

Dalai Lama hopeful PM will raise Tibet issue in US

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama Saturday described Manmohan Singh as a 'clean politician' and said he was hopeful the prime minister would do whatever possible on the Tibetan issue when he meets US President Barack Obama next week.

'The Indian prime minister is a very honest person and a clean politician. India and Tibet have a very close spiritual relation. I am sure that whatever the prime minister can appeal to Obama, he will do,' the Dalai Lama said here when asked what his hopes were from Manmohan Singh's four-day trip to Washington.

The prime minister left for the US Saturday as the first state guest of Obama at the White House.

'I have no worry but I understand that he should be practical and realistic. The government of India and the US have certain limitations and that is also a reality,' the Dalai Lama told reporters at the launch of a campus centre at Max hospital in Saket.

During his visit to Italy earlier this week, the Dalai Lama had appreciated Obama's appeal to Chinese leaders to hold talks with him over the Tibet issue.

'The government of India and we have accepted Tibet as an autonomous region of the Republic of China. President Obama must have had serious talks with the Chinese leaders (on the Tibet issue) and I must appreciate that,' he said on the sidelines of the press conference.

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