

## Gaden Phodrang Trust

*Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance*

### Why in news?

Recently, the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama affirmed that the Gaden Phodrang Trust will be the sole authority to recognize his future reincarnation.

- **Gaden Phodrang** - It is registered in 2011 in Dharamshala, India that is specifically tasked with recognising the Dalai Lama's reincarnation.
- **Origin** - Gaden Phodrang originally refers to the residential quarters of Dalai Lamas at Drepung Monastery, Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region.
- Later, it became a term used for the **Tibetan Government-in-Exile**, established after the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama who fled to India in 1959.

*The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama (Lhamo Thondup), born in 1935 in Tibet, was officially enthroned in 1940, at the age of 4-5 years.*

- **Chinese involvement post-1959** - After Tibet came under Chinese control, the Chinese government claimed authority to approve or reject reincarnations of high Lamas, including the Dalai Lama.
- The Chinese authorities introduced the controversial "**Golden Urn**" method, giving the state power to approve reincarnations, which many Tibetans reject.
- Due to increasing Chinese interference in September 2011, the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama issued a formal statement outlining the process for identifying his reincarnation.

### Other Associated Institutions

#### Dalai Lama Trust

- **Dalai Lama Trust (India)** - Established in **2009**, New Delhi-based non-profit.
- It funds Tibetan education, culture, and secular ethics programs and promotes,
  - Tibetan welfare
  - Human values
  - Interfaith harmony
  - Global peace

#### Gaden Phodrang Foundation

- **Gaden Phodrang Foundation (Switzerland) - It is a non-profit and**, overseen by Swiss federal authorities.
- It focuses on,
  - Preserving Dalai Lama tradition
  - Promoting peace, nonviolence, environmental care
  - Fostering cross-religious understanding
  - Supporting global humanitarian efforts
- It also funds on education & science initiatives of Buddhist philosophy publications and translations.
  - Programs bridging science and religion.
  - Scholarships and access to Buddhist knowledge.

## Reference

[The Indian Express| Gaden Phodrang Trust](#)

