

CHINA

Nyingchi to Lhasa line to open this year

Building of Sichuan-Tibet railway will take more than a decade, says ministry

By LUO WANGSHU

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435 kilometers

Length of Lhasa-Nyingchi railway

A railway linking Nyingchi and Lhasa in the Tibet autonomous region is expected to open at the end of this year, the Ministry of Transport said on Wednesday.

It is a section of a line that will eventually connect Sichuan province and Tibet.

"Construction of the (Sichuan-Tibet) line will last for more than 10 years due to the complicated geological and climate conditions and fragile ecology," Wang Yang, the ministry's chief planning officer, said at a news conference in Beijing.

The 1,838-kilometer Sichuan-Tibet railway project has been divided into three parts for construction and operation.

The section linking Chengdu and Ya'an in Sichuan opened in December 2018. Construction of the 435-km section linking Nyingchi and Lhasa began in 2015.

Work on the middle and most challenging section, connecting Ya'an and Nyingchi, began in November.

The ministry has been building roads to support construction of the line, Wang added.

The Sichuan-Tibet railway is a major transport construction project during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25).

Vice-Minister of Transport Wang Zhiqing told the news conference that China is on its way to becoming a world leader in transport.

In the next five years, the ministry will focus on building a balanced transport network that will close gaps between regions, urban and rural areas, and different modes of transport.

China also aims to build an integrated transport network, he said, adding that could allow a passenger to use a single ticket for a journey that included travel by airplane and bullet train.

Cargo could also be transported via ship, train and plane with only one receipt.

In recent years, China's road, railway and air networks have developed rapidly, with multiple high-speed railway lines and more freeways and airports, Wang Zhiqing said.

He reiterated two mid- to long-term goals for China's transport development.

By 2035, when China realizes basic socialist modernization, the country is expected to have an adequately supported transport network that satisfies people's needs.

By 2050, China is expected to become a world leader in transport, with people enjoying their travel experience and freight benefiting from a convenient logistics network.

Opera school



Students rehearse a form of folk opera known as Longli Taiping Huadeng, in Longli county, Guizhou province, on Tuesday. The Longli No 3 Middle School invited opera masters to teach students the opera, hoping to help preserve the cultural heritage. YANG WENBIN / XINHUA

Climate communiques going public

By LI HONGYANG

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Is this summer hotter or having more rain? Is this winter colder? What do farmers, brewers or down jacket manufacturers need to pay attention to in advance this year? The answers can now be found on government websites.

On Tuesday, the China Meteorological Administration began releasing regular climate prediction communiques to the public that were previously only provided to government departments.

The communiques will forecast climate trends for the next month, season or even year, longer than a weather forecast that looks ahead about two weeks, the administration said.

"Unlike a weather forecast that just deals with temperature and precipitation, the communique describes climate trends and how they will deviate from the average level of normal years," said Jia Xiaolong, deputy director of the National Climate Center.

The first communique released publicly on the center's website forecast that from April 1 to 20, temperatures in parts of North and Northwest China and regions along the Yangtze and Huaihe riv-

A climate prediction that includes a longer period is valuable to agricultural production, energy usage, materials storage and other economic activities."

Jia Xiaolong, deputy director of the National Climate Center

ers will be lower than normal. Four cold fronts will hit Central and East China and precipitation in most parts of China will be 20 to 50 percent greater than usual.

The communique also suggested measures that should be taken to combat droughts, cold fronts and sandy and dusty weather.

"A climate prediction that includes a longer period is valuable to agricultural production, energy usage, materials storage and other economic activities," Jia said. "A climate trend forecast can be as essential as production factors."

The administration decided to

publish climate communiques nationwide because prediction accuracy is increasing.

"As our climate forecasting capability improves and people's demands for climate prediction increase, we made the decision to serve the public with more climate information," Jia said.

However, he said, China's climate predictions are still only about 70 percent accurate.

"People need to hold an objective view toward uncertainty in climate prediction and use prediction results in a reasonable way," he said.

Climate prediction remains difficult around the world and the technology is still being researched, tested and improved globally, Jia said.

"Climate prediction is complicated. It's not only about changes in atmospheric circulation, which a weather forecast mainly considers, but it's also about influences on the circulation from oceans, polar ice, snow cover and human activities," he said.

In November, China's third-generation climate modeling technology was put into operation to forecast monthly, seasonal and yearly climates. It has reached an internationally "advanced level," the administration said.

Rewards for safety risk tipoffs increased

By ZHAO RUIXUE in Jinan
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Shandong province is encouraging the public to report production safety risks, including dangerous practices that might be illegal.

A guideline released recently by the province is part of an effort to reduce the occurrence of risky situations.

Any person or unit reporting hidden risks or practices will be eligible for a reward of up to 500,000 yuan (\$76,700) once their report is verified, according to the guideline.

"Shandong has had serious production safety issues, and several accidents have occurred since the beginning of this year," Qin Chuanbin, Party secretary of the Shandong Provincial Emergency Department, told a news conference on Tuesday.

Explosions on Jan 10 at a gold mine that was under construction in Qixia led to the deaths of 10 miners. Eleven others were rescued after being trapped underground for two weeks, and one remains unaccounted for.

A blaze at another gold mine in Zhaoyuan left six workers dead on Feb 17.

Shandong has updated its reward incentives to accompany a provincewide campaign that's looking for production safety risks, Qin said.

500,000 yuan

Reward that safety hazard whistleblowers may be eligible for in Shandong province

It has released guidelines on rewarding tipoffs about production safety risks before, but the rate of verification was low, as were the rewards offered, and that prompted the government to improve the guideline, Cao Lu, deputy head of the emergency department, said at the news conference.

The public reported 3,807 production risks last year, with 1,101 later verified, resulting in the payment of 312,000 yuan in rewards, according to statistics provided by the department.

The newly released guideline details the types of situations that should be reported, who will handle the reports and the level of reward available.

It says those who report issues concerning "connected underground tunnels of neighboring mines" will get a reward of 500,000 yuan after verification, Cao said. The connection of neighboring mine tunnels could disrupt the management of underground workers and impair ventilation systems, leading to gas poisoning or asphyxiation.

Those who report the concealment of accidents or delays in reporting them will be given a reward ranging from 30,000 to 500,000 yuan after verification.

Reports could previously be made to related authorities by phone calls, letters or visiting their offices. Cao said people will now be able to make reports via the 12345 citizen services hotline if they have no idea who they should report to.

Twenty-two sectors are being targeted for their high risks and safety problems, including mining, transportation, operations using dangerous chemicals, explosives or special equipment, and construction.

This year's provincial budget allocated 798 million yuan for production safety and emergency management, a year-on-year increase of 19 percent that took into account the increased rewards, the Shandong Provincial Finance Department said.

"Cities have set up their own reward regulations and have included the cost of rewards in their financial budgets," said Cui Zongtao, deputy head of the finance department.

For example, Jining has allocated 8 million yuan for rewards this year, Cui said.



A construction crew sets up electrical lines for the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway in the Tibet autonomous region in February. The line is expected to open at the end of this year. REN FUYANG / XINHUA

Shanghai: Expats' inclusion in program welcomed

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"In response to their concerns, we'll translate the municipal government's official release with detailed steps on how to book the vaccination appointment and what materials to provide. We plan to publish a bilingual article about this soon on the neighborhood's WeChat account," said Tang Jia, a neighborhood official at Yanlord Garden in Pudong district's Lujiazui financial area.

"We'll also share the article in our WeChat group of 270 members who are expats or have expat family members," she said.

Another neighborhood official, surnamed Zhao, said the district is considering opening its fourth COVID-19 vaccine inoculation center at Lujiazui to provide convenience to both local and foreign residents.

Expats who are covered by the country's medical insurance will be entitled to the same treatment as insured Chinese citizens, while those who are not will pay 100 yuan (\$15) per dose.

Giuseppe Bigatti, a doctor from Italy and currently director of the hysteroscopy center of Renji Hospital in Shanghai, said that he completed his

two-dose inoculation in February when hospital workers were prioritized to get vaccinated voluntarily, and he would like his wife, a schoolteacher from Italy, to get vaccinated soon.

"I believe this is the only solution in order to travel again when international travel can resume," he said.

Abdurasulov Safar from Uzbekistan, a graduate student at Shanghai International Studies University, welcomed the decision to include expats in the vaccination program, and said he would make an appointment soon.

Safar said that he would feel much safer returning to his home country, where the epidemic still lingers, after graduation this summer if he got vaccinated. "The news came at the right time for me and I had a very sound sleep after seeing the information," he said.

"I trust China's technology and the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. After getting vaccinated, I'll promote the Chinese vaccine among people in my home country," said Safar.

Uzbekistan certified a COVID-19 vaccine produced by a Chinese company in early March. The vaccine is produced by Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co.

Red tourism sparkling in Guangdong

By ZHENG CAIXIONG

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Zhongshan, a city in Guangdong province that is rich in Communist Party of China heritage, is promoting Red tourism to coincide with this year's Party centenary.

Towns and villages in the Pearl River Delta city, the hometown of late republican leader Sun Yat-sen, have been urged to renovate, rebuild and protect their valuable Red history and cultural sites and improve the environment to boost the Red tourism industry, its publicity authorities said.

Zhang Daoyou, a staff member at the Former Residence of Yang Yin, who was among the early leaders of the CPC, said the Nanlang town government had rebuilt and renovated it and is now working on the former residences of other revolutionary martyrs in Cuiheng village.

"The number of visitors to Yang's former home has been on the rise since the beginning of the year," Zhang said, adding that the other residences will be open to the public before July 1, when the CPC will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding.

Yang's former home in Cuiheng was listed as a key historical and cultural site in Guangdong in June 1989. It has become a major tourist attraction and a base of Red education since it opened to the public in 2002.

Zhang said it has been visited by more than 500,000 tourists, including 300,000 Party members.

Yang (1892-1929), who joined the CPC in 1922, was a famous leader of the workers' movement and one of the important leaders in the early days of the CPC. He took part in a monthslong strike in Guangzhou and Hong Kong in 1925 and the Guangzhou Uprising in 1927, Zhang said.

Cui Jingwei, Yang's granddaugh-



ter, said she hoped locals and visitors, particularly the young, will remember the revolutionary martyrs and be encouraged to study and work harder to contribute to the construction of the country after visiting the Red sites.

In Zuobu village, Party secretary Lin Qingbiao said it will boost investment in protecting and renovating its Red history and cultural sites to promote Red tourism and further improve the rural environment.

He said more homestays and tourist facilities will be built to meet growing Red tourism demand in the months ahead.

Zuobu was the hometown of Ou Chu, one of the leaders of the Zhujiang Column, a guerrilla force which fought Japanese forces in South China during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45).

Luo Jiahao, who graduated from



An elderly couple take photos in front of a sculpture of revolutionary martyrs in Lixi village, Zhongshan, Guangdong province.

ZHENG CAIXIONG / CHINA DAILY