



## Central Tibetan Relief Committee

**For Prelims:** Central Tibetan Relief Committee, TPIE (Tibetan Parliament in Exile), Simla Convention

**For Mains:** India's Tibet Policy, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests

### Why in News?

The Union government has extended the **scheme to provide Rs.40 crore grants-in-aid to the [Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee \(CTRC\)](#)** for another five years, up to fiscal year 2025-26.

- The scheme provides for an annual grant of Rs.8 crore to CTRC to meet the administrative expenses of **Settlement Offices and social welfare expenses** for Tibetan refugees staying in Tibetan settlements spread across 12 States/UTs in the country.



### What is the Central Tibetan Relief Committee?

- It was launched in 2015. The main objective of the committee is to **coordinate Individual, Voluntary Agencies and Indian Government's efforts** to rehabilitate and **settle Tibetan Refugees**.
- **Includes** members from each of the **53 Tibetan settlements in India, Nepal and Bhutan**.

- **Is dedicated to** preserving the **cultural and religious heritage of Tibet** and building and maintaining sustainable, democratic communities in exile.
- **Is dependent on** generous international assistance from governments, **especially India, Nepal and Bhutan**, philanthropic organisations and individuals.
- All the CTRC activities are carried out with consent and support from the Board of Directors and approval from [TPiE \(Tibetan Parliament in Exile\)](#).
- The **TPiE** has its **headquarters in Dharamsala**, in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh according to which over 1 lakh Tibetans are settled across India.

## What led to the Exodus of Tibetan Refugees?

- **From 1912** until the founding of the **People's Republic of China in 1949**, no Chinese government exercised control over what is today **China's [Tibet Autonomous Region \(TAR\)](#)**.
- Many Tibetans insist they were **essentially independent** for most of that time and have protested what they regard as China's rule imposed after the **People's Liberation Army occupied TAR in 1950**.
- The Dalai Lama's government alone ruled the land until 1951. Tibet was not "Chinese" until **Mao Zedong's People's Liberation Army (PLA)** marched in and made it so.
- This has often been described by the Tibetan people and third party commentators as **"a cultural genocide"**.
- The **unsuccessful Tibetan Uprising of 1959**, in which Tibetans rebelled in an attempt to overthrow the Chinese government, led to the fleeing of the **14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama to India**.
- On 29 April 1959, Dalai Lama established the Tibetan exile administration in the north **Indian hill station of Mussoorie**.
- It is named the **Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)** of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, this is the continuation of the government of independent Tibet.
- In May 1960, the **CTA was moved to Dharamsala**.

## What is India's Tibet Policy?

- For centuries, **Tibet was India's actual neighbour**, as most of India's boundaries and the **3500km LAC is with the Tibetan Autonomous Region, and not the rest of China**.
- **In 1914**, it was Tibetan representatives, along with the Chinese that signed the **Simla convention with British India that delineated boundaries**.
- However, after **China's full accession of Tibet in 1950**, that China repudiated the convention and the McMahon line that divided the two countries.
- Further, in 1954, India signed an agreement with China, agreeing to recognize Tibet as **"Tibet region of China"**.
- In 1959, following the [Tibetan uprising](#), the **Dalai Lama (spiritual leader of Tibetan people)** and many of his followers fled to India.
- Former Prime Minister **Jawahar Lal Nehru** gave him and Tibetan refugees shelter, and helped in setting up the Tibetan government in exile.
- The official Indian policy is that the **Dalai Lama is a spiritual leader, and the Tibetan community in India**, with more than a lakh exiles, is not allowed to undertake any political activity.
- In the event of **increasing tensions between India and China**, there has been a shift in [India's Tibet Policy](#).
  - This shift in the policy, earmarks the Indian government actively managing with the Dalai Lama in public forums.

[Source: TH](#)