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile monitors the efficacy of different departments of the CTA on the basis of audit reports.

This Office is headed by an Auditor General elected by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile out of a list of nominated candidates submitted by a selection committee constituted by Chief Justice Commissioner, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Sikyong (President).

The Auditor General holds office for a term of ten years or until he/she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first.

MIDDLE WAY APPROACH

မြတ်သန့်လမ်း 中間道路

UMAYLAM Middle Way
Approach

Peaceful conflict resolution for the 21st century



The Middle Way Approach (*Umaylam* in Tibetan) is the official policy of the Central Tibetan Administration on how to peacefully and sustainably resolve the issue of Tibet.

This policy was conceived by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in an effort to engage the Chinese government in dialogue and find a peaceful way to protect the unique Tibetan culture and identity. It was later adopted democratically through a series of discussions held over many decades by the Tibetan people and the leadership.

It is a win-win proposition, straddling the middle path between status quo and independence – one that categorically rejects the present repressive policies of the Chinese government towards the Tibetan people while not seeking separation from the People’s Republic of China. Through negotiations, the Middle Way Approach seeks to achieve a co-existence between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples wherein Tibetans enjoy genuine autonomy within the constitutional framework of the PRC and are able to restore and preserve the unique Tibetan language and cultural heritage as well as their once-pristine environment.

Nine rounds of talks took place between Tibetan and Chinese representatives from 2002 to 2010. However, the dialogue process has resulted in a stalemate since 2010. Despite this, the Tibetan leadership remains steadfast in its commitment to the Middle Way Approach and to finding a lasting solution through dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and representatives of the Chinese leadership.

For more on the Middle Way Approach, visit: www.mwa.tibet.net

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