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TAR NEWS

Strength and Capabilities of the Tibet Military Region

Soho.Com : October 08, 2025

An article on *Soho.com* dated October 8, 2025 stated that since its creation, the Tibet Military Region (TMR) has been tasked with guarding China's southwestern border. Originating from the 18th Army (founded in 1952) and based in Lhasa, it is part of the Western Theatre Command, but with semi-independent operational authority. The article added that though often seen as a provincial force, it possesses unique high-altitude combat capabilities.

According to the article, currently, the TMR has about 50,000 troops trained to operate in harsh plateau conditions. Its main structure includes two mountain infantry brigades and a mechanized composite brigade for high mobility, supported by special operations, air defence, artillery, land aviation, and logistics brigades. This allows it full combat coverage from reconnaissance to firepower support.

Belittling India's military strength, the article added that despite India's much larger border deployment of 300,000 troops, the TMR emphasizes elite, fast-response, precision operations. Its artillery brigade, equipped with long-range rocket systems and large-calibre self-propelled howitzers, can strike targets deep across mountain terrain. Air support comes from J-20 and J-16 fighters, forming an advanced three-dimensional combat system. Its air defense network, superior to that of Russia's, integrates digital communication and coordination with the Air Force and electronic warfare units to counter drones and complex threats.

Historically, the TMR played decisive roles: in 1959 it helped suppress uprisings and secure Tibet, and in the 1962 Sino-Indian war, it led multi-directional offensives that ensured victory and established its dominance in plateau warfare.

Entering the 21st century, railway projects such as Qinghai-Tibet, Yunnan-Tibet, Sichuan-Tibet greatly boosted logistics and mobility. In 2008, the region introduced tanks, marking its mechanization. Infrastructure growth further strengthened logistics reliability.

By 2020, the TMR formed new special militia teams such as *Snow Eagle Air Patrol*, *Snow Pigeon Communication*, and *Snow Wolf Climbing* units for high-altitude special tasks like emergency rescue and blind-area communication. In 2025, it conducted live-fire drills and day-night tactical exercises, testing multi-weapon coordination and night combat readiness. That year it also trained 100 technical experts for equipment maintenance and promoted civil-military integration, absorbing skilled locals to strengthen mobilization.

The long-range rocket artillery battalion equipped by the artillery brigade in the Tibet Military Region has reached the international advanced level in range and accuracy, and has a high degree of automation and sufficient logistics support, unlike the shortcomings of the Russian army in some conflicts. Each information vehicle in the military region is equipped with a communication module, which enhances battlefield data sharing and improves the accuracy of command.

Facing India, the TMR relies on satellite and UAV surveillance for early warning and rapid response, consistently maintaining an upper hand in border standoffs. Its rocket artillery reaches international standards in range and automation, supported by real-time data-sharing communication systems. Plateau-modified armed helicopters and special forces enhance infiltration and precision strike capabilities, while support brigades ensure sustained operations.

Strategically, the TMR is designed to withstand the first enemy attack independently, then counterattack once reinforcements from the Western Theatre and Xinjiang Military Region arrive. Its vehicle density, information technology, and electronic warfare capabilities surpass that of its adversaries. Beyond combat, its soldiers also aid local construction and agriculture, strengthening civil-military ties and border stability.

Despite the limited strength, its vehicle density and information level are far above that of the enemy. Electronic warfare forces can effectively interfere with enemy signals. Airborne troops accurately drop bombs under coordination, and ground forces advance.

The article concludes stating that despite its low profile, the TMR's 50,000 elite troops form a powerful deterrent, making Tibet's borders as secure as an "iron wall." Decades of modernization and adaptation have turned it into a global model of plateau warfare, symbolizing both China's military modernization and its firm defense of the southwestern frontier.

Article: Attack-11 stealth unmanned attack aircraft has been deployed to Tibet ~200+ km from the Line of Actual Control

Li Renhao: October 12, 2025

A military blogger named Li Renhao based in Hebei posted on October 12, 2025, that China has deployed its world's first stealth unmanned attack aircraft, the 'Attack-11', at an air base in Tibet, about 200 kilometres from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India. It said this move, paired with the J-20S stealth fighter, marks the creation of a new "5½-generation" combat system that integrates manned and unmanned operations. Satellite images from August to September revealed at least three 'Attack-11' aircraft stationed in Tibet, indicating not a trial but a genuine tactical deployment meant to maintain constant surveillance over the border. The 'Attack-11' features a tailless flying-wing design with a 12.2-meter length, 14.4-meter wingspan, and maximum take-off weight of around 15 tons. Powered by a non-afterburning turbofan engine, it has a combat radius exceeding 1,500 kilometres and internal bays that carry over two tons of precision-guided munitions. Its stealth design, aided by serpentine air inlets, gives it an exceptionally small radar cross-section, possibly smaller than that of a large bird, allowing it to evade detection and carry out reconnaissance, strike, and electronic suppression missions.

The article emphasizes that Tibet was deliberately chosen for its extreme environment and strategic proximity to India. Following the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, both sides strengthened their border presence, with India deploying S-400 air-defense systems and additional troops, while China enhanced its air power. Deployment of the 'Attack-11' complements China's existing J-20 operations, filling a key gap in high-plateau warfare. The new "5½-generation" concept centers on coordination between manned and unmanned aircraft: the J-20S's rear weapons officer can command multiple Attack-11s via data link, directing them as "loyal wingmen" to scout, penetrate enemy defenses, and strike targets. This arrangement allows the J-20s to remain outside danger while the Attack-11s operate deep inside contested airspace, sharing real-time intelligence. The article describes this as a "cloud-brain and distributed-

execution” model, where human pilots act as commanders and unmanned systems perform front-line actions, bridging the gap between fifth- and sixth-generation warfare.

The stealth and endurance of the ‘Attack-11’ make it especially valuable for intelligence gathering. It can loiter undetected for hours over the China-India border, providing continuous surveillance of Indian troop movements and equipment without being spotted by radar or interceptors. This grants China a major situational awareness advantage, turning information dominance into operational leverage. The report further claims that India’s S-400 systems, though advanced, are far less effective against stealth aircraft. Their radar detection range can fall from 400 kilometers for conventional fighters to only a few dozen for stealth targets, meaning the ‘Attack-11’ could release precision weapons from beyond detection range. Because UAVs are cheaper and easier to mass-produce, China could potentially launch saturation strikes that would overwhelm Indian defences. Even in peacetime, the aircraft’s constant surveillance would allow China to monitor India’s every move along the LAC.

According to the article, the deployment signals that China’s 5½-generation combat system is shifting from concept to practice. It reflects a broader change in the People’s Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) strategy, from focusing on individual platform performance to building integrated systems that combine fighters, drones, early-warning aircraft, and electronic warfare units into a single networked force. The ‘Attack-11’ extends the reach and capability of the J-20s, taking on persistent reconnaissance and strike missions while freeing manned pilots for complex decision-making tasks. Tibet’s high-altitude terrain serves as an ideal testing ground: if the ‘Attack-11’ can operate from bases above 4,000 meters, it can function in nearly any global theatre. The long-term plan, the article suggests, is to replicate this manned-unmanned coordination model in other strategic regions such as the East China Sea, South China Sea, and southwestern borders.

Ultimately, the article frames the deployment as a deliberate and steady step in China’s military modernization rather than a show of force. It portrays the ‘Attack-11’ as both, a tactical tool capable of stealthy strikes and long-range reconnaissance and a strategic signal of deterrence. The piece concludes that no matter how many U.S. satellites capture its images or how India expands its troop presence, China’s growing system-level combat capability and border readiness remain intact. Presence of the ‘Attack-11’ in Tibet thus represents the operational rise of China’s new air-combat doctrine, one that fuses human decision-making with

autonomous precision, giving Beijing sustained surveillance and strike dominance over its southwestern frontier.

“A Thousand Cadres Enter a Thousand Villages” Propaganda Campaign Meeting in Tengchen County

Tencheng County Media Centre: October 6, 2025

As part of the ongoing “*A Thousand Cadres Enter a Thousand Villages*” propaganda campaign, a county-level teleconference was recently held in Tengchen (Ch: Dingqing) County in Chamdo, under the chairmanship of Wei Wanneng, Vice Chairman of the Municipal Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Party Secretary of the County Party Committee. The meeting focused on studying and propagating Xi Jinping’s “important speech” delivered during his visit to Tibet on August 20, 2025.

Wei Wanneng, emphasized that under the leadership of the CCP Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core, Tibet’s stability and development has remained “a major national priority.” He noted that Xi Jinping’s recent visit to Lhasa reflected the party’s continued concern and its strategic vision for maintaining stability, promoting development, protecting the environment, and strengthening border areas. Officials were urged to thoroughly study and apply Xi Jinping’s instructions, ensuring that the Party’s strategy for governing Tibet in the new era is effectively implemented. The meeting also stressed the need to strengthen ideological understanding, foster social harmony, and integrate local development goals with national objectives.

Within the framework of the “*A Thousand Cadres Enter a Thousand Villages*” propaganda campaign, reportedly designed to deepen grassroots governance and strengthen relations between the people and party, party cadres were encouraged to engage directly with rural communities. The propaganda campaign aims at propagating the party’s policies, instilling a sense of gratitude among the people towards the CCP, and to promote “unity and social cohesion.”

Those attending the teleconference included members of the County Party Standing Committee, the County People's Government, the PPCC and representatives from township administrations, monastery management committees, police stations, and village work teams.

China-appointed Panchen Lama conducts Kalachakra Teachings

Tibet Daily: October 14, 2025

From October 9 to 12, 2025, Gyaltzen Norbu, the China-appointed Panchen Lama presided over a four-day Kalachakra Empowerment Ceremony at Tashilhunpo Monastery in Shigatse. The official Tibet Daily reported that the teaching was attended by Senior monks, Lamas, and large numbers of devotees from across Tibet. Held under the guidance of senior monastics, the ceremony began with elaborate rituals including the Disciple Empowerment, the Obstacle-Clearing Ceremony, and the creation of a sand Kalachakra Mandala. Over the following days, the Gyaltzen Norbu conducted the four major empowerment stages of the Kalachakra ritual, a highly esoteric and symbolically powerful Vajrayana Buddhist practice traditionally associated with the Dalai Lama.

Throughout the ceremony, Gyaltzen Norbu emphasized the “sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism” and the principle that religion must “adapt to socialist society.” This framing aligns closely with the Chinese Communist Party’s ideological stance on religion, which seeks to ensure that spiritual teachings reinforce loyalty to the state. The event was therefore not only religious in nature but also political in purpose. It showcased the Party’s efforts to elevate Gyaltzen Norbu as both a spiritual and patriotic figure.

The ceremony was broadcast live on large LED screens, and state-run media highlighted testimonies from participants who praised Gyaltzen Norbu and expressed loyalty to the Communist Party.

The Kalachakra Empowerment has long been one of the most sacred and symbolically potent teachings in Tibetan Buddhism, and the 14th Dalai Lama has conducted many in India.

By getting Gyaltzen Norbu, the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama, to conduct this ritual, China appears to be asserting its power to define Buddhist authority within Tibet. This move can be read as part of a broader strategy to undermine the spiritual influence of the Dalai Lama, who

remains in exile in India, and to position the state-backed Panchen Lama as a central figure in the future of Tibetan Buddhism.

Tibetan media in exile with sources inside Tibet report that many senior Rinpoches and Lamas in Tibet were forced to attend the Kalachakra teaching by the China-appointed Panchen Lama.

TAR Party Secretary Meets Delegation from Qinghai (Amdo)

Tibet Daily: October 17, 2025

From October 14 to 16, 2025, a Qinghai provincial Party and government delegation led by Luo Dongchuan, Deputy Secretary of the Qinghai Provincial Party Committee and Governor of Qinghai Province, visited the TAR for an official inspection and exchange program. On October 14, the delegation met TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng in Lhasa. The meeting was attended by senior TAR officials, including Yan Jinhai, Karma Tsetan and Tenpa as well as Qinghai provincial leader Zhang Jingang.

Wang Junzheng welcomed and commended the Qinghai Provincial Party Committee and government for implementing Xi Jinping’s key directives on regional modernization and noted that Tibet seeks to learn from Qinghai’s development strategies to advance its own high-quality growth. He added that under the leadership of Xi Jinping, the Communist Party has set out the “Four Major Tasks” — maintaining stability, promoting development, protecting the environment, and consolidating borders as the framework for governing Tibet (TAR) in the new era. He said, TAR has persistently implemented these directives to ensure enduring stability and progress.

He further stressed their shared responsibility in safeguarding national security, maintaining social order, and protecting the ecological balance of the Qinghai–Tibet Plateau. He urged the TAR and Qinghai to strengthen collaboration in governance modernization, religious management, and the “sinicization” of religion to promote political stability, ethnic unity, and social harmony. He also called for deeper cultural exchanges and joint efforts to foster a shared sense of Chinese national identity and community among ethnic groups.

Luo Dongchuan reaffirmed Qinghai’s commitment to enhancing cooperation with Tibet, learning from its experience in high-quality growth, and jointly contributing to major national strategies. Luo proposed strengthening collaboration in clean energy, ecological governance,

national park development, infrastructure connectivity, and ethnic unity to jointly advance modernization and national rejuvenation.

During the visit, both sides convened a working symposium and signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement between Qinghai Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region. The delegation also toured key sites in Lhasa and Nyingtri including railway logistics facilities, heritage preservation projects, tourism developments, and urban planning initiatives.

(Comment: The two leaders' repeated emphasis on "maintaining social order" and "safeguarding national security" occurs against the backdrop of continuing unrest in Amdo, which was incorporated into Qinghai Province after China's occupation. Amdo has been a centre of Tibetan resistance, marked by self-immolations and protests against Chinese rule. Such rhetoric reflects Beijing's deeper strategy of securitization and ideological control under the guise of "stability maintenance" and "ethnic unity." The invocation of "social order" also serves to justify the ongoing political and religious repression in Tibet, particularly in restive regions like Amdo.)

LHOKA (CH:SHANNAN) NEWS

Gongga County holds Investment Promotion and Attraction Conference

City Happiness Home Construction Management Bureau: October 11, 2025

The Tibet Autonomous Region's 2025 "Investment Attraction and Talent Recruitment" ("Double Attraction") Promotion Conference and Lhoka (Ch:Shannan) 2025 Yalong Culture and Tourism Festival Investment Promotion Conference were recently held in Lhasa and Tsetang, respectively.

At the centralized project signing ceremony, the Gongga County Government signed an agreement with Tibet Golden Eagle Aviation Sports Town Company for the construction and operation of the Yamdrok Lake Jiqiong Viewing Platform project. Additionally, the Airport signed a project with Tibet He Nuo Holdings Group for new retail brand chain franchise and supply system security. Also, the 11th batch of the Changsha Aid-Tibet Working Group entered into a partnership with Hunan Xiang Nong Wu Pin Agricultural Science and

Technology Company for the "Marmot Ark Smart Economy and Trade 'Tibetan Products Out of Tibet' New Trade Route Project." The total investment for these three projects reportedly exceeds 100 million yuan.

Gongga County plans to establish a dedicated task force to monitor the implementation of these projects, ensuring their smooth progression and timely completion.

Lhuntse County of Lhoka holds Investment Attraction and Promotion Conference

Municipal Happy Homeland Construction and Management Bureau: October 23, 2025

A delegation from Lhuntse (Ch: Longzi) Dzong/County, led by the county's Executive Deputy Secretary and Deputy County Head, recently conducted an inter-provincial investment and cooperation tour to Hangzhou, Hebei, and Beijing under the theme "Seeking Development Through Experience and Strategic Partnerships." The visit aimed to attract investment and strengthen Lhuntse's industrial and tourism sectors.

In Hangzhou, the delegation visited Alibaba Group, where both sides discussed cooperation in digital economy, smart tourism, e-commerce, and healthcare. The two parties signed a framework agreement worth over 50 million yuan to jointly build the "Lhuntse Smart Tourism Platform." Alibaba's involvement is expected to enhance the county's tourism digitization, promote agricultural-industrial synergy, and boost local incomes.

The second leg of the trip took the team to Hebei, where they visited medical equipment and rehabilitation technology centers in Hezhou District and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Smart Health Industry Park. The delegation visited the Jizhou District Medical Device and Rehabilitation Aids Industry Development Center and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Smart Elderly Care Equipment Manufacturing Industrial Park. They inspected products such as turnover nursing beds, electric hospital beds, thoracolumbar fixators, automatic folding wheelchairs, as well as home health monitoring and nursing assistance devices.

They also toured enterprise production workshops and R&D centers, holding face-to-face discussions with officials from the Jizhou High-tech Zone Management Committee and company representatives. The discussions focused on production capacity, technological breakthroughs, market coverage, and particularly on the adaptability and performance of

medical equipment. Both sides conducted in-depth exchanges on potential cooperation models to enhance Tibet's medical infrastructure and technology base.

Drongpa Township's "Iron Cavalry Border Patrol" in Lhuntse County Guards Borders

People's Daily App, Tibet Channel: October 17, 2025

The Tibet channel of the People's Daily (October 17) disclosed that the Drongpa Township "Iron Cavalry Border Patrol" patrols rugged, uninhabited terrain, planting the CCP flag even in areas without boundary markers at 5,000 meters above sea level.

To ensure a secure border, the Drongpa Township Party Committee established a temporary patrol Party branch. Party lessons are conducted directly on motorcycles and in tents. At patrol points 5,000 meters above sea level, Party members gather around campfires for study. It quoted veteran Party member Norbu describing the patrol experience as: "Motorcycles are our desks, meadows are our meeting rooms; our organizational life carries the fragrance of grass."

The report also reveals that the Township Party Committee has integrated border subsidies with local specialty industries to promote both security and prosperity. Patrol subsidies, highland yak breeding, and under-forest economic initiatives have enabled 456 residents to increase their incomes, raising the per capita disposable income to 24,730 yuan. Collective village incomes in two villages have exceeded 100,000 yuan. Patrol members noted, "With fuller pockets, our hearts for guarding home burn even brighter," as they maintained the "Communist Party Member Household" signs.

SHIGATSE (CH:XIGAZE)

Tender Notice: Information Technology Project for Dongga Reservoir/Dam, Shigatse, Tibet

Department of Water Resources: July 29, 2025

According to a tender notice issued by TAR's Department of Water Resources, the Dongga Reservoir Information Technology Project in Shigatse Tibet, has been approved for

construction by the Tibet Autonomous Region Department of Water Resources under approval document Zang Shui Xu Ke [2024] No. 89. The announcement states that the project is fully funded by China national investment with the legal project entity and tendering authority being the Shigatse Mount Everest Urban Investment Development Group Co., Ltd. The tendering process is managed by Tibet Shengke Engineering Management Consulting Co., Ltd. The project has now reached the stage for public bidding for the information technology component.

Project Overview and Scope

The Dongga Reservoir is located on the middle reaches of the Rango Tsangpo (River), a primary tributary of the Yarlung Tsangpo (becomes Siang/Dibang river when enters India) within Dongga Township, Samdrubtse District, Shigatse. The dam site is approximately 31 kilometers from the city centre. This medium-sized comprehensive water conservancy project primarily supplies water to urban areas while also supporting rural domestic water use and agricultural irrigation. Upon completion, it will serve 168,100 residents in Shigatse, 4,427 rural residents in Dongga Township, and irrigate 9,050 mu of farmland. The tendered scope covers the reservoir's information technology systems, with a service period of 39 months.

Bidder Qualification Requirements (according to the announcement)

Eligible bidders must:

1. Possess independent legal status and a Level II or higher professional qualification in electronic and intelligent engineering; maintain good credit; and have sufficient personnel, equipment, and financial capacity.
2. Demonstrate at least one similar project in the past three years involving IT or digital systems (including digital twin platforms) in the water conservancy and hydropower sector.
3. Provide audited financial statements from 2022–2024 (or since establishment if under three years) showing stable financial status.
4. Have no major quality accidents since 2022 and must not appear on any credit blacklist, verified through the National Water Conservancy Construction Market Supervision Platform and the Credit China website.
5. Assign a project leader with a senior or higher professional title in water conservancy IT or computer-related fields, with other key personnel meeting similar technical qualifications.

6. Provide proof of necessary equipment to fulfill the contract.

This notice has been published on the Tibet Autonomous Region Public Resources Trading Platform, Tibet Water Resources Network, and Shigatse Administrative Approval and Convenience Services Bureau website.

Shigatse Military Subdistrict Conducts Combat Readiness Drills

Shigatse Daily: October 13, 2025

The Shigatse Military Subdistrict recently organized a series of holiday combat readiness drills and cultural programs designed to reinforce patriotism, strengthen combat preparedness, and enhance unity among its personnel.

At the 5,592-meter-high 5592 Observation Post, soldiers maintained their posts while conducting patrol and observation duties. Reportedly, they adhered strictly to combat readiness protocols to ensure constant preparedness.

Celebrating the Chinese National Day, the unit hosted a themed concert titled *“Building a Strong Army Dream, Advancing in the New Era,”* which echoed throughout the barracks as soldiers expressed their “love and blessings for the motherland.”

According to participants, these cultural and recreational initiatives not only eased training pressures but also fostered camaraderie and strengthened collective morale. The soldiers reaffirmed their determination to channel their patriotism into disciplined training, enhancing their readiness to safeguard China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Shigatse City Publishes Preliminary List of Unemployment Insurance and Subsidy Recipients for October 2025

Shigatse Daily: October 17, 2025

The Shigatse Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau has released a preliminary list of beneficiaries eligible for unemployment insurance, skill enhancement subsidies, and job stabilization refund support for October 2025.

The publication follows the implementation of several regulatory documents, including the *Notice on Determining Unemployment Insurance Benefits* (Tibet Labor and Social Service Bureau [2005] No. 38), the *Notice on Expanding the Coverage of Unemployment Insurance* (Tibet Human Resources and Social Security [2020] No. 65), and the *Notice on Continuing the Implementation of Temporary Reductions in Work Injury and Unemployment Insurance Rates and Supporting Skill Enhancement and Job Stabilization Measures* (Tibet Human Resources and Social Security [2024] No. 26). It also aligns with the *Notice on Further Promoting Employment and Entrepreneurship for College Graduates and Youth* (Tibet Human Resources and Social Security [2024] No. 34).

According to the announcement, 102 individuals have been deemed eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, three insured employees qualify for skill enhancement subsidies, and 12 enterprises meet the criteria for job stabilization refund assistance. Apparently, the bureau has made the list of approved recipients and benefit amounts publicly available to ensure transparency and allow for social supervision.

During the public notice period (October 17–21, 2025), citizens and organizations are encouraged to submit feedback or raise objections through visits, phone calls, or written correspondence. The bureau has pledged to verify and address any reported concerns.

Sakya County Holds Political Education Training for Farmer and Nomad Party Members

Shigatse Daily: October 20, 2025

Sakya County of Shigatse, recently conducted a five-day political education training program for farmer and nomad Party members from various townships, to strengthen political awareness, ideological alignment, and leadership capacity among grassroots Party members.

The program was designed to deepen the understanding and implementation of *Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era* and to enhance participants' ability to contribute to rural revitalization and social stability. The curriculum included sessions on *Xi Jinping Thought*, the *Constitution of the Communist Party of China*, and the key directives delivered by Xi Jinping during his inspections in Tibet.

In addition to political education, the training offered courses on rural support policies, medical insurance, pension systems, and road safety. Lessons on ethnic unity and “anti-separatist” efforts were emphasized to encourage participants to safeguard national unity and maintain local stability.

NGARI (CH:ALI)

Head of the TAR UFWD Inspects Ngari, Stresses on “Ethnic Unity”

Tibet Daily: October 06, 2025

Between September 27 and 29, 2025, Sonam Nyima, Head of the TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD) and member of the TAR Standing Committee inspected several Dzongs/Counties of Ngari (Ch: Ali) including Gar, Purang, and Ge-Gyai. The inspections were to promote and propagate Xi Jinping’s speech given during his visit to Lhasa, Tibet on August 20 this year.

During the inspections, Sonam Nyima met local UFWD officials, religious representatives, and grassroots CCP Party cadres; and stressed Xi Jinping’s thoughts on ethnic and religious affairs. He also called for improving political awareness, deepening the ‘Three Consciousness’ and advancing “ethnic unity and cultural assimilation.”

He urged party officials to promote the building of a shared sense of Chinese national identity, enhance a sense of responsibility, encourage the use of the national common language (Chinese language) and align religious practice with socialist values. The inspection reiterated the importance of law-based management of religious affairs and enhanced monastery administration.

At Zhiri Monastery in Ge-gyai County located over 5,000 meters above sea level, Sonam Nyima met monastery cadres stationed there and stressed the need for improved training, rotational systems, and stability.

(Comment: Zhire Monastery, founded in 1379 and situated on the northern side of Mount Kailash in Gegyai County, holds both religious and strategic importance. Located near the India–China–Nepal tri-border area, it serves as a key site for China in maintaining state presence in Tibet’s remote western frontier. Its proximity to sacred pilgrimage (Mount Kailash) routes adds symbolic weight, while its inclusion in the system of “stationed monastery

work teams” highlights its role in promoting political stability, ethnic unity, and border security. The United Front Work Department’s inspection thus reflects broader efforts to link religious management and frontier governance.)

Commissioner of Ngari Administrative Office Inspects Counties

Heavenly Ngari: October 16, 2025

From October 9 to 14, 2025, Shi Yuhui, Deputy Secretary of the Ngari Prefectural Party Committee and Commissioner of the Ngari Administrative Office, carried out an extensive inspection tour across Gar, Ge-gyai, Gertse, Tsochen and Purang. His inspections focussed on implementing Xi Jinping’s recent speech given during his visit to Tibet in August, which emphasises on maintaining stability, ecology, border consolidation and integrating economic initiatives with Chinese “national security objectives.”

During the inspections he met local CCP party cadres, the local populace, examined grassroots governance, and industrial progress in animal husbandry, clean energy sectors and rural revitalization work. In line with Beijing’s “Four Categories of Industrial Assistance” and the upcoming “15th Five-Year Plan,” he called for targeted investments to strengthen plateau-specific industries and create liveable, modernized townships that reflect China’s model of “new urbanization.” He emphasized the importance of social order and stability, urging vigilance in "disaster and risks" prevention, and conflict mediation to maintain a secure political and social environment -- a key element of the Party’s long-term control over Tibet’s border regions.

Shi Yuhui’s inspection reflected the dual economic and strategic focus of Beijing’s policies in Ngari Prefecture. At Lagco Lake and Mami Lake in Gertse County, he inspected green development projects and mining enterprises, urging strict adherence to Xi Jinping’s “Thought on Ecological Civilization.” He emphasized that economic development must go hand-in-hand with ecological protection, calling for “green mine construction.”

Highlighting Ngari’s geostrategic significance, he also visited the Meiduo Level-One Public Security Checkpoint and the Mayouqiao Border Inspection Station, sites close to the India-China border to convey greetings to stationed officers and review their operational readiness. His inspection of these frontier outposts highlights Beijing’s continuing emphasis on border

security and the integration of civilian development with military and paramilitary oversight in sensitive frontier zones.

Concluding his visit in Baga Township of Purang County, Shi Yuhui, chaired a symposium on the proposed Tarchen International Tourism Town project, aimed at promoting tourism development under the banner of “Western Pearl” construction on the Tibetan Plateau.

Ngari holds On-site Training and Exchange Conference to “increase farmers and nomads’ income”

Ngari WeChat Account: October 13, 2025

From October 10 to 11, 2025, the Ngari Prefecture ‘On-Site Training and Exchange Conference on Increasing Farmers’ and Nomands’ Incomes’ was convened in Gertse County, bringing together senior prefectural and county-level officials to deliberate on advancing rural revitalization policies in western Tibet. The meeting, attended by Shi Yuhui, Deputy Secretary of the Prefectural Party Committee and Commissioner of the Administrative Office, centered on implementing Xi Jinping’s key discourses on “Sannong” work—issues concerning agriculture, rural areas, and farmers -- and his recent instructions delivered during his inspection tour of Tibet. Shi Yuhui said that increasing rural incomes is not only an economic task but also a political responsibility tied to ensuring stability and consolidating Party authority in Tibet’s remote border prefectures.

In his address, he urged officials to adopt a people-centered development approach and to integrate scientific policy planning with practical measures tailored to Ngari’s extreme environment and dispersed population. He called for strengthening the foundation of characteristic plateau agriculture and animal husbandry, seizing development opportunities, and pursuing targeted industrial expansion. Chen Gang, Member of the Prefectural Party Committee and Deputy Commissioner, provided detailed policy directives, while representatives from Gertse and Gar counties shared case studies on labour transfer, pastoral area reforms, and implementation of the “Four Categories of Industrial Assistance” model — an initiative linking Party organizations, cooperatives, and households to improve economic efficiency.

Officials were urged to emulate successful local models, including Bensong Village, Yuanmeng New Settlement, and Luren Residential Committee in Gertse County, to enhance industrial layouts, improve quality, and optimize production systems to deliver tangible income growth for herders and farmers.

Four major projects were outlined as focal points of Ngari Prefecture's agricultural transformation by 2027: optimizing livestock breeds and productivity; expanding semi-confined modern farming systems; improving crop quality and efficiency through superior seed cultivation and high-standard farmland construction; and upgrading agricultural and livestock processing industries to boost value addition. The prefecture aims to establish 15 semi-confined breeding bases, 14 demonstration cooperatives, and 10 leading agro-industrial enterprises, while expanding cultivation of barley, forage, saussurea, and sea buckthorn across more than 100,000 mu (about 6,700 hectares).

DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER TIBETAN AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR

China conducts raids in monastery outside TAR to uncover Dalai Lama's pictures

Tibetan Review: October 23, 2025

(Tibetan Review, October 21, 2025): Citing 'reliable information' the Tibetan-language tibettimes.org said that Chinese authorities recently launched a surprise raid in the biggest Tibetan Buddhist monastery and surrounding religious places and villages in Sangchu (Chinese: Xiahe) County of Gansu province with the specific agenda of confiscating pictures of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

The raid was stated to have been carried out by three ethnic Tibetan officials of the Chinese government who arrived at Labrang Tashi Khyil Monastery on October 16. They carried out searches at the monastery as well as other religious places and homes in surrounding areas that included the villages of Thangnag, Ngonchag, L'edrug, Sangkhog, and Marteng etc. The raid was stated to have continued for four days and involved door-to-door searches. The search was stated to be particularly strict in Marteng Village from where the officials confiscated four large bags of pictures of the Dalai Lama, with only the fourth not being not as full as the others.

The officials were stated to have told the monks and villagers that keeping any photo of the Dalai Lama was illegal and they were acting on orders from both the local and central government authorities. The officials praised those from whom no photos were found, although a section of them had likely managed to hide their Dalai Lama pictures in time.

The Labrang Monastery is one of the six great monasteries of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism founded by Je Lama Tsongkhapa. This historically largest monastery, in terms of the number of monks, outside the Tibet Autonomous Region is located in Labrang Town of Sangchu County, Kanlho (Gannan) Prefecture, in the traditional Tibetan province of Amdo. It is now part of Gansu province of the People's Republic of China.

The report recalled that China has for long beaten, arrested, jailed, and even disappeared Tibetans for possessing pictures or others items related to the Dalai Lama after searches of their homes, cell phones, and so forth and crackdowns of this kind have occurred fairly frequently. For example, on Mar 17, 2021, authorities searched every Tibetan household in Dza Wonpo Village in Sershul (Shiqu) County of Kardze (Ganzii) prefecture, Sichuan province. At that time, Tibetans were forced to take down their photos of the Dalai Lama and replace them with pictures of China's top leaders.

Tibetans were also stated to have been made to sign a five-point pledge not to display any kind of picture or depiction of the Dalai Lama. Violators were warned they would be punished and denied of any kind government aid and subsidy.

Satellite images reveal China's missile base expansion near Golmud, Qinghai

Phayul Newsdesk: October 23, 2025

(Phayul Newsdesk): New satellite imagery and open-source analysis reveal large-scale construction near Golmud in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai Province, pointing to an expansion of China's People's Liberation Army Rocket Force (PLARF) and its long-range missile capabilities.

According to *The Diplomat*, the new facilities include multiple launch pads, high-bay garages likely designed for transporter-erector-launchers (TELs), and various support structures, indicating the formation of a new missile brigade under PLARF Base 64. Situated on the high-

altitude Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Golmud's strategic position enables the rapid deployment of missiles across western China and potentially far beyond.

The expansion appears to mark the latest phase of China's ongoing effort to strengthen its nuclear and conventional deterrent posture. Since the 2021 discovery of large missile silo fields in Gansu and Inner Mongolia, Beijing has accelerated modernization of the Rocket Force. The Pentagon's 2024 assessment projected that China could amass 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030, supported by new intercontinental and intermediate-range missile systems like the DF-26 and DF-27. Analysts suggest that Golmud's new base may host the DF-26, a dual-capable missile with a range of up to 4,000 km and possibly newer variants under development.

Satellite data from late 2024 show rapid infrastructure build-up, including multiple prepared launch pads connected by desert roads, a configuration typical of road-mobile missile brigades that prioritize survivability and mobility. The facilities mirror layouts seen at other PLARF bases, supporting assessments that the Golmud site could accommodate a full missile brigade. Experts believe the complex will eventually host 24 to 36 launchers, consistent with modern PLARF brigades.

Field training and live-fire exercises in the Golmud region during 2024–2025 further confirm the PLARF's operational activity there. Reports from local government sources mention Rocket Force units conducting extended training deployments, while Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense noted missile drills in Qinghai among other western provinces. These developments suggest that the new unit is nearing readiness, potentially as a high-altitude brigade optimized for western operations.

Experts warn that the Golmud expansion has far-reaching strategic implications. From Qinghai, DF-26 missiles could target key Indian military and logistical nodes, as well as U.S. assets across the western Pacific and Indian Ocean. The DF-26's dual-capable (nuclear and conventional) configuration complicates escalation control, particularly in crises along the China-India border or during Taiwan contingencies.

The establishment of a new brigade in Golmud emphasises China's drive to fortify its deterrence network in western China under Base 64. By extending its missile reach toward India, the Indian Ocean, and the U.S. Pacific presence, Beijing enhances its strategic flexibility while heightening regional instability.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Exile Tibetans to vote on February 1, April 26 to elect new leaders for next five years

Tibetan Review: October 7, 2025

(Tibetan Review): The Election Commission of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) announced at a press conference in Dharamshala, India, October 7 morning that voting for the election of the Sikyong, the executive head of the CTA, and the 45-member, 18th Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPiE) will take place on February 1 and April 26.

The preliminary poll will be held on February 1. This is meant to select the lists of candidates for the election of Sikyong and members of the TPiE, for both of which the final poll will be held on April 26. The preliminary poll is an open election with no official lists of candidates.

The 2025-26 elections will be conducted under the slogan of ‘I AM TIBET, I VOTE FOR TIBET’, signifying unity and strength of the Tibetan people. Sikyong Penpa Tsering is eligible for re-election, as this is his first term.

The Election Commission has decided that for the election of the Sikyong, the two candidates winning the highest numbers of votes in the preliminary poll will be the candidates for the final poll.

The current strength of the TPiE is 45, consisting of 10 members – including at least two women – from each of the three provinces of Tibet; 2 members from each of the four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the Bon religion; 2 members elected by the Tibetan community in North and South Americas; 2 members elected by the Tibetan community in Europe and Africa; and 1 member elected by the Tibetan community in Asia (excluding India, Nepal & Bhutan) and Australasia.
