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TAR NEWS

China-appointed Panchen Lama carries out “Buddhist and social” activities in the TAR

Tibet Daily: July 05, 2025

Since his arrival in the TAR on June 26, Gyaltzen Norbu, the China-appointed Panchen Lama, who is also a Member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Vice President of the Buddhist Association of China, and President of its Tibet Branch, has been carrying out his “official responsibilities”, which include Buddhist and social activities.

On July 3, Gyaltzen Norbu presided over the first meeting in 2025 of the Tibet Branch of Buddhist Association of China. The meeting focused on the study and implementation of key political and religious directives, beginning with General Secretary Xi Jinping’s recent remarks during his meeting with Gyaltzen Norbu. The meeting also reviewed the “Notice on Further Regulating Buddhist Life” issued by China Buddhist Association, as well as the address delivered by TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng at the 115th meeting of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee. A key highlight of the meeting was the organized study of the "Outline of the Five-Year Work Plan (2025–2029) for “Systematically Advancing the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.” This document, issued by the Tibet Branch of the China Buddhist Association, lays out the framework for reshaping Tibetan Buddhism in line with Chinese socialist principles. The meeting also featured deliberations on related issues, presentations of work reports, and planning of future initiatives.

In his speech, Gyaltzen Norbu, emphasized the importance of Xi Jinping’s instruction on “steering the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism”. He urged a deep and sincere understanding of the Party’s directives on religious affairs and the overarching strategy of governing Tibet in the new era. According to Gyaltzen Norbu, the primary political task remains maintaining

harmony and stability in the religious sphere, which includes “educating monks and nuns to manage religious practices within the legal framework.”

He further outlined the importance of refining tasks and action plans to ensure the effective execution of China’s five-year “Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism” plan. He also called for consolidation of recent achievements in the education on “Three Consciousnesses” and upholding of “Four Standards.” These efforts, he asserted, would enhance the self-management, self-discipline, and ideological clarity of monks and nuns, thereby, contributing to a stronger sense of belonging to the Chinese national community and fostering ethnic unity.

Additionally, Gyaltzen Norbu advocated for strengthening ideological guidance among the Tibetan monastic community by promoting the “Five Identifications” - with the “great motherland” (referring to China), the Chinese nation, Chinese culture, the Communist Party of China, and socialism with Chinese characteristics. He stressed the need to reinforce organizational mechanisms, improve the interpretation of Buddhist doctrine in line with state ideology, and continue to align religious life with the spirit of the Central Committee’s “Eight-Point Regulation.”

On July 4, Gyaltzen Norbu presided over a symposium dedicated to the implementation of the new five-year plan with regard to “Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism”. He reiterated the importance of carrying out this agenda, urging a deeper ideological commitment to it. He emphasized the need to harness religion's internal motivations to push for continued development in this new direction and contribute to long-term regional stability and progress.

Earlier in the week, on July 1, Gyaltzen Norbu undertook a ceremonial visit to the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa. Reportedly, at the Jokhang Temple, he paid homage to its sacred sites, chanted scriptures, and offered khatas to the main Buddha statues. He was accompanied by Zhukhang Thupten Khedup and Sonam Pingla.

NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI)

Nyingtri completes Red Resources Survey, Registers Over 2,200 “Revolutionary Artifacts”- An Initiative to distort Tibetan History and Propagate Chinese narrative of History?

Nyingtri Net News: June 28, 2025

On June 25, the Nyingtri Red Resources Survey Team reportedly completed a citywide investigation of “revolutionary heritage.” This 45-day “Red Journey” covered over 5,300 kilometres, reaching across all counties, cities, and districts of Nyingtri. By unearthing historical documents, inspecting revolutionary sites, collecting oral histories, and evaluating red-themed exhibitions, the team had apparently “traced the revolutionary history of Nyingtri.” This survey is reportedly part of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

The survey established a comprehensive and multidimensional resource collection network. Engaging with over 40 institutions, including the city and county-level Party History Offices, Local Chronicles Offices, Cultural Heritage Bureaus, Veterans’ Affairs Bureaus, Archives Departments, Libraries, and specialized red culture teams , the survey collected and catalogued invaluable documents and red archives. According to preliminary statistics, more than 22 million Chinese characters worth of red literature and archives were collected.

Across 31 red-themed museums and memorial halls, 11 martyr cemeteries, and 4 scattered martyr burial sites, the team documented over 2,200 revolutionary artifacts (sets) and compiled detailed records of more than 1,200 martyrs’ biographies and stories. The team also explored more than 40 red heritage sites, employing methods such as interviews with locals, gravestone rubbings, on-site mapping, and visual documentation to deeply unearth the historical context of these resources.

The team conducted in-depth interviews with descendants of the 18th Army (the PLA unit that invaded Tibet) and families of “martyrs”, recording 10 hours of oral history footage, which helped to vividly restore forgotten chapters such as “Road Building in the Snowy Plateau,” “Sichuan-Tibet Transport,” and the “Hump Air Route.”

The survey team was composed of staff from the Nyingtri Municipal Publicity Department and experts from Tibet University for Nationalities.

The team compiled a “Nyingtri Red Resources Directory” as well as a “Nyingtri Red Resources Map,” and proposed the establishment of a “Red Resource Time-Space Coordinate System”, integrating time and location to trace historical trajectories.

The team plans to “systematically process the vast amount of data and plans to publish books, design study tour routes, and produce documentaries.” Leveraging new media platforms, they aim to build a red culture matrix that is visible, easy to learn, and inheritable, thereby establishing the “Red Nyingtri” brand. Moving forward, they will deepen research and promote the guiding force of red culture to strive for the realization of the “Chinese Dream and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.”

Seminar on Party Building in Border Areas in the New Era Held in Milin Tibet Linzhi Net: July 03, 2025

A Seminar on Party Building in Border Areas in the New Era was held in Milin, Nyingtri, from June 27 to 28. Li Zhiyong, President of China’s National Party Building Research Association, attended and delivered a speech. Lai Jiao, member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee and Minister of the Organization Department, as well as leaders from the Tibet Military District delivered remarks. The seminar was chaired by Doto, President of the Tibet Party Building Research Association.

Li Zhiyong pointed out that since the 18th Party Congress of the CCP, Xi Jinping, from the overall and strategic perspective of national governance, has put forward the strategic concept that “to govern the country, one must first govern the borders,” and delivered a series of speeches and important instructions on strengthening Party building in border areas. These have provided a fundamental guide for consolidating the Party’s ruling foundation in border ethnic regions. He further added that in the new era, it is important to deeply understand the significance of strengthening Party building in border areas, and truly enhance the consciousness and firmness in promoting border governance. It is necessary to review and summarize experiences and lessons, and continuously deepen the understanding of the patterns in Party building and governance work in border areas.

Lai Jiao stressed the need to deepen and expand the “Five Shared and Five Strengthened” initiatives, contributing to building a prosperous and stable border region for the “motherland.”

Chinese Premier in Tibet for inspections of “National Key Projects”

People’s Daily, TAR UFWD: July 20, 2025

From July 18 to 19, Li Qiang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Premier of the State Council, conducted an inspection tour to Nyingtri.

On July 18, Li Qiang visited the exit of the Ser-je la Mountain Tunnel along the Sichuan-Tibet Railway in Nyingtri to inspect the on-site construction and assess the progress of the project. He engaged with workers and acknowledged the construction team’s contribution in “overcoming difficult geological and climatic conditions and persistently addressing engineering challenges.” He noted that the completion and operation of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is of great significance for Tibet’s development, calling for the accelerated development of supporting infrastructure such as electricity and telecommunications, and the provision of strong logistical support to create favorable conditions for the smooth execution of the project.

At the Milin Hydropower Station dam site and the Yani Wetlands, Li Qiang inspected construction equipment, borehole core samples, and received briefings on the hydropower project development on the lower Yarlung Tsangpo River, including technological research, resettlement plans, and ecological protection efforts. He emphasized that the Yarlung Tsangpo hydropower project is massive in scale, long in duration, and far-reaching in impact, an undertaking worthy of being called a "century project." He stressed upon the use of advanced technologies, equipment, processes, and materials to ensure high-quality construction and to drive scientific and industrial innovation. Additionally, he called for meticulous resettlement planning and the integration of local employment and income generation with project development.

On July 19, in Lhasa, Li Qiang visited the Chushi Tsena National Modern Agricultural Demonstration Zone to inspect the development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the TAR and the construction of the Plateau Biological Research Institute. He also witnessed

exhibitions of fruits and vegetables produced locally, and traditional handicrafts. He stated that leveraging distinctive highland resources to develop agriculture and animal husbandry is a key strategy to enrich the people and develop Tibet. He encouraged stronger promotion and demonstration of new technologies in these sectors, striving for breakthroughs in highland crop breeding and other areas. Relying on modern agricultural parks and specialized industry clusters, he advocated for advancing scale-based and branded development. He also stressed upon the need to train a new generation of skilled, tech-savvy, and capable farmers and herders, while innovating mechanisms to better integrate and benefit local communities. Along the inspection route, he also observed afforestation projects on the northern and southern mountain slopes and urged local officials to mobilize broad participation in greening efforts to ensure that a sound ecological environment benefits the people's livelihood.

Li Qiang, while affirming the progress made in Tibet's economic and social development, expressed the hope that cadres and people of Tibet will keep in mind Xi Jinping's earnest instructions, firmly foster sense of community for the Chinese nation, and focus on four key tasks: maintaining stability, promoting development, protecting the environment, and strengthening border security. He called upon everyone to strive for new achievements in building a socialist modern Tibet.

Also on July 19, 2025, Li Qiang attended the inauguration ceremony for the Lower Yarlung Tsangpo River Hydropower Project (or Metok/Medog dam) in Milin, Nyingtri, and officially announced the start of construction.

The event took place at the Milin Hydropower Station dam site and was attended by representatives from China's National Development and Reform Commission, the project's owner (China Ya-Jiang Group), key construction units including PowerChina, senior officials from the Tibet Autonomous Region, members of the project's Expert Advisory Committee, and local community representatives. Wu Zhenglong, Secretary-General of the State Council presided over the ceremony.

The project, located in Nyingtri, involves building five cascade hydropower stations using a river-cutoff and tunnel-diversion model. It has a total investment of approximately Yuan 1.2 trillion. Most of the electricity generated from this dam will be transmitted for use outside Tibet.

LHOKA (CH:SHANNAN) NEWS

Lhoka Party Secretary Presides Over Special Lhoka Municipal Party Committee Meeting

Lhoka Daily: July 07, 2025

On July 4, Li Fuzhong, Party Secretary of Lhoka (Ch:Shannan) Municipal Party Committee, presided over a special municipal committee meeting to convey and study Xi Jinping's "important instructions" on the formulation of the "15th Five-Year Plan" (2026–2030). The meeting also underlined the spirit of TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng's speech during his visit to the TAR's Development and Reform Commission and his remarks on the TAR's "15th Five-Year Plan" preparation work. Additionally, it heard a progress report on the preparation of Lhoka's "15th Five-Year Plan" and discussed the next steps.

Li Fuzhong pointed out that formulating a sound "15th Five-Year Plan" is crucial for Lhoka's development over a relatively long period and is a historic responsibility of party committees and governments at all levels. He stressed that all departments at every level must fully recognize the extreme importance of this work, adhere to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as the guiding principle, and deeply study and implement Xi Jinping's important instructions on the "15th Five-Year Plan" and on Tibet work, as well as the new era party strategy for governing Tibet.

Li Fuzhong emphasized the need to accurately position development, establish a holistic view, consider Lhoka's work within the overall national and regional context, and advance planning focused on the key development areas of Central and Southern Tibet and South Asia Corridor. By recognizing its own advantages and carefully planning future work, Lhoka can better integrate into larger strategies, he added.

Second "Pomegranate Seed Cup" Grassland Football starts in Lhoka with participants from Chinese cities

Xinhua News: July 11, 2025

On July 10, the second "Pomegranate Seed Cup" Grassland Football Tournament officially kicked off at the Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) City Stadium. Ten teams from Anhui, Hunan as well as cities like Lhasa and Lhoka, and various universities, participated in the tournament.

At the opening ceremony, Yang Hongbing, Vice Mayor of Lhoka, stated that this edition of the "Pomegranate Seed Cup" is an important initiative to promote the coordinated development of mass sports and competitive sports in Lhoka and to promote unity between ethnic groups. He further added that the tournament provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen communication between regions, cities, and communities, and hoped that the event will foster cultural exchange among participating cities and universities.

The tournament ran for 10 days.

NGARI (CH: ALI)

12th Technical Aid-Tibet Task Force from Shaanxi Province holds CCP Party themed activity in Ngari

Ngari News: June 30, 2025

On June 28, the Temporary Party Branch of the 12th Technical Aid-Tibet Task Force from Shaanxi Province held its first themed Party Day activity since arriving in Tibet. The event took place at the Military History Museum of the Ngari Military Subdistrict in Tibet, under the theme "Understanding the Spirit of Border Defense, Drawing Strength for Progress."

During the activity, team members toured the Military History Museum and, through precious artifacts, historical photographs, and heroic stories, deeply appreciated the noble character of the Ngari soldiers who, in extremely harsh conditions, embody the spirit of *"lacking oxygen but not spirit, enduring hardship without fear, and reaching greater heights at high altitudes."* Reportedly, they were particularly moved by the soldiers' unwavering loyalty expressed in the motto "Better to exhaust our lives than leave our duties unfulfilled."

Afterward, the group observed a bayonet combat demonstration by frontier soldiers. The soldiers' *"exceptional military skills and high morale powerfully displayed their firm resolve to defend national sovereignty."*

Reportedly, this event marked an important beginning in strengthening Party character among the task force since entering Tibet. Team members expressed their determination to take inspiration from the "Old Tibet Spirit" and the soldiers guarding the border. They pledged to turn their learning enthusiasm into motivation for aid-Tibet work, upholding unity from a

higher political perspective, taking greater responsibility in their roles, and embracing a diligent, wholehearted work ethic.

Gar County Integrated Media Centre Holds Special Training

Cyberspace Administration of Gar County: July 15, 2025

From July 10 to 11, the Gar County Integrated Media Center held a two-day special training session on “promoting collaborative development between media organizations in Shaanxi and Ngari (Ch:Ali)”. The training was led by Qin Yanqing, Director of the People’s Livelihood Hotline Division at the Urban Life Center of Shaanxi Broadcasting and Media Group. All staff members of the Gar Media Center participated in the training.

During the training, Qin Yanqing, explained core topics such as news gathering and editing and content innovation in the era of new media. His instruction included theoretical instruction, on-site discussions, and field interviews.

Participants also watched works produced by both media organizations. Qin Yangqing provided professional critiques focusing on video content, filming techniques, and communication impact.

In his closing remarks, the head of the Gar County Integrated Media Center emphasized that the training was an important step in deepening media cooperation between Shaanxi and Ngari. He called on all staff to apply what they learned and turn the training outcomes into concrete improvements in the quality of news content. Looking ahead, the Center plans to further strengthen collaboration with Shaanxi media, establish itself as a model for integrated media on the plateau in the new era, and enhance its role in promoting Party policies.

Report on “Achievements” of the 10th Batch of Hebei and Shaanxi Aid-Tibet Cadres in Ngari (2022–2025)

Tibet Daily: July 16, 2025

According to a report in Tibet Daily (July 16), the 10th batch of Aid Tibet professionals from Hebei and Shaanxi provinces in Ngari made “significant achievements” in their four year period. The report states that between 2022 and 2025, the 10th batch carried out a wide range of development projects in sectors such as education, healthcare, clean energy, infrastructure, and livelihood improvement.

The report further adds that in the education sector, Liu Longhua, an education specialist from Shaanxi, led key reforms in local school systems. His initiatives included the establishment of collaborative platforms such as the “Shaanxi-Ngari Teacher Learning Communities” and the “Shaanxi Master Teacher Workstations.” These platforms facilitated partnerships between cities in Shaanxi and counties in Ngari, ultimately ensuring complete coverage of teacher training programs across all seven counties of the prefecture.

Healthcare also saw notable upgrades, adds the report. Hebei Province reportedly invested 11.5 million yuan in renovating Ngari’s Maternal and Child Health Hospital. Training was provided to over 500 local medical personnel, 36 of whom were sent to Hebei for advanced instruction. The teams reportedly introduced over 300 updated medical protocols and launched programs for free prenatal genetic testing, newborn screening, and ultrasound diagnostics.

On the infrastructure and energy front, Hebei’s 30 million yuan investment funded the deployment of “solar + air-source” heating systems to rural boarding schools in Ngari. In Ruthok County, an 18 million yuan water treatment plant was completed. Additionally, Hebei and local authorities jointly funded the introduction of 12 new energy buses, with 3 million yuan from Hebei and 6.25 million yuan matched by local investment.

The report also highlighted employment and livelihood outcomes. More than 3,000 job opportunities were created, and 64 Tibetan University graduates were offered employment in Shaanxi Province. Over 200 local residents were assisted in finding employment or launching businesses outside Ngari.

In the field of agriculture and industry, several projects aimed at long-term economic transformation were carried out:

- **Forage Industry:** Shaanxi invested 26 million yuan in reconstructing the Ngari Forage Technology Extension Center, promoting the cultivation through greenhouse farming methods.
- **White Cashmere Goat Industry:** Hebei allocated 59 million yuan to Ruthok County to boost the local white cashmere goat population which reportedly grew from 150,000 to 170,000 with annual cashmere output stabilized at 45 tons. Two cashmere auctions held in 2023 and 2024 generated a combined revenue of 13.07 million yuan, increasing household incomes by an average of 5,700 yuan per family.

- **High-Altitude Farming:** Fifty-four new varieties of fruits, vegetables, and forage, including strawberries and passion fruit, were introduced. Small-scale greenhouses were constructed in remote border villages to support high-altitude agricultural production.

In terms of overall project investments:

- **Hebei Province** undertook 90 projects with a total investment of 986 million yuan, of which 575 million yuan (103% of planned spending) has been completed.
- **Shaanxi Province** revised and implemented 66 projects across five sectors, with a total investment of 575 million yuan. Of these projects, 88.89% were focused on improving livelihoods and 80.72% targeted grassroots-level infrastructure and services.

The 10th batch's term is being hailed by Chinese state media as a successful chapter in the broader “Aid-Tibet” program.

SHIGATSE (CH:XIGAZE)

Head of TAR People’s Congress inspects Shigatse

TAR UFWD, China Tibet News Network: July 18 2025

From July 14 to 17, 2025, Yan Jinhai, Deputy Party Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of TAR People’s Congress, undertook an inspection tour to Shigatse.

In Tsogo Township of Tingri county and several other sites, including villages in Tingri, Ngamring, and Sakya counties, Yan Jinhai inspected reconstruction progress and met frontline Party cadres, construction workers, and residents affected by the earthquake early this year. He stressed that the current period is critical for recovery and that all reconstruction efforts (including unified planning and construction, partial development, and structural reinforcement) must proceed with sustained pace and intensity.

He instructed local governments to address delays by improving project coordination, allocating resources efficiently, and enhancing supervision of construction quality, timelines, and safety. He also urged better community mobilization, more effective public

communication, and prompt responses to public concerns to foster unity and morale among the people. He called for improved implementation through stronger grassroots Party leadership and Party members serving as role models. All efforts must reflect the care of the CCP central government and translate into real benefits for local communities, he noted.

Yan Jinha also emphasized upon making the idea of a shared Chinese national identity central to all reconstruction work, encouraging storytelling about ethnic unity and promoting/propagating stronger inter-ethnic interaction, exchange, and integration.

During his inspection, Yan Jinhai also visited Gama Valley in Tingri County and Kairag Township in Ngamring County. Regarding rural tourism, he advocated leveraging Shigatse's unique ecology and stressed upon strategic planning, creation of high-quality tourism routes, improved scenic design, and use of cultural resources.

DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER TIBETAN AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR

Chinese Tibetology delegation propagates “development achievements” in Nepal

People's Daily: June 27, 2025

A Chinese Tibetology delegation organized by the State Council Information Office visited Mongolia from June 16 to 18. The delegation engaged in exchanges and discussions with Mongolia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, think tanks, experts, and religious figures on topics such as Tibet's development achievements, the practice of Chinese-style modernization in Tibet, and China-Mongolia cultural exchanges of mutual interest.

The delegation included Tibetology experts and scholars from the China Tibetology Research Center, the Tibet Autonomous Region Association for Cultural Exchange with Foreign Countries, the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences, and the Human Rights Institute of Southwest University of Political Science and Law.

The delegation participated in a seminar with the Institute of International Studies at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and held meetings with experts from the Academy's Institute of Philosophy.

The delegation also visited Kathmandu, Nepal on June 24, to “introduce the comprehensive progress and historic achievements of Tibet’s political, economic, social, and cultural development in the new era.”

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Dalai Lama has spoken of having declined China invites due to lack of freedom to teach

Tibetan Review: July 14, 2025

The Dalai Lama revealed on July 13 that he had received many invitations to visit China but declined due to lack of freedom to give Buddhist teachings there. The exile spiritual leader of Tibet made this remark while speaking at his Shewatsel Phodrang residence in Leh where he arrived on July 12 for a month-long sojourn.

“In China, the political situation is not stable, but interest in Buddhism is growing. I have received many messages inviting me to visit China, but I feel it would be difficult to teach about Buddhism in a country where there is no freedom. I feel it is more effective to teach about Buddhism in India,” he was quoted as stating in an address to the devotees. The Dalai Lama has not explained the sources of those messages of invitations. Mainland Chinese Buddhists are increasingly receiving teachings from the Dalai Lama and many had enrolled in the famed Larung Gar Buddhist Academy run by Tibetan Buddhist masters in Serta County of Sichuan Province before China expelled everyone who did not belong to the historically local Tibetan area. He has also spoken of having received invitations from Mongolia and parts of Russia, both of which have succumbed to Chinese pressure to deny him visas in recent years.

The Dalai Lama was also quoted as alluding to the destruction the Chinese authorities had wrought upon the traditions of studying the great Buddhist treatises in Tibet. He has therefore stressed the importance of scholars from the Himalayan region working to keep these traditions of study alive. “The precious traditions that we can learn and implement in daily life, have declined in Tibet. Those who fled to India have had the responsibility of preserving these traditions. In Tibet, many experienced harsh Chinese treatment, so here in the freedom of India we must do whatever we can to preserve these precious traditions,” he was quoted as saying.

US Senate declares Dalai Lama’s 90th birthday as ‘Day of Compassion’

Tibetan Review: July 16, 2025

On July 14, 2025, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution declaring July 6, 2025—the 90th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, as a “Day of Compassion.” A similar resolution is expected to come up for vote in the House of Representatives, where it continues to gain bipartisan support.

The resolution honors the Dalai Lama’s message of compassion and non-violence, affirms the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Tibetan people, and condemns any Chinese interference in the selection of the 15th Dalai Lama as a violation of religious freedom.

International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) welcomed the resolution as a strong show of U.S. support for the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people. ICT President Tencho Gyatso called it a reflection of America’s enduring commitment to human rights in Tibet.

The resolution builds on past bipartisan legislation supporting Tibet, including the 2018 Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, the 2020 Tibetan Policy and Support Act, and the 2024 Resolve Tibet Act.

To mark the Dalai Lama’s 90th birthday, the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in Dharamshala has declared July 2024–2026 as the “Year of Compassion”, launching global events and campaigns. ICT has also initiated a “Compassion Rising World Tour” to inspire worldwide acts of compassion as a tribute to the Dalai Lama’s legacy.
