

CHINA

DPP urged to fully restore travel routes

Mainland to resume allowing Shanghai residents to visit Jinmen, Matsu islands

By LI SHANGYI
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The Chinese mainland urged Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party authorities on Thursday to lift restrictions on cross-Strait personnel exchanges and cooperation, citing public well-being and industry needs.

Addressing a news conference, Chen Binhu, spokesman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said the mainland has consistently upheld the idea that "people on both sides of the Strait are one family" and has actively promoted cross-Strait tourism exchanges and cooperation.

"We will implement the joint recommendations proposed at the interparty think tank forum between the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Kuomintang, and strive to translate these outcomes into concrete results as soon as possible," Chen said.

The interparty forum, held on Tuesday, called for deepening cross-Strait exchanges and tourism cooperation. Its recommendations include fully restoring regular direct passenger air and sea services across the Strait and gradually expanding tourism by mainland residents to Taiwan's Jinmen and Matsu islands.

Chen said the proposals reflect public opinion and serve the interests of people on both sides of the Strait. He noted that more than 5.78 million passenger trips were made on direct cross-Strait flights in 2025.

Currently, 14 mainland cities operate more than 300 passenger flights per week on cross-Strait routes. Before 2020, 61 mainland cities offered up to 890 weekly flights, Chen said, calling the gap significant.

He attributed current travel inconveniences to restrictions imposed by the DPP authorities, including limits on direct air routes and a refusal to restore direct sea passenger services, which he said have hindered economic and trade exchanges.

"This situation has seriously affected people-to-people exchanges across the Strait," Chen said, adding that residents on both sides have strongly called for the full resumption of direct flights and routes.

He urged the DPP authorities to heed the voices of the aviation and shipping sectors as well as the public and to correct what he described as misguided practices.

Following the CPC-KMT interparty think tank forum, the mainland announced on Wednesday that it would resume allowing Shanghai residents to travel to Jinmen and Matsu. Chen described the move as a concrete step toward normalizing and expanding cross-Strait tourism exchanges.

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Chen Binhu, spokesman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office

Tourism by residents of Fujian province to Matsu and Jinmen resumed in April and August 2024, respectively. Since then, more than 200,000 trips have been made, Chen said, benefiting local tourism industries and enhancing mutual understanding between people from Fujian and Taiwan.

According to Taiwan tourism authorities, in 2025, the number of outbound travelers from Taiwan reached about 18.94 million, while inbound visitors totaled around 8.57 million. Local media reported that the island's tourism revenue deficit is expected to exceed NT\$700 billion (\$22 billion).

"The responsibility lies entirely with the DPP authorities," Chen said, accusing them of deliberately interfering with and obstructing cross-Strait tourism exchanges and cooperation.

He said the DPP has ignored mainstream public opinion in Taiwan calling for exchanges and cooperation and has failed to address difficulties faced by the tourism sector and the public.

In June 2024, the DPP raised travel warnings for the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao to "orange", and the warnings remain in place.

Chen said that in 2025, the number of Taiwan residents visiting the mainland increased by more than 20 percent compared with 2024, and travel to Hong Kong and Macao also rose significantly.

"This fully demonstrates that the majority of Taiwan compatriots do not support the backward and obstructive actions of the DPP authorities," he said.

Citing an increase in first-time visitors from Taiwan to the mainland in 2025, Chen said the mainland is committed to creating a more open, convenient and secure environment for Taiwan residents traveling to and from the mainland.

He again urged the DPP authorities to lift restrictions on cross-Strait travel and exchanges and to take concrete steps to restore tourism cooperation.

isitative and political advisory meeting in the region — underscoring its growing role in supporting local economic development, according to local media reports.

Lhakpa, an official with the regional postal administration's market supervision department, said the expanded network allows farmers and herders to access postal services within their own villages, offering service levels comparable to those in urban areas.

"The number of online products eligible for free shipping to Xizang has risen to nearly 1.7 billion items, up 119 percent year-on-year," he said.

Official statistics show that in 2025, Xizang's postal industry generated 1.35 billion yuan (\$195 million) in revenue and handled 207 million items, marking year-on-year increases of 12.1 percent and 2.3 per-

Gala rehearsal



Actors rehearse backstage during the recording of a gala celebrating the upcoming Tibetan New Year, or Losar, in Lhasa, Xizang autonomous region, on Wednesday. The gala, featuring over 30 premium programs, is set to air on Feb 18, the first day of the Tibetan New Year. KUNGA LESANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

China-Laos mega power project opens channel for clean energy collaboration

By LI YINGQING and YAN YUJIE
in Kunming

Transmission lines of the China-Laos 500-kilovolt power interconnection project were fully connected on Thursday, marking a key milestone ahead of its planned full operation in April and opening a new cross-border channel for clean energy in the Lancang-Mekong region.

Once operational, the project will support two-way power transmission of up to 1.5 million kilowatts, deliver about 3 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually and cut carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 2.5 metric million tons, according to China Southern Power Grid Lancang-Mekong International Co.

With an annual transmission capacity of about 3 billion kWh, the project will not only support local livelihoods and industrial development but also provide a stable energy foundation for Laos' digital ambitions, said Jiang Zhida, a senior research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies.

Reliable electricity supply will help strengthen computing capacity and artificial intelligence development, supporting Laos' green and digital transformation, Jiang said.

The project, a joint investment venture by China Southern Power Grid and Electricite du Laos Transmission Company, links Oudomxay and Luang Namtha provinces in Laos with Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture in Yunnan province. It includes a 145-kilometer section in China and a 32.5-km section in Laos, spanning 177.5 km in total length.

Environmental protection was a key focus throughout construction. By optimizing route planning and applying advanced technologies, the project reduced tree felling along the line by more than 83 percent, safeguarding



Electricians work on the China-Laos 500-kilovolt power interconnection project on Wednesday. LAI ZENGPENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

3 billion kilowatt-hours

The estimated annual transmission capacity of the project

local forest ecosystems.

A delegation from the energy department of Laos' Ministry of Industry and Commerce praised the project's commitment to the principle of "cutting fewer trees and protecting the ecosystem", noting that measures such as high-tower crossings, refined route optimization and drone inspections significantly minimized the project's environmental impact, in line with Laos' goals of promoting clean energy development and ecological conservation.

Beyond power transmission, the project has also brought tangible benefits to local communities. The construction team built and handed over Namor Tai Primary School and donated five libraries to improve educational conditions.

The project has created hundreds of local jobs and helped train Lao technical personnel in the power sector, according to China Southern Power Grid Lan-

cang-Mekong International Co.

Local officials in Namor district described the project as more than just an electricity infrastructure initiative, noting that it has improved livelihoods while strengthening friendship between Laos and China.

Khamphilom Vannaphone, a Laotian vlogger, described the project as a model of win-win cooperation. For Laos, he said, it converts surplus hydropower into stable export revenue, directly boosting economic growth and employment. For China, it provides an important cross-border clean energy supply channel for southwestern regions, helping optimize the energy mix and enhance regional grid resilience.

Jiang said the full connection of the transmission lines ushered in a new stage in regional cooperation, as bilateral collaboration evolves from traditional infrastructure toward green energy and digital development, injecting fresh momentum into building a China-Laos community with a shared future.

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J-10s carry out flight shows in Singapore

By ZHAO LEI
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The J-10 fighter jets from the People's Liberation Army Air Force have conducted two aerobatic performances at the 10th Singapore Airshow, and are scheduled to make the last one on Saturday, according to the PLA Air Force.

On Wednesday, the Chinese aircraft from the August 1st Air Demonstration Team, China's famed aerobatic team, carried out their second flight show at the biennial aviation industry event, following their first performance on Tuesday after the air show's opening ceremony.

The jets — three J-10SYs and three J-10CYs — performed various formations, solo flying as well as flybys for the audience and used colored smoke trails to improve visual effects.

"It is good for us to be here to fly with elite aerobatic teams from other countries. This occasion gives us opportunities to show our skills and learn from others. I am sure that through our performances, people outside China will be able to better understand the PLA Air Force and the friendship between the Chinese and Singaporean peoples will further deepen," said Colonel He Xiaoli, a veteran female pilot in the Chinese team who took part in the flight display.

This is the second time that the August 1st Air Demonstration Team is participating in the Singaporean air show, following the 7th edition in February 2020. It also marks the 13th overseas display mission for the team, which made its international debut at the 2013 Moscow air show.

Accompanied by a YY-20A tanker aircraft, the J-10 jets departed from an air base in southwestern China on Jan 27 and arrived at Changi Airport in Singapore later that day after a nonstop flight.

The J-10SY is an aerobatic variant of the J-10S two-seat trainer, while the J-10CY was developed based on the J-10C combat jet for stunt display.

An export version of the J-10C was reported to have achieved its first-ever hit record in a regional conflict last year, attracting wide attention.

Founded in January 1962 and named after the date of the founding of the PLA, the elite display group has performed in more than 800 events in front of Chinese spectators and delegations from over 180 countries and regions.

In another development, Aviation Industry Corp of China, the country's leading aircraft maker, placed a large model of its J-35A stealth fighter jet at the center of its booth at the Singaporean show, apparently intending to promote the radar-evading plane in the international market.

According to AVIC, the J-35A's main role is to achieve and maintain air superiority, with a secondary mission of conducting air strikes on land and sea targets. It is designed to engage hostile aircraft, including fighters and bombers, intercept enemy cruise missiles, and neutralize adversaries' land- and ship-based air defense systems, the company said.

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Upgraded logistics and postal services bring benefits to villagers in Xizang

By PALDEN NYIMA in Lhasa
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More than 2,400 village-level postal and logistics service stations have been upgraded or transformed across the Xizang autonomous region as of the end of 2025, regional postal officials said. The move forms part of a broader effort to expand rural delivery networks and strengthen support for high-altitude communities.

With courier services expanding deeper into rural and pastoral areas, all postal routes across Xizang have been fully motorized. According to the regional postal administration, this enables vehicle-based delivery on every route in the region.

Logistics development emerged as a key topic during this year's regional two sessions — the top leg-

islative and political advisory meeting in the region — underscoring its growing role in supporting local economic development, according to local media reports.

Lhakpa, an official with the regional postal administration's market supervision department, said the expanded network allows farmers and herders to access postal services within their own villages, offering service levels comparable to those in urban areas.

"The number of online products eligible for free shipping to Xizang has risen to nearly 1.7 billion items, up 119 percent year-on-year," he said.

Official statistics show that in 2025, Xizang's postal industry generated 1.35 billion yuan (\$195 million) in revenue and handled 207 million items, marking year-on-year increases of 12.1 percent and 2.3 per-

cent, respectively. The express delivery sector recorded particularly strong growth, with revenues reaching 920 million yuan and delivery volumes hitting 38 million items, up 13.3 percent and 23.2 percent year-on-year, respectively.

At the enterprise level, Li Fengwei, a deputy to the regional people's congress and deputy general manager of YTO Express in Nyingchi, said the company has established service stations in all county seats and expanded operations into remote villages.

"For instance, in Metog county, after setting up a local station, the company extended its services to the farthest settlement of Geling village," Li said in an interview with Xizang Commerce Daily.

The expanded network has effectively addressed long travel distances and difficulties in collecting parcels.

"Today, people's online shopping needs are becoming increasingly diverse, ranging from essential baby products to distinctive fresh fruits from other regions, all of which can now be delivered directly to the villages," Li said.

For residents, the improvements are already reshaping daily life. Kelsang Gyaltsan, a villager from Zayul county in Nyingchi city, said faster postal and logistics services have significantly improved rural livelihoods, while online shopping saves both time and money.

"Packages often arrive within a week, and e-commerce has helped local agricultural products — such as herbs, handicrafts and local pork — reach markets across the country," he said.



A courier sorts parcels in front of the entrance to a residential community in Lhasa, Xizang autonomous region, on Monday.

PALDEN NYIMA / CHINA DAILY