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**TIBET INSIGHT FEBRUARY 1-15, 2026**

## **TAR NEWS**

### **Tibet Aims for High-Quality Economic Growth in 2026**

*February 2, 2026*

According to a government work report delivered on January 31 by Chairman of the TAR Government Karma Tseten, Tibet's GDP exceeded 300 billion yuan (about US\$43 billion) last year. The region is now aiming for a growth rate of more than 7 percent in 2026. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021–2025), Tibet achieved an average annual GDP growth of 6.3 percent, reaching 303.19 billion yuan in 2025. TAR has also set ambitious targets for high-quality economic development in 2026, pledging major investments in infrastructure, clean energy, digital technologies, and tourism. The region also intends to optimise the computing power industry and accelerate digital and intelligent technology applications.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026–2030), TAR plans to complete investments exceeding 244 billion yuan in major projects, including a hydropower project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River and the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, while also improving several national highways.

Tibet will vigorously expand its clean energy sector, targeting an increase in installed power generation capacity from 13 million kW in 2025 to 20 million kW in 2026. Integrated power bases combining wind, solar, and hydropower will be built at multiple locations, leveraging the region's abundant natural resources despite its high altitude and challenging environment.

Tourism and culture are also set for development. The region will promote integrated cultural and tourism projects, encourage performances and star-rated hotels and upgraded rural tourism to enter scenic areas. Digital and smart technologies are planned to transform the cultural tourism sector to boost consumption.

As a border region, Tibet plans to enhance high-level opening-up and, in addition to the operation of 14 traditional border trade sites will open, 12 new sites in 2026.

Investments in people's livelihood will total 13.6 billion yuan for 34 projects. Notably, subsidies for free preschool education in agricultural and pastoral areas will rise from 380 yuan to an average of 1,000 yuan per child. Ecological conservation will remain a priority, with more than 26,000 hectares of trees to be planted, half of them as part of the afforestation project north and south of Lhasa.

Presenting the TAR Government Work Report, Karma Tseten said “Today’s Tibet is embracing unprecedented historical opportunities, with its role as a security barrier, advantages in energy resources, and strategic corridor position becoming increasingly prominent, “A magnificent blueprint is now unfolding.”

## **Political Resolution of the Fourth Meeting of the 12th CPPCC Tibet Autonomous Region Committee**

*February 3, 2026*

The fourth meeting of the 12th Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference was held in Lhasa from January 30 to February 2, 2026. TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng and other regional leaders attended the session. In his closing address, Wang Junzheng reviewed the achievements of the past year, affirmed the work of the CPPCC, and called for further strengthening its function as a specialised consultative body.

The conference approved the work report presented by Vice Chairman Meng Xiaolin and the proposals report delivered by Vice Chairman Dolkar (Zhuo Ga). In the leadership elections, Lang Fukuan and Dawa Yangzom (Dawa Ouzhu) were chosen as Vice Chairpersons of the regional CPPCC, while Jigme Tenpa Gyaltsen (Jizhu Danbaijiang ) and Sonam Tserab (Solangzaba) were elected as Standing Committee members, marking important adjustments to the leadership structure.

Members also attended the fourth meeting of the Tibet Autonomous Region People’s Congress, where they listened to and discussed the government work report delivered by Chairman Karma Tseten (Gama Deden). Delegates examined the draft outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, the proposed Regulations on Religious Affairs, and the work reports of the Higher People’s Court and the People’s Procuratorate. The meeting emphasised the promotion of coordinated rural and urban development, improvement of public services, and the strengthening of border governance, security, and long-term stability.

Reviewing the previous year, the resolution described 2025, the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region, as an extraordinary period. It referred to the attention of the central leadership, including General Secretary Xi Jinping’s participation in the anniversary events, his instructions on Shigatse earthquake relief and reconstruction, and his reply to residents of Gala village in Nyingchi, saying these had strengthened confidence in building a “Chinese national community.” Officials stated that the principal objectives of the 14th Five-Year Plan had been fulfilled and that progress had been made toward constructing a “new socialist modernised Tibet.”

The meeting noted that over the past year the CPPCC had focused on the regional agenda of the “four major events” and “four creations,” improved investigation and consultation work, and raised the quality of proposals, thereby contributing to economic and social development and to social stability.

Looking ahead to 2026, the opening year of the 15th Five-Year Plan, the resolution called on CPPCC organisations and members to follow Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with

Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, uphold the “Two Establishments” and “Two Safeguards,” and implement programmes such as “Snowland Concentricity,” “Five Contacts,” “Storytelling,” and “Making Friends.” It urged deeper political consultation, democratic supervision, and participation in state affairs, and stressed the need to transform CPPCC institutional advantages into practical results for development, rural revitalisation, and effective governance of border regions.

The meeting concluded with an appeal for all CPPCC bodies and members to unite closely around the Party Central Committee and the regional leadership, work together to implement the 15th Five-Year Plan, and contribute to the advancement of Chinese-style modernisation in Tibet.

## **2026 District Civil Affairs Work Conference Held in Lhasa**

*February 5, 2026*

The 2026 District Civil Affairs Work Conference was held via video conference in Lhasa on February 5, 2026, guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. The meeting thoroughly studied and implemented General Secretary Xi Jinping's important expositions on civil affairs work and the Party's Tibet governance strategy in the new era, fully implementing the decisions of the National Civil Affairs Work Conference, the Ninth Plenary Session of the 10th District Party Committee, the District Party Committee Economic Work Conference, and the Autonomous Region “Two Sessions.”

The conference reviewed achievements in 2025, noting that under the leadership of the Autonomous Region Party Committee and Government, Tibet's civil affairs system promoted reform and development, tackled prominent issues, strengthened social governance, and carried out study and education on the spirit of the Central Committee's eight regulations. Work focused on coordinated development and security, the “four creations” and “four leading” initiatives, implementing main development indicators of the “14th Five-Year Plan,” strengthening basic livelihood security, advancing elderly care services, improving social service capabilities, and innovating social governance. Ethnic unity and social cohesion were promoted through more than 750 publicity activities themed “Civil Affairs Policies Enter Thousands of Families, and the Party's Gratitude Remembers in Our Hearts,” which educated over 80,000 people. “Double Concentration” institutions conducted 91 in-depth publicity activities on “Gratitude to the Party, National Unity and Progress,” and the promotion rate of the national common language and writing system in these institutions reached 100%.

Marriage registration was carried out nationwide, with 44,000 marriages registered to foster integration among ethnic groups. Poverty alleviation and livelihood support were strengthened, with 1.194 billion yuan allocated to assist more than 300,000 people, while 420 million yuan was invested in 204 livelihood service projects. Elderly care was expanded through 195 rural happiness homes, 65 community day-care centers, and 183 meal assistance points, providing services to over 1.2 million elderly people. 43 star-rated elderly care institutions were evaluated. Additionally, 2.4535 million yuan was invested in 701 elderly-friendly household renovations, and 5.63 million yuan was allocated for meal assistance, under which, 7,979 meals were provided.

Charity and public welfare work raised nearly 1.229 billion yuan, including funds for earthquake relief after a 6.8-magnitude quake in Dingri, while welfare lottery sales reached 1.272 billion yuan, raising 351 million yuan for public welfare. Reforms in funeral services promoted ecological and green burial practices, and 987 social organizations and cooperatives were registered. Public

welfare initiatives such as “I Have a Tree in Tibet” raised nearly 180 million yuan to support greening projects in Lhasa’s North and South Mountains. Place name and border management included 21,000 entries in the China National Place Name Information Database, naming or renaming 324 rural place names, maintaining 1,163 rural place name signs, completing term changes for 5,000 village “two committees”, and carrying out joint inspections of provincial and county boundaries.

For 2026, the conference set seven priorities, emphasising Party leadership, strict governance, anti-corruption, and the promotion of Xi Jinping’s instructions and “two safeguards.” It highlighted the importance of responding to population aging through improved elderly care services, strengthening the social assistance system through policies for minimum living security and, temporary assistance, focusing on Social welfare including child welfare, services for children in difficult circumstances, foster care for the severely disabled, mental health and welfare services etc. Social governance will be enhanced through management of place names, preservation of historical and cultural heritage, development of social organizations, and regulation of high-quality charity initiatives. Grassroots civil affairs will be consolidated by aligning civil affairs work with strategies for rural revitalisation, ethnic unity, border stability, and common prosperity, while promoting digitalisation, statistical supervision, training, fund allocation, and reform implementation.

The meeting included the Civil Affairs Department of the Autonomous Region and branch venues in seven prefectures and cities: Lhasa, Shigatse, Qamdo, Nyingchi, Shannan, Nagqu, and Ali. Liu Zhongqiang, Deputy Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Director of the Civil Affairs Department, attended and delivered a speech, while Yang Junlin, Deputy Director, presided over the meeting and delivered the concluding remarks. Officials from the Discipline Inspection and Supervision Group, Organisation Department, Social Work Department, Development and Reform Commission, Finance Department, and other units participated, along with civil affairs bureaus from the seven prefectures and cities.

## **Wang Junzheng Issues Directive on Trade Union Work Across Tibet**

*February 7, 2026*

TAR Party secretary Wang Junzheng issued a comprehensive directive on trade union work throughout the region on February 6, 2026 calling on workers and the public to unite with the Party and actively contribute to Tibet’s social and economic development.

Looking forward to 2026, the start of the “15th Five-Year Plan”, Wang Junzheng stressed that trade unions must continue to adhere to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. He urged unions to maintain the correct political orientation, provide strong ideological and political guidance to workers, mobilise workers of all ethnic groups, and strengthen rights protection services. Wang Junzheng also urged trade unions to deepen organisational reform, improve work style, and enhance their leadership, organisational, and service capabilities. He emphasised that unions should unite and lead workers to “work and strive with the Party”, contributing actively to building a new socialist modern Tibet.

On February 6, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 11th Autonomous Region Federation of Trade Unions was held in Lhasa. Tang Mingying, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Autonomous Region People’s Congress and Chairman of the Federation, attended and delivered a speech. The meeting concluded with a call for trade unions to play a proactive role in achieving long-term stability and high-quality development in Tibet, while ensuring a strong and effective start to the “15th Five-Year Plan”.

(Comment: Wang Junzheng's directive and the plenary session underline the continued emphasis on mobilising workers, strengthening organisational capacity, and fostering unity across ethnic groups in Tibet's ongoing development.)

## **Wang Junzheng Extends New Year Greetings to Troops and Armed Police in Tibet**

*February 9, 2026*

With the approach of the Spring Festival and Tibetan New Year, TAR Party Secretary and First Secretary of the Party Committee of the Tibet Military Region, Wang Junzheng, visited troops and armed police officers stationed in Lhasa. On behalf of the Party Committee, the Standing Committee of the People's Congress, the regional government, the CPPCC, and the people of all ethnic groups, Wang Junzheng extended sincere greetings and New Year wishes to the officers, soldiers, and veterans of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the armed police.

He visited a PLA unit and a brigade of the Tibet Armed Police Corps. Reflecting on 2025, Wang highlighted it as an extraordinary year for Tibet. General Secretary Xi Jinping led a central delegation to the 60th-anniversary celebrations of the Tibet Autonomous Region, strengthening confidence among cadres and residents. He said the Regional Party Committee implemented Xi Jinping's instructions on Tibet work and the Party's new-era strategy, promoting social harmony, economic growth, and improvements in people's well-being. He noted the role of stationed troops and armed police in these achievements, especially their contributions to border development and disaster relief, including the recent earthquake response in Dingri.

Wang Junzheng stressed that 2026, the first year of the 15th Five-Year Plan, should see troops and armed police officers continue to implement Xi Jinping's military strengthening strategies, uphold the Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces, deepen political rectification, enhance combat capabilities, and promote military-civilian integration. He urged local authorities to support military families, ensuring that soldiers can focus on their duties without concern for their personal lives.

The officers and soldiers pledged to strengthen political loyalty, fulfil their mission of securing the border and stabilising Tibet, maintain rigorous training, cooperate with local authorities, and contribute to the construction of a united, prosperous, and harmonious socialist modern Tibet.

Accompanying Wang Junzheng were: Liu Jiang, Gong Huicai, Hao Guang, Huang Hai, Gan Weihang, Tao Xiangming, Jiancan, Pingcuo Danzeng, Meng Xiaolin, Chen Yipeng, and Liu Zhijun.

## **Tibet Autonomous Region Party Committee Holds Meeting on Comprehensively Advancing Rule of Law**

*February 10, 2026*

The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Party Committee convened a major meeting in Lhasa on February 5 to comprehensively advance the rule of law across the region. TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, delivered a keynote speech emphasising the full implementation of Xi Jinping's thought on the rule of law to provide strong legal guarantees for building a socialist modern Tibet.

TAR Party Committee Deputy Secretary Yan Jinhai presided over the meeting, with Gama Zeden and Liu Jiang also present. The meeting focused on coordinating implementation of the "Four

Major Tasks” and promoting economic and social development during Tibet’s 15th Five-Year Plan. Wang Junzheng called for strengthening local legislation, including the Autonomous Region’s Regulations on Ethnic Unity and Religious Affairs, promoting a sense of community among ethnic groups, and enhancing ethnic and religious governance.

He underscored building a law-based business environment, advancing legislation, law enforcement, and judicial work in key areas, and resolving legal issues affecting public welfare. Ecological protection was highlighted, including the implementation of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Ecological Protection Law, enforcement against environmental crimes, and legal actions for land greening and ecosystem protection.

On border development, Wang urged consolidation and development of border areas, improved planning and governance, and promoting national and defence education. He stressed integrating Party leadership with law enforcement, improving coordination between Party and local rules, and combining supervision, inspection, and law enforcement.

Wang Junzheng further called for strengthening rule-of-law governance, improving judicial fairness and openness, enhancing legal services in urban and rural areas, and fostering a culture that respects law, contracts, and fairness. Party leaders were urged to lead by example, applying legal thinking to guide reform, development, and stability while cultivating high-quality legal talent.

Representatives of Xinjiang’s Commission for Discipline Inspection and Supervision, TAR Party Organisation Department, Legislative Affairs Committee, Public Security Department, and Lhasa City also spoke. Senior TAR officials attended via video conference, including Lai Jiao, Xiao Youcai, Dawa Ciren, Gong Huicai, Jiang Wenpeng, Zhang Hongbo, Zhu Shouke, Cideng, Xia Keqin, and Liu Zhijun.

## **Tibet Autonomous Region Launches “Winter Tour Tibet” Travel Card to Boost Winter Tourism**

*February 11, 2026*

The Tibet Autonomous Region government has launched the “Winter Tour Tibet” travel card, a new tourism initiative aimed at promoting winter and early spring travel. The 199 yuan card provides visitors with a comprehensive package of benefits covering accommodation, dining, cultural experiences, entertainment, and practical services. Officials stated that the initiative is designed to attract more visitors during the colder months.

Cardholders can enjoy one free night’s stay at any of 75 participating hotels, which include 4-star and 5-star hotels as well as high-end guesthouses in key destinations such as Lhasa, Nyingchi, Chamdo, Shigatse, Shannan, Nagqu, and Ali. The card also provides access to meals at 31 selected restaurants serving traditional Tibetan cuisine, regional specialties, and hotpot dishes. In addition, it covers cultural and entertainment venues, professional photography services, traditional Tibetan spa and bath experiences, and practical services such as oxygen-assisted support for visitors unaccustomed to high-altitude environments. Cardholders enjoy additional discounts and special offers from tourism and lifestyle service providers to enhance their travel experience.

The travel card is valid from February, 12 to April, 30 2026, with no local residency restrictions, making it accessible to all visitors nationwide. Officials emphasised that the card supports the development of sustainable, year-round tourism, strengthens regional tourism infrastructure, and

provides opportunities for visitors to experience both Tibet's natural landscapes and rich cultural heritage.

The launch of the travel card also aligns with local government efforts to diversify Tibet's tourism offerings, promote cultural experiences, and provide practical support for travellers during winter. By combining convenience, affordability, and access to high-quality services, the initiative is expected to contribute to the economic growth of local communities and build momentum for a strong and vibrant tourism season in 2026.

## **Tibet Autonomous Region Unveils 2026–2030 Development Blueprint**

*February 13, 2026*

The Tibet Autonomous Region People's Congress on Friday February, 13 formally approved the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030), outlining a comprehensive blueprint for economic growth, social development, infrastructure expansion, ecological protection, and border management over the next five years. Officials said the plan builds on the progress achieved under the 14th Five-Year Plan and is fully aligned with national development goals, emphasising modernisation, high-quality development, social stability, and deeper integration with broader national strategies.

The plan underscores the strategic importance of Tibet's borders with neighbouring regions and countries. It calls for strengthened infrastructure in frontier areas to support civilian economic activity while enabling rapid emergency response when required. Civil–military integration will be deepened, enhancing cooperation between regional authorities and stationed military units, including the People's Liberation Army and Armed Police. Authorities said that border defence requirements will be integrated into transport, communication, public services, and disaster response planning to maintain long-term stability in the region.

Economic diversification is a central focus of the plan. Tibet aims to reduce reliance on traditional industries by promoting modern sectors such as clean energy, cultural tourism, modern agriculture, and Tibetan medicine. The regional government will seek to attract investment in key infrastructure projects, including railways, highways, airports, hydropower facilities, telecommunications, and digital networks. The measures are intended to improve connectivity, support economic growth, and facilitate strategic objectives. Small and medium-sized enterprises and innovation platforms will be encouraged to generate employment and increase household incomes, supporting inclusive development across the region.

Recent official data shows that in 2025, Tibet's GDP exceeded 300 billion RMB, with eight major economic indicators ranking first nationally. Fixed asset investment rose by 17.2%, while social consumption continued to increase, reflecting robust domestic demand. Lhasa city also achieved a major milestone, with its GDP surpassing 109 billion RMB for the first time, driven by investment, rising consumer demand, and a booming tourism sector that welcomed over 50 million visitors.

Infrastructure development is a key component of the plan. The regional government aims to expand the railway and road networks to improve connectivity within Tibet and with other parts of China. The rail network is projected to reach 5,000 km by 2035, which is expected to enhance trade, mobility, and socioeconomic integration. Improved transport networks will also provide critical logistics support for emergency response and defence operations, reflecting the dual civilian and strategic goals of the plan.

Health care systems are proposed to be strengthened by expanding hospitals, rural health centres, and epidemic prevention and emergency response capabilities. Education will be modernised, with

new schools and vocational training programmes designed to prepare young people for emerging industries. Social security systems, including pensions and support for vulnerable populations, will be improved, while targeted programs will help reduce urban-rural disparities and ensure more equitable access to services.

Ecological protection will remain a top priority. To ensure effective implementation, the 15th Five-Year Plan establishes a comprehensive monitoring and oversight system. Key targets will be reviewed annually, mid-term evaluations will be conducted to make necessary adjustments, and continuous legislative oversight by the Regional People's Congress will require regular government reporting and accountability. Officials said these mechanisms are designed to maintain consistency in policymaking and provide real-time assessment of progress throughout the five-year period.

Regional leaders described the adoption of the 15th Five-Year Plan as a “foundational step” toward building a stable, modern, prosperous, and sustainable Tibetan society. They reaffirmed commitments to improving economic opportunities and quality of life for all residents, while ensuring Tibet's development remains aligned with national priorities. Officials said that the plan reflects a long-term vision that balances economic, social, strategic, and environmental objectives, positioning the region for continued growth and stability in the coming years.

## **NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI) NEWS**

### **Residents Leap from Isolation to Prosperity in Yumai Town**

*February 6, 2026*

Yumai Town in Lhunze County, Shannan City, southwest Tibet Autonomous Region, has experienced a dramatic transformation from a remote settlement with only three permanent residents into a thriving community with modern infrastructure and growing economic opportunities.

Yumai Town now features neatly arranged residential houses, comprehensive drainage and communication facilities, and improved public services. Schools and health clinics have been established while hotels, home-stays, small shops, and courier stations operated by villagers have emerged as sources of income and local employment.

In 2025, Yumai Town received more than 12,000 tourists, generating over 284,200 yuan from home-stays. Authorities noted that tourism has become a key driver of economic growth, improving living standards and supporting sustainable development in the town.

Officials emphasised that the town's development reflects broader efforts to promote rural revitalisation in Tibet, combining infrastructure improvements, economic opportunity, and cultural preservation. Local residents reported significant changes in their daily lives, citing better access to public services, expanded employment opportunities, and improved overall quality of life.

### **Border Officers Visit Senior Citizen in Tibet Ahead of New Year**

*February 13, 2026*

Border police officers from the Linzhi Border Management Detachment in Nyingchi, TAR travelled to Kongdang Village on February 13, to meet 81-year-old resident Zhuo Gei who lives alone in a

remote village ahead of the Spring Festival and Tibetan New Year. They brought daily necessities and food supplies, extended holiday greetings, and wished him good health and happiness for the upcoming year.

The visit was part of a holiday outreach programme organised by local border management authorities to support elderly residents and families in remote border areas, especially during major national and traditional festivals.

Officials said such activities help strengthen ties between border security personnel and local communities. In addition to their regular border patrol duties, officers are encouraged to take part in community service and assist residents when needed.

The report highlighted that this initiative reflects ongoing efforts to promote social care, unity, and stability in border regions during the festive season.

## **New Year Songs Resonate in Nyingtri Border Villages**

*February 14, 2026*

On February 13, an event titled “Our Festival, Spring Festival Tibetan New Year” Village Gala, was held in the cultural square in Xigamenba Village, Qiangna Township, Milin County, Nyingtri City, to celebrate the Spring Festival Tibetan New Year. Bilingual Tibetan-Chinese decorations, featuring the characters “Fu” and “Chema”, symbolising fortune and harvest, adorned the venue, while locals wore traditional ethnic costumes that reflected the rich cultural diversity of the region. Organisers emphasised that the gala served as a platform to promote cultural integration, preserve local traditions, and strengthen the bonds between residents and local authorities, reflecting broader efforts to maintain stability and unity in border regions.

The Xigamenba Village gala also symbolised the progress in social and cultural development in Nyingchi’s border areas. The celebrations in Xigamenba Village, a key border settlement in Milin County, illustrated the deep connection between cultural activities and social unity, reinforcing the message of happiness, peace, and development in Tibet’s border communities.

## **LHOKA (CH:SHANNAN)**

### **Shannan Eases Border Travel Rules for Local Residents**

*February 14, 2026*

The authorities in Shannan announced changes to border access regulations, effective February 2026. Residents who hold Shannan household registration and a valid Chinese resident identity card are now permitted to enter border management zones within Shannan municipality without applying for a Border Pass (边防证). Previously, even local residents were required to undergo an application and approval process before entering such restricted areas, which often involved multiple administrative steps and could take several days to complete.

The revised policy is intended to simplify the daily lives of people residing in remote border regions by facilitating local travel and reducing bureaucratic procedures. Shannan-registered residents will now be able to freely access border management zones within the municipality for work, family visits, or other personal matters without a permit. However, residents travelling from Shannan to border management areas outside the municipality, including other parts of the Tibet Autonomous

Region or neighbouring provinces, are still required to apply for a Border Pass in accordance with existing regulations. Individuals who do not have household registration in Shannan must continue to comply with all permit requirements before entering restricted border areas.

Residents have largely welcomed the change, describing the previous Border Pass application process as cumbersome, time-consuming, and sometimes difficult to navigate, particularly for those living in remote areas with limited access to administrative offices. Local authorities have indicated that they will monitor the impact of the policy closely and may consider further adjustments if needed to ensure that residents' travel needs are met while maintaining the integrity and security of the region's border areas. The policy adjustment is seen as part of ongoing efforts to improve governance, streamline administrative procedures, and enhance the quality of life for residents in Tibet's remote and strategically sensitive regions.

## **QAMDO (CH:CAMDO) NEWS**

### **Camdo Traffic Management Improves Services Through Work Style Reforms**

*February 14, 2026*

The Traffic Management Detachment of the Camdo Municipal Public Security Bureau has overhauled its work style, achieving significant improvements in service efficiency, accessibility, and public satisfaction.

The transformation is driven by technology. The bureau introduced the "Traffic Management 12123" Internet Video Quick Defeat and Responsibility Determination System, enabling electronic accident identification in just ten minutes—a process that once required up to three hours.

Vehicle registration and licensing services have also been streamlined. The Vehicle Management Office now offers 18 services through a single certificate, handles 36 high-frequency processes online, and has reduced average service times by over 60%. Chen Likun, director of the office, noted, "Changing work style means making it tangible and accessible to the people. We can't save trouble if the people end up running more." In 2025, 306 license plates were mailed to residents, saving them travel time and expenses.

Decentralising authority has expanded services to remote counties. Residents in eight counties can now take driving theory tests closer to home, while motor vehicle inspections and new car registrations have been extended through socialised agencies, including authorised dealerships. By 2025, these service points handled more than 20,000 transactions, benefiting farmers and herders.

Li Xinghu, deputy chief of the Traffic Management Detachment, emphasised that authority was lowered without reducing standards, with experienced personnel regularly guiding county staff to maintain service quality. The bureau also prioritises humanistic care, providing "green channel" services for the elderly, disabled, pregnant women, and military personnel, and implementing flexible work hours during peak periods to reduce waiting times.

Looking ahead, the Qamdo Driving Test Center, covering 100 acres and costing 302 million yuan, is scheduled for completion in June 2026. The facility will standardise driving exams and replace the previous non-standardised centre, providing a modern and accessible venue for local residents. The bureau also plans to collaborate with urban management departments on smart parking solutions to further improve convenience in Camdo City.

## **Perseverance at 4,772 Meters Accelerates Customs Clearance at Lizi Port**

*February 14, 2026*

China News Network highlighted that Lizi Port, located at 4,772 meters above sea level in Zhongba County, Shigatse, bordering Nepal, has become a critical hub for China–Nepal trade. Despite being known as a “restricted area for life” due to its harsh high-altitude conditions, customs officers from Shigatse Customs, under Lhasa Customs, continue to ensure smooth operations through daily dedication and the use of advanced technology.

As the youngest and highest land port in Tibet, Lizi Port is a key node in the “Circum-Himalayan Economic Cooperation Belt,” supporting trade, economic development, and cultural exchanges between China and Nepal. Shigatse Customs implemented a “land port declaration, local inspection, and direct port access” model. Trucks are scanned with advanced H986 equipment, including the “Smart Eye,” without unloading cargo. Electronic declarations and online review systems allow drivers to complete the entire process via mobile phone, significantly reducing waiting times.

The port also coordinates closely with local government and joint inspection departments, providing policy guidance and continuously improving facilities to ensure customs operations remain controllable, open, and fast. Beyond trade, Lizi Port contributes to local economic development. Villagers participate in border trade transport and operate shops, sharing in the port’s economic benefits. Since its opening, Shigatse Customs has supervised the import and export of 11,767.87 tons of goods valued at approximately 725 million yuan.

### **DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER TIBETAN AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR**

## **Tibet’s Renewable Energy Could Power All of China, Survey Finds**

*February 4, 2026*

South China Morning post (February 4) reported that researchers from the China Society for Hydropower Engineering and the state-owned Power Construction Corporation of China estimate that Tibet has a technically exploitable hydropower capacity of 178 gigawatts (GW) and more than 100 GW of wind power. Solar energy development could reach up to 10,000 GW, enough to satisfy both China’s current and future energy demands.

The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, encompassing Tibet and Qinghai province, is one of the most solar-rich regions in the world, second only to the Sahara Desert. However, researchers warn that extreme weather, fragile ecosystems, and spatial constraints restrict large-scale energy development. Only about one-third of the plateau is considered suitable for utility-scale solar projects, which connect directly to the electricity grid.

China has made rapid progress in its green energy transition. In 2010, the country had only 1 GW of installed solar capacity. By 2025, that figure surpassed 1,000 GW, accounting for roughly half of the world’s solar power. Total renewable energy capacity, including hydropower, wind, and solar, reached 2,170 GW as of July 2025.

To achieve its carbon neutrality target by 2060, China aims to install nearly 10,000 GW of renewable energy. This includes about 600 GW of hydropower, 3,300 GW of wind power,

and up to 6,500 GW of solar power. By then, wind and solar are projected to generate 77% of China's electricity, with renewable sources making up around 92% of the total electricity mix.

Several major projects are underway. Construction has begun on a mega dam in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) River, which, upon completion, will surpass the Three Gorges Dam as the world's largest hydropower project and generate three times more electricity.

The southern section of the Tibet-Guangdong ultra-high-voltage transmission line is also under construction. Scheduled for completion in 2029, it will carry energy equivalent to half the output of the Three Gorges Dam each year, connecting Tibet's energy-rich regions to eastern demand centres.

The State Grid Corporation of China recently announced a US\$575 billion, five-year plan to upgrade the national power network, a 40% increase from the previous five-year period. The plan aims to expand renewable energy capacity, improve energy storage, and strengthen transmission infrastructure, enabling electricity from remote western regions, including Tibet, to reach urban centres across the country.

## **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

### **U.S. Congress Passes FY 2026 Appropriations Act; Bill Includes Continued Support for Tibet and References Central Tibetan Administration**

*February 3, 2026*

The United States Congress has enacted the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148), and it was signed into law by the President on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. The law was passed after months of negotiation and comes amid ongoing discussions on U.S.–China relations and support for the Tibetan community.

Importantly for the Tibetan exile community, the bill retains dedicated Tibet-related funding that supports cultural preservation, education, development, and the Central Tibetan Administration, which is often referred to as the Tibetan government-in-exile and is headquartered in Dharamshala, India.

The law allocates tens of millions of dollars for a range of Tibetan-focused programs. It provides \$10 million for nongovernmental organizations working with Tibetan communities on cultural, educational, and sustainable development initiatives. It also provides \$8 million to promote Tibetan language and cultural preservation within diaspora communities and to support the resilience of the Central Tibetan Administration in both India and Nepal. Additionally, \$5 million is earmarked to strengthen the administrative capacity of the CTA, including economic development and family-support initiatives.

Advocacy groups such as the International Campaign for Tibet have welcomed the budget provisions, stating that they reaffirm enduring bipartisan U.S. support for the Tibetan people. They have emphasized that the funding encourages the resumption of Tibetan-language broadcasts by outlets like Voice of America and Radio Free Asia.

Community reports and social media commentary have described the law as formally recognising the Central Tibetan Administration as the “Tibetan Government in Exile,” which could make the United States the first nation to do so through national legislation. However, official legislative summaries and government releases do not explicitly frame the CTA as a sovereign government recognised under U.S. foreign policy law. The public legislative text primarily focuses on appropriations language that refers to the CTA in the context of how funds may be administered to assist Tibetan communities.

The FY 2026 funding bill builds on decades of U.S. legislative engagement with the Tibetan issue. Previous laws, such as the Tibet Policy and Support Act of 2020, reaffirmed U.S. support for Tibetan cultural autonomy and human rights, while stopping short of redefining diplomatic recognition of Tibet’s political status. At the same time, the bill comes against the backdrop of complex U.S.–China relations, in which Tibet remains a sensitive issue. Beijing typically criticises external support for Tibetan institutions and leaders as interference in China’s internal affairs.

Supporters of the Tibetan cause say that the continued appropriations and legislative focus signal sustained U.S. interest in Tibetan culture, human rights, and diaspora institutions. Critics caution that funding and descriptive language in a spending bill should not be conflated with formal diplomatic recognition.

## **Australian Parliamentary Group for Tibet Charts Expanded Action Plans**

*February 7, 2026*

Canberra — The Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet met on 5 February 2026 to review and expand action plans in support of Tibet, coinciding with the ongoing Autumn sitting of the Australian Parliament. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Susan Templeman MP, Co-chair of the Parliamentary Group, and attended by Senators Dean Smith, Barbara Pocock, Deborah O’Neill, and MPs Dr. Sophie Scamps, David Smith, and Kate Chaney.

Representatives from the Tibetan community, including Karma Singey and Chinese Liaison Officer Dawa Sangmo from the Tibet Information Office, as well as Dr. Zoe Bedford from the Australia Tibet Council, also participated. The bipartisan participation highlights sustained Australian parliamentary support for Tibetan human rights and cultural preservation.

During the meeting, Senator Barbara Pocock shared insights from her recent visit to Dharamshala, India, where she met with the Tibetan leadership in exile and engaged with Tibetan refugee communities. Her account emphasised the resilience of Tibetans in exile and the ongoing challenges they face under Chinese rule.

Karma Singey briefed members on the “Year of Compassion”, a global initiative launched by the Central Tibetan Administration to mark the 90th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and outlined Tibet Office priorities for 2026. He expressed gratitude to Australian parliamentarians for their continued support, noting their efforts have helped keep Tibet high on the international agenda.

The parliamentary group reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for Tibetan rights, highlighting the urgent need to preserve Tibetan language, culture, and religion amid pressures under Chinese administration. Members discussed translating their support into concrete measures, including parliamentary debates, resolutions, and engagement with international forums.

Australia has a long-standing history of parliamentary engagement with Tibet. Delegations have frequently visited Dharamshala to meet the Central Tibetan Administration and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and advocacy groups such as the Australia Tibet Council work closely with legislators to ensure Tibetan issues remain part of the country's foreign policy discussions.

The 5 February meeting reflects a renewed and structured approach by Australian parliamentarians to support Tibet, combining political commitment with humanitarian concern, and signalling plans to strengthen legislative and diplomatic advocacy for Tibetan rights globally.

## **Tibetan Activist A-Nya Sengdra Released After Seven Years in Controversial Detention**

February 10, 2026

Tibetan environmental and anti-corruption activist A-Nya Sengdra was released from prison in early February 2026 after spending over seven years behind bars. Sengdra, widely recognised for his efforts to expose local corruption and protect the environment in eastern Tibet, returned to his family home in Rakyang Village, Gade County amid ongoing concerns about restrictions on his freedom.

Originally scheduled for release in September 2025, his detention was extended by several months following allegations of minor infractions. The extension of his sentence has drawn sharp criticism from international human rights groups, who say it reflects a broader pattern of punitive measures against Tibetan civil society activists.

Reports from exile media indicate that Sengdra's health has deteriorated during his detention, with concerns about potential vision loss and kidney problems. Despite these challenges, he has reunited with his family, though observers caution that his movements and ability to speak freely may remain under strict surveillance.

Sengdra's release marks a significant moment for Tibetan civil society, highlighting both the resilience of activists and the ongoing challenges they face in pursuing rights and environmental advocacy under restrictive conditions.