

## 'CHINA INTIMIDATED BY SUPPORT FOR TIBET'

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

China is "intimidated" by the increasing support for the independence of Tibet, the "Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile" has said in response to reports that the Embassy of China in India wrote to MPs who had participated in a December 22 meeting of the All-Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet.

In a statement, the organisation said it "openly welcomes" a negotiation on Tibet's future with China.

"By sending the letters to honourable members of the Indian Parliament, it becomes evident that China is intimidated by the growing support for the Tibet movement around the world," said the statement issued on Friday.

The All-Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet (APIPFT) was reconstituted during the regime of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who had been one of the members of the group during the 1970s when it was started by eminent lawyer and former Minister M.C. Chagla.

### **New leadership**

According to Tibetan sources, the APIPFT was not active after 2011 and was revived in December 2014 under the leadership of former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shanta Kumar. As many as 33 MPs were part of the core committee of the APIPFT.

The December 22 meeting was convened to frame the path ahead after the retirement of Mr. Kumar, who quit active politics in 2019, and the post of the convener of the forum had become vacant. During the dinner reception, Sujeet Kumar of Biju Janata Dal was unanimously elected as convener of the APIPFT.

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