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PLA/TMR

TAR holds first military recruitment work for 2026

January 17, 2026

A military recruitment work video conference for the TAR was held in Lhasa on January 16, 2026, marking the start of the year's military enlistment efforts across the TAR. The meeting was attended by Major General Si Linyong, Deputy Commander of the Tibet Military Command and Deputy Director of the TAR's Military Recruitment Leading Group, along with members of the TAR recruitment leadership group and representatives of related departments participating via video link.

Participants emphasized that military recruitment work should be guided by Chinese national policy directives on strengthening the armed forces and national defense, while implementing the requirements of the 2026 National Military Recruitment Work Video Conference. The meeting highlighted the importance of recruitment in supporting military modernization and called for coordinated efforts by local TAR authorities and relevant departments to carry out recruitment tasks in an organized and systematic manner.

The conference stressed the need to focus on combat-readiness requirements in the selection of recruits, improve preparation and coordination, and enhance both the quality and quantity of personnel entering military service. Officials called for expanded and more targeted recruitment publicity efforts aimed at young people, as well as clearer responsibilities across different stages of the recruitment process.

Particular emphasis was placed on maintaining strict standards in physical examinations, political screening, and pre-enlistment education to ensure quality control. The meeting also stressed the importance of discipline, transparency, and integrity in recruitment procedures,

with authorities calling for the creation of a fair and orderly recruitment environment across the TAR.

CCP CENTRAL PARTY AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN TAR

Nepal-China Commerce talks in Lhasa to focus on border trade bottlenecks

January 18, 2026

Nepal and China held a commerce secretary-level meeting in Lhasa from January 20-21 under the Nepal-China Coordination Mechanism on Border Trade and Cooperation, with discussions focused on trade facilitation, border infrastructure, and the management of key transit points. The third meeting of the mechanism was led by Nepal's Commerce Secretary Ram Prasad Ghimire. In response to persistent complaints from traders about the slow and irregular movement of goods across these routes, during the meeting, Nepal urged China to increase the number of cargo containers dispatched through the Kyirong (Ch: Jilong) and Tatopani border crossings.

Trade flows through the Kyirong crossing remain below normal following a flash flood last July that destroyed the Miteri Bridge over the Lhende River. Although the crossing has reopened with a temporary Bailey bridge installed by China, its limited load capacity has restricted the movement of large containers and reduced the number of vehicles cleared. Additional restrictions on border passes, currently issued only to local residents and migrants from Rasuwa district, have further constrained cross-border trade. Nepali traders report that these limitations have disrupted imports, leaving goods such as festival food supplies and electric vehicles stranded on the Chinese side and prompting concerns about what some describe as an unofficial blockade. The Rasuwagadhi border point resumed operations on January 1, 2026 after the installation of a temporary bridge, but logistical challenges continue to affect trade efficiency.

Nepal also requested broader cross-border access for traders from other districts, Chinese support for constructing a permanent Miteri Bridge at Kyirong, and assistance in improving road infrastructure at additional border points including Olangchung Gola, Kimathanka, Hilsa, and Simkot. In addition, Kathmandu pressed China to expedite revisions to the detailed project report for the Korala dry port in Mustang, a project estimated at Rs1.5 billion, and to resume

reconstruction of the Rasuwa dry port, more than 90 percent of which was destroyed by last summer's floods after China had already invested approximately Rs1.5 billion.

China remains Nepal's second-largest trading partner after India, with total bilateral trade reaching Rs.343.73 billion in the last fiscal year, although the trade deficit widened significantly as imports from China grew sharply while exports increased only marginally. Key imports include smartphones, electric vehicles, steel products, fertilizers, electronics, garments, and food items. Nepal and China currently rely on two principal trade corridors, Rasuwagadhi–Kyirong and Tatopani–Zhangmu (Dram) both of which have reopened in recent years following closures caused by natural disasters, but operational and logistical constraints continue to hinder the full normalization of cross-border trade. The Nepal–China Coordination Mechanism meeting also discussed policy-level issues related to Nepal's anticipated graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. During the talks, Nepal requested China to continue zero-tariff treatment after its graduation and discussed revising the 1981 Trade and Payment Agreement to reflect current economic conditions.

The meeting also addressed investment and sectoral cooperation, with both sides agreeing to advance the development of a Nepal–China high-tech agricultural park and to implement the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) certification system, which is intended to simplify customs procedures for trusted traders and improve trade efficiency.

Additional discussions included people-to-people connectivity, the possible resumption of the Kathmandu–Lhasa bus service, cooperation in traditional medicine and health sectors, and a proposal for sister-city relationship between Kyirong in Tibet and a municipality in Nepal's Rasuwa district. These topics expanded the scope of the meeting beyond trade logistics and infrastructure issues.

Both sides agreed also to strengthen coordination in law enforcement and provide mutual logistical support during natural disasters or emergencies along the border. It also confirmed institutional follow-up arrangements, including an agreement to hold the next meeting of the coordination mechanism in Nepal in 2027. Zhao Peng, Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Government, headed the TAR delegation along with representatives from the TAR Department of Commerce, Foreign Affairs Office, Chinese Customs, and other government agencies, while the Nepali delegation included senior officials from the Nepal Rastra Bank, the Nepali

Consulate General in Lhasa, and the Ministries of Industry, Commerce and Supplies and Finance.

(Comment: According to reports, Nepal and China have officially agreed to restart the direct bus service between Kathmandu and Lhasa after 20 years. This 1,000 km route, passing through Tatopani, is expected to take 20–22 hours. Efforts are underway to simplify visa procedures and improve road conditions on the Nepali side.)

‘Red Reading Corner’ for Migrant Workers in Lhasa’s Chengguan District

January 22, 2026

Chengguan District of Lhasa’s Tama Subdistrict has launched a ‘Red Reading Corner’, to address “persistent challenges faced by children of migrant workers” including the after-school and holiday “supervision vacuum” and the difficulty families have in tutoring and caring for children. Led by the community Party branch under a Party-building–driven approach to grassroots governance, the ‘Red Reading Corner’ leverages the Party–Masses Service V Station to create a service platform that bridges the time gap between parents’ working hours and children’s supervision needs, extending services to where they are most urgently required.

The Reading Corner provides a quiet study space, a rich collection of books, and volunteer support for homework tutoring and Q&A, effectively ensuring that children have a place to go after school, someone to guide their homework, and help with difficult problems when needed. The community has also introduced a volunteer service points incentive mechanism. By participating in tasks within their capacity, reading and studying, organizing books, and cleaning, children earn points that can be redeemed for items such as soccer balls, pencil cases, and schoolbags, strengthening both enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility.

According to Yuan Qing, the community’s First Secretary, the points redemption incentive of Reading Corners deepens Party-building–led grassroots governance, unites residents of all ethnic groups, and, through the V Station, provides volunteer homework tutoring services for the children of migrant workers and business operators. The V Station has become a “warm harbour” on these children’s path to growth, conveying the Party’s care to people of all ethnic groups and promoting community integration and ethnic unity.

TAR's Loan Balance Surpasses 700 Billion Yuan for First Time in 2025

January 22, 2026

At a press conference in Lhasa on January 22, the TAR authorities disclosed that the TAR's total balance of loans denominated in local and foreign currencies, reaching 700.7 billion yuan for the first time by the end of 2025. It said the loan balance increased by 114.5 billion yuan from the beginning of the year, representing growth of 17.6%, which officials said ranked TAR first nationwide in terms of growth.

Authorities attributed the increase to the continued rollout of inclusive financial policies, which they claimed had injected momentum into what was described as the high-quality development of the plateau economy and society. Officials also reported that deposits in domestic and foreign currencies rose to 692.4 billion yuan, up 45.5 billion yuan from the start of the year. Social financing expanded by 120.2 billion yuan, an increase of 21.6 billion yuan compared with the previous year. Within that total, RMB loans directed to the real economy increased by 99.3 billion yuan, accounting for 82.6% of overall social financing growth.

Officials said the TAR's credit structure continued to improve over the year, citing a 20% increase in loans to private enterprises, a 23.9% rise in personal consumer lending, and 16.4% growth in infrastructure loans compared with the beginning of the year. They also pointed to faster expansion in policy-prioritized areas, reporting that green loans and science and technology loans grew by 28.8% and 24.8%, respectively.

The briefing also highlighted a continued decline in financing costs. The weighted average interest rate for new commercial loans fell to 1.42%, while the average rate for enterprise loans dropped to 1.31%, declines of 27 and 39 basis points year-on-year, respectively, according to the figures presented. Officials further reported improvements in cross-border trade and investment facilitation, saying Tibet's total foreign-related income and expenditure rose by 18.98% and total bank settlement volume increased by 26.49% year-on-year.

Detailing inclusive finance measures, officials said the Tibet branch of the People's Bank of China issued 720 million yuan in small loans for farmers and provided 600 million yuan in rediscount support. They said financial authorities organized 145 government-bank-enterprise financing docking events that resulted in cumulative lending of 2.567 billion yuan, which officials described as easing funding constraints for micro and small enterprises.

Officials said the TAR would continue implementing what they described as moderately loose monetary policies alongside special CCP Central government financial incentives.

Wang Junzheng issues instructions on TAR's Publicity, Ideological and Cultural Work

January 23, 2026

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng recently issued instructions calling for strengthening the TAR's publicity, ideological, and cultural work as part of efforts to build what officials describe as a culturally strong region and advance the broader goal of constructing a socialist modern Tibet. He stated that in 2025 the TAR's publicity and culture sectors implemented Xi Jinping Thought on Culture while focusing on major political events and themes, including the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region, disaster response reporting related to the Dingri earthquake in Shigatse, and other public communication initiatives. Wang Junzheng said these efforts were intended to promote unity, strengthen morale, and provide ideological and cultural support for development goals.

Wang Junzheng described 2026, the first year of the Fifteenth Five-Year Plan period, as an important stage for advancing modernization efforts in the TAR. He called on publicity and cultural institutions to uphold Party leadership over ideological work, promote the study and dissemination of the Party's political theory, encourage the practice of Core Socialist Values, strengthen what officials refer to as the building of the Chinese national community, advance reforms in mainstream media, develop cultural industries and public cultural services, and improve international communication capacity. He emphasized the need to maintain ideological security and ensure the effective implementation of policies related to culture and public communication.

On January 23, a TAR meeting of publicity ministers was held in Lhasa to convey these instructions and review priorities for the coming year. The meeting included remarks by Liu Jiang, Executive Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Party Secretary of the TAR Political and Legal Affairs Commission. Participants discussed strengthening ideological and political education, organizing thematic publicity campaigns, promoting cultural and artistic activities, protecting cultural heritage, expanding public cultural services, and developing culture and tourism as a strategic industry. The meeting highlighted the importance of managing the online information environment, reinforcing the responsibility system for

ideological work, and continuing efforts to promote social stability and development in the TAR through coordinated publicity, ideological, and cultural initiatives.

TAR holds Cyberspace Office Directors' Meeting in Lhasa

January 23, 2026

A meeting of Directors of the TAR Cyberspace Office was held in Lhasa on January 23, 2026, to review network security and information work conducted in 2025 and during the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan period, assess the current situation, and outline priorities for 2026. The meeting also conveyed the outcomes and guidance of recent Chinese national and regional conferences on propaganda and cyberspace governance.

It also stated that over the past five years the TAR's network information system had focused on strengthening online public opinion guidance, improving comprehensive internet governance, enhancing cybersecurity, and supporting the development of the digital information sector. According to participants at the meeting, these efforts were intended to support long-term stability and development goals in the region.

The meeting identified 2026, the opening year of the Fifteenth Five-Year Plan and the seventy-fifth anniversary of Tibet's "peaceful liberation", as an important period for advancing network governance and information work. Participants emphasized the need to continue implementing national policy guidance on cyberspace governance, ideological work, and digital development, while aligning TAR's efforts with broader Party and government priorities.

Key tasks discussed included strengthening political leadership in cyberspace governance, reinforcing mainstream public opinion online, improving systematic management of the online platforms, enhancing network and data security, and expanding digital information services. The meeting also stressed the importance of strengthening institutional capacity and Party-building efforts within network information departments to improve coordination and operational effectiveness.

Participants called for continued efforts to develop online content management, cybersecurity systems, and informatization initiatives.

Lhasa Customs Reports Growth in Tibet–Hong Kong Trade Cooperation

January 25, 2026

According to Lhasa Customs, on January 24, 2026, the trade between the Tibet Autonomous Region and Hong Kong reached approximately 622 million yuan, during the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan period, with Tibetan specialty products gaining increased visibility in the Hong Kong market. Key exports included 5100 Tibet Glacier Mineral Water and cordyceps, while goods from Hong Kong included spices, pre-packaged foods, and cosmetics, entered the Tibetan market.

Customs officials stated that Hong Kong’s established re-export networks and international marketing experience have complemented Tibet’s developing foreign-trade channels, while products associated with the plateau’s local resources -- such as tea, red wine, Tianma, and thangka art -- contributed to expanding Tibetan exports. Promotional events, including the Hong Kong Food Expo and Tibet tourism promotion activities, have supported market access for Tibetan products. During this period, products such as Lhasa organic green barley, Shannan red wine, and Nyingchi honey entered the Hong Kong market for the first time.

Authorities also highlighted improvements in trade facilitation measures. Lhasa Customs introduced a pilot program for single-batch mineral water exports that significantly reduced shipping times and improved logistics efficiency. The opening of the “Lhasa–Chengdu Tianfu–Hong Kong” route in 2025 further supported passenger and cargo connectivity between the regions.

Officials indicated that future cooperation will focus on strengthening air logistics links and expanding trade in specialty products, with the goal of increasing Tibet’s participation in international commerce and promoting regional products in overseas markets.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS (TAR)

NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI) NEWS

Metok County's First Property Management Company Begins Operations in Dongbu Road Community

January 20, 2026

According to the Metok's County People's Government website, Metok County has made new progress in residential community governance and property management services under the guidance of the county party committee, county government, and the Metok Town Party Committee. Recently, the homeowners' committee of Huangguoshu Residential Compound in Dongbu Road Community formally signed a property management service agreement with Metok Yunqi Dongbu Property Management Co., Ltd., which officially began operations on January 1, 2026. According to the County's website this marked a substantive step toward standardized and market-oriented property management services in Metok County.

The County Website further adds that in 2025, Huangguoshu Residential Compound established the county's first homeowners' committee. After multiple site assessments determined that the compound was suitable for closed-style management and ready to introduce professional property services, the community formulated a standardized property management plan and organized several rounds of consultations with residents to ensure transparency and consensus. Following full consultation and in accordance with the *Property Management Regulations of the TAR*, the community and homeowners' Committee signed a formal property service contract with the company on December 30, 2025, based on the principle of paid services with quality matching cost. The contract clarified service standards, fee structures, distribution of shared revenue, and responsibilities for breach of contract. Residents reportedly began paying property management fees according to the agreement, helping establish a sustainable operating foundation and a community governance model combining resident self-management with professional services.

After formally entering the agreement with the residential compound on January 1, the property management company began providing services focused on sanitation, environmental improvement, and security. Routine patrol mechanisms have also been established to maintain public order, monitor entry and exit activity, and identify fire safety risks.

Meeting on 2026 Economic Performance and Key Project Advancement Convened in Nyingtri

January 28, 2026

A Nyingtri City meeting on economic performance and the advancement of key projects for 2026 was held on January 27. The Deputy Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee and Mayor, Bata attended the meeting and delivered a speech. Standing Committee Member and Executive Vice Mayor Li Shijiang presided over the session. Municipal Party Committee Standing Committee Member and Vice Mayor Yuzhen, along with Vice Mayors Liu Chunxiang and Ciren Dunzhu, were also present.

The meeting noted that the Nyingtri is currently at a critical starting stage of the Fifteenth Five-Year Plan period. Officials were urged to focus on the new responsibilities and tasks of the opening year of the plan, improve political judgment, comprehension, and execution, and approach economic work from a broader political perspective.

Participants stressed the importance of addressing challenges in economic operations by focusing on the most pressing issues. Officials were encouraged to confront difficulties directly, analyse underlying causes, and maintain comprehensive and realistic assessments of economic conditions. The meeting decided that identified problems are to be systematically recorded, studied, and assigned to relevant departments, with resources concentrated on key bottlenecks and urgent development constraints in order to achieve tangible progress and drive broader improvements in economic work.

The meeting also called for strengthening foundational capacity across infrastructure, grassroots governance, and cadre development. Officials were encouraged to cultivate practical skills in policy implementation, research, decision-making, reform, emergency response, public engagement, and execution.

New Border Village established in December 2024 in Milin

January 30, 2026

Langda Village in Milin Town, established in December 2024 as a relocation and resettlement border village, is located in Bangzhong Valley at an altitude of 2,980 meters, three kilometres from National Highway 219 and eighteen kilometres from the Milin Town government. The

village has 111 households with a population of 448, including 69 Communist Party members. Primary school enrolment and retention rates are reported at 100 percent. There are 39 university students and full participation in social insurance has been achieved. Covering an area of 324 mu, the village has reportedly focused on what local authorities describe as the ‘mission of promoting border development and strengthening border defense through the development of plateau-characteristic agriculture supported by the Chinese Communist Party organization, industry development, and public welfare initiatives’.

Since its establishment, Langda Village prioritized development of the Party organization by forming a Party organizational structure that brought together Party members relocated from Kangsar Village and Senbo Village in Zharuo Town. A three-level system consisting of the Party branch, Party groups, and Party member household centers was created to ensure organizational coverage. Local authorities implemented mechanisms to appoint Party members with “strong political and development capacity” to village leadership roles, while continuing regular political study activities focused on Chinese national policy guidance and border-development strategies. A Party member household-assistance system was also established, linking Party members with local families to provide support in policy communication, skills training, and dispute mediation. Infrastructure funded through the relocation project included a standardized village activity center, a Party activity room, and a public service station intended to provide space for meetings, services, and cultural activities.

Village development has centered on plateau-specific agricultural industries supported by cooperation among local authorities, research institutions, enterprises, and farmers. With assistance from Zhuhai’s paired-support program, a 540-mu *Fritillaria* (Chuanbeimu) cultivation industrial park was established through joint government and enterprise investment. The village also cooperated with companies including Nin Jiom from Hong Kong and Tibet Qizheng Tibetan Medicine to establish a high-altitude agricultural research and demonstration base in Milin, providing technical support for agricultural production. In addition, local authorities promoted a development model involving companies, the village collective, and farmers through land transfers, dividends from shareholding, and employment opportunities. A project involving 54 connected greenhouses for *Fritillaria* cultivation has entered full operation, generating collective income and employment opportunities for surrounding communities.

Housing construction meeting standardized planning requirements has provided homes for all 111 households, with supporting infrastructure including village roads, a kindergarten, and a water-supply facility. Access to tap water, paved roads, and communication networks has reached full coverage, according to the Milin people's government. A public service station was established to provide administrative services, policy consultation, and dispute mediation.

A multi-ethnic border village, Langda Village has promoted activities aimed at strengthening community cohesion and ethnic unity, including shared cultural celebrations and mediation mechanisms involving Party members, retired cadres, and community representatives. Educational and volunteer activities related to national defense awareness and border protection have been organized, including the formation of volunteer border-patrol teams composed mainly of Party members. According to local authorities, these efforts are intended to combine economic development with social stability and border security responsibilities while supporting long-term community development in the border region.

LHOKA (CH:SHANNAN) NEWS

Lhoka Municipal Party Committee elects new Chairman for its PPCC

January 18, 2025

The third plenary session of the sixth meeting of the Second Lhoka (Ch:Shannan) Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) was held in Naidong on January 17, 2026. The session elected Tashi Phuntsok as Chairman of the Second Lhoka Municipal PPCC. Tsering was elected Secretary-General, and Xi Luo was elected as a Standing Member of the committee.

Participants at the meeting emphasized the role of the Lhoka PPCC in political consultation, democratic supervision, and participation in the deliberation of public affairs, and called for continued efforts to unite different sectors of society in support of TAR's development and the implementation of Party and government policies.

Tashi Phuntsok, a Tibetan, was born in January 1968 and is a graduate of the CCP Central Party School. In addition to his new position, he also serves as the Party Secretary of the Lhoka Municipal Political and Legal Affairs Committee and Secretary of the Lhoka Municipal Public Security Bureau.

SHIGATSE (CH:XIGAZE) NEWS

Everest Border Police Station Designated as ‘Maple Bridge Public Security Police Station’ in Dingri County

January 18, 2026

The Everest Border Police Station in Dingri County, Shigatse, was designated part of the third group of “Maple Bridge Public Security Police Stations” by the TAR Public Security Department on January 21. Established in October 2008 and located in Chusum Village of Tashi Dzong, the station is the primary law enforcement authority in the Everest Scenic Area, where it is responsible for public security management, emergency rescue, tourist services, and maintaining social order.

Local authorities report that the station has developed a specialized “tourism police” model and has implemented initiatives focused on grassroots governance, public safety, and community services aimed at supporting a stable tourism environment. In 2025, the station worked with other departments to identify and address 15 safety hazards and mediate 238 disputes as part of broader risk-prevention and governance efforts in the region.

To strengthen emergency response capacity in the high-altitude Everest area, the station has combined technological tools with traditional rescue methods. These include ground patrols, drone-assisted searches, and high-altitude rescue teams. Service facilities have been established to support visitors and local residents, including oxygen supplies, first-aid assistance, heated rest areas, mobile service stations, and legal consultation points.

Police officials stated that the Everest Border Police Station will continue to expand the “tourism police” system, improve safety and governance measures, and maintain public order in the Everest Scenic Area in order to support tourism and local community needs.

DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER TIBETAN AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR

China reports a major technological breakthrough in lithium extraction in Tibet

January 25, 2026

China has reported a major technological breakthrough in lithium extraction, especially from salt lake resources found in areas such as the Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai,

Sichuan (Ngaba), Xinjiang, and Jiangxi. A 20,000-tonne lithium production line in Qinghai Province, operated by Qinghai CITIC Guoan Technology Development Co., Ltd., has begun operating using new patented extraction technology.

This innovation has significantly improved efficiency:

- Lithium recovery from salt pans increased from below 50% to over 78%
- Overall recovery across the production process rose from about 75% to over 90%

The technology aims to make lithium extraction from salt lakes, previously difficult and inefficient, more profitable and sustainable, while also allowing continued use of associated minerals like potassium and boron.

(Comment: Lithium (“white gold”) remains a critical resource for electric vehicle batteries, electronics, and energy storage systems.)

Lanhe Railway’s Longest Tunnel Construction reportedly achieves key progress

January 28, 2026

Xinhua reported that after more than 1,500 days and nights of continuous construction, major progress was achieved on January 27 in the building of the Xigu Tunnel, the longest tunnel on the Lanhe (Lanzhou–Hezuo) Railway. All tunnel faces from the entrance to Inclined Shaft No. 4 in Section 1 were connected, marking an important milestone in this key project of China’s national “Eight Vertical and Eight Horizontal” high-speed railway network.

The report stated that Xigu Tunnel, a Class-I high-risk project as well as a central control engineering component of the entire line, spans Xigu District of Lanzhou City in Gansu Province and the Liujiaxia area of Yongjing County in Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture. Designed as a twin-bore single-track tunnel, the left line measures 22,055 meters and the right line 21,866 meters, with construction divided into two contract sections. Inclined Shaft No. 4, measuring 3,400 meters in length, is both the key control point for this section and the longest inclined shaft on the entire railway line. Its completion has opened an important access route for subsequent construction work, the report further adds.

According to Yang Rui, Chief Engineer of the China Railway Seventh Bureau's Lanhe Railway Section 1 project, the tunnel is located in the transitional zone between the Loess Plateau and the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

Xinhua added that the Lanhe Railway is a Chinese national trunk railway primarily intended for passenger transport while also supporting high-speed logistics for light and fast freight. It forms an important part of the Lanzhou (Xi'an)-Guangzhou corridor within the country's "Eight Vertical and Eight Horizontal" high-speed railway network. The line has a total length of 184.42 kilometres and a designed speed of 200 kilometres per hour. Once completed, the Lixia Hui Autonomous Prefecture and Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province will be linked by rail and serve as the main passenger transport corridor between Lanzhou and Chengdu, significantly reducing travel time between central Gansu and southwestern China.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

VOA, RFA to be back in business, US assistance for Tibet projects retained

(Tibetan Review, February 04, 2026): The Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), citing the latest government budget negotiated by the two political parties and signed by President Donald Trump on February 3, announced (February 3) that the Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Asia (RFA), with their Tibetan services, are expected to be resume functioning with the US fund for Tibetan projects also being continued.

ICT said the preservation of Tibet funding at the traditionally appropriated levels clearly reaffirms enduring bipartisan US support for the Tibetan people. The Tibet-related foreign assistance retained in the fiscal year 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act (HR 7148) are stated to include the following amounts for Tibet-related programs:

- \$10,000,000 for non-governmental organizations with experience working with Tibetan communities to support activities which preserve cultural traditions and promote sustainable development, education, and environmental conservation in Tibet

- \$8,000,000 for programs to promote and preserve Tibetan culture and language in the refugee and diaspora Tibetan communities, development, and the resilience of Tibetan communities and the Central Tibetan Administration in India and Nepal, and to assist in the education and development of the next generation of Tibetan leaders
- \$5,000,000 for programs to strengthen the capacity of the Central Tibetan Administration, of which up to \$1,500,000 may be made available to address economic growth and capacity building activities, including for displaced Tibetan refugee families in India and Nepal to help meet basic needs.

ICT President Ms Tencho Gyatso said: “ICT thanks the members of the Appropriation Committees and their staff for their dedication to supporting the Tibetan people and is glad to see that Congress remains firmly committed to providing these vital funds”.
