

# Possible scenarios for Dalai Lama succession

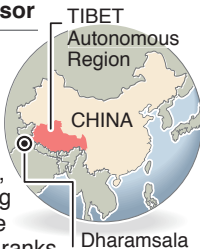
As the 73-year-old Dalai Lama marks the 50th anniversary of his flight from Chinese rule into exile, speculation is increasing that he could pave the way for his successor

## ▶ TRADITIONAL SEARCH

Tibetan Buddhism believes that soul of "living Buddha" is reborn after death – resulting "soul boy" can be found by search party of monks through interpretation of arcane signs

## ▶ APPOINTMENT

Dalai Lama could choose successor from among adults in government in exile in Dharamsala, India, or high ranking monks could choose someone from their ranks



*This would reduce China's influence but remove mysticism of traditional process*

▶ **ELECTION:** Dalai Lama says Tibetans must choose whether to continue with spiritual institution after he dies, and could order election among Tibetans abroad. Tibetans in China would not be able to vote

## ▶ POSSIBLE CANDIDATES

**Karmapa Lama**, Tibetan Buddhism's third most senior figure. Aged 24 and recognised by both Beijing and Dalai Lama, he fled into exile in India in 2000 to take his position from rival claimant

▶ **CHINA:** Maintains it has legal right to designate next Dalai Lama



In 1995 Dalai Lama named six-year-old **Gedhun Choekyi Nyima** (right), as reincarnation of 10th **Panchen Lama**

– second most senior figure in Tibetan Buddhism. China took child into "protective custody" and sanctioned another boy as Panchen Lama



**Yabshi Pan Rinzinwangmo**, daughter of 10th Panchen Lama, enjoys popular support she inherited from her late father