



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

CHINA MONITOR

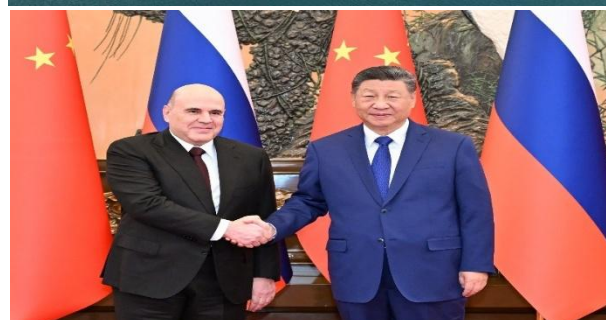
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ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

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China Monitor

The DPG China Monitor features developments related to China during the month and is compiled by our research team comprising Ambassador Biren Nanda, Senior Fellow and Sanket Joshi, Research Associate, from open-source reports and publications.

Cover Images:

Chinese Premier Li Qiang addressed the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 22, 2025.

Source: [Xinhua/Huang Jingwen](#)

China's third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, was commissioned on November 5, 2025, in South China's Henan Province.

Source: [Ministry of National Defence, PRC](#)

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin in Beijing on November 4, 2025.

Source: [Official X Handle/Mao Ning MFA PRC Spokesperson](#)

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Abstract

On November 17, 2025, during his remarks at a defence dialogue in New Delhi, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi stated that since the October 2024 meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi in Kazan, relations between India and China have improved significantly. Gen. Dwivedi stressed the importance of coordinated diplomacy, emphasising that political directives aligned with defence diplomacy have become an instrument of “smart power” for maintaining stability along the border.

Meanwhile, on November 14, 2025, Indian Air Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, announced that the Mudh-Nyoma Air Base has been operationalised in Ladakh and a C-130J transport aircraft had landed at the facility, strengthening India's operational capability along the border with China.

On November 21, 2025, a woman hailing from India's state of Arunachal Pradesh was detained at Shanghai airport after the Chinese authorities refused to recognise her Indian passport during a transit halt. As India protested China's arbitrary detention of its citizen, China reiterated that it “does not recognise Arunachal Pradesh illegally set up by India” and that “Zangnan (Arunachal Pradesh) is China's territory”. Reacting to this, India asserted that “Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and no amount of denial by the Chinese side is going to change this indisputable reality”.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump held a phone conversation on November 24, 2025. In his remarks, President Xi elaborated on his successful meeting with President Trump in Busan, noting that it has provided forward momentum to the China-US relationship, sending a positive message to the world. Major issues discussed by President Xi included creating new avenues for cooperation, Taiwan's return to China as an integral part of the post-World War II international order, and Beijing's support for all efforts to end the Ukraine conflict.

Analysts in China have observed that the recent trade agreement between Washington and Beijing will temporarily de-escalate tensions; however, China has no illusion about the US's fundamental hostility towards it. This implies that “China will follow its own path of modernisation”, and it will not be on US terms.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan on November 7, 2025, triggered a war of words between Japan and China. In her remarks in the Japanese Parliament, PM Takaichi asserted that a Taiwan contingency could constitute a “survival-threatening situation” for Japan (which could require Tokyo to exercise its right to collective self-defence and intervene militarily). Reacting sharply, an editorial by the People’s Daily warned that “China will not tolerate Japanese provocation on the Taiwan question”, emphasising that such remarks represent an interference in China’s internal affairs, a violation of the one-China principle, and a challenge to the post-World War II international order.

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, reiterated the importance of Europe's strategic autonomy in an era of seismic change in global order. She expressed concerns about certain powers “exerting control and coercion over other countries and industries by exerting chokeholds on them”. The European Union is in a state of crisis and is caught between the US and China, as demonstrated by the Dutch seizure of Chinese chipmaker Nexperia under pressure from the US. Following the Xi-Trump meeting in Busan, analysts expressed concern that President Trump had cut a deal with China on the future of Nexperia, leaving Europe blindsided.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang addressed the 20th G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 23, 2025. As the world economy faces major challenges such as unilateralism and protectionism, as well as escalating trade restrictions and confrontations, Premier Li urged G20 member-states to promote international solidarity and cooperation. He called upon all parties to safeguard free trade and build an open world economy.

US President Donald Trump did not attend the G20 Summit, accusing the South African government of human rights abuses against “Afrikaners and other descendants of Dutch, French, and German settlers”. According to Chinese state media, the US's non-participation did not put the G20 in disarray; rather, it helped advance multilateralism as Washington stepped aside.

China’s State Council Information Office released a white paper titled "Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation in the New Era" on November 27, 2025. In this paper, the Chinese government emphasised that it had played a constructive role in multilateral arms control in the fields of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and that Beijing had complied with its obligations in accordance with international arms control treaties.

Marking a significant step in China's military modernisation, on November 5, 2025, President Xi attended the commissioning and flag-presenting ceremony of China's third aircraft carrier, "the Fujian", in Sanya, Hainan. It is China's first aircraft carrier equipped with electromagnetic catapults (EMALS).

Foreign and Security Policy

I. China-India Relations

On November 17, 2025, during his remarks at a defence dialogue in New Delhi, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi stated that since the October 2024 meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi in Kazan, relations between India and China have improved significantly.¹ Gen. Dwivedi stressed the importance of coordinated diplomacy, emphasising that political directives aligned with defence diplomacy has become an instrument of "smart power" for maintaining stability along the border. Meanwhile, on November 14, 2025, Indian Air Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, announced that Mudh-Nyoma Air Base had been operationalised in Ladakh and a C-130J transport aircraft had landed at the facility, strengthening India's operational capability along the border with China.²

Reacting to this, Chinese analysts noted that even though Mudh-Nyoma Air Base has strategic significance, it is unlikely to derail the rapprochement between Beijing and New Delhi, as China still holds an advantage in infrastructure in the area.³ China, on its part, released a video of the GJ-11 stealth attack drone flying in a formation with a manned J-20 fighter jet and J-16D electronic warfare aircraft.⁴ Reports indicated that at least three GJ-11 drone units have been operationally tested at the PLAAF's Shigatse Air Base in Tibet near China's border with India.⁵ The teaming of manned and unmanned aircraft constitutes a major paradigm shift in modern air warfare that would impact intelligence gathering and precision airstrikes.

The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission released its annual report to the US Congress on November 18, 2025. Among other things, this report shed light on China and Pakistan's coordinated disinformation campaign aimed at discrediting French Rafale fighter aircraft deployed by India to target Islamist

¹ "Political dialogue boosting border calm: Army Chief Dwivedi on defence diplomacy with China", The Economic Times, November 17, 2025

² "IAF's new Nyoma airbase near China operational, Air Chief AP Singh lands C-130J", The Economic Times, November 13, 2025

³ "India's new airbase on China border is an infrastructure upgrade, not a threat: analysts", South China Morning Post, November 23, 2025

⁴ "China's GJ-11 'mysterious dragon' stealth drone emerges as a game-changer in modern air warfare", The Economic Times, November 16, 2025

⁵ Ibid.

terror sites in Pakistan as part of “Operation Sindoor”.⁶ As Beijing seeks to expand its international arms sales, the US report emphasised that China and Pakistan attempted to discredit Rafale fighter jets, hailing the success of Pakistan's Chinese-made fighter aircraft.⁷ Pointing towards the Russia-Ukraine and India-Pakistan conflicts, Chinese analysts stressed that China’s private defence companies have ample opportunities on the global stage where affordable and reliable military equipment is in demand.⁸

On November 21, 2025, a woman hailing from India’s state of Arunachal Pradesh was detained at Shanghai airport after the Chinese authorities refused to recognise her Indian passport during a transit halt.⁹ As India protested China’s arbitrary detention of its citizen, China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated that it “does not recognise Arunachal Pradesh illegally set up by India” and that “Zangnan (Arunachal Pradesh) is China’s territory”.¹⁰ Reacting to this, India’s Ministry of External Affairs asserted that “Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and no amount of denial by the Chinese side is going to change this indisputable reality”.¹¹ Adding that, the Chinese government has been unable to explain its actions, which violate several international conventions governing international air travel, as well as their own regulations that allow visa-free transit up to 24 hours for nationals of all countries.¹²

India’s goods exports to China expanded 24.7 percent year-on-year to USD 10.03 billion in the first seven months of FY 2025-26 (April-October). India’s goods imports from China stood at USD 73.99 billion, while the trade deficit expanded to USD 64 billion during the timeframe.¹³ Indian officials informed that China-India trade is currently experiencing its “most resilient phase in recent years” at a time when global trade uncertainties have increased.¹⁴ Among other trade issues,

⁶ “How China faked ‘Rafale Kill’ narrative to push its own jets”, The Economic Times, November 19, 2025

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ “China’s private defence companies see opportunities amid growing global conflicts”, South China Morning Post, November 26, 2025

⁹ “Official Spokesperson’s response to media queries on statements made by the Chinese Foreign Ministry”, MEA India, November 25, 2025

¹⁰ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning’s Regular Press Conference on November 25, 2025”, MFA PRC, November 25, 2025

¹¹ “Official Spokesperson’s response to media queries on statements made by the Chinese Foreign Ministry”, MEA India, November 25, 2025

¹² Ibid.

¹³ “India's exports to China climb for 7 straight months in FY26, help New Delhi soften US tariff blow”, The Economic Times, November 22, 2025

¹⁴ Ibid.

reports indicated that Chinese New Energy Vehicle (NEV) companies, such as BYD, MG, Volvo, and Xpeng, have increased their share of India's growing passenger electric vehicle (EV) market, claiming nearly a third of it.¹⁵

India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, addressed the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in Moscow on November 18, 2025. In his remarks, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar spoke about SCO's founding mission of combating the evils of terrorism, separatism, and extremism, and urged the world to adopt a policy of "zero tolerance" towards all forms of terrorism.¹⁶ Chinese Premier Li Qiang, on his part, urged SCO member-states to jointly implement President Xi's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) to address global challenges. Major issues discussed by him included building an open and inclusive global economy, establishing the SCO Development Bank, upholding multilateralism and promoting universal security, and stimulating innovation.¹⁷

On November 19, 2025, India's Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and China's Special Envoy for Climate Change Liu Zhenmin held a meeting on the margins of the UN Climate Conference (COP 30) in Belem, Brazil. They discussed coordination between Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) at the ongoing COP 30 Summit, with a particular focus on maintaining the integrity of the Paris Climate Agreement.¹⁸ According to analysts, a thaw in China-India relations could help the two countries expand their clean energy cooperation, which could positively impact Asia's decarbonisation trajectory.¹⁹ Brazil, the host of COP 30, praised India and China for their transformative role in the global green energy transition, stressing that the two countries have embraced climate action in governance and are driving down the cost of clean energy technologies worldwide.²⁰

¹⁵ "Chinese companies rapidly become strong contenders in India EV market", The Economic Times, November 16, 2025

¹⁶ "Remarks by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting, Moscow (November 18, 2025)", MEA India, November 18, 2025

¹⁷ "Chinese premier says SCO can play greater role in promoting good global governance", State Council PRC, November 19, 2025

¹⁸ "Bhupender Yadav holds talks with ministers China, Cuba, Germany, Denmark on COP sidelines", The Economic Times, November 20, 2025

¹⁹ "At Cop30, India and China align on climate as ties thaw", South China Morning Post, November 23, 2025

²⁰ "India, China leading global clean energy transition: COP30 President", The Economic Times, November 11, 2025

Among other developments, Chinese observers noted that QUAD's "limping status" may become the norm as US-India relations remain volatile and the group continues to have multiple structural contradictions.²¹

II. China-South Asia Relations

Pakistan's Navy Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf informed that the first batch of Hangor-class submarines will enter service with the Pakistani Navy in 2026, highlighting the deepening trend of China-Pakistan defence cooperation. In addition to submarines, the Type 054A/P multirole frigates constitute a major part of the China-Pakistan defence partnership.²²

Bangladesh also continues to deepen its ties with China under the leadership of Interim Leader Muhammad Yunus. Through trade, infrastructure, and military ties with both Bangladesh and Pakistan, China seeks to counter India's rise in South Asia. Analysts noted that Dhaka has pivoted toward Beijing with major investments, including the control of Mongla Port. This development poses a risk to India's security and requires urgent diplomatic recalibration.²³

III. China-United States Relations

Following the economic and trade dialogue in Kuala Lumpur in October 2025, China and the US have begun implementing their trade agreement.²⁴ Both sides have adjusted multiple tariff and non-tariff measures, and China has increased its purchase of US soybeans.²⁵ Continuing the high-level engagement between the two countries, Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump held a phone conversation on November 24, 2025. In his remarks, President Xi elaborated on his successful meeting with President Trump in Busan, noting that this meeting has given forward momentum to the China-US relationship, sending a positive message to the world.²⁶ Xi maintained that China-US relations should

²¹ "Quad's political coldness risks making its limping status the norm", Global Times, November 7, 2025

²² "Exclusive: First batch of submarines under China-Pakistan cooperation project to enter service next year, says Pakistani naval chief", Global Times, November 2, 2025

²³ "Bangladesh Now Aligns With China, India Worries", Fair Observer, October 26, 2025

²⁴ "China, US to implement trade consensus reached in Kuala Lumpur consultations", People's Daily, November 6, 2025

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ "Xi says China, U.S. should keep up momentum in ties, move forward in right direction", People's Daily, November 25, 2025

be based on mutual respect, mutual benefit, and equality.²⁷ Major issues discussed by President Xi included creating new avenues for cooperation, Taiwan's return to China as an integral part of the post-World War II international order, and Beijing's support for all efforts to end the Ukraine conflict.²⁸

President Trump, on his part, informed that the two sides discussed the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Fentanyl, and soybeans, and noted that the US and China have made progress in implementing their trade agreement.²⁹ It has been reported that President Xi has invited President Trump for a visit to Beijing in April 2026, while the US will host the Chinese President later in 2026.³⁰

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan triggered a war of words between Japan and China on November 7, 2025. In her remarks in the Japanese Parliament, PM Takaichi asserted that a Taiwan contingency could constitute a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan, which would require Tokyo to exercise its right to collective self-defence and intervene militarily.³¹ Reacting sharply, the People's Daily editorial warned that "China will not tolerate Japanese provocation on the Taiwan question", emphasising that such remarks represent an interference in China's internal affairs, a violation of the one-China principle, and a challenge to the post-World War II international order.³² Adding that, PM Takaichi's statement reflects a disturbing attempt to revive Japanese militarism, which committed countless atrocities against the Chinese people during the 20th century.³³

In the midst of the war of words between China and Japan, President Xi and President Trump spoke by telephone. Reports claimed that the US has asked Japan to lower its volume on Taiwan³⁴; however, the Japanese government has denied such reports.³⁵ It is to be noted that, on November 2, 2025, during an interview, President Trump had emphasised that China is aware of the potential

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Donald J. Trump, Official Truth Social Handle, November 24, 2025

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ "Takaichi's provocation on Taiwan Question is never tolerated", People's Daily, November 14, 2025

³² Ibid.

³³ "Heightened vigilance required over Japan's dangerous strategic drift", People's Daily, November 18, 2025

³⁴ "Trump, After Call With China's Xi, Told Tokyo to Lower the Volume on Taiwan", The Wall Street Journal, November 27, 2025

³⁵ "Japan denies report that Trump told PM not to provoke China on Taiwan", The Economic Times, November 27, 2025

consequences should the PLA invade Taiwan.³⁶ Taiwan, on its part, pledged to increase its defence budget to 5 percent by 2030, along with a USD 40 billion supplementary defence package.³⁷ China cautioned Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) against “kowtowing” to foreign powers, as this may put Taiwan at risk.³⁸ Reacting to these developments, Chinese state media emphasised that the consensus between China and the US on issues such as Taiwan has become even more important due to Japan's intent to create risks in the region.³⁹

China and the US held two key trade-related meetings in November 2025. First, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met a delegation of US business executives on November 11, while China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao held a meeting with US Ambassador to China David Perdue on November 20, 2025. The Chinese side reiterated its concerns about a range of US policies, including unilateral tariffs, export controls, restrictions on two-way investment, tougher visa screenings, and restrictive clauses in agreements with third parties.⁴⁰ Beijing urged Washington to view trade as the “engine of US-China relations and not as a stumbling block”.⁴¹

Despite the successful Xi-Trump meeting in Busan, the US members of the House of Representatives continue to advocate for tighter controls on chip exports to China.⁴² Analysts in China observed that the recent trade agreement between Washington and Beijing will temporarily de-escalate tensions; however, China has no illusion about the US's fundamental hostility towards it. Adding that “China will follow its own path of modernisation”, and it will not be on US terms.⁴³

President Trump hosted leaders of five Central Asian countries for the C5+1 Summit at the White House on November 5, 2025, amid escalating strategic competition with China regarding critical minerals.⁴⁴ The US intends to reduce its

³⁶ “Trump says Xi understands ‘consequences’ if Beijing takes Taiwan”, [South China Morning Post](#), November 3, 2025

³⁷ “Lai's 'defence' spending, flattery of Japan slammed”, [China Daily](#), November 27, 2025

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ “A steady China-US consensus becomes ever more crucial as Japan keeps creating risks: Global Times editorial”, [Global Times](#), November 26, 2025

⁴⁰ “Chinese commerce minister calls for deeper US-China cooperation on trade”, [South China Morning Post](#), November 21, 2025

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² “US officials call for tougher chip rules to limit China's gains”, [South China Morning Post](#), November 21, 2025

⁴³ “Opinion | China will find its own modernisation path, not on US terms”, [South China Morning Post](#), November 2, 2025

⁴⁴ “Trump hosts Central Asian leaders as US eyes sources for critical minerals”, [South China Morning Post](#), November 7, 2025

dependence on Chinese rare-earths in the event that trade tensions between the two countries escalate once again.⁴⁵ Following the US's outreach to Central Asia, Wang Yi, the Director of China's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, visited Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan from November 19-22, 2025, to deepen China's economic and political engagement in Central Asia.⁴⁶ Analysts anticipate that the US-China geostrategic competition will continue for decades, as both countries strive to be number one, and this invariably leads to rivalry between them.⁴⁷

The US and China held their second round of maritime security discussions in 2025 in Hawaii from November 18-20, 2025. The meeting kept military-to-military communication on track despite recurring tensions in the East and South China Seas.⁴⁸

Among other developments, while the US military has exerted pressure on Venezuela for trafficking drugs into the US, President Xi reaffirmed China's support for President Nicolas Maduro in safeguarding Venezuela's sovereignty.⁴⁹

IV. China-European Union Relations

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, emphasised the importance of Europe's strategic autonomy in an era of seismic change in global order.⁵⁰ She expressed concerns about certain powers "exerting control and coercion over other countries and industries by exerting chokeholds on them".⁵¹ The European Union is in a state of crisis and is caught between the US and China, as demonstrated by the Dutch seizure of Chinese chipmaker Nexperia under pressure from the US.⁵² Following the Xi-Trump meeting in Busan, analysts expressed concern that President Trump had cut a deal with China on the future

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ "China Strengthens Regional Ties with Wang Yi's Central Asia Tour", CGTN, November 23, 2025

⁴⁷ "China-US trade rivalry will last for 'next 50 years', warns ex-WTO head", South China Morning Post, November 10, 2025

⁴⁸ "China, US hold 'candid' maritime security talks amid Japan, South China Sea tensions", South China Morning Post, November 22, 2025

⁴⁹ "Xi pledges support for Maduro, criticises US actions in Venezuela", South China Morning Post, November 25, 2025

⁵⁰ "Caught between China and the US, Europe stumbles towards its independence day", South China Morning Post, October 28, 2025

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² "7 minutes on Asia: Europe's struggle for relevance in the age of China and Trump's G2", South China Morning Post, November 7, 2025

of Nexperia, leaving Europe blindsided.⁵³ In light of the widening geoeconomic competition, Brussels is preparing to unveil its new “economic security doctrine”, which will allow the EU to move more quickly and asymmetrically when China, the US, or any other power exploits Europe's vulnerabilities.⁵⁴

On November 7, 2025, Hsiao Bi-khim, the Vice President of Taiwan, delivered a speech at the European Parliament in Brussels. In her remarks, Hsiao Bi-khim advocated closer ties between Europe and Taiwan, emphasising the importance of cross-strait stability not only for regional stability but also for global prosperity.⁵⁵ Reacting to this, China's Mission to the European Union expressed opposition to Hsiao, a “key Taiwan separatist” addressing the European Parliament, and urged Brussels to cease supporting “Taiwan separatists”.⁵⁶ On November 3, 2025, during a phone conversation with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, Wang Yi, the Director of China's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, urged Berlin to support China's national reunification, as Beijing had unconditionally supported Germany's reunification.⁵⁷ Director Wang Yi urged China and Germany to enhance communication, noting that the two countries have different histories, cultures, and social systems, making differences unavoidable.⁵⁸

German Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil visited China on November 17, 2025, for a high-level China-Germany Financial Dialogue. Reacting to this meeting, an editorial in the Global Times emphasised that while some voices in Europe are pushing the “decoupling” narrative, the China-Germany dialogue affirmed that both sides are committed to expanding two-way market access, improving international economic governance, and supporting multilateral trade.⁵⁹ It is to be noted that German businesses, from auto to chemicals, are ignoring government pleas and pouring billions into new projects that tie them even closer to the Chinese economy despite the EU's concerns about China's trade and economic practices.⁶⁰

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ “As US-China rivalry redefines economic warfare, Europe scrambles for its dictionary”, South China Morning Post, November 24, 2025

⁵⁵ “Beijing protests after Taiwan’s No 2 leader makes shock speech at European Parliament”, South China Morning Post, November 8, 2025

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ “Pain of division: Germany urged to oppose Taiwan separatism as Beijing welcomes diplomat”, South China Morning Post, November 4, 2025

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ “The normal and unusual aspects of German vice chancellor’s China visit: Global Times editorial”, Global Times, November 17, 2025

⁶⁰ “Germany Is Just Making Too Much Money in China to Back Away Now”, Bloomberg, November 16, 2025

Among other developments, three European countries, namely Denmark, Norway, and the UK, have reportedly launched a "security investigation" into Chinese-manufactured electric buses, claiming that these vehicles could be "remotely deactivated". In light of this, Chinese state media outlets stressed that Chinese electric vehicles are serving as "welcoming ambassadors" at COP 30 in Brazil, so how can this pose a security risk for certain European countries? Adding that, Europe must address its political biases and strategic apprehensions regarding China.⁶¹

V. China-Russia Relations

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin visited China on November 3-4, 2025, and held meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang. In his remarks, President Xi reiterated China's commitment to Russia, calling it Beijing's "strategic choice".⁶² Both sides agreed to deepen their cooperation in the areas of local currency settlement, energy trade, investment, agriculture, lunar exploration, as well as customs and air traffic management.⁶³ Despite the threat of Western sanctions, China's imports of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) surged to an all-time high in October 2025.⁶⁴

Russia's Defence Minister Andrey Belousov and General Zhang Youxia, first-ranked Vice-Chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC), held a meeting in Moscow on November 20, 2025. As the US advances the development of its 'Golden Dome Missile Defence System' and advances nuclear weapons testing, the two sides agreed to deepen defence cooperation in areas such as missile defence and strategic stability.⁶⁵ It was agreed that they would deepen their military relations based on mutual respect and understanding of each other's interests.⁶⁶ China and Russia shared details of their joint submarine exercise held in the Sea of Japan earlier in 2025. The exercise demonstrated high levels of strategic mutual trust between China and Russia and sent a strong message to the

⁶¹ "Europe's anxieties should not be blamed on Chinese electric buses: Global Times editorial", Global Times, November 10, 2025

⁶² "Xi calls it a 'strategic choice' to deepen ties in meeting with Russian PM", South China Morning Post, November 4, 2025

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ "China buys Russian LNG at record-high levels, steep discounts as West retreats", South China Morning Post, November 20, 2025

⁶⁵ "China, Russia generals pledge deeper military ties, eye missile defence cooperation", South China Morning Post, November 21, 2025

⁶⁶ Ibid.

US that underwater dominance in the Western Pacific will not be monopolised by a single nation.⁶⁷

Russia and China remain in close contact about the US's diplomatic efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine. In light of this, analysts noted that Beijing has very little leverage over the US-led peace talks in Ukraine; China's interests lie in post-war reconstruction.⁶⁸

VI. G20 Summit

Chinese Premier Li Qiang addressed the 20th G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 23, 2025. As the world economy faces major challenges such as unilateralism and protectionism, as well as escalating trade restrictions and confrontations, Premier Li urged the G20 member-states to promote international solidarity and cooperation.⁶⁹ He urged all parties to safeguard free trade and build an open world economy.⁷⁰ Major issues discussed by the Chinese Premier included upholding multilateralism, accelerating reforms in institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, and WTO to enhance the voice of the Global South, supporting efforts to reduce the debt difficulties faced by developing countries, and supporting Africa's modernisation.⁷¹

US President Donald Trump did not attend the G20 Summit, accusing the South African government of human rights abuses against "Afrikaners and other descendants of Dutch, French, and German settlers".⁷² According to Chinese state media, the US's non-participation did not put the G20 in disarray; rather, it helped advance multilateralism as Washington stepped aside.⁷³

⁶⁷ "Russia and China 'shared sonar data' in submarine exercise that sent message to US", South China Morning Post, November 1, 2025

⁶⁸ "China eyes Ukraine rebuilding as strategic entry point, as it waits in wings of peace talks", South China Morning Post, November 26, 2025

⁶⁹ "Li Qiang Attends the First Session of the 20th G20 Summit and Delivers a Speech", MFA PRC, November 22, 2025

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² "Trump reveals why US skipped G20 Summit in South Africa: Killing white people", Hindustan Times, November 29, 2025

⁷³ "G20 in Johannesburg: Multilateralism advances as the US steps aside", Global Times, November 23, 2025

Internal Developments

Key Developments and Addresses by Chinese Leaders

Ahead of the United Nations Climate Conference (COP 30) in Brazil, China's State Council released a white paper titled "Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality: China's Plans and Solutions" on November 8, 2025.⁷⁴ In this paper, Beijing emphasised that, over the past five years, it has accelerated green socio-economic development by coordinating efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, and pursue economic growth.⁷⁵ Adding that, as part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China continues to play an active role in global climate governance.⁷⁶ Among the major issues discussed were achieving the Paris Climate Agreement Nationally Determined Contributions, building green infrastructure, including energy and transportation systems, embracing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and supporting countries in the Global South in their transition to a green economy.⁷⁷

China's Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) will launch island-wide special customs operations on December 18, 2025. In light of this, President Xi attended a briefing on the development of the Hainan FTP in Sanya, where he reviewed a work report and subsequently offered his remarks. Xi noted that Hainan FTP is a key part of the CPC's policy of comprehensively deepening reform and advancing opening up in the new era that would promote the development of an open world economy.⁷⁸ President Xi also visited Guangdong province in South China and called for a comprehensive deepening of reform and the high-quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.⁷⁹

The Chinese government published an updated version of the 'Study Outline on Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy' on November 28, 2025. China's diplomacy will adhere to the principles of self-confidence and self-reliance, openness and

⁷⁴ "Full text: Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality China's Plans and Solutions", People's Daily, November 8, 2025

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ "Xi stresses adopting high standards for building Hainan Free Trade Port", People's Daily, November 6, 2025

⁷⁹ "Xi urges deepening reform, opening up during Guangdong inspection tour", People's Daily, November 8, 2025

inclusiveness, justice and fairness, and collaborate with others to make China a great modern socialist nation.⁸⁰

On November 28, 2025, President Xi chaired a CPC Political Bureau meeting to review a report of the 20th CPC Central Committee's disciplinary inspection missions. In his remarks, President Xi urged CPC officials at all levels to study and implement the guiding principles of the Party's fourth plenary session, and maintain high vigilance against corruption.⁸¹ In another CPC Political Bureau group study session, Xi emphasised the importance of improving cyberspace governance by cultivating a clean, healthy, and sound online environment.⁸²

On November 9, 2025, President Xi addressed the opening ceremony of China's National Games held in Shenzhen, Guangdong province. Xi noted that sports and public health play a significant role in China's modernisation and that the government is committed to developing China into a sports powerhouse and promoting fitness to improve public health.⁸³

Trade and Economy

The proposals of the CPC Central Committee for China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030) underscore the significance of developing a modern industrial system while ensuring a balanced and sustainable role for the manufacturing sector. Beijing believes hollowing out the manufacturing base could lead to de-industrialisation, which is very difficult to reverse, as the US is currently experiencing.⁸⁴

China's National Bureau of Statistics informed that the nation's economy demonstrated resilience in October 2025, despite facing mounting challenges, and remains on course to meet its annual development targets.⁸⁵ AI-driven digital and intelligent manufacturing is playing an increasingly important role in China's

⁸⁰ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning's Regular Press Conference on November 28, 2025", MFA PRC, November 28, 2025

⁸¹ "Xi chairs CPC meeting to review report on central discipline inspection", People's Daily, November 28, 2025

⁸² "Xi stresses improving long-term mechanisms for cyberspace governance", People's Daily, November 29, 2025

⁸³ "Xi leads China's drive for building sports powerhouse", People's Daily, November 10, 2025

⁸⁴ "China's vow to shield manufacturing aims to ward off industrial decline", South China Morning Post, November 7, 2025

⁸⁵ "China's economy sustains momentum in October, solidifying confidence in hitting annual targets", People's Daily, November 15, 2025

economy.⁸⁶ Despite higher US tariffs, China's foreign trade remained resilient in the first ten months of 2025, expanding 3.6 percent to CNY 37.31 trillion (USD 5.27 trillion).⁸⁷

On November 5, 2025, Premier Li Qiang addressed the China International Import Expo (CIIE) held in Shanghai. In his remarks, Premier Li reiterated Beijing's commitment to promoting high-quality growth and high-level opening up, which would make new contributions to global economic growth.⁸⁸

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced on November 5, 2025, that the Chinese Yuan would be added as a settlement currency in the IATA Clearing House (ICH), marking a significant step in the Yuan's internationalisation.⁸⁹ Reacting to this, analysts noted that since aviation is one of the most globally integrated industries, Yuan's inclusion in the IATA Clearing House (ICH) indicates its growing acceptance by key international industries.⁹⁰

Defence and Security

China's State Council Information Office released a white paper titled "Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation in the New Era" on November 27, 2025.⁹¹ In this paper, the Chinese government emphasised that it had played a constructive role in multilateral arms control in the fields of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and that it had complied with its obligations in accordance with international arms control treaties.⁹² Major issues discussed in the white paper included China's nuclear policy of no-first use of nuclear weapons, upholding a rational and pragmatic approach to nuclear disarmament, promoting nuclear non-proliferation through political and diplomatic efforts, advancing peaceful use of nuclear energy, fulfilling obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and fully supporting global conventional arms control.⁹³

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ "China's foreign trade shows resilience with steady growth in first 10 months", People's Daily, November 8, 2025

⁸⁸ "Chinese premier reaffirms commitment to opening up at import expo", People's Daily, November 5, 2025

⁸⁹ "China's yuan added to aviation settlements in boost to internationalisation", South China Morning Post, November 6, 2025

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ "Full text: China's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era", The State Council PRC, November 27, 2025

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

Marking a significant step in China's military modernisation, on November 5, 2025, President Xi attended the commissioning and flag-presenting ceremony of China's third aircraft carrier, "the Fujian", in Sanya, Hainan.⁹⁴ It is China's first aircraft carrier equipped with electromagnetic catapults (EMALS).⁹⁵ Amidst the widening strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific, Fujian will enable the PLA to better sustain its air operations with a higher sortie generation rate with fighter aircraft such as the J-35, J-15T, J-15D (Electronic Warfare), and KJ-600 Early Warning aircraft.⁹⁶ Commenting on the Fujian carrier's electromagnetic catapult system, PLA Navy's Rear Admiral Ma Weiming shed light on "China's intent to take the lead in building cutting-edge defence systems and overtake the Americans".⁹⁷ China's first electromagnetic catapult-equipped Type 076 amphibious assault ship, "the Sichuan", also embarked on its maiden sea trial on November 14, 2025.⁹⁸

On November 25, 2025, Lingkong Tianxing Technology, a Chinese privately owned aerospace company, released a video of the YKJ-1000 hypersonic missile (Mach 7) striking a target. It has been reported that this "low-cost" hypersonic missile is already in mass production, indicating a shift in military technology and the dynamics of the defence industry.⁹⁹

Amidst China-Japan tensions over PM Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan, Japan announced a plan to deploy Type 03 Chu-SAM missiles on Yonaguni Island, located in the Okinawa Prefecture, in proximity to Taiwan. Reacting sharply, the Chinese state media warned Japan that by deploying offensive weapon systems near Taiwan, Tokyo is reviving its "dormant militarism", which should concern regional countries and the international community.¹⁰⁰

China-Philippines tensions in the South China Sea continued. On November 16, 2025, in response to the Philippines' joint patrols with the US and Japan, the PLA

⁹⁴ "Xi attends commissioning of China's Fujian aircraft carrier in south China", People's Daily, November 7, 2025

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ "Meet Ma Weiming, the Chinese naval engineering genius behind the Fujian aircraft carrier catapult", South China Morning Post, November 13, 2025

⁹⁸ "China's first electromagnetic catapult-equipped Type 076 amphibious assault ship Sichuan starts maiden sea trial, indicating smooth progress", Global Times, November 14, 2025

⁹⁹ "90% cost cut: Chinese civilian firm enters mass production of Mach 7 hypersonic missiles", South China Morning Post, November 25, 2025

¹⁰⁰ "Deploying missiles on the island: The specter of militarism haunts Japan: Global Times editorial", Global Times, November 25, 2025

Southern Theatre Command conducted a bomber formation patrol in the South China Sea.¹⁰¹ The Ministry of National Defence of China asserted that the underlying cause of tensions in the SCS is the Philippines' engagement of external forces in military exercises within the region, actions perceived as provocative by China.¹⁰²

Technology

Highlighting China's intensified efforts to deploy Humanoid Robots in the real world, UBTech Robotics has secured a contract to deploy Humanoid's (industrial-grade Walker S2 Robot) at China-Vietnam border crossings.¹⁰³ Reports indicate that the Walker S2 Robot can replace its own battery and perform tasks such as guiding travellers, conducting inspections, and handling logistics.¹⁰⁴ UBTech plans to double its production of Humanoid robots to 10,000 in 2027 from 5,000 in 2026, reducing production costs every year.¹⁰⁵

Besides robotics, the development of the country's low-altitude economy constitutes a key part of China's pursuit of cultivating "new quality productive forces". Low-altitude logistics is helping the country's e-commerce sector to grow by using drones.¹⁰⁶

During the 2025 World Internet Conference held in Wuzhen, the Chinese Academy of Cyberspace Studies released a report highlighting that China had taken the top spot globally in 6G patent applications, with 40.3 percent of the world's 6G patent applications.¹⁰⁷

The Shenzhou-21 spacecraft brought back the first set of "lunar soil bricks" to Earth after experiments on China's space station. A People's Daily report noted that this

¹⁰¹ "PLA Southern Theatre Command holds bomber formation patrol in South China Sea: spokesperson", Global Times, November 16, 2025

¹⁰² "Regular Press Briefing of the Ministry of National Defence on November 7, 2025", MND PRC, November 7, 2025

¹⁰³ "UBTech wins US\$37 million deal to deploy humanoid robots at China-Vietnam border crossings", South China Morning Post, November 25, 2025

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ "UBTech's 2026 humanoid robot output to grow 10-fold as costs plunge with scale economics", South China Morning Post, November 19, 2025

¹⁰⁶ "Low-altitude logistics takes off in China", People's Daily, November 24, 2025

¹⁰⁷ "China world leader in 6G patent applications: report", China Daily, November 9, 2025

inches China closer towards its goal of landing an astronaut on the Moon by 2030 and constructing an International Lunar Research Station by 2035.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁸ “Chinese “lunar soil bricks” return from space, paving way for construction on moon”, People’s Daily, November 19, 2025



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