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TAR NEWS

TAR to have 5G Applications by end of 2027

Tibet Daily: June 3, 2025

Citing the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Communications Administration, Tibet Daily (June 3) said TAR will realize full-scale 5G applications by the end of 2027. It said the Digital Tibet Construction Leading Group Office has officially issued the “Sailing Forward” Action Implementation Plan for Scaled 5G Applications (2025–2027). The Plan focuses on three core areas: enhancing 5G network capacity, empowering application development, and cultivating an application ecosystem. Its long-term goal is to establish widespread 5G application across all sectors in Tibet by the end of the 2027.

Xi Jinping and other top CCP leaders met China-appointed Panchen Lama

Xinhua News Agency: June 6, 2025

According to Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, “received” Gyaltzen Norbu, the China-appointed Panchen Lama in Zhongnanhai in Beijing on June 6, 2025. During the meeting, Xi Jinping urged Gyaltzen Norbu to take the 10th Panchen Lama as a role model and strive to become a highly accomplished Tibetan Buddhist reincarnated lama who is deeply respected by both monastic and lay communities. He urged him to contribute more significantly to promoting ethnic unity, religious harmony, and the stable development and progress of Tibet.

Politburo Standing Committee member and Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Wang Huning and Politburo Standing Committee member and Director of the CCP CC General Office Cai Qi were present at the meeting. Politburo

member and Head of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) Li Ganjie also attended the meeting.

Congratulating Gyaltsen Norbu for his progress in “various areas”, Xi Jinping emphasized the importance of continuing the patriotic and religious traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and firmly safeguarding “national unity and ethnic solidarity.” He urged Gyaltsen Norbu to deepen his religious studies, improve his overall knowledge, and take an active role in fostering a strong sense of Chinese national identity, promoting the Sinicization of religion, and contributing to Tibet’s modernization. Xi Jinping also stressed the importance of self-discipline, respect for law and religious precepts, and cultivating noble character and moral integrity.

(**Comment:** Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting the China-appointed Panchen Lama is rather unusual. The presence at the meeting of the seniormost CCP cadres dealing with Tibet and Tibetan Affairs suggests that some major issues have probably been discussed and, from Xi Jinping’s reported comments, that the CCP leadership is unhappy with Gyaltsen Norbu’s efforts thus far to establish himself.)

Party Secretary of TAR Political and Legal Affairs Liu Jiang inspected Nagchu, Nyingtri and Chamdo

TAR UFWD: June 9, 2025

Liu Jiang, Executive Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Party Secretary of TAR Political and Legal Affairs Committee, conducted inspections in Nagchu, Nyingtri and Chamdo from June 3 to 8. During the inspections, Liu Jiang inspected schools and grassroots party organizations/branches to examine social governance progress and also visited key construction project sites. He met people in these three prefectures and reiterated the importance of following Xi Jinping’s instructions on governing Tibet and told everyone to be prepared to celebrate the “60th Founding Anniversary of the TAR.” While inspecting counties of the three prefectures, he inquired in detail about operational mechanisms as well as the disputes/trouble resolving mechanism.” He stressed the importance of implementing the “Fengquiao Experience” which advocates for resolving conflicts locally before they become big.

Liu Jiang also emphasized that the 60th anniversary of the founding of the TAR is a major political event. He called on all levels and departments to fully align their thinking and actions with the TAR Party Committee's work plan, improve work styles, focus on implementation, and ensure that are well executed.

In addition to his inspections, Liu Jiang also conducted river and forest patrols, "supervised stable monastic management work, and checked on the progress of the quality-improvement and assurance project along National Highway G318.

Chinese blog on PLA in Tibet: "The Tibet Military District: A Severely Underestimated Force; 50,000 Elite Border Troops with Greater Combat Power than the Russian Army"

Published on June 14, 2025, in Tianjin

Anonymous for most people, the Tibet Military District may seem like a mysterious presence. Located on the snowy plateau and often distant from public attention, it is, in fact, one of the most elite and battle-hardened regions of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Since the 1950s and 60s, as India provoked tensions along the China-India border, confrontations between the Tibet Military District and Indian forces have escalated from minor skirmishes to large-scale conflicts, occurring with notable frequency. Even amid today's war between Ukraine and Russia, the combat capabilities of China's border troops in Tibet are no less formidable.

The Tibet Military District was established in 1952, built upon the foundation of the PLA's 18th Army. This unit was not only among the earliest to enter Tibet but also marked the first effective inland military control over the region since the late Qing dynasty. Initially, it fell under the Southwest Military Region. In 1955, after a restructuring, it was elevated to a full military district under the command of the Chengdu Military Region. It wasn't until 2016 that the Tibet Military District was upgraded to a deputy-theatre command level unit and placed directly under central leadership.

At the time, the Chengdu Military Region had two main responsibilities: defending the border with Myanmar to ensure the security of crucial maritime trade routes, and preventing Indian military aggression to safeguard China's land routes. These two southwestern fronts were not only key transportation arteries but also strategic defense lines. As a result, the Chengdu Military Region's combat forces primarily consisted of mountain brigades. Although

opportunities for large-scale warfare were limited, the standards for individual soldier quality remained exceptionally high.

With changes in the global situation, the Tibet Military District gradually broke away from Chengdu's jurisdiction and became an independent operational command. Even so, it continues to bear the strategic responsibilities of countering potential Indian invasions and supporting Pakistan. This has meant that soldiers in the Tibet Military District are held to extremely high standards, particularly in mountain warfare. Today, the Tibet Military District consists of about 50,000 troops, while India maintains around 13 divisions along the border, totaling over 400,000 soldiers. However, this numerical advantage does not translate into superior combat effectiveness. On the contrary, the Tibet troops are highly trained, and their individual combat capabilities are supported by top-tier equipment. Weapons like shoulder-fired rocket launchers, sniper rifles, and machine guns are typically issued at the squad level, and GPS systems are standard issue for each soldier.

The Tibet Military District's core is made up of two mountain light infantry brigades and one heavy combined-arms brigade. It also includes special forces, air defense, army aviation, artillery, and logistics support brigades. This structure is well-suited for high-altitude mountain warfare. While India has deployed armoured brigades along the border, these have not proven effective in the plateau terrain. The difficult geography severely restricts tank mobility — many areas are simply unsuitable for tanks, and even when they can be deployed, the rough mountainous terrain prevents them from achieving their full potential. In such conditions, artillery and fire support systems are far more decisive than heavy armour.

India has indeed deployed significant artillery forces, but their quantity and quality still lag behind those of the PLA. More notably, India continues to face unsolved issues with the food supply for its border troops, highlighting the stark logistical gap between the two militaries. India has previously cited poor logistics as a key reason for setbacks in past clashes with Chinese forces — a problem that still persists today.

In the Russia-Ukraine war, HIMARS rocket systems provided by NATO have had a strong impact, but in the terrain of Tibet, similar systems deployed by India or Russia would likely be swiftly countered by China's own long-range rocket artillery. China's rocket systems are comparable to HIMARS, and Indian and Russian forces currently lack effective countermeasures against such advanced weaponry.

India's greatest weakness lies in transportation and logistics. While the PLA can efficiently transport equipment to the Tibetan plateau, India struggles with complicated terrain and poor infrastructure, resulting in chronic logistical challenges. To compensate, India has stationed large numbers of troops on the plateau. However, more soldiers do not necessarily mean better combat effectiveness. Modern warfare hinges not just on manpower but on comprehensive operational capabilities. In contrast, China, despite not deploying many armoured units in Tibet, has equipped the region with highly mobile mechanized infantry regiments. These "plateau iron cavalry" serve as a powerful defensive shield along the Tibetan border. Alongside missile units, they enable the PLA to cover much of northern India with rapid strike capability, thus solidifying its defensive advantage.

In military exercises, Tibet Military District troops are often described as "cunning," "ruthless," or "completely unrelenting"; labels that, while harsh, reflect the unit's formidable combat strength. For the soldiers stationed in this region, especially those guarding the frontiers, they are undoubtedly among the PLA's most battle-hardened forces. Frequent confrontations along the China-India border, though often avoiding full-scale firefights, still involve intense hand-to-hand clashes. These situations test not only the Commanders' leadership but also the individual skills and teamwork of the soldiers.

The blogger concluded: looking back at the evolution of the China-India border situation in recent years, the capabilities of the Tibet Military District have been thoroughly proven. From the initial border defense wars to several major confrontations over the past 80 years, the PLA has consistently defeated larger Indian forces and retaken illegally occupied positions. The 2020 Galwan Valley clash is a prime example, demonstrating how a small PLA unit confronted and prevailed over a much larger Indian force. Though such victories often come with the sacrifice of lives, they also clearly showcase the Tibet Military District's formidable combat power and unyielding fighting spirit.

Netizen's article on surge in benefits for troops in Tibet by a Chinese netizen titled; 'Why the Surge in "Tibet Soldiers"? What Special Benefits and Policies Are There for Serving in Tibet?'

Military Path, Sichuan : April 13, 2025

An article by an anonymous author published in the Military Path, discussed why there is a surge in soldiers serving in Tibet. The author said “In Tibet, being a soldier means more than guarding a border; it’s about upholding a belief. Behind the 24,000-yuan family subsidy and the 1.28 million yuan retirement bonus lies the weight of the motherland, understood only at the foot of the snow-capped mountains. Policies may put a value on youth, but standing on a 5,374-meter outpost, the life you touch is priceless; and only military grit is worthy of it”.

It noted that at a military recruitment session at a university in Beijing, a veteran who had recently returned from Tibet was surrounded by students, all asking the same question: “What’s different about serving in Tibet?”.

Indeed, “Tibet soldier” has become a trending term in recent years. On social media, many veterans post about their experiences in the highlands, and in the comment sections, people ask whether the rumoured generous benefits are true. In some parents’ chat groups, there are even whispers that “sending your child to serve in Tibet is more promising than staying inland.” So what exactly is driving this Tibet military fever? And why does the state offer such special policies to those serving there?

The Chinese netizen said: First and foremost, Tibet’s service environment is inherently unique. With an average altitude of 4,000 meters, oxygen levels at just 60% of those at sea level, and ultraviolet radiation five times stronger than in lowland regions, Tibet places extreme physical demands on soldiers. One veteran recalled how, when he first arrived in Lhasa, even making a bed felt like it was playing in slow motion; until his squad leader handed him a vial of rhodiola rosea to help him adjust. Because of such conditions, China enforces stricter physical standards for Tibetan recruits. For instance, BMI must be within a certain range, corrective vision surgery must be completed at least six months in advance, and new recruits are advised to undergo altitude adaptation training three months prior. Yet it is precisely these hardships that give service in Tibet a kind of “hardcore” status. Many young people see it as the ultimate challenge.

The article added; “Of course, the more tangible draw is the special treatment given to those who serve in Tibet. According to the 2025 policy updates, family support payments for conscripts in Tibet reach 24,000 yuan; three times the amount in most other regions; along with an additional 1,000-yuan nutrition subsidy. After completing the two-year service term, voluntary employment subsidies are around 51,000 yuan, more than double the 24,000 yuan standard in inland areas. If one chooses to continue serving, the benefits increase significantly:

a corporal earns about 9,600 yuan per month, with higher ranks earning even more. For soldiers who serve 12 years on the plateau, retirement bonuses can reach up to 1.28 million yuan. For many youths from modest families, these numbers offer a path to transform their lives.”

The article shared that, aside from the economic benefits, there are also key policy advantages. Tibetan veterans enjoy preferential job placement after discharge, especially those who have served 12 years and reached the rank of sergeant, who may be directly assigned employment by the government. In education, Tibetan veterans receive bonus points when applying for adult or regular higher education, and college student soldiers can apply for up to 20,000 yuan per year in tuition reimbursement. Perhaps most notably, veterans from Tibet who wish to start businesses can apply for up to 280,000 yuan in entrepreneurial support funds, with additional subsidies available for ventures in high-altitude or border regions. These policies offer multi-layered support for life after service.

But, the article noted, the meaning of serving in Tibet goes beyond personal gain. One veteran who served there for eight years once said, “In Tibet, you're not just guarding a border, you're safeguarding a belief.” Military life in Tibet challenges not just the body, but the spirit. For example, soldiers must remove their hats when passing monasteries, always turn prayer wheels clockwise, and avoid stepping on the shadows of prayer flags, all seen as sacred. These cultural details teach more than discipline: they foster respect for Tibet’s rich and diverse traditions. The 2025 recruitment policy specifically prioritizes bilingual, well-rounded minority youth; not just for smoother communication, but to build trust between the military and local communities.

The article further added that, at a deeper level, the rise of the “Tibet soldier” phenomenon reflects the nation’s strategic focus on the region. Tibet is a key frontier defense zone in “southwest China”, and the endurance of soldiers stationed on the plateau is directly tied to national security. A soldier once stationed at the Ganbala radar station recalled: “At 5,374 meters above sea level, standing watch at minus 30°C, what people don’t see is the sacrifice behind those numbers.” That’s why the state provides higher pay and preferential policies; not only to recognize service, but to inspire more young people to commit to safeguarding the borderlands.

In conclusion the article stated: As the 2025 recruitment season continues, military camps in Tibet still await new faces.

NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI)

Ao Liuquan, Nyingtri Party Secretary met the Zhuhai Party and Government

Delegation

Nyingtri Net: June 19, 2025

On June 17, Ao Liuquan, Party Secretary of the Nyingtri (Ch: Linzhi) Municipal Party Committee, met Chen Yong, Party Secretary of the Zhuhai Municipal Party Committee and Secretary of the Hengqin Working Committee of the Guangdong Provincial Party Committee, who led a Zhuhai Party and government delegation to visit Nyingtri. Wu Gengdan, Deputy Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee, Executive Deputy Mayor, and Head of Guangdong's 10th Aid-Tibet Task Force; Duan Ganghui, Standing Committee Member and Secretary-General of the Nyingtri Party Committee; Guo Caiwu, Standing Committee Member and Head of the United Front Work Department of Zhuhai; and Huang Zhenqiu, Deputy Mayor of Zhuhai, participated in the meeting.

Ao Liuquan noted “since the 18th Party Congress, Xi Jinping has attached great importance to Tibet, showing deep concern for the people of Nyingtri, personally guided Tibet-related work, chaired two Central Tibet Work Forums, formulated the Party's strategic approach to governing Tibet in the new era, and highlighted the "four key tasks": stability, development, ecological protection, and border strengthening.”

Ao Liuquan thanked Zhuhai “for treating Tibet assistance as a major political responsibility, consistently increasing support and making outstanding contributions to Nyingchi's economic and social development, placing its Tibet aid efforts at the forefront nationally.” He added “Nyingtri is now guided by the spirit of the 20th Party Congress, and the upcoming Third Plenary Session of the 20th CCP Central Committee, focusing on the "four key tasks" and striving toward the "four major creations.”

Chen Yong reaffirmed Zhuhai's commitment to its political responsibility in aiding Tibet, pledging to align efforts with Nyingtri's needs, Zhuhai's capabilities, and the people's expectations.

During the visit, the delegation toured Milin Farm and the Huafa (Nyingchi) Aviation Trade Service Base to inspect Tibet aid industrial projects; visited Milin People's Hospital and the

Nanyi Lhoba Ethnic Township Primary School; visited Nanyi and Chonglin villages to observe livelihood project construction; and toured the Nyingtri Municipal Archives to learn about 30 years of Guangdong's aid to Tibet. The delegation met aid-Tibet officials and personnel on behalf of the Zhuhai Municipal Party Committee, government, urging them to stay mindful of national priorities and to carry out their Tibet aid work.

LHOKA (CH:SHANNAN) NEWS

Mayor of Lhoka took Officials to Anti-corruption education exhibition

Lhoka Net: June 10, 2025

On June 6, 2025, the Mayor of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) Samdup Tsering led a delegation of Lhoka leaders to visit an anti-corruption warning education exhibition titled "Educating People with Nearby Cases." The exhibition exhibited the "party's spirit, conduct, discipline education, using real-life corruption cases to reinforce the CCP's Central Eight Provisions and the importance of clean governance. Lhoka leaders apparently reflected on the cases and pledged to uphold political responsibility and self-discipline while fostering integrity in both government and society.

Samdup Tsering emphasised the CCP Central Committee's "strict party governance since the 18th Party Congress" which had stressed on the importance of consistently combating bureaucratic excess and maintaining a people-centered approach. He called on Party members across all levels in Lhoka to deeply study Xi Jinping's key directives on improving Party conduct, apply them in practice, and ensure effective task implementation. He also stressed fulfilling the dual responsibility of managing people and tasks, learning from corruption cases, and strengthening institutional safeguards to prevent misconduct.

SHIGATSE (CH:XIGAZE)

Chairman of TAR People's Congress inspects Dingri and Lhatse Dzong in Shigatse

Tibet Daily: June 11, 2025

Yan Jinhai, Deputy Party Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of the TAR People's Congress, inspected Dingri and Lhatse Dzong of Shigatse on June 9, and stressed the need to strengthen the sense of community of the Chinese nation.

At the Gangba Sheep Breeding Farmers' Cooperative in Dingri Dzong, designated as a Chinese national-level model cooperative, Yan Jinhai was informed that in 2024, under the cooperative's leadership, the per capita disposable income in the village exceeded 20,000 yuan. He called for enhanced vocational training for farmers and herders, helping shift local laborers from general to skilled work.

Yan Jinhai inspected reconstruction sites in the villages of Senga and Gurong in Changchu Township which were among the hardest hit by the earthquake in January this year. He inquired in detail about project planning, construction quality, and safety protocols and spoke with workers on site. He urged relevant departments and construction teams to raise their political awareness, strictly implement safety responsibilities and maintain safety red lines. He called for detailed coordination and planning to ensure timely completion of all reconstruction efforts.

At a resettlement site in Gurong Village, Yan Jinhai visited the home of a villager named Gyaltzen, told him to carry a sense of gratitude, understand clearly where the benefits come from, and strengthen their resolve to follow the Party, be grateful to the Party, and remain loyal to the Party.

In Lhatse, at a centralized planning and construction site and a structural reinforcement project, Yan Jinhai reminded everyone to take full responsibility, reverse-engineer construction schedules, follow visual progress plans, improve project coordination, and enhance incentive systems. He stressed the need for strict oversight of materials, construction capacity, and funding to ensure projects withstand public and historical scrutiny.

During his inspection, Yan Jinhai reiterated that fostering a strong sense of the Chinese national community or Chinese nationalism must remain the core guiding principle throughout the processes of rural revitalization and disaster recovery. He called for strategic development in sectors like specialized agriculture and animal husbandry, cultural tourism, and clean energy. He emphasized support for local entrepreneurship, group-based labour migration, and out-of-region employment.

2025 Namling Dzong Autumn Military Recruitment Notice

Namling Wechat Account: June 03, 2025

The People's Government of Namling Dzong of Shigatse recently announced the 2025 Autumn military recruitment notice, calling young people (men and women) to serve the People's Liberation Army (PLA). With the slogan "Youth comes only once, enlistment brings lifelong honor," the campaign appealed to the patriotism and aspirations of Tibetan youth, encouraging them to contribute to China's national defense. As per the notice, the recruitment is conducted in two cycles: Spring and Autumn. For the spring intake, male candidates may register from December 1, 2024, to February 10, 2025, with enlistment beginning on February 15 and new soldiers being deployed from March 16 to 31. Female candidates must register between January 1 and February 10, 2025. The autumn recruitment opens to male applicants from December 1, 2024, to August 10, 2025, while female registration is from July 1 to August 10, 2025. Autumn enlistment begins on August 15, with deployment from September 16 to 30.

The recruitment primarily targets young individuals with a minimum education of high school or its vocational equivalents. Special emphasis is placed on college graduates and students, with a preference for those possessing higher educational qualifications. In regions with universities and in urban areas, only candidates with a high school education or above are considered, while recruitment of junior high graduates is limited or phased out. The notice says eligible female candidates must be graduates or current students of full-time high schools or universities. The age limits for male candidates range from 18 to 22 years, extended to 24 years for college graduates and 26 years for postgraduate students; for junior high graduates, the upper limit is 20 years. Female candidates must be between 18 and 22 years old, with postgraduate students allowed up to 26 years of age, and spring 2024 diploma graduates up to 23.

It also mentions that applicants must meet both political and physical standards as per China's national military recruitment regulations and that political assessments, age, household registration, profession, education, and overall character are examined. Physical requirements include a minimum height of 160 cm for males and 158 cm for females, with vision standards set at a minimum uncorrected acuity of 4.5. Those with poorer eyesight must undergo vision correction evaluations, and laser surgery is permitted if it was done over six months prior without complications. Special priority is given to candidates from families of "martyrs",

deceased or active-duty soldiers, as well as to individuals who have distinguished themselves in disaster relief or reconstruction work. Bilingual and well-educated ethnic minority youth from concentrated minority areas are especially encouraged to join.

Candidates must pass both medical and political screenings before being officially approved for service. During service, recruits are offered numerous opportunities for upward mobility, including the chance to take exams for military academies and to be promoted to officer ranks based on academic qualifications and performance. Those serving as conscripts may be selected as technical non-commissioned officers, with preference given to those holding college diplomas.

The notice also mentions that the post-service benefits are comprehensive. Families of soldiers receive an annual subsidy of ¥24,000 during the two-year mandatory service. Upon discharge, conscripts choosing voluntary employment receive a one-time settlement of ¥50,000, with an additional ¥10,000 for every extra year served; up to ¥140,000 for eleven years of service. Veterans who complete 12 years of service or receive awards of second-class merit and above are guaranteed job placement by the government. Retired soldiers are also eligible for preferential admission to vocational and higher education institutions, including bonus points for entrance exams. Those who return to their studies post-service receive full state financial support.

Applicants must present their graduation certificate, national ID, and household registration booklet at the time of application.

Similar recruitment notices were announced in other Dzongs of Shigatse such as, Gyantse.

DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER TIBETAN AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR

Tibetan Review: China's top security official's Qinghai visit linked to Dalai Lama's 90th birthday apprehensions?

Tibetan Review: June 19, 2025

According to the Tibetan Review (June 19, 2025), which quoted the South China Morning Post (June 17), Chen Wenqing, Politburo member and Secretary of the CCP Political and Legal

Affairs Commission, has called for the defeat of “separatism” during a trip to Qinghai province, the birthplace of the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet. It has been interpreted as a step up of a crackdown on Tibetans ahead of a possible announcement on the recognition of his reincarnation, or otherwise the appointment of his successor, by the Dalai Lama on or after his 90th birthday on July 6.

Before that, on June 6, President Xi Jinping “received” a visit from the China-appointed 11th Panchen Lama Gyaltzen Norbu, joined by three other Party Politburo members. Gyaltzen Norbu is expected to play a key role in giving religious legitimacy to China’s planned appointment of its own 15th Dalai Lama “reincarnation”, even though the latter himself lacks legitimacy.

During his three-day inspection tour of Qinghai that ended on June 15, Chen Wenqing, called on political and legal bodies under him to “fully understand” the province’s unique geopolitical position. He said “Qinghai is a strategic stronghold for maintaining stability in Xinjiang and Tibet”, reiterating the message President Xi Jinping delivered when he visited the area in 2021. “It is of great importance to safeguard the security and stability of Qinghai.” Citing Xinhua (June 15) it said Chen Wenqing’s tour was stated to have included visits to key security sites, patrols of sensitive locations and field visits to religious and cultural institutions in the provincial capital Xining.

While in Xining, Chen Wenqing attended a symposium on maintaining stability and anti-separatism efforts related to Tibet. There, he issued instructions regarding the security and stability of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and Tibetan areas in other provinces. Chen Wenqing asked political and legal bodies in Qinghai to “lawfully manage ethnic and religious affairs, enhance emergency preparedness, ensure safety and stability during major events, important periods and sensitive key points, and resolutely win the fight against separatism related to Tibet (TAR).”

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Dalai Lama congratulates Mongolia's new PM, recalls historical twin-brother ties

Tibetan Review: June 14, 2025

The Dalai Lama on June 13 (Tibetan Review) congratulated Mongolia's new Prime Minister Zandanshatar Gombojav, recalling his several visits to the country since 1979 and the uniquely close historical ties the two sides shared. Zandanshatar was appointed as Prime Minister of Mongolia on June 13, 2025, after being nominated for the post by his Mongolian People's Party on June 9.

In his message the Dalai Lama wrote: "I was able to visit your country for the first time in 1979, and I have warm memories of that occasion and of the several further visits I have made since then. I am very encouraged by the interest and enthusiasm that Mongolians, young and old, have been showing in promoting human values, as well as the need to combine traditional Buddhist knowledge with modern education." He reminded Zandanshatar that "Mongolians and Tibetans have historically been like twin brothers and sisters" and that "the Dalai Lamas have enjoyed a unique, close relationship with your people since the time of the Third Dalai Lama, Sonam Gyatso." (The reference was to the fact that the title "Dalai Lama" was conferred on Sonam Gyatso by a Mongol Emperor.)

The Dalai Lama recalled saying during his visits to Mongolia that "although other faiths are followed in the country, it is Buddhism that has historically shaped the identity, culture and spiritual life of your people. Since the Buddha's teachings emphasize such fundamental human values as compassion and non-violence, they have the potential to be of benefit to everyone, without contradicting an individual's personal beliefs. I trust that you and your government will continue to preserve and uphold these values."

The Dalai Lama also expressed admiration for the impressive progress Mongolia has made over the years in all spheres of life, adding they are all the more meaningful when they really improve the lives of poor and needy Mongolians. The Dalai Lama last visited Mongolia in November 2016. China responded to it by imposing economic and diplomatic pressure on the country. This included delaying loan talks, increasing transit costs on Mongolian goods, and

closing a key border crossing. The Dalai Lama wished the new Prime Minister “every success in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people of Mongolia in these challenging times.”

CTA launches bilingual website to mark year-long celebrations of Dalai Lama’s 90th birthday

June 18, 2025

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) launched a bilingual website to begin a year-long global celebration marking the 90th birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. The launch event, led by CTA President Penpa Tsering, outlined key programs including a long-life prayer on July 5 and a major birthday celebration on July 6, expected to be attended by senior Indian leaders.

Penpa Tsering also emphasized the importance of a conference on the Dalai Lama’s reincarnation to be held in Dharamshala from July 2–4, with His Holiness expected to attend. The celebration, running until July 6, 2026, will include cultural festivals, film screenings, exhibitions, educational and humanitarian activities, and interfaith events. Global regional committees are encouraged to tailor their events to local contexts while promoting the Dalai Lama’s messages of compassion, peace, and ethics.
