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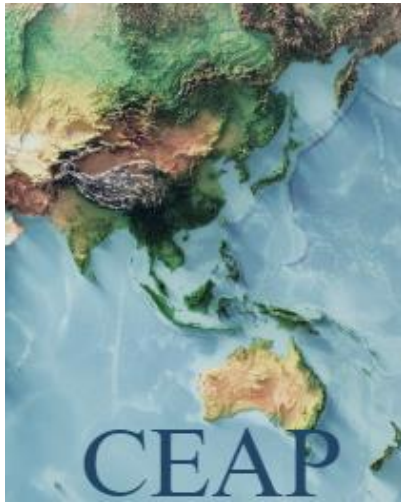
US-China: Tensions beyond rare earths and tariffs

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Global Politics is a primary focus of the NIAS Programme on Science, Technology, and International Relations (STIR). The primary focus is on contemporary world affairs. The Programme publishes *The World This Week*, and *NIAS Fortnightly on Science, Technology and International Relations*.

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The CEAP aims to provide a daily brief on contemporary developments within China and its external engagements. Daily developments are categorized under the following sections: Internal (Politics, Economy, S&T), Regional (China's interactions primarily with East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Pacific, and also with other regions including Europe, the Americas, Africa, and the Middle East), Big power politics and China's global power projections.

The CEAP aims to build an online database on China by collating information from different regions and diverse sources. The objective is to capture different narratives and make sense of information and disinformation.

About China Monitor

China Monitor is a Monthly publication by China, East Asia, and the Pacific Area Studies. The Monitor is a comprehensive collection of explainers, commentaries, and short notes on contemporary issues and development in the region.



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Editorial Note

In October, China, East Asia, and the Pacific Area Studies comprehensively covered daily developments in the region. With a special focus on Internal, External, Nuclear, Science & Technology, Defense, Energy, & Environmental issues. Additionally, it looked at the region from a geographic perspective, which included China in East Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Pacific, Europe, West Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Russia. The following were the major events in the month of October, other than the essays above.

China cautions against the sharing of propaganda and state secrets; China is to witness floods in the Yellow River triggered by heavy rainfall; Chinese officials call for standardised Chinese education in Xinjiang; Typhoon Matmo hits China's Guangdong province; and China cautions against the sharing of propaganda and state secrets, in Internal developments.

In Energy & Environment developments, China imposes export control on the rare earths; China has built the world's largest single-unit floating offshore wind power; China launches its domestic airborne wind turbine "S1500"; additionally, in Outer Space, China launches its Fengyun-3 08 satellite.

From the geographic vertical, in East Asia, Taiwan launches "T-Dome" as multilayered air defence; China sets bounty of Taiwanese "separatists"; and China's Premier visit North Korea and meets Kim Jong Un.

In Southeast Asia, China and Malaysia to hold a joint drill "Aman Youyi-2025"; and China sends bombers and frigates to the South China Sea. In South Asia, China and India to resume direct flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou; and Xi and Shahabuddin congratulate each other on 50 years of China-Bangladesh diplomatic ties.

In Africa, Zambian farmers sue a Chinese firm over a toxic acid spill; South Africa is pressured to dilute their relations with Taiwan. In Europe, Dutch freezes the operation of a Chinese subsidiary over national security concerns; China's BYD sales to the UK increased by 880 per cent from last year; China-built Serbia-Hungary railway inaugurated.

In the Americas, Trump warns to halt oil exports to China if they do not buy soybeans; China commences port fees collection from US ships; China condemns Trump's threats to impose 100 per cent tariffs on Chinese imports; US Trade Representative calls China's move to control export of rare earths a "power grab"; China's embassy in Chile responds to concerns of Chinese vessel presence in Chilean waters; Trumps warn to halt Chinese imports amid export control on rare earths by Beijing; BYD opens its plant in Brazil, capable of producing 150,00 EVs per year; China's ambassador to Panama accuses of US of spreading lie; China's crackdown on the imports of Nvidia chip; and A US court upholds the ban on the sale of DJI drones to America, citing a link with China.

COMMENTARY

US-China: Tensions beyond rare earths and tariffs

Femy Francis



(Image Source: New York Times)

What happened?

On 16 October, China's Ministry of Commerce accused the US of creating panic over the rare earth control measures. The Ministry stated that the US has distorted and exaggerated China's measures and is trying to stir unnecessary misunderstanding. This comes in light of the statements made by the US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, warning China that its new export controls on rare earths will have repercussions. He said: "If China wants to be an unreliable partner to the world, then the world will have to decouple." Since China announced its plans to impose rare earth and critical mineral export control measures, there have been a series of threats and warnings. China informed that they will be charging US-owned, operated, flagged and built vessels port fees, reasoning that this is a countermeasure against US port fees and their discriminatory practices. China also added 23 foreign entities to their Unreliable Entity List. Most of the companies are based in the US and were accused of carrying out military and technology cooperation with Taiwan. US President Donald Trump and his administration first threatened to impose 100 per cent tariffs on China after the export control was announced. Trump then demanded that China buy American soybeans or threatened to halt the import of cooking oil to China. These escalated tensions come two weeks before the US President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet China's President Xi Jinping.

What is the background?

First, China's rare earth export control. China's Ministry of Commerce announced the new expansion of the rare earths and critical mineral export control. This has cemented the near-monopoly China has on 90 per cent of the

production of rare earths. This ambit was increased by imposing export restrictions on the items sold for battery and magnet production. Under the provision, the exports of technologies used for rare earth production, including mining, smelting and magnetic material manufacturing, are restricted. Under the amendment, any foreign entity is now required to apply for a dual-use item export permit from the Ministry of Commerce if the item is used for both civilian and military applications.

Second, China's monopoly over rare earths and critical minerals. China plays a critical role in the production of the global electronics supply chain, producing semiconductors and circuit boards, as it is the single largest provider of rare earths and critical minerals. It is estimated that 90 per cent of the supply of refined rare metals and 70 per cent of lithium and cobalt comes from China. It was in 2016 when China first imposed export control over rare earths processing technology. As of 2025, China has the largest reserves in the world, with 44 million tons in reserves. The rare earths aren't as rare as the capacity to refine them. Therefore, China has heavily invested in refiners across the world and dominates the supply chain of rare earths by being the largest investor in mines.

Third, tariffs and negotiations. The tariff tensions started earlier this year with the US imposing reciprocal tariffs on China, which led to a series of tariffs imposed by both countries, reaching 250 per cent tariffs on China by the US. China, during this time, also announced its plans to halt the export of rare earths, which led to the US call for a halt to tariff escalation. Currently, the US has imposed a 30 per cent tariff on China, and China has imposed a 10 per cent tariff. During this period, a series of negotiations and meetings were held to reach a tariff truce to no avail, and a TikTok divestment deal was signed, selling stakes to US companies.

What does it mean?

First, repercussions on the Trump-Xi meeting. The escalating trade tensions and tit for tat measures almost sabotaged the upcoming meeting between US President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. Trump soon retracted his threats of

imposing 100 per cent tariffs on China, calling it unsustainable and informed that the meeting was on. The US accused China of blindsiding them by not informing them of the new measures, while China refuses this claim. The recent escalation has set a precedent before the scheduled meeting between Trump and Xi, showcasing that China is willing to use rare earths to leverage a better deal.

Second, forming contingencies. Since the announcement of the rare earths export control, there have been escalating tensions between the world's two largest economies. Countries are looking to form contingencies to protect themselves and find an alternative to China's rare earth market. Japan's Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato called on the G7 countries to unite and have a coordinated response to the export control.

Third, a stalemate in trade negotiations. The tariff truce has been extended multiple times, and both countries have reached a stalemate. China's imposition of export control, adding the US to its unreliable entity list and the imposition of port fees on us vessels is a way to end this stalemate and to reach a solution. But if the

stalemate ends for the worse, there are additional concerns with the US threatening to decouple from China; the world's two largest economies decoupling will have a global financial impact.

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COMMENTARY

TikTok open for sale: Trump signs the divestment agreement

Femy Francis



(Image Source: SCMP)

What happened?

On 25 September, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order outlining the framework agreement of TikTok divestment to a US-based company. The White House press release confirms that as part of the deal, majority stakes in TikTok will be US-owned, and will be operated by a board of directors who will ensure that the US national security and cybersecurity rules are applied. ByteDance

continues to hold 19.9 per cent of the shares, and the other Chinese investors, Susquehanna International Group, General Atlantic and KKR, have retained 10 per cent in shares. Not confirmed, three US investors: Oracle, Silverlake and Dell will be the new stakeholders of TikTok, with Oracle being the key security provider. The US consortium will hold the majority stake in the app. The new US-based TikTok company is estimated to be worth USD14 billion in value, notes the US Vice President JD Vance. The US government will not be part of the board or hold shares in the company. US President Donald Trump noted that he talked with China's President and noted that Xi gave a go-ahead to the deal. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Guo Jiankun, on the deal said: "The Chinese government respects the wishes of the company in question and would be happy to see productive commercial negotiations."

What is the background?

First, US national security concerns. In 2024, a bipartisan bill was passed calling to ban TikTok unless it was sold to a US-based firm. The bill

noted that the app poses a national security threat and that they are preventing any foreign adversaries from spying, recruiting and sharing harmful content. There are 136 million Americans who are actively using TikTok, and one in five Americans is using the app to get daily news, according to the Pew Research Centre. The ban was widely criticised by the public as many content creators and small firms relied on the online platform to generate income and network for their business.

Second, the US-China tariff tension. Since earlier this year, both countries have been engaged in a tariff war, with the US first imposing “reciprocal tariffs” on China. This led to a series of retaliation by both countries as they imposed higher tariffs on each other. China’s halting the sale of rare earths made the US consider its tactics, with the Trump administration extending the trade truce. Currently, the US has imposed 30 per cent tariffs on Chinese imports, and China has imposed 10 per cent tariffs on American goods. The TikTok deal outcome also affects the future of the tariff truce between China and the US.

Third, the China factor. While TikTok’s parent company, ByteDance, is not a State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) of China, the firm follows Chinese cyber law and regulation. Additionally, the Chinese government has “golden shares” in ByteDance, which, though small in number, grants the CPC a seat on the board. When the ban was first revealed, the Chinese government accused the Trump administration of being discriminatory towards Chinese firms. Without CPC’s covert approval, this deal would not have been passed. China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the agreement, stated that it gave space for the company to decide their business, and hopes that the US will provide a welcoming environment for Chinese firms.

What does it mean?

First, ByteDance is still a major stakeholder. With the new consortium of US shareholders, America has been successfully able to secure and monitor the functioning of the app. On the other hand, ByteDance has also been able to protect its ownership in the company as it maintains its 19.9 per cent share, remaining the largest single stakeholder in the company. Some suggested building a new app for American users separately, but provisions for the same are not finalised. ByteDance, as the largest stakeholder, will continue to influence the functioning of the app, but with the US restricting access to Chinese firms’ involvement

in the security committee, ByteDance has a limited purview.

Second, concerns over covert media censorship. The social media app is widely used by the American public as their source and platform for news and media. With the new consortium of US investors being Republican supporters and funders. There are concerns expressed that there will be more pro-MAGA news shared and opposition views censored. The deal does not outline how the new investors will regulate the algorithm, but just who will, therefore possibly compromising the public platform.

Third, a win-win for China. Chinese state media are calling this a win-win for both parties. While not obvious, China and ByteDance both have benefited from the deal. This deal now allows ByteDance to keep the algorithm it curated over the years, if the US decides to make a different app for American users. ByteDance avoided getting TikTok banned; along with that, it gets to keep its share and have the biggest individual stake in the app. Additionally, the precedent has created a new template as to how Chinese firms can survive the US law and market. As China and the US are equally important trading partners, the deal is a breakthrough amid tariff tensions.

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COMMENTARY

China's expansion into the IOR

Femy Francis



(Image Source: SCMP)

Introduction

The Indian Ocean is a vast theatre that covers around 74.93 million square km. The Indian Ocean region has been an important trade arena for centuries. It remains critical to the security and stability of shipping lanes and trade routes, accounting for over one-third of the world's cargo traffic and two-thirds of the world's oil shipments. It ensures global access to food, precious metals, and energy resources. China, in the recent decade, has significantly expanded aggressively in the IOR. It firmly believes that the Indian Ocean is not India's Ocean. For China, the Indian Ocean is a key trade route for China's energy supplies and a vital maritime route to secure and stabilise, not only to protect its economic interests but also to further expand its influence in the region in line with its expansionary vision.

China's Objectives in the Indian Ocean

First, safeguarding economic and commercial interests. The Indian Ocean region (IOR) holds significant importance in China's Maritime Silk Road ambition. The IOR accounts for 80 per cent of China's energy imports and is essential for China's trade activities, making it a strategically and economically significant geography. The stability and access to the Indian Ocean for trade are important for China. Issues like Piracy, though not as recurring in the IOR, urge China to further its footing in the region to protect its trade and commercial interests. People's Liberation Army Navy's (PLA-N) assets in the theatre can be used to escort commercial vessels safely, which it has done in dealing with counterpiracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. Their presence can ensure the safety of shipments and commercial trade.

Second, the Malacca dilemma. As China's energy demands grew to sustain this growth, it needed

to rely on shipborne fossil fuel imports. China's growing reliance on oil imports, necessary for domestic stability and economic growth, made it imperative for the CCP to do whatever was necessary to secure its sea lines of communication (SLOC) in the IOR. This meant securing the maritime trade routes that passed through the Malacca Strait. Also known as the Malacca dilemma, China's President Hu Jintao pointed out the vulnerabilities of the strait and being a choke point for their trade and therefore the need for China to secure a stable strait. It can also be assumed that China appears to be bluffing about its vulnerability to assert its presence over the Strait and the IOR.

Third, the Chinese vision of expansion (String of Pearls). The Chinese defence white paper highlights the need for the PLA to support "sea protection and strategic projection." The Indian Ocean is a pivotal region for the PLA as it pushes to extend its "strategic perimeter" farther from China's borders. This ambition was conceptualized by the "String of Pearls" theory. It is assumed China aims to encircle India with Chinese outposts to maintain its dominance over its neighbour. In reality, China has never proposed the idea of String of Pearls as a strategic concept, but it was American researchers who first used the phrase in 2004 to term the Chinese threat to India's national interest.

Fourth, Intelligence Collection. Another motivation for Chinese expansion into the region is to engage in espionage or reconnaissance activities. Any information collected will be vital for the tactical and operational maritime domain in aiding their combat and non-combatative initiatives. These not only include building relations with IOR countries but also establishing and deploying vessels and ships to consolidate information and send direct reports to the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy. This information collection would be vital for China to deal with its maritime domain awareness along critical sea lines of communication, like the Malacca choke point.

How is China achieving these objectives?

First, BRI is a vehicle for China's expansion in the Indian Ocean. The Chinese investments made in the BRI countries in the Indian Ocean

Region can be a vital base to further expand their influence in its maritime interests. China has made significant investments in the IOR and nearby countries, namely Sri Lanka, Myanmar, the Maldives and even Pakistan. The BRI investments are of dual use for China. The involvement ranges from ports and terminals like in Gwadar, Pakistan, to smaller ones like the Port of Sudan. Most ports are in debt to China, which also gives China strategic leverage, like in the case of a 99-year lease on the Hambantota port of Sri Lanka. China has built its diplomatic and political presence in the region through strong military and economic partnerships.

Second, Dual-use Oceanographic surveys. China's civilian ships are involved in Dual-use Research operations in the IOR. It has developed one of the world's largest fleets of civilian research vessels to collect data while being closely in touch with the PLA-N. In 2019, the XIANG YANG HONG 06 research vessel travelled 10,000km for 110 days in the IOR. Hai Yang Shi You 760 completed a four-month ocean bed mapping mission in early 2023, and was accused of travelling within Bangladesh's EEZ, exploring the seabed for oil and gas deposits. Civilian oceanographic research helps to arm the PLA Navy with critical data.

Is China a threat to the governance of the Indian Ocean?

While the rising Chinese presence in the regions is alarming, it is also important to look at the Chinese current reach pragmatically. In a major conflict, commercial investments, personnel, and even naval vessels may prove to be a liability rather than an asset for China. Ports or special economic zones managed by Chinese companies, or other facilities that provide limited access that might be useful to the PLA in most non-combat environments would likely be of limited use in a serious conflict. High-end operations require sophisticated infrastructure and logistics that simply cannot be borrowed from commercial ventures. When talking of Debt Trap diplomacy, while it does give leverage to China, it has its own limitations on what a country can do or is willing to do. All of this does not negate the fact that China is expanding and can steadily secure its influence in the region and position itself as an important factor. The capabilities do not remain dormant, and Chinese advancement in technology and the trajectory of

the exponential rise in PLA-N make China a viable threat, raising the alarms of the need to recalibrate India's influence and capabilities in the region.

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EXPLAINER

Governing China: State Structure, Party, and Ideologies

Femy Francis



(Image Source: EyeVine)

Introduction

In the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, it denotes itself in Article 1 as “a socialist state under the people's democratic dictatorship led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants.” China's usage of the term “democratic dictatorship” is an oxymoron of sorts, with other examples of the same found. One being, it denotes itself as a socialist government but has benefited the most from the capitalist market by being part of it. It stands for democracy and democratic values but follows a one-party system. Additionally, all citizens of China have the right to vote, but from the pool of CPC pre-approved candidates. Governance in China has many oxymorons, like any other country. This paper aims to map out the structure of the Chinese government, the power of the CPC, and the ideologies on which this peculiar, self-contradicting model was built, to its own advantage.

The Spirit of the Chinese Constitution: Past and Present

The Constitution of China was first drafted in 1982 and was inspired by Marxist, Leninist, and Maoist thought of society. While the constitution lays down the legal recourse to govern its people, it has another unwritten “Party Constitution,” with the official constitution giving absolute power and authority to the CPCⁱ. The Constitution has seen several changes since its inception. The 1954 constitution was the product of the Chinese civil war and the influence of the USSR's ideologies and alliance. The salient features focused on the supremacy of the vanguard party and encouraged collective ownership and responsibilities by the state and citizens. The 1975 constitution document was deeply influenced by Mao Zedong's thought and was the product of the memory and traumas of

the Cultural Revolution. To clean the system, legal systems were broken down, and the absolute authority of the party was established. The 1978 Constitution was a mix of the 1954 and the 1975 drafts, which expanded the rights and resources, but a differential status was still awarded to the party. The 1982 Constitution is the one China follows today, with features of all previous drafts. Today's Constitution saw a modern revision under Xi Jinping's regime. One such example can be the 2018 constitutional amendment, where they limited the power of state offices, establishing the party's ideology and giving them structural differential powerⁱⁱ. Where features like judicial independence and the separation of powers between party and state are abysmal and non-existent.

Government Structure

China's government structure is like most of the political systems present in the world, with one differential feature that is CPC supremacy and the power it wields. The political system of China can also be divided into the legislature, executive, and judiciary. The government follows a one-party system where the President, currently Xi Jinping, is at the helm of power and authority. The legislative body consists of the National People's Congress, NPC Standing Committee, and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The executive branch has the State Council and the organs that constitute the different ministries. In China, the judiciary has the Supreme People's Court, following the constitution and the law.

National People's Congress (NPC)

The NPC is the highest organ of state power in China, and in principle is the supreme source of law. The NPC has its representatives elected from 35 electoral units, which include provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, and the PLA. They are in office for a term of five years. In 2025, 2,884 members in the NPC meet every year once for the Annual Plenary session, also known as the “Rubber Stamp” meeting. The primary objective of the NPC is to establish legislation, amend the constitution, and elect state officials like the President and the Vice-President. The members are indirectly elected by the provincial people's congress, and the seats allocated to each province are based on the latest population figureⁱⁱⁱ.

National People's Congress Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is the permanent working body of the legislature. When the NPC is not in session or elected, the Standing Committee assumes the role of NPC until the next congress is elected and comes back to session. Currently, there are 175 members in the NPCSC. These are delegates elected from the NPC and have limitations on the types of laws they can draft. Their primary functions include elections of NPC delegates, interpreting the law, and supervising the work of the executive

Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)

The CPPCC can be seen as the third unofficial tranche of the Chinese legislation, which only functions as an advisory body to the National People's Congress. While China follows a one-party system, this office gives space to eight other political parties for representation. Other than that, they have members from minority ethnic groups, returned overseas Chinese, and other prominent Chinese. They are the political consultation group to the NPC, as they represent the minority voice of China. Currently, 2172 members in the CPPCC are in the office for a tenure of five years. These political advisors send a proposal to the NPC on topics ranging from their specialised concerns.

State Council and its organs

This is the executive branch of China's government and is the highest administrative structure/organ of China, functioning to implement policies of the government. They are the bureaucratic body and administer functions for the Chinese government as they are directly answerable to the National People's Congress. China's Premier is the head of the council and is assisted by the Vice-Premier and the ministers. They assure that the laws passed by the NPC are executed, and the constitution gives the council "to adopt administrative measures, enact administrative rules and regulations, and issue decisions and orders in accordance with the Constitution and statute." Ministers and Commissions come directly under the purview of the State Council, making it the main executive body of China. ^{iv}

Supreme People's Court

China has a four-level court system, with the supreme court being on top, which supervises and administers justice over all subordinate local and special people's courts. The local court deals with criminal and civil cases. The other three levels are the Higher People's Court, who

take care of matters at the provincial, autonomous regions, and special municipalities level. The Intermediate Court works at the prefecture level while the Basic People's Court works at the county and town level. In China, though the judiciary is a separate body, the NPC has the ultimate authority over how the law can be interpreted. China's judiciary has no jurisdiction or formal powers to make laws or interpret them. They are over-ranked by security and law enforcement officials and Party members, hence limiting their influence in the legal work of China.

Communist Party of China reigns supreme

China has a one-party system where the CPC has a monopoly and power not only as the major party but also as the governing institution of China, including the constitution. The party has maintained its seat since the era of Mao Zedong, who founded the People's Republic in 1949. The CPC or the CCP, the Chinese Communist Party, was founded in 1921 based on the ideologies of Karl Marx and Lenin. The party officially came to power when a civil war with the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) led to its victory and the ousting of the KMT to Taiwan. The party has drastically changed since its inception, but it holds the idea of socialism close. By the 1990s, the party and its leadership were responsible for China's shift in its internal and economic policies. Hence, building China's unique, capitalist, socialist, authoritarian policy, we know of today. As of 2025, the CPC membership has surpassed 100 million members, making it the second-largest political party by membership in the world. ^v

China, therefore, is both a nation-state and a party-state as the CPC is the dominant political institution. Xi Jinping leads the CPC and, since 2012, has served as the CPC General Secretary and Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission. The party has six other officials who make up the main Secretariat with the President of China. CPC's Party's no. 2 official, Li Qiang, who is the Premier of China and State Council head. The no.3 is Zhao Leji, currently heads the National People's Congress (NPC), no.4 Wang Huning, heads the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), no.5 is Cai Qi, heads the Party Secretariat, and no.6 is Ding Xuexiang, serves as executive Vice Premier ^{vi}. The party's role is monopolistic in China, and therefore, there is nominal separation between the state and the party. The party is the state, government, and law, superseding all other regulatory bodies. The party dictates the state ideology, therefore

limiting the progress of these institutions as separate autonomous bodies. The iron fist of CPC is the dictum, and under this, it has been further reinforced under Xi Jinping's rule.

Leadership and China

China's statecraft has been heavily influenced by the party leadership, where the President of China dictates the rules of not only the party but the country. Mao Zedong, the Chinese communist revolutionary, was the founding father of the People's Republic of China and ruled as the Chairman of the CPC. His ideologies, influenced by Marxism and Leninism, shaped the military and political strategies of China. Under him, China's economic framework was changed, and the industrialisation program was established. He led the Great Leap Forward movement aimed to shift China's economy from an agrarian system to an Industrial one. In 1966, the Socialist Education Movement kick-started the infamous Cultural Revolution, lasting 10 years, where all counter-revolutionary elements were purged. The prominent feature of Mao's era was the establishment of party supremacy, purging of opposing forces and the establishment of popular politics where Mao became a cult personality^{vii}.

On the contrary, China's next leader, Deng Xiaoping, was disenchanted by the communist form of governance, bringing in far-reaching market reforms often seen as a precursor to China's rise today. His policies made him the "Architect of Modern China" with the "Bolduan Fanzheng" program that brought the tumultuous country back to order. Under him, he reformed Mao's economic policies by opening up China, established the one-child policy and nine-year compulsory education. He introduced the new form of thinking, mixing socialist ideologies with free enterprise, also known as "Socialism with Chinese characteristics." Though the Tiananmen Square crackdown put him under domestic and international scrutiny. Jiang Zemin's government, 1993-2003, in China saw substantial economic growth as he continued with the market reform and established relations with the world outside. Hu Jintao reigned from 2003 to 2012, during which he introduced state control over critical sectors of the economy. Under him, there was an increased crackdown on social oppositions, ethnic minorities and other opposing figures. He also approached international relations from a soft power point of view by establishing diplomatic relations with Africa, America and with other developing countries. He was responsible for

establishing collective leadership and consensus-based rule among party members^{viii}.

Coming to the present day, Xi Jinping has been the President since 2012 and is the most prominent leader of China. Under him, China saw heights of economic growth and expansion to the international realm through his flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. China has expanded its dominance in fields of technology, outer space, trade, energy, maritime, and AI. Another prominent feature of his leadership is the anti-corruption drive and the purging of leaders. Xi Jinping's foreign policy is more assertive in nature when it comes to staking claims or just having more presence in the international order. He has used the technological prowess of China to heavily censor and surveil its citizens and leaders. Xi calls to move towards a new era of China, where they are no longer subservient but the torch bearers of the multilateral order. China's presence in the international order today can be characterised as: expansionary, aggressive, multi-aligned, innovative and evolutionary^{ix}.

From communism to a concocted authoritarian and mixed socialist rule

The Chinese constitution describes itself as a Democratic Dictatorship ruled by the people. Mao Zedong wrote on the commemoration of the 28th anniversary of the Communist Party of China^x. Where Mao said: "But for the working class, the labouring people and the Communist Party the question is not one of being overthrown, but of working hard to create the conditions in which classes, state power and political parties will die out very naturally, and mankind will enter the realm of Great Harmony." Mao calls for the people and the party members to remember the ideologies of Marx and Lenin and their historical goal of creating a Communist China. At the inception of CPC, the communist ideologies were strong, and the leader then foresaw their role as a mere means to an end, which was a classless society. Chinese communism came to fruition through a study group on "Society for the Study of Marxism" in Peking University, of which Mao was a part. Concurrently, the Bolshevik Party of the Soviet Union was leading the revolution, laying the ground for the belief that communism can be a reality^{xi}.

What we see today is a concocted form of government that is authoritarian in nature but has socialist values in providing for its citizens. Some believe China's success is despite the authoritarian rule, while others strongly believe

that it was because of the strong hand of the government that China was able to achieve what it has. China has long given up the ethos of communism, as it has created its own mixed socialist market economy. The values of a socialist society can be seen in how the Chinese government protects its firms and SOEs by providing subsidies. It can also be understood that China is at the intermediary stage of Communism, which is socialism. But CPC has no plans to assume and complete Mao's dream of a communist society. One can make an inference that China does everything for the "Greater Good" of its nation, be it dictatorship, authoritarianism, censorship, and surveillance. While there are several issues with the Chinese government, like any other government. CPC has been successful, with disparities persisting. The party has been successful in lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty, has done an exceptional job in governing China and in becoming the world's second-largest economy.

This brings in the other big question. Is China a socialist or capitalist society? With the establishment of a market economy, China has created many SOEs and supported private firms through subsidies, bringing in huge profits. These profits do not go to the citizens but become party assets, where the CPC acts as a rentier and manager. The big firms that have established themselves internationally are also answerable to the CPC and follow the party mandate. So, China is capitalist, in the way it produces and sells in the market, but has socialist tendencies when it comes to restricting individual development. Xinwen Zhang rightly notes in his paper "Is China Socialist? Theorising the Political Economy of China," where he concludes, "These are not signs of socialism, but of a type of capitalism with a party-state that has developed non-socialist pursuits and is prepared to defend its position by all means^{xii}."

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CHINA READER DAILY WIRE

INTERNAL

Xi pledges USD 110 million for women's empowerment at the Global Leaders Meeting on Women

On 13 October, China's President Xi Jinping announced that they are pledging USD 110 million for female empowerment at the Global Leaders Meeting on Women held in Beijing. The event is co-hosted by China and UN Women as they commemorate 30 years of anniversary since the Fourth World Conference on Women in the Chinese capital. The 1995 conference, where 189 countries unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, is widely regarded as a global turning point for gender equality. Xi called for an "inclusive and harmonious social environment where women are free from discrimination and prejudice." Additionally, another 100 million is earmarked for the Global Development and South-South Cooperation, working together to promote women and girls' development. ("**China's Xi pledges US\$110 million for women's empowerment as Beijing hosts global summit**," SCMP, 13 October 2025)

China hosts the Global Leaders meeting on Women in Beijing

On 12 October, China is hosting The Global Leaders' Meeting on Women in Beijing, the theme focuses on "One Shared Future: New and Accelerated Process for Women's All-round Development." Leaders from Iceland, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Dominica and Mozambique have already arrived in Beijing. President of the Commonwealth of Dominica Sylvanie Burton said: "She looks forward to exploring how people can enhance the development of women's causes worldwide, and what has been done in China to raise the living standard for women and their families." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said: "meeting will inject new momentum into advancing gender equality and the well-rounded development of women and promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity." ("**Global Leaders' Meeting on Women to open in Beijing**," SCMP, 12 October 2025)

China cautions against the sharing of propaganda and state secrets, reports SCMP

On 12 October, SCMP reported on a post by Baomiguan connected to the China Administration of State Secrets Protection. The article cautioned that as

websites and social media platforms of various departments were important outlets for propaganda, "this public information is often the focus of external forces' scrutiny." It also stated that news workers are blindly pursuing novelty and prioritising publicity over confidentiality. It also informed of instances where the reporters are demanding staff for sensitive material and information for their articles. SCMP reported that "China's regulations on press and publication confidentiality, news and publishing organisations and their editorial staff are prohibited from publishing matters that the interviewed organisations or individuals have declared to be state secrets." ("**China warns propaganda staff and classified units to stop media leaks of state secrets**," SCMP, 12 October 2025)

China is to witness floods in the Yellow River triggered by heavy rainfall

On 12 October, China's Ministry of Water Resources announced that the country will face its first flood of 2025 along the Yellow River, as recent rainfall has triggered warning-level floods in the tributaries of the Fenhe River and Weihe River. The Yellow River Water Conservancy Committee has launched a Level IV emergency response for Central China's Shanxi, Shaanxi, and Henan provinces. The minister Li Guoying said: "heightened vigilance in flood control across the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River. During the National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holidays, Li presided over special consultations and deployed prevention measures." ("**First flood of 2025 expected on China's Yellow River as tributaries exceed warning levels**," *Global Times*, 12 October 2025)

Typhoon Matmo hits China's Guangdong province

On 05 October, hundreds of thousands of Chinese people evacuated their homes as Typhoon Matmo reached China's southern coast. The Typhoon reached the Guangdong province, and the winds were reported to be of 150 kmh by China's National Meteorological Centre. Xinhua reported, "As the storm approached, the authorities evacuated 197,000 people from their homes on Hainan Island and 150,000 from Guangdong province." All public transportation, construction sites and businesses were shut. ("**Thousands evacuated as Typhoon Matmo lashes southern China**," *The Straits Times*, 05 October 2025)

China hits record high in passenger travel for National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival

On 06 October, CGTN reported that China's cross-regional passenger flow increased during the National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, with approximately 1.24 billion trips recorded. This was reported by China's Ministry of Transport, where they said: "The cross-regional passenger flow totalled 301.29 million trips, a year-on-year increase of 6.1 per cent, according to the ministry. The average daily flow during the first half of the holiday exceeded 310 million passenger trips." The railway trip increased 4.5 per cent, waterways by 5.6 per cent, and civil aviation by 4.1 per cent. Road travel facilitated 278.73 million passenger trips – a rise of 6.2 per cent year on year.

("China sees record-breaking passenger traffic in first half of National Day holiday," CGTN, 06 October 2025)

Chinese officials call for standardised Chinese education in Xinjiang, says an editorial in SCMP

On 26 September, an editorial in SCMP looked into Xi's visit to Xinjiang to celebrate the anniversary of Xinjiang. The leaders who visited Xinjiang with Xi all pitched to standardised Chinese language and education system in the region. Xi was the first state head to attend such an event. The region of Xinjiang has faced ethnic tensions and saw a series of terrorist attacks a decade ago. The leaders also held six different inspection tours in the region. State Councillor Shen Yiqin said: "consolidate the sense of community of the Chinese nation in a tangible, perceptible and effective manner."

("Senior officials push use of Chinese language in Xinjiang and intensify focus on religion," SCMP, 27 September 2025)

EXTERNAL

China is contributing world's food security crisis, reports NFSRA

On 15 October, Global Times reported that China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NFSRA) informed that they have ensured food security for 1.4 billion people over the past five years. According to the data, China's annual grain output has steadily remained above 650 million tonnes over the past five years. In 2024, its grain output exceeded 700 million tonnes for the first time, and per capita grain possession reached 500 kilograms, higher than the internationally recognised food security line of 400 kilograms per capita. China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said: "66.7 million hectares of high-

standard farmland have been built in China. Meanwhile, machinery penetration rate in agricultural production has surpassed 75 per cent, 13 percentage points higher compared to the level 10 years ago." (**"How China contributes to world food security by holding its "rice bowl" firmly,"** Global Times, 15 October 2025)

ECONOMY

China's yuan-based foreign trade increased by 4 per cent, reports GAC

On 13 October, China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) reported that China's goods imports and exports in yuan rose by 4 per cent, reaching USD 4.73 trillion in 2025. China's foreign trade has seen a stable and positive growth momentum in 2025. GAC said: "During the period, the country's total export ramped up by 7.1 per cent year-on-year to hit 19.95 trillion yuan, while imports dropped by 0.2 per cent to 13.66 trillion yuan." Deputy Administrator of the GAC, Wang Jun, said: "In the first three quarters, China's trade with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries reached 17.37 trillion yuan, increasing by 6.2 per cent year-on-year, accounting for 51.7 per cent of the country's total trade value." (**"China's foreign trade expands by 4% in first 9 months, extending stable growth momentum despite external volatilities,"** Global Times, 13 October 2025)

NDRC and SAMR to regulate Chinese market price in key sectors, reports SCMP

On 10 October, SCMP reported that Chinese regulators are bringing in new measures to tackle disorderly price competition. China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), which is the top economic planner and the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) issued a joint policy paper, outlining measures to limit intense competition within industries, which in turn has led to price wars. The joint paper said: "Disorderly competition can have negative effects on industry development, product innovation, and quality and safety. It's detrimental to the healthy development of the national economy." They noted that in key industries where there is disorderly competition, the two agencies will guide the industry, regulate the production cost across the sector and help companies come to a reasonable price. "Any violations of pricing laws or regulations discovered shall be dealt with in accordance with the law," the statement issued by the agencies. (**"Chinese regulators step up efforts to target disorderly price**

competition.” *SCMP*, 09 October 2025)

NUCLEAR

World’s first IAEA fusion research centre opens in China, reports CGTN

On 15 October, CGTN reported that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Collaborating Centre for Fusion Energy Research and Training was opened in Chengdu, China. During the Second Ministerial Meeting of the IAEA World Fusion Energy Group and 30th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference. China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA), Shan Zhongde said: “China will work together with the IAEA, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), and all nations to continuously advance global energy innovation and sustainable development, promote the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature, and contribute Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions to building a clean, beautiful and sustainable world, allowing fusion energy to better benefit humankind.” (“**World’s first IAEA fusion research, training center opens in SW China.**” CGTN, 15 October 2025)

MILITARY

China’s PLA to use new-generation tanks for visual-range combat, reports PLA Daily

On 13 October, PLA Daily reported that the Chinese People’s Liberation Army is transitioning from close-quarters combat to beyond-visual-range combat. This will be supported by the new-generation main battle tanks. The story titled “Ground force fast tracks battlefield transformation, reshapes combat dimensions with technologies.” Quoted the tank commander, Sun Yongming said: “I never would have imagined that we, the armoured forces, would one day be able to utilize optical, infrared and radar sensors to perceive the battlefield from long range and with full-circle awareness.” China’s military affairs expert, Wang Yunfei said: “Beyond-visual-range operations were previously mostly carried out by air forces and navies, which operate large platforms such as warplanes and warships, while armies around the world had mostly not achieved this capability due to technical constraints in integrating advanced and power-consuming radars, communications, electronic warfare and command systems on small ground-based platforms.” (“**New-generation tanks drive PLA Army’s transition to beyond-visual-range combat: report.**” *Global Times*, 13 October 2025)

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

China imposes export control on the rare earths, reports MOFCOM

On 09 October, the Chinese Commerce Ministry (MOFCOM) announced that it will impose export controls on the sale of rare earths and other related technologies. These include rare-earth mining, smelting and separation, magnetic materials and secondary resource recycling. MOFCOM said: “In line with the country’s laws and regulations, including the Export Control Law and the Regulation on the Export Control of Dual-use Items, the ministry has decided to impose export controls on rare earth-related technologies.” And that “Technologies and relevant data related to rare earth mining, smelting and separation, metal smelting, magnetic material manufacturing, and rare earth secondary resource recycling, as well as the assembly, debugging, maintenance, repair, and upgrade of related production lines are prohibited from export without permission.” The aim of this provision is to safeguard national security, and it is expected that China will also block exports to foreign arms firms and semiconductor industries. (“**Chinese Commerce Ministry announces export controls on rare earth-related technologies.**” *Global Times*, 09 October 2025)

China has built the world’s largest single-unit floating offshore wind power, reports SCMP

On 03 October, SCMP reported on China installing the world’s largest single-unit floating offshore wind power system. This is aimed at further expanding the maritime economy and clean energy. The 16-megawatt system has been completed in Beihai, in South China’s Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. China’s Ministry of Science and Technology informed that all key parts from the mooring cable and turbine gearboxes were made domestically. The new system will be towed offshore into deep waters for installation and testing before it is connected to the grid for commercial operations. It will be mounted on a semi-submersible platform and will have the first dynamic ballast system. The project is led by the Three Gorges Corporation, responsible for building the world’s largest hydropower plant and dam. (“**With blades that span 7 soccer fields, China’s floating wind turbine is world’s biggest.**” *SCMP*, 03 October 2025)

China launches its domestic airborne wind turbine “S1500”, reports SCMP

On 26 September, SCMP reported

that China launched its airborne wind turbine. The technology is cheaper and a reliable green energy source that strengthens China's global clean transition goals. S1500, a basketball court-sized, 13-storey-tall building, became the first turbine of its kind that can generate one megawatt of power, and trial runs were conducted in the Xinjiang region. The CEO of Sawes Energy Technology, Dun Tianrui, expressed that their goal is to make airborne wind power a key part of generating affordable, clean energy. The airborne turbine floats on helium-filled shells, lifting the generators into the sky. This avoids the need to build massive steel towers and cuts the material use by 40 per cent, lowering the electricity cost by 30 per cent. (**World's most powerful flying wind turbine launched in western China**, SCMP, 27 September 2025)

ARCTIC

China's manned submersible "Jiaolong" completes 10 Arctic deep dives, reports CGTN

On 04 October, CGTN reported that China is building its deep-sea exploration capabilities as its manned submersible Jiaolong was successfully able to completed more than 10 deep dives in the Arctic Ocean. This is part of China's Ocean Voyage 92 expedition. It officially entered polar operations after undergoing a localisation upgrade and renovation, and following sea trials in the South China Sea. The dives have led to several findings, like there are significant differences between the density, biodiversity and individual size of the benthic organisms. The data and materials provide strong support for creating the biodiversity map of polar sea areas and conducting conservation work. (**China's Jiaolong completes over 10 manned deep dives in the Arctic**, CGTN, 04 October 2025)

OUTER SPACE

China launches its Fengyun-3 08 satellite

On 27 September, China launched its Fengyun-3 08 satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Site. The launch was done with the Long March-4C carrier rocket and was successful in entering the intended orbit. China National Space Administration (CNSA) said: "The satellite, equipped with nine remote sensing payloads, including a medium-resolution spectral imager and a microwave imager, will primarily support monitoring and research activities in weather forecasting, atmospheric chemistry and climate change." They also stated that this will strengthen China's capabilities and

its global weather prediction, climate change and monitoring disasters. The launch is the 596th flight mission as part of the Long March series. (**China launches Fengyun-3 08 satellite**, Global Times, 27 September 2025)

CHINA & EAST ASIA

China seizes "misabeled" maps citing Taiwan, reports BBC

On 15 October, the BBC reported that China's customs office seized 60,000 maps that were mislabeled as Taiwan. China's Customs, authorities said, also "omitted important islands" in the South China Sea, where Beijing's claims overlap with those of its neighbors, including the Philippines and Vietnam. They stated that these problematic maps meant for export are a threat to national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They also noted that the maps did not have nine-dash lines, did not mark the maritime boundary with Japan and were labelled as Taiwan. (**China seizes 60,000 maps for 'mislabelling' Taiwan**, BBC, 15 October 2025)

China and North Korea to strengthen cooperation, says Xi

On 12 October, The Straits Times reported that China is ready to further its relationship with North Korea, as stated by China's President Xi Jinping in a letter to Kim Jong Un. Xi was quoted "China and North Korea are good neighbours, good friends, sharing destiny and helping each other, and the friendship is growing stronger." He also noted that the two countries formed a blueprint for their development during a meeting with Kim Jong Un in September. (**China, North Korea to strengthen strategic cooperation, KCNA says**, The Straits Times, 12 October 2025)

Taiwan launches "T-Dome" as multilayered air defence

On 10 October, Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te launched their new multi-layered air defence system called "T-Dome." Lai stated that it is to defend itself against the enemy threats, hinting at China. There has been increased military pressure from China, in light of which Taiwan has increased its defence spending and modernised its armed forces to face China. Lai spoke on the National Day address and said: "We will accelerate our building of the T-Dome, establish a rigorous air defence system in Taiwan with multi-layered defence, high-level detection, and effective interception, and weave a safety net for Taiwan to protect the lives and property of citizens." They aim to build a more resilient defence net system with a high

interception rate. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Guo Jiakun said: "He peddles the separatist fallacy of Taiwan independence," and that "This once again exposes his stubborn nature as a troublemaker, creator of danger and a war-maker." ("**Taiwan president unveils 'T-Dome' air defence system to counter China threat**," *The Straits Times*, 10 October 2025)

China sets bounty of Taiwanese "separatists"

On 11 October, Chinese police offered a reward of USD 1,400 for 18 individuals who are part of Taiwanese military operations and spreading separatist messages. The released 18 were core members of the Taiwan military's "psychological warfare unit", and published their pictures, names and Taiwan identity card numbers. The bureau said that they plotted to incite separatist activities. Xinhua reported that They launched websites for smear campaigns, created seditious games to incite secession, produced fake video content to mislead people, operated illegal radios for "infiltration", and manipulated public opinion with resources from "external forces". ("**China issues bounty for Taiwan PsyOps unit for 'separatism'**," *Reuters*, 11 October 2025)

China's Premier visit North Korea and meets Kim Jong Un

On 09 October, Chinese Premier Li Qiang visited North Korea, met with Kim Jong Un and noted that China stands to strengthen with this high-level exchange. Li said: "The CPC and the Chinese government have always regarded ties with the DPRK from a strategic height and a long-term perspective, Li said, adding that maintaining, consolidating and developing the traditional friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries is China's unwavering policy." Kim Jong Un sent his regards to Xi Jinping and said: "Pyongyang is willing to maintain close high-level exchanges with Beijing, promote cooperation in various fields, strengthen multilateral collaboration, advance the development of their respective socialist causes, and bring more benefits to the people of the two countries." ("**China ready to strengthen strategic communication with DPRK, says Premier Li**," *CGTN*, 10 October 2025)

China is increasing military activities near Taiwan, reports Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence

On 09 October, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence reported that China is increasing its military activities around Taiwan to better

surprise attack tactics. The report stated that China is using AI to weaken Taiwan's cybersecurity and to find weak points. The ministry said: "Through both conventional and unconventional military actions, it aims to test its capabilities for attacking Taiwan and confronting foreign forces." They also reported that China is using a "professional cyber army" to manipulate social media accounts and flood them with misinformation to sow division in Taiwanese society and weaken trust in the government. ("**China honing abilities for a possible future attack, Taiwan defence report warns**," *The Straits Times*, 9 October 2025)

Taiwan detects ten Chinese military aircraft and six naval vessels

On 06 October, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence detected 10 Chinese military aircraft and over six Chinese naval vessels in the Taiwanese territorial waters. The ministry posted on X social media: "10 sorties of PLA aircraft and 6 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 7 out of 10 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern ADIZ. ROC Armed Forces have monitored the situation and responded accordingly." These frequent incursions and maritime operations mean that there are rising tensions between Taiwan and China. ("**Taiwan detects 10 Chinese aircraft, 6 naval vessels around territory**," *Business Standard*, 06 October 2025)

China is the South Korean fugitives' preferred destination, reports ANN

On 06 October, AsiaNews Network reported on figures by the South Korea's Ministry of Justice, People Power Party Rep. Park Jun-tae. Who noted that more than one in five criminal suspects are fleeing South Korea to China and now become the most common destination for the fugitives. China currently accounts for 20.9 per cent, the US has 14 per cent, and Vietnam has 8.6 per cent of South Korean fugitives. The US was the leading destination in 2021; China surpassed it in 2022 and has remained the No. 1 destination since. The proportion of refugees fleeing rose from 17.5 per cent in 2021 to 23.7 per cent in 2025. Most of them have committed fraud or have violated narcotics. The Ministry rep issued that "When fugitive suspects decide where to go, they consider many elements, such as the host country's law enforcement capacity, cost of living, and international cooperation with Korea." ("**China overtakes US as top destination for Korean fugitives**," *ANN*, 06

October 2025)

CHINA & SOUTHEAST ASIA

China and Malaysia to hold a joint drill "Aman Youyi-2025"

On 08 October, China's People's Liberation Army announced that it would conduct joint drills in the South China Sea with Malaysia. The joint drill "Aman Youyi-2025" is happening for the sixth time since 2014. There will be more than 1,000 personnel who will take part in the equipment training of naval vessels and helicopters. The exercise will focus on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and maritime security. China's Ministry of National Defense said: "[The joint exercise] aims to deepen practical cooperation between the Chinese and Southeast Asian militaries and enhance their capacity to jointly address non-traditional security threats and safeguard regional peace and stability." ("**PLA announces South China Sea drill with Malaysia as Japan-Philippines exercise begins.**" *SCMP*, 9 October 2025)

China sends bombers and frigates to the South China Sea, reports Naval News

On 03 October, Naval News published that Chinese bombers equipped with Supersonic anti-ship missiles flew over the South China Sea region. A People's Liberation Army Southern Theatre Command release stated that the combat drills at Scarborough Shoal, which occurred on the National Day of the People's Republic of China, were meant to "reinforce patrols and vigilance, further strengthen control and management of relevant areas, and effectively counter unlawful infringements and provocations." The Chinese H-6 bombers were equipped with YJ-12 supersonic anti-ship missiles. ("**China Sends Anti-Ship Bomber, Frigates to Scarborough Shoal.**" *Naval News*, 03 October 2025)

CHINA & THE PACIFIC

Chinese naval hospital arrives in Tonga

On 13 October, Chinese naval ships like the SILK road ark arrived at Tonga's Nuku'alofa Port. This is part of the seven-day trip for medical assistance and cultural activities. This is their fourth visit to Tonga, as the Chinese Navy Hospital "Mission Harmony" arrives. Xi hua reports that Silk Road Ark will provide medical services on the ship, conduct academic exchanges on war injury rescue with the Tongan Navy, hold medical forums with Tongan hospitals, dispatch an onboard helicopter and multiple medical teams for clinic programs in

local communities and on outer islands, and send teams to local schools for cultural exchange. ("**Chinese naval hospital ship provides medical services in Tonga.**" *Xinhua*, 14 October 2025)

CHINA & SOUTH ASIA

China is concerned about Pakistan-Afghanistan border clashes, stated China's Foreign Ministry

On 15 October, SCMP reported that China called to de-escalate the border clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan since 2011, stating that they are concerned about the hostilities. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "China sincerely hopes that both countries will prioritise the bigger picture, exercise calm and restraint, and resolve their concerns through dialogue and consultation to avoid further conflict." They also noted that China is ready to play a constructive role in improving their bilateral ties with both sides. SCMP reported that Tensions between Islamabad and Kabul escalated last week after their forces exchanged fire at various points along their border, marking some of the worst firefights since the Taliban returned to power in 2021. ("**China wary of border spillover, urges calm after deadly Pakistan-Afghanistan clashes.**" *SCMP*, 15 October 2025)

China and India to resume direct flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou, reports BBC

On 03 October, the BBC reported that India and China will resume direct flights in October. This was reported by India's Ministry of External Affairs, as the two countries inch towards gradually normalising ties. Both countries halted their direct flights after clashes in 2020. Since then, they have both worked to desolate the tie on the border. On 26 October, Indigo will restart its direct flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou. The ministry noted that this resumption will contribute to normalising ties and bilateral exchanges. The ties thawed since 2024, as both agreed to a patrolling agreement in the Hiamalyan region. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi called India-China partners and not adversaries. ("**India and China to resume direct flights after a five-year ban.**" *BBC*, 03 October 2025)

Xi and Shahabuddin congratulate each other on 50 years of China-Bangladesh diplomatic ties

On 04 October, CGTN reported that China's President Xi Jinping shared congratulatory messages with Bangladeshi President Mohammad Shahabuddin on 50 years of

diplomatic ties. Xi said: "Over half a century since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two countries have developed relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, regardless of how international and regional situations evolve." Shahabuddin said: "Bangladesh highly appreciates China's important role in promoting regional peace, stability and shared prosperity, and China's long-term and valuable support for Bangladesh's sustainable development, he said, expressing confidence that cooperation between the two countries will yield even more fruitful results." Chinese Premier Li Qiang iterated Xi Jinping's sentiments with the interim government's Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus. ("**Xi, Bangladeshi president exchange congratulations on 50 years of diplomatic ties**," CGTN, 04 October 2025)

CHINA & AFRICA

Zambian farmers sue Chinese firm over toxic acid spill, reports SCMP

On 06 October, SCMP reported on Zambian farmers suing two Chinese mining companies of USD 80 billion lawsuit, over a major toxic acid spill. This has become a major problem in China and Zambia long long-standing friendship. The lawsuit filed by 176 Zambians against Sino-Metals Leach Zambia and NFC Africa Mining – two local subsidiaries of state-owned Chinese firms – alleges that a tailings dam wall collapse in February released acidic waste into streams, rivers and farms near the town of Kitwe, about 285km (180 miles) north of the capital Lusaka, reports SCMP. The farmers call this an economic catastrophe, which violated their constitutional rights and destroyed their habitat and livelihood. They demand USD 80 billion in an escrow account and a monthly payment of USD 336 per month for the cost of temporary relocation. ("Chinese mining firms sued over toxic acid spill pose dilemma for Zambian government," SCMP, 06 October 2025)

South Africa is pressured to dilute their relations with Taiwan, reports *The Straits Times*

On 06 October, The Straits Times reported on the flailing relationship between Taiwan and South Africa, just months after Oliver Liao arrived in Pretoria as Taiwan's de facto ambassador. There has been an increasing campaign in South Africa to downgrade its relations with Taiwan. South Africa broke its formal ties with Taiwan decades ago; it wants to dilute their relations further. Liao's office was asked to be shifted from Johannesburg, but Taiwan refused. As countries grow closer

to China, they are becoming more inhospitable to Taiwanese representatives. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Guo Jaikun, said: "We commend the South African government's abiding commitment to the One China principle." ("**Chinese pressure shreds Taiwan's relationship with South Africa**," *The Straits Times*, 06 October 2025)

CHINA & RUSSIA

Russia refutes claims of China's support in war efforts, says Kremlin spokesperson

On 06 October, the Kremlin stated that they have their own capabilities to cover it battlefield. When asked if China was aiding them with intelligence, they claimed by Ukrainian intelligence. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov responded to Ukraine's Foreign Intelligence Agency, official Oleh Aleksandrov, who stated that China was sharing information for a precision attack and sharing benefits from foreign investments. To which Peskov said: "We have our own capabilities, including space capabilities, to accomplish all the tasks the special military operation poses." Ukraine has long accused China of supporting the Russian invasion of Ukraine and condemns it. China has never agreed and has officially remained neutral. ("**Kremlin, asked if China is sharing satellite intel for Ukraine, says Moscow has its own capabilities**," *Reuters*, 06 October 2025)

China shares intelligence with Russia, finds Ukraine's Foreign Intelligence Agency

On 05 October, Reuters reported that China is providing Russia with intelligence to launch missiles inside Ukraine, to find the Ukrainian Intelligence. Ukraine's Foreign Intelligence Agency informed that China was passing on satellite intelligence on targets, including those benefiting from foreign investment. They said: "There is evidence of a high level of cooperation between Russia and China in conducting satellite reconnaissance of the territory of Ukraine to identify and further explore strategic objects for targeting." Ukraine's President Zelensky has previously accused China of supporting Russia and its invasion efforts in Ukraine. ("**China provides intelligence to Russia on Ukraine targets, Ukrainian intelligence says**," *Reuters*, 05 October 2025)

CHINA & EUROPE

Dutch freezes operation of a Chinese subsidiary over national security concerns, reports SCMP

On 13 October, SCMP reported that the Chinese firm Wingtech's Dutch subsidiary

Nexperia is frozen in light of government intervention. This is by the court of the Netherlands, citing a national security threat. Wingtech said: “semiconductor manufacturer Nexperia is now under temporary external management following an order from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.” The Dutch government has now “invoked the Goods Availability Act due to serious governance shortcomings at semiconductor manufacturer Nexperia.” They said: “These signals posed a threat to the continuity and safeguarding of crucial technological knowledge and capabilities on Dutch and European soil. Losing these capabilities could pose a risk to Dutch and European economic security.” (“**China’s Wingtech says Dutch court freezes control of Nexperia amid ‘national security’ dispute.**” SCMP, 13 October 2025)

China and Switzerland issue a joint statement on 75 years of diplomatic ties

On 10 October, China and Switzerland issued a joint statement on deepening bilateral cooperation and advancing a strategic partnership. The fourth round of China-Switzerland Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, visited by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Both countries marked 75 years of bilateral cooperation and diplomatic ties. The document said: “The two sides spoke highly of the free trade agreement that has been in effect since 2014, underscoring its important role in bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The two countries are ready to advance negotiations on upgrading the agreement to a higher level, to further boost trade and economic cooperation, safeguard free trade and promote economic globalisation in a more open, inclusive and balanced manner to benefit all.” (“**China, Switzerland issue joint document to deepen cooperation, advance strategic partnership.**” CGTN, 11 October 2025)

China and Italy reaffirm bilateral ties one the 12th Joint Meeting of the China-Italy Government Committee in Rome

On 08 October, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the 12th Joint Meeting of the China-Italy Government Committee in Rome, where he met Italy's Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani. Wang stated that China and Italy are major economies that are focused on supporting free trade. Wang said: “The China-Italy Lin-gang Innovation Cooperation Park has been largely completed, the two sides jointly launched the Zhangheng 1-02 electromagnetic monitoring satellite, the double taxation agreement between China and Italy officially took effect,

both sides have supported each other in promoting enterprises, and more than 70 Italian companies will participate in the 8th China International Import Expo.” Tajani said: “Italy stands ready to strengthen multilateral cooperation with China and to work together to promote the peaceful resolution of issues such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Ukraine crisis.” (“**China, Italy reaffirm strong ties, pledge closer cooperation.**” CGTN, 09 October 2025)

China's BYD sales to the UK increased by 880 per cent from last year, reports the BBC

On 07 October, the BBC reported that for China's EV giant BYD, the UK has become the biggest market outside China, as its sales rose by 880 per cent in September. The company says it sold 11,271 cars in the UK last month, with the plug-in hybrid version of its Seal U sports utility vehicle (SUV) accounting for the majority of those sales. This was informed by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), which reported the sales. The UK has imposed no tariffs on Chinese EVs, as the company offers cheaper models compared to its Western counterparts. SMMT informed “UK EV sales hit a record high last month, with sales of pure battery electric vehicles rising to almost 73,000.” Despite the surge in sales, petrol and diesel cars make up more than half of the new car sales. (“**Chinese EV giant BYD sees UK sales soar by 880%.**” BBC, 07 October 2025)

China to retaliate against the targeted UK foreign influence rules, reports The Guardian

On 05 October, The Guardian reported that China vowed to retaliate against the UK government if it targets parts of the Chinese security apparatus. Russia and Iran have been included on the enhanced tier of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS). Under this, anyone in the UK acting for foreign agencies will be required to declare their activities to the government or face criminal charges. The ministers in the UK, rather than targeting China as a whole, will target entities that are deemed to be of particular risk and will require extra disclosure. These entities include China's Ministry of State Security, which is its intelligence service; the Chinese Communist Party (CCP); the United Front Work Department, which is often referred to as the international arm of the CCP; and the People's Liberation Army, which is China's military. (“**China threatened to retaliate against UK over foreign influence rules.**” The Guardian, 05 October 2025)

China-built Serbia-Hungary railway inaugurated

On 03 October, the Novi Sad-Subotica section of the Hungary-Serbia high-speed railway was launched. This marks the completion of the Serbian section of the Hungary-Serbia Railway. The meeting was attended by China's ambassador Li Ming and others from China Railway and China Communications Construction. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said: "This railway line will bring a lot for economic development. I'm proud of what we built. Grateful to the Chinese friends who completed this professionally and to the citizens of Serbia for their great trust." The completion of the project means that the train will ride at the speed of Km/h which mean the journey from Belgrade to Subotica in just 68 minutes. Ambassador Li said: "The Hungary-Serbia Railway is the first high-speed railway built by Chinese companies in Europe, a flagship project of cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries, and a major initiative aligning the Belt and Road Initiative with Europe's development strategy." (**"Serbian section of Chinese-built high-speed railway opens; President Vucic hails its economy-boosting role,"** Global Times, 04 October 2025)

CHINA & THE AMERICAS

Trump warns to halt oil exports to China, if they do not buy soybeans

On 14 October, US President Donald Trump stated that China is being "economically hostile" for not buying American soybeans and also threatened to halt imports of cooking oil and other products. Trump posted on social media, Truth Social, "I believe that China's purposefully not buying our soybeans and causing difficulty for our Soybean Farmers is an Economically Hostile Act." And that "We are considering terminating business with China having to do with Cooking Oil, and other elements of Trade, as retribution." US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said: "They're now saying that they're going to control more rare earths and downstream products. And so it makes sense that, you know, we can raise our tariffs." (**"Trump threatens China with cooking oil embargo as soybean spat escalates,"** SCMP, 15 October 2025)

China commences port fees collection from US ships

On 14 October, China officially began collecting special port fees US US-owned, operated, built

and flagged vessels, a special exemption for Chinese-built ships. Ships built by China, empty ships entering Chinese shipyards for repair, and other ships are exempt from fees. This new port fee can be seen as a countermeasure against US port fees on China-linked ships. In context, China also announced that they imposing rare earth export control, which led to Trump threatening to impose 100 per cent tariffs on Chinese products. This is all happening as both the head Donald Trump and Xi Jinping as scheduled to meet next month. (**"China begins charging port fees for US ships, exempts China-built ones,"** Reuters, 14 October 2025)

China sanctions South Korea's shipping firms' subsidiary in the US

On 14 October, China imposed port fees on Hanwha Ocean's subsidiary, a South Korean shipping giant based in the US. They accused them of collaborating with the US to restrict China's maritime sector, according to China's Ministry of Commerce. The ministry said: "Hanwha's US-based subsidiaries have assisted and supported the US government in conducting the 301 investigation and imposing measures against China's maritime, logistics and shipbuilding industries. China expresses strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition." China stated that it took these actions in light of its anti-foreign sanctions law and regulations. China pledged to impose countermeasures against any country or region that enacts or supports discriminatory bans, restrictions or similar measures targeting its operators. (**"China-US shipping dispute escalates as Beijing sanctions South Korean giant subsidiaries,"** SCMP, 14 October 2025)

China's ambassador to Brazil affirms deeper ties with Latin America

On 13 October, China's Ambassador to Brazil, during his keynote speech in São Paulo, affirmed that China supports investments and experts from the South American economy. Ambassador Zhu Qingqiao expressed that China is committed to sustainable development and building a world-class business environment. Zhu said: "Some major powers, obsessed with power supremacy and their own 'priority', maintain a Cold War mentality, apply the law of the jungle, arrogantly interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and incite trade and tariff wars, which severely damage the world economy, the multilateral trading system and the international rules and order." (**"China envoy vows deeper Brazil ties, denounces US 'jungle' law in tariff showdown,"** SCMP, 13

October 2025)

China condemns Trump's threats to impose 100 per cent tariffs on Chinese imports

On 13 October, China's Ministry of Commerce responded to US President Donald Trump's threat to impose 100 per cent tariffs on Chinese imports, in retaliation for the rare earth export control by China. The ministry stated that it will impose its own unspecified countermeasures if the US president carries out this threat. Trump calls China very hostile and that it is holding the world captive. Trump said, "Highly respected President Xi just had a bad moment. He doesn't want Depression for his country, and neither do I. The U.S.A. wants to help China, not hurt it!!!" in a social media post on Truth Social. These comments have revived the trade tensions between the two countries as they are inching towards cooperation, which led to the Chinese firm Shezhen Componen Index stock falling by 2.5 per cent. The ministry said: "China's position on a tariff war has always been consistent: we do not want one, but we are not afraid of one," and that "Resorting to tariff threats is not the right way to engage with China." ("**China accuses US of 'double standards' over tariff threat**," BBC, 13 October 2025)

US Trade Representative calls China's move to control export of rare earths a "power grab"

On 12 October, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer made snide remarks against China over the rare earths export control measure. Greer informed that this move to tighten control was not informed and came as a surprise, "power grab." He said: "I can tell you that we were not notified, and quickly, as soon as we found out from public sources, we reached out to the Chinese to have a phone call." This has sent shockwaves in US and EU policy and stock circles. US Vice-President JD Vance said: "We're going to find out a lot in the weeks to come about whether China wants to start a trade war with us, or whether they actually want to be reasonable. I hope they choose the path of reason." ("**US trade envoy Jamieson Greer calls China's new rare earths curb a 'power grab'**," SCMP, 12 October 2025)

Trump threatens an additional 100 per cent tariffs on China in retaliation to rare earth export control, reports BBC

On 10 October, the BBC reported on the US President Donald Trump threatening to impose additional 100 per cent tariffs on imports from China, which will also include critical

software as well. This comes after China announced export control rules on the sale of rare earths, to which Trump responded that China is becoming hostile and to holding the world "captive." He also threatened that he would pull out from the meeting that is supposed to happen next month with China's President Xi Jinping. Trump's remarks led to a drop in the financial market, with the S&P 500 going down by 2.7 per cent. Additionally, China is planning to investigate the US tech firm Qualcomm and its chip industry in China. ("**Trump threatens to impose additional 100% tariff on China**," BBC, 10 October 2025)

China imposes port fees for US vessels, reports SCMP

On 10 October, SCMP reported that China will levy phased fees on any US vessels coming to Chinese ports, which is seen as a retaliatory action to US fees from the ports. This was approved by China's State Council, China's Ministry of Transport said: "Beijing will apply the fees to vessels under several classifications: those owned or operated by US enterprises, organisations and individuals; those whose owners or operators are under direct or indirect ownership by US entities holding a stake of at least 25 per cent; and those built by or flagged under the US." ("**China hits back at Trump's port fees with reciprocal charges for US ships**," SCMP, 10 October 2025)

The US Senate passes bills to limit chip exports by Nvidia and AMD to China, reports SCMP

On 10 October, SCMP reported that the US Senate passed a bill where American companies priority access to Nvidia and AMD AI chips before China. The legislation is aimed at bolstering competitiveness and curbing exports of domestic chips to China. Democratic representative, Senator Elizabeth Warren said: "Today, the Senate acted to make sure American customers – including small businesses and start-ups – aren't forced to wait in line behind China's tech giants when purchasing the latest AI chips." The initiative was approved as **part of the Americas' annual defence policy**. ("**US Senate passes measure that limits Nvidia and AMD's AI chip exports to China**," SCMP, 10 October 2025)

Previous Editions

