

## **A Short Account of His Holiness' visit to Mon Tawang on his way to India in 1959**

*(Extracted from His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Biography, Vol. 5)*

### **1. His Holiness arrives at Indo-Tibetan border area Chu Dhangmo [Chuthangmu]**

On 31 March 1959 [on April 3], Indian Prime Minister Nehru announced in the Parliament that His Holiness had arrived in Indian area. The Congress and Socialist Party members expressed their joy over the news. The Prime Minister also said that His Holiness would arrive in Tawang on 5 April through the Indian Army headquarters in Mon Tawang, and he told the members what request had been made by His Holiness. He said that his government had decided to offer asylum to him and his retinue consisting of about eighty people and provide them all the required facilities to live in India.

On that day, His Holiness left Mangmang and headed to Chu Dhangmo [Chuthangmu] Indo-Tibetan border. There, D.S. [T.S.] Murti, assistant to the governor of Bomdila [sic], with local leader Babu Dawa Tsering, Lhabu, an official from Tawang, and others arrived there. They greeted His Holiness by offering scarves. His Holiness had been about twenty Tibetan bodyguards. The Indian government took all the weapons of the bodyguards, and appointed new bodyguards consisting of Indian soldiers. The guards performed parade and saluted to His Holiness. A new parasol was offered to him. Many tents had been pitched there, and all the members of the retinue were ushered to their tents.

Everyone had now escaped from dangerous places and reached a safe place. He had fully recovered from severe dysentery that he suffered a few days ago. Everyone was happy and relaxed.

On Friday, 3 April, Prime Minister announced in the Lok Sabha that Indian government had decided to offer facilities to His Holiness to live India. After that the Indian Foreign secretary Mr. S. [Subimal] Dutt called Chinese ambassador in Delhi to the Foreign Office, and handed him the copy of Nehru's statement and informed him about the arrival of His Holiness in India. When Nehru announced the news about His Holiness' arrival in India, all the members expressed their great joy.

On 3 April, District Commissioner [Political Officer] of Bomdila Harmander [Har Mander] Singh heard from Pakistan news about the arrival of His Holiness in India, and the news was actually broadcast by Chinese government.

Next day, [T.S.] Murti received His Holiness and became his guide. Escorted by Indian troops, His Holiness moved on Chu Dhangmo, and spent night each at Gosam [Gorsam] stupa, Sharde, Lumla, Thongleg. At Lumla, Harmandar Singh came to greet His Holiness and they conversed for a while. He expressed his joy over the safe arrival of His Holiness and told him that since His Holiness had already entered India, the responsibility of His security was in their hands.

On the same day, at around 11 am, the All India Radio announced the Prime Minister Nehru's announcement about the arrival of His Holiness in India through the border area Chu Dhangmo [Chuthangmu]. Bhutan's Tashi Dzong district officer Legthong arrived there to meet His Holiness. His

Holiness granted audience and teachings to the local people wherever he stopped along the road. Local people had cleaned all the roads and drawn white lines on two sides and decorated with flowers. They burnt incense, hosted new prayer flags on the roofs of their houses. They showed their sincere faith and devotion to His Holiness.

## **2. His Holiness arrives in Tawang**

Regarding how His Holiness arrived in Tawang in 1959, Harmandar Singh recounts, "The most concerning thing in my mind was that although HIS HOLINESS was exhausted, we had to request him to travel further from the border, because if he remained there for a few days, his life would be in great danger. Therefore, I requested him to Tawang immediately. Moreover, we received instruction from our government that His Holiness should not remain at Tawang for long for security reasons."

On 5 April, the party left Thonglek. On the way the officials of Tawang and local leaders greeted His Holiness with scarves. At Kyidrong pass, His Holiness and his retinue stopped for a while at Tawang monastery and the monastery offered lunch to His Holiness and all the members of the party. After that, a short distance before reaching Tawang monastery, the monks performed a procession, carrying incense, playing musical instruments such as clarinet and conch-shells. The villages and monasteries burned incense. Many people were standing in line on roadsides, carrying scarves and flowers in their hands. Upon reaching near the gate of a guesthouse, the guard of honors performed Parade and salute to His Holiness. Harmandar Singh guided His Holiness to the room reserved for Him, and other members were taken to their own rooms.

On that day, Nehru sent a telegram to His Holiness, stating that from Bomdila, Mr. P.N. Menon [former Consul general in Lhasa and father of NSA Shivshankar Menon] would accompany His Holiness as liaison officer cum assistant.

His Holiness stayed at Tawang for two days. On the first day, at the request of Tawang District Commissioner [Kameng Frontier Division' Political Officer or PO] and other Indian government officials, His Holiness granted audience to them and their families, consisting of about 200 people, and bestowed upon them mani mantra reading empowerment.

On the second day, at the request of Tawang monastery, H.H. visited the monastery. In front of the monastery, H.H. seated and tea and sweet rice were served. Tse Rinpoche of Tsona monastery offered *mendreltensum* to His Holiness, who gladly accepted the lamas and monks of Tawang monastery as well as the local people, His Holiness granted teachings on Guru Yoga of Tsongkhapa, Essential Attributes (yon tan gzh gyur ma), and six syllabic mantra to about 400 devotees, including the lamas and monks of Tawang Monastery. After that, H. H. visited each statue and other holy representation in and around the monastery. He made offerings to the main holy image and offered gifts to the monks. Back at his room in the guesthouse, at the request of Tse Rinpoche, abbot Ngawang Sonam of Tawang monastery, Doleb Tulku, and several popular people from Tawang area, He granted them audience in his residence. Gadong Tulku who arrived from Tibet, Khenchung Tenzin Paljor, abbot Pema Gyaltsen of Drepung Loseling also got opportunity to have audience with His Holiness that time. He asked them about the recent happenings in Tibet.

That night, His Holiness told the people around, "Today, I did not wear monk's robe when I gave teachings at Tawang monastery. I was uncomfortable in front of the monks. Moreover since Tse Rinpoche of Tsona monastery is a genuine lama, who have all kinds of transmissions and empowerments, and have read many scriptures, and was among the people who received teachings, I felt very uncomfortable and embarrassing." He also said that the Mon people are really very faithful devotees. They were mentally pure and sincere.

Harmandar Singh recalls, "On 6 April, at 9: am, I went to speak to His Holiness. The ministers were sitting in the audience room. During the audience, His Holiness narrated to me the account how he fled from Tibet and about future plans and visions. I told him that I would like to tell him the message sent by Prime Minister Nehru. He called the ministers to his room. The message read,

My colleagues and I welcome and send greetings on your safe arrival in India. We shall be happy to afford the necessary faculties to 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 personage. Kind regards to you.

In the morning of 8 April, when His Holiness left Tawang, Indian officials and guard of honors performed honorary parade, Thousands of people waited in line on road sides and see off His Holiness People looked unhappy to see His Holiness leave. With the Tawang district commissioner, His Holiness left Tawang. The party stopped for night each at Jang, Shar Sela [Sela pass] , Senge Dzong, Darang [Dirang] and Rahung. The local people greeted and arranged accommodation for His Holiness and the entourage.

At each place, His Holiness granted audience and visited the holy places at Senge Dzong and Nyugma Dong.

Bomdila District Commissioner [PO] Harmander recalls, "When I met His Holiness and accompanied him through the journey, I experienced a feeling. His country was lost to the enemy and people were left behind in Tibet. All the properties and belongings were lost. His Holiness was nevertheless optimistic. He was always in joyful mood and wore smile on his face smiling all the time. I had never seen him unhappy. Everyone who visited His Holiness and who came to greet on the road had the same feeling. His Holiness might have started learning English in Lhasa. During the journey, he used to ask me the English names of things, such as flowers. He would say a name in English and asked me if it was correct. When he said correct, I would say it was correct, and he would feel very happy and laugh."

In the morning of 12 April, the party left Rahung and when they reached northern pass of Bomdila, Mr. Menon, Indian deputy foreign secretary, who had been dispatched by the Indian government to serve as liaison officer to His Holiness arrived there. He was accompanied by Kazi Sonam Topgyal [he had earlier been posted in Lhasa Consulate General] from Sikkim who was to serve as translator to His Holiness, and Babu Atruk Tsering and assistants to serve as bodyguards. They greeted His Holiness and offered. Mr. Menon handed a telegram sent by Nehru to His Holiness. Regarding this, His Holiness recounts in his autobiography:

We finally reached it some three weeks after leaving Lhasa, though it seemed like an aeon. On arrival, I was greeted by my old liaison officer and

interpreter, Mr. Menon and Sonam Topgyal Kazi respectively, one of whom handed me telegram from the Prime Minister. The telegram read,

My colleagues and I welcome and send greetings on your safe arrival in India. We shall be happy to afford the necessary facilities to 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 personage. Kind regards to you. Nehru.

Thereafter, guided by Menon, the party left for Bomdila town. There was a decorated large gate and a large stage. Guards of honor performed parade and salute. In the letter sent by Nehru to His Holiness, there was no mention of anything that restricts His Holiness from doing freedom struggle and political activities in India. However, nowadays some Indian politicians assert that the Prime Minister and His Holiness had agreed that His Holiness would not engage in political activities in India, and this is not true at all.

His Holiness and his entourage were taken to a guesthouse. Local Indian government officials of various ranks came to greet His Holiness and offered scarves. Many people were waiting on the road sides carrying scarves, flowers, flags, etc., in their hands.

Regarding that event, Harmandar Singh recalls, "On 12 April at 6 am, His Holiness and the party left Rahung and reached Bomdila at 9:45 am. Indian foreign ministry representative Mr. Menon greeted His Holiness introduced other Indian officials to His Holiness. At that time, many lay and ordained people were waiting on the roadsides to welcome His Holiness, holding scarves, incenses and other auspicious articles in their hands. When His Holiness visited my house, my wife Narandar Koal [Kaur] gave reception.

His Holiness resided at my guesthouse. I served him and all the members in the party tea and rice. I had meetings with His Holiness twice, one in the morning and one in the evening."

After a while, Harmandar Singh made a new chair and placed it in the main hall of his office. He invited His Holiness to the hall and requested to sit on the new chair to bless the chair. The Tibetan retinue, Indian officials, and others were also invited there. He presented a long scarf to His Holiness. After that, everyone was served with tea and snacks. Menon and Sonam Topgyal approached His Holiness and told him that the Indian government would treat His Holiness and his entourage as guest as long as they resided in India, and the Government of India would provide all the necessary facilities, and the government would accord His Holiness the same honor as granted in 1956. The responsibility of the safety of His Holiness would be taken by the government."

When we (Kasur Neshar [Liushar] and others) asked Mr. Menon how long the Indian government would treat His Holiness and his entourage as guests in India, and he replied that the Indian government would treat them as guests as long as they resided in India, and that there was no any time limit. The security responsibility of His Holiness would be solely taken by the Indian government.

When we presented and read all the letters and telegrams sent to his His Holiness that expressed congratulations on his safe arrival in India, His Holiness was pleased to hear all these, and instructed us to sent replies to all of them, saying thanks to their messages. His Holiness remarked, "Freedom is really very important!" That night, His Holiness said to those who were around him, "Today, when I met Mr. Menon, Topgyal-la [Sonam

Kazi] and Atruk Babu who I knew, I was able to feel the breeze the freedom in India. Until we reached there since I left from Tibet, I had been in worry and fear. Now my all worries and tense feeling have disappeared and I feel relaxed and happy. Freedom is happiness in real sense. Now we have arrived in a free country. What sort of joy you feel in your mind when you have arrived in a free country?" Saying so, he remained silent for a while in a deep thought. Then he said, "When I think from another side, we are in a desperate situation, as we have departed our country, and the majority of our people are suffering brutal torture and suppression under the Chinese, When I think about this, I feel very sad and worried from the depth of my heart. Don't you have such a feeling... Since we have arrived in a free country now, we must work hard with dauntless courage and do everything at our best level for the freedom of Tibet." His statement greatly touched and encouraged all the members in his entourage who were present near him.

## **Part II**

His Holiness holds discussions about Tibet's issue at Bomdila, sends request to the government of India, makes a press statement at Tezpur and finally arrives in Mussoorie

### **1. His Holiness reaches Bomdila, where he holds discussion and sends a request to the government of India**

In the morning of 12 April, His Holiness convened a meeting, attended by former head of the cabinet Surkhang Wangchen Gelek, assistant minister Shenhawa Sonam Togpyal, deputy minister Neushar [Liushar] Thupten Tharpa, Chikyab Khenpo Gadrang Lobsang Rinzin, Tse Khendrungche Ta

Lama Rongnamsey Thupten Norsang, H H's chief bedroom servant Simpon Khenpo Samkhar Thupten Dhonyo, Tse Khendronche Phala Thupten Woeden, bodyguard leader [Depon] Takla Phuntsok Tashi, former abbot of Gyumey Monastery Khensur Gomang Ngawang Lekden, Sera Mey abbot Ngawang Drakpa, Ganden's representative Jamyang. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Chinese oppressions in Tibet, the past and present Sino-Tibetan relations, what appeals should be made to the government of India, what announcements should be made to the internal community, and so on. The members viewed that they should first consult Silon Dekharwa [Lukhangwa] Tsewang Rapten [former Prime Minister], Gyalo Dhondup [Thondup, brother of the Dalai Lama], Khendrung and Tsipon Shakapa, the former Tibetan government officials who had arrived in India before them, but since they did not arrive at Bomdila when His Holiness and his entourage arrived there, it was decided that whatever decisions arrived at the meeting should be final. At the request of His Holiness, Mr. Menon and his translator Sonam Topgyal Kazi also attended the meeting. At the meeting, His Holiness spoke on Tibet's crisis beginning from the Chinese invasion to the recent Chinese brutal activities in Tibet, especially the recent violent events in Lhasa. His Holiness further said that there was no alternative but to request the Indian Government to make efforts to stop the ongoing Chinese brutal suppressions in Tibet. Mr. Menon made notes, and sent a telegram to Delhi that very evening.

On 14 April, Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. S. Dutt announced that Prime Minister Nehru would come to Mussoorie to meet His Holiness on 24 April. Through request to the UP government it was decided to accommodate His Holiness in Mussoorie. He also announced that Joint Secretary Mr. S. Sen would arrive at Tezpur and he would make arrangements regarding His

Holiness' audience with people who were waiting there. Sen would accompany His Holiness to Mussoorie.

In that morning, UP chief minister Dr. Sampurnand announced sent congratulations to His Holiness on the government's confirmation of Mussoorie as His Holiness residence and the UP state government would like provide all the necessary facilities to His Holiness and his entourage.

In the morning of 14 April, 1,000, people, led by Harmandar Singh, many Indian officials of different ranks, along with their families, as well as local people, granted them audience and received offerings from them. After that, His Holiness performed prayers and consecrated the statues at Harmandar Sing's house.

After that, His Holiness and his retinue were taken on a tour around Bomdila town, and they visited offices, hospitals, schools, factories, women development centre, shops etc. That night Harmandar Singh hosted a dinner party to His Holiness and his retinue, and showed documentary films on Gandhi's struggle for Indian independence and others. His Holiness watched the films with great enthusiasm. Regarding this, Harmandar Singh recalls, "On 14 April, at 9-10:45, His Holiness granted audience to Indian dignitaries, members of different organizations and other people. There were about 4,000 people in all. He then visited government offices, hospitals, women's development office, schools and factories. After that I showed movies about Mahatma Gandhi's struggle for Indian independence, the Indian Prime Minister, Indian democracy, Himalaya, Mon Tawang, etc., at my residence. His Holiness watched all the movies with great interest, and he especially liked the movies about Indian freedom struggle and the Prime Minister. After, I served a dinner to him and his officials."

On 15 April, His Holiness took rest, without engaging in any activities. Since 16 April, 8<sup>th</sup> day of the 3rd Tibetan month of the Earth Pig Year, coincided with the Tibetan religious festival called Gaytor (rgyad gtor). In the morning, Choepon Thupten Sonam made offerings and recited prayers in the meeting hall at His Holiness' residence. His assistant Thupten Jamyang, bedroom servant Thupten Thapkey recited the Kalachakra prayers before the image of Mahakala, Palden Lhamo and Nechung Deity. After a while, His Holiness arrived in the hall and sat on the throne. Kalon Trisur offered a scarf and mendreltensum (a statue, stupa and scripture) to His Holiness. After that, the two deputy ministers, Chikyab Khenpo, Khendron Chenmo and other officials sat in line according to their ranks. Mr. Menon and Kazi Sonam Topgyal also attended the ceremony and offered scarves to His Holiness and took hand-blessing from Him. This was followed by tea and rice served to all the members present there.

After coming back to his room after the ceremony, His Holiness remarked, "Today's Gaytor was somewhat somber. We could not recite properly the Kalachakra prayer, which was normally recited by the Choepon. We did not have texts, nor did we have many monks to recite the prayers along with the Choepon. I remembered the Gaytor ceremony that we used to perform in Tibet.

Harmandar Singh recalls, "When His Holiness reached Bomdila, he gave the two horses which he had brought from Lhasa to Bomdila governor Harmandar Singh and D.S. [T.S.] Murti as gifts in appreciation of their kind help. Alter, as per the government's rule, the horses were confiscated by the government and kept them as historical memento."

After lunch, the party travelled and reached Tezpur. He decided to make a brief press statement in English about Tibet's issue to the press. As there were no other programs in his schedule, His Holiness took rest after that. Harmandar Singh recounts, "I have a vivid memory about how His Holiness and we moved from Bomdila to Tezpur on 15 April. In the first group, there were two tutors and his family members of His Holiness, carried by six jeeps. They were escorted by [T].S. Murti. In the second group, His Holiness, accompanied by myself, Menon and my wife. At that time, there are around twenty-five jeeps in all. When we crossed NEFA area and reached Assam. Assam Planning Minister K.P. Tripathi arrived there to receive His Holiness and the group. Now my responsibility of escorting His Holiness was over. Fortunately, before His Holiness left for Mussoorie, He joyfully granted a special and final audience to my wife and me in a small room in the train arranged for him. This is the end of the account about His Holiness arrival in India that I jotted in my diary."

Harmandar Singh not only offered official warm reception, assistance and honor but also personally rendered immense assistance and hospitality as well as honor to His Holiness and his entourage during their stay in Bomdila. His Holiness often says that he will never forget his kindness.

## **2. His Holiness gives a press statement at Tezpur**

In the morning of 17 April, the party left Bomdila for Tezpur in jeeps provided by the Indian government. Harmander Singh himself drove the vehicle in which His Holiness travelling. There were jeeps of security guards in the front and back of His Holiness' jeep. Mr. Menon and other officials, as well as the Tibetan government officials were also in party. When the party arrived at Chako, they were served with breakfast. Brigadier A.S. Guraya

from Assam division [Rifles], Lt. Colonel H.S. Gill as well as Planning Commissioner [NEFA].

K. P. Tripathi and his two wives [sic] arrived there to meet His Holiness.

Travelling further, the party reached Khelong, where they spent the night at a newly built guest house. His Holiness' elder brother Gyalo Thondup was waiting there. He, along with some Indian dignitaries gave warm reception to His Holiness and his entourage. That night, Gyalo Thondup met His Holiness and told him the latest news. His Holiness thus came to know the foreign news about the Tibetan issue and sentiments of the Tibetans living in Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

Mr. Harmandar Singh recalled, "On 17 April, just after the sunrise, His Holiness and his entourage left Bomdila and travelled about sixty miles. I myself drove the jeep of His Holiness, and He sat with me in the front. There were 25 jeeps travelling together at that time. As planned, we stopped at Khelong for the night. It was planned on ground, of security reason. Since no foreigners were allowed to enter NEFA territory without permission, if His Holiness stayed at the Foothills before Khelong, many people and reporters would come there and they might cause difficulties to H.H. We might also face difficulty in providing security to H.H. That was why we arranged His Holiness' stay at Khelong in our schedule, At Tezpur, many foreign reporters were waiting for His Holiness. Representatives from various news agencies across the world had come there. As, soon as reaching there, His Holiness gave his first public speech to the media people.

On the morning of 18, the party left Khelong. At around 7: 45 am, the party arrived at the Foothills. K.P. Tripartti, Assam's Planning Minister,

according to Tibetan tradition, offered a long scarf to H.H. The dignitaries arrived to greet and meet His Holiness included F. C. Phuken, District Commissioner of Darrang; Assam Rifle's Brigadier Guraiya and Major Punje; police officer Sr. Hydar Husan and Sr. G. C. Bardoli arrived there to greet His Holiness. K. P Triparthi introduced them to His Holiness, and Sr. K. P. Agarwal, gave a welcome speech.

Travelling further, the party stopped for a short time at the residence of Major Punje. There were around 75 officials led by Triparthi. Breakfast was served to all the guests. Around 100 reporters had arrived there from different parts of the world, and they greeted His Holiness and took many photos of him. They requested him to speak about Tibet's tragedy. Mr Menon, liaison official to His Holiness told the press that His Holiness would make a press conference when he arrived at Tezpur. The reporters immediately headed to Tezpur. Among the crowd, someone joyfully shouted "His Holiness!". He, was none other than Henrich Harrer, who fled to Tibet during the second world war and lived there seven years.

After that, the party left the Foothills, and vehicles had been changed. There, were bodyguards in the front and back of His Holiness' vehicle.

Before reaching Tezpur, the party stopped at the Circuit House, a government guest house located on a small hill. Lunch was served to all the members of the party. Former Prime Minister Dekharwa [Lukhangwa] Tsewang Rabten and deputy minister Yuthok Tashi Dhondup arrived there from Kalimpong. His Holiness expressed his joy at meeting the old Tibetan government officials who had gone into exile in India sometime before. He told them that there were many things to discuss and he would like to have a meeting as soon as they arrived in Mussoorie.

His Holiness said, "I sent a wireless to Silon, my elder brother and others to meet us at Bomdila, but they did not get permission to go there easily and thus they could not come there. I think the Indian government refused to permission to them in order to know our true stories. I did not know exactly the real reason behind it."

The news reporters had gathered at the guest house. K. P. Triparti, royal steward of Sikkim, secretary to the governor of Sikkim, among other dignitaries, arrived there and sought audience with His Holiness.

The media persons took many photos of His Holiness and requested him to speak about the condition in Tibet. His Holiness thus decided to tell them a brief account of Tibet. He prepared a speech which was translated into English and was read by Surkhang Dapon Lhawang Topgyal. Copies of the statement were distributed to the reporters. Although many people request His Holiness to give a speech, he did not get time to do so.

After that His Holiness and the party headed to Tezpur train station. Many civil and military officials had arrived there to receive him. His Holiness looked at them with love and joy, and spoke briefly, thanking them for their love and kindness.

His Holiness' journey in 1959 was similar to his prior visit to India in 1956. The Indian government accorded him an elaborate reception, that was fit to a dignitaries of other countries. A special train had been reserved for His Holiness and his retinue. While travelling on the train, His Holiness said, "Today, in the crowd of many news reporters, I heard my old friend Heinrich Harrer calling me loudly. When I saw him suddenly, I just remembered my past life in Tibet, where I used to enjoy freedom and happiness... Today I just managed to recognize him from distance and gave

him a smile, but I did not get time to meet and talk with him. Now as we have arrived in a free country, we will meet each other soon."

On 17 April, during a meeting held at Sarpu House in New Delhi regarding the Tibetan issues, presided over by Indian Lok Sabha member H. N. Kunzru, the chief of the Praja Socialist Party, Ashok Mehta, said in his speech, "We are not satisfied with our government's not granting political support to His Holiness. The government should give permission to His Holiness to conduct freedom struggle on this soil with pride. If the government puts restrictions on His Holiness or treats him as if he is placed under house arrest, then the government's claim that it is showing sympathy and solidarity with the Tibetans is meaningless. The government should act in accordance with the international law regarding the political rights and their political activities. Just as Britain, the US and Switzerland granted asylum to Marx, Lenin and Mazzini, who later conducted freedom struggle in the host countries. Is the Indian government not going to give such freedom to His Holiness to carry out political activities in India?"

### **3. His Holiness arrives in Shiliguri**

In the morning of 19 April, His Holiness and his retinue arrived at the train station of Shiliguri. The chief secretary of Bengal state, as well as other India officials arrived there to greet His Holiness. News reporters, general people, Sikkim's king Dhondup Namgyal and his son, Sikkim's chief minister [PO] Apa Pant, Bhutan king's mother Rani Choeying Wangmo, His Holiness' younger sister Jetsun Pema, former Tibetan government officials, monks and lay Tibetans from Bhutan, Sikkim, Kalimpong, Calcutta, and others places had arrived there to greet His Holiness.

His Holiness was invited to a large park where a high stage had been constructed. A large crowd, consisting of both Tibetan and Indian people had gathered there. The District Commissioner of Siliguri received the Dalai Lama. He then gave a speech and offered flower garland to His Holiness. They waved Indian and Tibetan national flags. They also waved scarves and flowers. They sounded drums and played other religious musical instruments. They joyfully shouted slogans in Hindi such as "Dalai Lama Zindabad" (Long Live Dalai Lama), "Jai Dalai Lama" (Dalai Lama the great), "Jai Tibet" (Tibet the great) etc. Overjoyed, His Holiness, with smile on his face, looked over to the crowd and waved his hands. Up to that time, various newspapers carried news about Chinese violent oppression in Lhasa and untrue stories of whereabouts of His Holiness. As the result, many foreign people who were concerned with the Tibetans became worried. Therefore, the sudden arrival of His Holiness, along with his retinue, in India seemed miraculous, It was very pleasant news to everyone. Everyone was very happy to see HIS HOLINESS personally, Not to mention Tibetans, even Indian people who had deep faith in him shed tears of joy, After that, the party boarded a train to Sarnath.

During the journey; HIS HOLINESS Said, "Today at Siliguri, I got opportunity to meet Sikkim king and prince, whom I had met in 1956. Many people came and showed their love for us. I got the same feeling that I had in 1956... Sikkim king and prince wept immediately they saw me. They were not able to speak properly. Similarly, my younger sister and other Tibetans wept when they saw me. As for myself, I had a mix feeling - on one hand I was very happy that I have escaped from the Chinese control and could meet them. On the other hand, I felt very sad since my country and the majority of my people have been left behind under the Chinese

oppression. I also had tears in my eyes and I was not able to look at them, For a short time, I was not able to speak.

#### **4. His Holiness arrives in Lucknow**

On April 20, at 11:30 am, HIS HOLINESS and the party arrived at the train station of Varanasi, where he was received by local civil and military officials; Indian local people; Thupten Jungey, head of Sarnath Tibetan monastery; Dotrul Ripoché, the abbot of Bodhgaya; Burmese monks, Indian Buddhists as well as both Buddhist people living in India, who were carrying their own religious banners, flowers, religious musical instruments and other auspicious articles in their hands.

His Holiness went to Deer Park, a very important Buddhist sacred place, where the Lord Buddha turned the first Wheel of Dharma. There he visited and prayed at the stupa constructed by Ashoka and the stupa built by Dharmapala which contains Buddha's relics, and he also prayed there.

After that, His Holiness, along with his entourage, was invited to a large park by the king of Varanasi and the Mahabodhi society of India. They invited His Holiness to a tent pitched in the park and they offered him eleven volumes of Tripitika written in Indian Devnagri script. Buddhist monks from different countries also came to have audience with HIS HOLINESS. Tea and biscuits were served to all the guests. The monks recited prayers of their own traditions. His Holiness and Tibetan monks also recited prayers. After that, HIS HOLINESS thanked the organizer for the reception granted to him. He advised that all the Buddhist monks all over the world should take responsibility to promote the Buddhadharma in order to bring peace and happiness in the world. His Holiness granted audience to

Abbot Dotrul Trulku and Sarnath Temple's head Thupten Jungney. Thereafter, all the party was taken to train station of Varanasi, accompanied by the above Indian dignitaries.

Travelling from Varanasi, His Holiness' train reached Lucknow train station at round 5 pm that day. There, UP government representative Mr. Govind Narain and District Commissioner of Lucknow Mr. Shivesh Warker, as well as many other civil and military officials, received His Holiness. More than twenty thousand people had gathered there who were eager to get a glimpse of His Holiness.

His Holiness and his entourage were invited to a large ground, where more than ten thousand people had gathered. A high stage had been constructed for HIS HOLINESS. Mr Shivesh Warker gave a speech, and said that the people of India were very happy with the safe arrival of His Holiness in India, and he also spoke briefly on the historical and cultural relations between Tibet and India. He offered a flower garland to His Holiness. The crowd joyfully shouted, "Long live Dalai Lama," "Victory for the Dalai Lama", "Victory for Tibet," etc. They had carried banners bearing these slogans and waved them. The Indian people showed their sincere love to the Tibetan people. His Holiness was overjoyed with the great love and kindness shown by Indian people. With his hands joined together in devotion, he said to the audience, "May the relationship between India and Tibet grow forever and may the Buddha's teachings brings everlasting happiness and peace in this world!" He recited the prayer Golden Mountain with Bountiful Resources and other prayers through loudspeakers. Once again, the audience shouted happily, "Long live, the Dalai Lama," "Victory to the Dalai Lama" many times, even along the road when they went back home. Their sound of their shouting filled the whole town as if one

thousand dragons made thunder. His Holiness and his party left by train, but the voice of people was still heard in the train up to some distance.