



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## China Monitor

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#### *Authors*

Biren Nanda  
Sanket Joshi



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### ABOUT US

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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 Photographs:

*Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, met Wang Yi, Director of China's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 18, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Dr. S. Jaishankar](#)*

*US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru on November 16, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/President Biden](#)*

*Chinese aircraft carriers Liaoning and Shandong conducted a dual-carrier exercise for the first time in the South China Sea on October 31, 2024. Source: [Xinhua News Agency](#)*

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**Delhi Policy Group**

Core 5A, 1st Floor,

India Habitat Centre,

Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.

[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)

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## Abstract

On November 7, 2024, the Indian Army confirmed that as per the consensus reached between India and China on October 21, 2024, the disengagement of troops at Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh had been completed. The two sides have resumed patrolling without obstructions or objections from either side.

Meanwhile, continuing the high-level engagements between India and China, India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and the Director of China's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 18, 2024. Both sides acknowledged that disengagement had contributed to peace and tranquility on the border and discussed the next steps in bilateral relations, including a meeting of the Special Representatives and the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism.

Further, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun met on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Laos on November 20, 2024. The two sides agreed to work together towards a roadmap for rebuilding mutual trust and understanding.

President Xi congratulated Donald Trump on his election as President of the United States on November 7, 2024. Xi stated, "history teaches that China and the US gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation", urging both sides to uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation. However, most analysts believe that the US-China relationship is in a "more challenging place" following Donald Trump's election victory.

According to Chinese media reports, President-elect Trump is likely to continue the US's pushback against globalisation and curb China's technological advancement. Beijing should prepare for "a new battleground" focusing on industrial capacity, where the US uses tariffs to bar imports and its large market as a carrot to attract foreign investment.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden met on the margins of the 31<sup>st</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru, on November 16, 2024. In his remarks, Xi reiterated the need for the US to develop a correct strategic perception of China, match words with actions, treat each other as equals, refrain from challenging China's red lines (Taiwan, democracy and human rights, political system, and development rights), and share global responsibilities for peace.

Beijing and Washington remain at odds over US arms sales to Taiwan. On November 15, 2024, China's Ministry of National Defence expressed concern over the delivery of HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) units to Taiwan, warning the US that its dangerous actions undermine peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun rejected a meeting with US Defence Secretary Austin at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Laos.

President Biden's authorisation for Ukraine to use long-range US weapons against Russia marked a major escalation in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. On November 19, 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree that enables Moscow to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states such as Ukraine if nuclear powers support them. The Chinese Foreign Ministry responded to these developments by reaffirming its support for de-escalation, ceasefire, and political settlement of the Ukraine conflict.

President Xi addressed the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 18, 2024. He urged member states to channel more resources to facilitate the modernisation of developing countries, avoid the "small yard high fences" approach (sanctions and decoupling), and improve global governance to promote a multipolar world and inclusive economic globalisation.

President Xi also addressed the 31st Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Lima, Peru, on November 16, 2024. He reiterated concerns about rising "unilateralism and protectionism" and urged Asia-Pacific countries to deepen their cooperation, fully deliver on Putrajaya Vision 2040, and create a community with a shared future in the region.

Before the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, President Xi met Peru's President Dina Boluarte in Lima on November 14, 2024. The two leaders inaugurated 'Chancay Port', a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that is reportedly the first smart port in South America. An editorial in Global Times emphasised that the new port will accelerate economic and trade cooperation "from Chancay to Shanghai", which will benefit South America and the Global South.

Tensions between China and the Philippines persisted. On November 8, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed two laws, the "Maritime Zones Act" and the "Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act", strengthening the country's maritime claims in the South China Sea. Beijing rejected these acts as a violation of its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights, and published

territorial baselines around Huangyan Dao (Scarborough Shoal), a disputed atoll in the South China Sea. Earlier, on October 31, 2024, Chinese aircraft carriers Liaoning and Shandong conducted their first dual-carrier formation exercise in the South China Sea, demonstrating combat capabilities for complex missions.

On November 8, 2024, China approved a CNY 10 trillion (USD 1.4 trillion) plan to refinance local governments' debts to boost the country's flagging economy.

## Foreign and Security Policy

### I. China-India Relations

On November 7, 2024, the Indian Army confirmed that as per the consensus reached between India and China on October 21, 2024, the disengagement of troops at Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh had been completed.<sup>1</sup> The two sides have resumed patrolling without obstructions or objections from either side.<sup>2</sup> However, due to long-standing territorial disputes and a lack of mutual trust with China, India continues to maintain a strong military presence (more than 50,000 security personnel) in Ladakh during winter months.<sup>3</sup> To enhance operational readiness along the border with China, India's Ministry of Defence has sought environmental clearances to build additional ammunition storage capacity in Ladakh.<sup>4</sup> The Indian government has also approved a budget of INR 28,229 crore for the construction of the 1,637 km long 'Arunachal Frontier Highway', which will connect 12 districts in the state along the LAC.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi stated that the PLA Navy's dual carrier operation in the South China Sea and its activities in the Indian Ocean Region "do not cause us any concern" as the Indian Navy has a robust maritime domain awareness mechanism to ensure national interests are not compromised.<sup>6</sup>

India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and the Director of China's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 18, 2024. Both sides acknowledged that disengagement had contributed to peace and tranquility on the border and discussed the next steps in bilateral relations, including a meeting of the Special Representatives and the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism.<sup>7</sup> EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar informed Director Wang Yi that India remains committed to a "multipolar world", including a "multipolar Asia", and that the country's foreign

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<sup>1</sup> ADG-PI Indian Army, Official X Handle Indian Army, November 07, 2024

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> "50,000 troops to keep up the heat in Ladakh winters", The Economic Times, November 19, 2024

<sup>4</sup> "Defence forces seek green nod for ammo storage in Ladakh", The Economic Times, November 08, 2024

<sup>5</sup> "Centre sanctioned Rs 28,229 crore to build Arunachal Frontier Highway along LAC", The Economic Times, November 27, 2024

<sup>6</sup> "India has effective mechanism to monitor oceans: Navy chief", The Economic Times, November 09, 2024

<sup>7</sup> "External Affairs Minister's meeting with Member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Political Bureau and Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Wang Yi on the sidelines of G20 Summit", MEA India, November 19, 2024

policy is characterised by independent thought and action that opposes unilateral approaches to establish dominance.<sup>8</sup> Major issues discussed by him included the resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrimage, the sharing of data on trans-border rivers, the resumption of direct flights, media exchanges, and cooperation in G20, BRICS, and SCO framework.<sup>9</sup>

Director Wang Yi noted that the resumption of China-India relations is in line with the fundamental interests of the two countries and the expectations of the Global South.<sup>10</sup> He added that the two countries' interests outweigh their differences and they should regard each other as development partners and promote the process of "world multipolarisation".<sup>11</sup> Wang Yi also called for enhancing mutual trust through dialogue, managing differences, resuming direct flights, exchanging journalists, pursuing a non-aligned foreign policy, supporting the democratisation of International Relations, and strengthening coordination in BRICS and SCO.<sup>12</sup>

Continuing high-level strategic engagements, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun on the sidelines of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Lao PDR on November 20, 2024.<sup>13</sup> The two sides agreed to work together towards a roadmap for rebuilding mutual trust and understanding.<sup>14</sup> Defence Minister Rajnath Singh urged the two sides to reflect on the lessons learnt from the unfortunate border clashes of 2020 and "focus on cooperation rather than conflict".<sup>15</sup>

Reacting to a thaw in China-India relations, an editorial in Global Times stressed that recent developments require sustained nurturing and consolidation, and they are indicative of a shared understanding of the importance of stability in bilateral relations.<sup>16</sup> It called on the two sides to respect and adhere to border agreements, protocols, and treaties, minimise geopolitical disruptions from third parties, and cooperate in areas such as

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> "Wang Yi met with Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar", MFA PRC, November 19, 2024

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> "Raksha Mantri meets Chinese Defence Minister on the sidelines of 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus at Vientiane, Lao PDR", PIB MoD India, November 20, 2024

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> "New developments in China-India relations require sustained nurturing and consolidation: Global Times editorial", Global Times, October 29, 2024



investments, electronics manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, electric vehicles (EVs), and solar energy.<sup>17</sup>

Amidst the widening trade and high-technology competition between China and the US, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, informed that India does not view trade tensions between the US and China as a source of benefit and stands on its strengths including a democratic system, the rule of law, and demographic dividend to pursue modernisation.<sup>18</sup>

## II. China-South Asia Relations

In the aftermath of a rising number of terror attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan, China has signed a 'Private Security and Military contract' for the protection of its engineers and workers involved in various China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. China has assigned three of its private companies, namely Dewe Security Frontier Service Group, China Overseas Security Group, and Huaxin Zhongshan Security for the joint security arrangements for safeguarding Chinese nationals in Pakistan.<sup>19</sup> The PLA has sent 300 troops to Pakistan to participate in a joint China-Pakistan anti-terrorism exercise titled "Warrior-VIII" on November 21, 2024.<sup>20</sup>

On November 25, 2024, the Bangladeshi Islamic Political Parties Friendship Delegation was hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka before leaving for Beijing at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC). During the reception, Ambassador Yao Wen stressed that this visit would strengthen party-to-party cooperation and advance the China-Bangladesh Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.<sup>21</sup>

New Chinese villages reportedly continue to come up along China's border with Bhutan and indeed, some of them fall within Bhutanese territory. One such village, Demalong, houses a community of 70 Tibetan families. These villages create new facts on the ground and buttress Chinese territorial claims.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> "India not looking for gains from US-China trade tensions: Piyush Goyal", Financial Express, October 31, 2024

<sup>19</sup> "China Plans to deploy its Troops in Pakistan for the security of its nationals", India Today, November 22, 2024

<sup>20</sup> "PLA dispatches 300 troops as terror drills begin in Pakistan", The Economic Times, November 22, 2024

<sup>21</sup> "Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh Hosts the Pre-departure Reception for the Bangladesh Islamic Political Parties Friendship Delegation", PRC Embassy in Bangladesh, November 26, 2024

Bhutanese herders no longer have access to seasonal pastures in the disputed area, and in fact, they have more competition for grazing lands in the area.<sup>22</sup>

Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli will visit China in early December 2024, bypassing a tradition in which his predecessors visited India before undertaking any other foreign visit.<sup>23</sup> Oli is expected to request a waiver for the USD 216 million loan for Pokhara International Airport, which was built with loans from the Chinese government.<sup>24</sup> The country's third international airport has not attracted any international flights since its inauguration in January 2023.<sup>25</sup>

### III. China-United States Relations

President Xi congratulated Donald Trump on his election as President of the United States on November 7, 2024.<sup>26</sup> Xi stated "history teaches that China and the US gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation", urging both sides to uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation.<sup>27</sup> A People's Daily editorial urged President-elect Trump to pursue a foreign policy aimed at promoting stable US-China relations that would advance their shared interests as well as the aspirations of the international community.<sup>28</sup>

However, analysts believe that the US-China relationship is in a "more challenging place" following Donald Trump's Presidential Election victory.<sup>29</sup> On November 25, 2024, Trump expressed concerns about China's lack of cooperation concerning curbing drugs smuggling into the US, particularly Fentanyl, and pledged to impose an additional 10 percent tariff, above any existing levies on all Chinese goods imported by the US.<sup>30</sup> The Chinese Foreign Ministry emphasised that fentanyl is the US' own problem and called on

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<sup>22</sup> "China is building new villages on its remote Himalayan border. Some appear to have crossed the line", CNN, November 05, 2024

<sup>23</sup> "Nepal PM Oli to visit China first, breaking away from practice of touring India after taking office", Firstpost, November 26, 2024

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> "No invite from India, Nepal PM Oli heads to China on first visit abroad", The Hindu, November 14, 2024

<sup>26</sup> "Xi congratulates Trump on his election as U.S. president", Xinhua, November 07, 2024

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> "Stable China-U.S. relationship serves two countries' shared interests", People's Daily, November 08, 2024

<sup>29</sup> "US-China ties in 'more challenging place' after Trump win: Singapore's PM Wong", South China Morning Post, November 8, 2024

<sup>30</sup> "China says US must 'cherish' its cooperation on fentanyl as Trump vows to add 10% tariff", South China Morning Post, November 26, 2024

President-elect Trump to maintain hard-won anti-drug cooperation between the two countries.<sup>31</sup>

According to an editorial in the South China Morning Post, President-elect Trump is likely to continue the US' pushback against globalisation and curb China's technological advancement.<sup>32</sup> Beijing was advised to prepare for "a new battleground" focusing on industrial capacity, where the US uses tariffs to bar imports and its large market as a carrot to attract foreign investment.<sup>33</sup> It warned Taiwan and the Philippines that since Trump boasts about keeping America out of wars, he expects US allies in Asia to increase their defence expenditures.<sup>34</sup> On the other hand, analysts expressed hope that the Tesla CEO Elon Musk's influence on the Trump administration could lead to more engagement between Washington and Beijing and that he could play a stabilising role in bilateral relations.<sup>35</sup>

The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission released its annual report to the US Congress on November 19, 2024. The report called on the Congress to revoke China's permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) status, a cornerstone of US-China trade since Beijing joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2001.<sup>36</sup> Further, the report recommended that Washington establish a "Manhattan Project-style" fund to outpace China in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI).<sup>37</sup>

On November 16, 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden met on the margins of the 31<sup>st</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru. Xi noted that despite ups and downs in China-US relations over the past four years, the relationship has remained stable through dialogue and cooperation.<sup>38</sup> He cautioned that Washington's "small yard, high fences" approach (sanctions on China's high-technology sector) will not succeed, emphasising that openness will advance the well-being of humanity.<sup>39</sup> President Xi called upon the US to oppose "Taiwan's independence" and

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> "Editorial | Return of Trump to White House can only mean more of the same for China", South China Morning Post, November 07, 2024

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> "In China, Elon Musk's rising star raises hopes for US engagement", South China Morning Post, November 06, 2024

<sup>36</sup> "Congressional committee advises revoking China's trade status", The Washington Post, November 19, 2024

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> "Xi meets Biden in Lima", People's Daily, November 17, 2024

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

support China's peaceful reunification.<sup>40</sup> Major issues discussed by him included the need to develop a correct strategic perception of China, matching words with actions, treating each other as equals, not challenging China's red lines (Taiwan, democracy and human rights, political system, and development rights), and sharing global responsibilities for world peace.<sup>41</sup>

President Biden, on his part, informed that the two leaders reviewed efforts over the past four years to manage competitive aspects of relations and advance cooperation in areas such as counter-narcotics, military-to-military communication, AI-related risks, climate change, and people-to-people exchanges.<sup>42</sup> Major issues addressed by him included concerns regarding China's support for the Russian military-industrial base fuelling the conflict in Ukraine, ensuring stability in the South and East China Seas, maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, concerns about China's unfair trade practices, and the importance of maintaining human control over nuclear weapons use.<sup>43</sup> The US also held a "robust conversation" with China regarding North Korea's decision to send troops to Russia, urging Beijing to take steps to curtail provocative behaviour by its close partners.<sup>44</sup>

Beijing and Washington remain at odds over US arms sales to Taiwan. On November 15, 2024, the Chinese Ministry of National Defence expressed concern over the delivery of HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) units to Taiwan, warning the US that its dangerous actions undermine peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.<sup>45</sup> Further, Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun rejected a meeting with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on the margins of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Laos.<sup>46</sup> China also urged the US not to allow Taiwanese leader Lai Ching-te to transit through the US for his visit to the Pacific Islands.<sup>47</sup>

A meeting of the US-China Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA) was held in Qingdao from November 6-8, 2024. Amidst rising tensions in the

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> "Readout of President Joe Biden's Meeting with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China", The White House, November 16, 2024

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> "US and China in 'robust conversation' on North Korea sending troops to Russia: Blinken", South China Morning Post, November 1, 2024

<sup>45</sup> "Chinese defence ministry urges U.S. to stop arming Taiwan", People's Daily, November 15, 2024

<sup>46</sup> "China rebuffs meeting with US defence secretary", CNN, November 19, 2024

<sup>47</sup> "Beijing urges US not to let Taiwan's William Lai transit through country", South China Morning Post, November 15, 2024

South China Sea, the talks focused on air and maritime operational safety practices aimed at preventing "unintended escalation".<sup>48</sup>

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) High Court on November 19, 2024, imprisoned 45 activists for up to 10 years following a trial under China-imposed national security law.<sup>49</sup> The activists were arrested for organising an unofficial "primary election" in 2020 to select candidates for the Hong Kong legislative elections. Reacting to this, the US vowed to impose new visa restrictions on HKSAR officials responsible for the implementation of national security law.<sup>50</sup>

#### IV. China-European Union Relations

On October 29, 2024, the European Commission imposed definitive countervailing duties on imports of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) from China for five years.<sup>51</sup> Maros Sefcovic, the EU's trade chief-in-waiting, reaffirmed Europe's resolve to crack down on China's industrial overcapacity with full force.<sup>52</sup> Xinhua described the EU's tariffs as a "misguided protectionist measure" that will harm consumers and impede Europe's green transition.<sup>53</sup> Amidst this, on November 19, 2024, President Xi met German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron on the margins of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Xi emphasised the need for concerted efforts to deepen China-Europe relations and urged the two sides to resolve economic and trade disputes through dialogue.<sup>54</sup>

Earlier, on November 7, 2024, during a meeting of the European Political Community held in Budapest, Hungary, French President Emmanuel Macron cautioned that the incoming Trump administration could send the European Union hurtling toward a tariff war with both the US and China.<sup>55</sup> In light of

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<sup>48</sup> "China, US militaries hold fresh talks to manage risks as South China Sea tensions grow", [South China Morning Post](#), November 09, 2024

<sup>49</sup> "Explainer | US threatens sanctions: what Hong Kong can expect after the jailing of 45 activists", [South China Morning Post](#), November 20, 2024

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> "EU imposes duties on unfairly subsidised electric vehicles from China while discussions on price undertakings continue", [European Commission](#), October 29, 2024

<sup>52</sup> "China 'most challenging trade partner', says EU's next trade chief", [South China Morning Post](#), November 05, 2024

<sup>53</sup> "Xinhua Commentary: EU tariffs on Chinese EVs unwise protectionist move serving no one's interest", [Xinhua](#), October 30, 2024

<sup>54</sup> "Xi calls for stronger China-EU ties to address challenges, more dialogues on disputes", [People's Daily](#), November 20, 2024

<sup>55</sup> "Trump could send EU hurtling toward tariff war with both US and China, Macron warns", [South China Morning Post](#), November 14, 2024

President Macron's remarks, a Xinhua report noted that Donald Trump's return to the White House could increase uncertainty in EU-US relations and that France and Germany sought to coordinate European response to this challenge.<sup>56</sup>

Kaja Kallas, who is on track to succeed Josep Borrell as the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, asserted that China must pay a "higher price" for supporting Russia's war in Ukraine.<sup>57</sup> She claimed that Russia would not be able to continue its war with the same force without China's support.<sup>58</sup> Further, the European Foreign Ministers warned Beijing on November 18, 2024, that there would be consequences if China was producing military-grade drones for Russia.<sup>59</sup>

In sharp contrast to the EU's position, Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico expressed support for China's stance on the Ukraine crisis during his meeting with President Xi in Beijing on November 1, 2024.<sup>60</sup> There is a faction within the EU that wants to engage with Russia led by Hungary and Slovakia.<sup>61</sup> On his part, President Xi appreciated Slovakia's objective and rational approach and welcomed more like-minded countries to work with China to promote dialogue and peace in Ukraine.<sup>62</sup> Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Peter Szijjarto also visited Beijing and met Wang Yi, Director of China's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs on November 26, 2024. Both sides pledged to deepen their "all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership" and promote healthy China-EU relations.<sup>63</sup>

As part of its efforts to increase tourism and enhance relations with European countries, China has granted visa-free entry to nationals of Slovakia, Norway, and Finland for a period of up to 15 days.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> World Insights: Europe braces for Trump's return as leaders push for strategic autonomy, Xinhua, November 08, 2024

<sup>57</sup> "Ukraine war: EU's next top envoy says China must pay 'higher cost' for backing Russia", South China Morning Post, November 13, 2024

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> "EU warns China of 'consequences' if it's found to be making armed drones for Russia", South China Morning Post, November 18, 2024

<sup>60</sup> "Slovakia keen to join China-led group on Ukraine war, visiting leader tells Xi Jinping", South China Morning Post, November 01, 2024

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> "Chinese, Hungarian FMs discuss promoting bilateral cooperation, China-EU ties", People's Daily, November 27, 2024

<sup>64</sup> "China offers visa-free entry to 9 more countries in renewed tourism and diplomatic push", South China Morning Post, November 02, 2024

## V. China-Russia Relations

Wang Yi, the Director of China's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, and Sergei Shoigu, Secretary of Russia's Security Council, co-chaired the 19<sup>th</sup> round of China-Russia annual strategic consultations in Beijing.<sup>65</sup> Both leaders noted that bilateral relations remain on a sound and stable track, reaffirmed support on issues concerning their core interests, and committed to promoting cooperation within the Global South.<sup>66</sup> Director Wang Yi urged China and Russia to deepen multilateral strategic coordination at the UN, SCO, and BRICS to maintain global strategic stability.<sup>67</sup>

President Biden's authorisation for Ukraine to use long-range US weapons against Russia marked a major escalation in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.<sup>68</sup> On November 19, 2024, Russia's Defence Ministry informed that Ukraine fired six ballistic missiles at a facility in Bryansk and that US-made Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) had been used in the attack.<sup>69</sup> Meanwhile, Russia attacked Ukraine's city of Dnipro with a hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) carrying a conventional warhead.<sup>70</sup> On November 19, 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree that enables Moscow to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states such as Ukraine if nuclear powers support them.<sup>71</sup> The Chinese Foreign Ministry responded to these developments by reaffirming its support for de-escalation, ceasefire, and political settlement of the Ukraine conflict.<sup>72</sup>

China has emerged as an important supplier of cars and electronics to Russia in the first ten months of 2024, with overall trade between the two countries increasing by 2.8 percent year-on-year to USD 202.2 billion.<sup>73</sup> However, President-elect Trump's return to the White House and Western sanctions on Russia could complicate trade between Moscow and Beijing.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> "China, Russia hold annual strategic security consultation", Xinhua, November 12, 2024

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> "Biden authorises Ukraine to use long-range US weapons in Russia", CNN, November 18, 2024

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> "Russia fired new ballistic missile at Ukraine, Putin says", Reuters, November 22, 2024

<sup>71</sup> "China urges 'calm' after Vladimir Putin decree on broader use of nuclear weapons", The Economic Times, November 20, 2024

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> "China-Russia trade set to hit new highs, but Trump factor, payments cloud outlook", South China Morning Post, November 14, 2024

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

Among other developments, Russia signed a deal to export its fifth-generation fighter aircraft Su-57 to overseas customers at the Zhuhai Air Show in China. It was not specified which countries bought the aircraft.<sup>75</sup>

## VI. APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting – Lima

President Xi addressed the 31st Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Lima, Peru, on November 16, 2024. Xi reiterated concerns about rising "unilateralism and protectionism" and urged Asia-Pacific countries to deepen their cooperation to meet challenges, fully deliver on Putrajaya Vision 2040, and create a community with a shared future in the region.<sup>76</sup> To this end, he proposed measures such as supporting regional economic integration, encouraging green innovation, and ensuring that Asia-Pacific development is universally beneficial and inclusive.<sup>77</sup>

Before the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, President Xi met Peru's President Dina Boluarte in Lima on November 14, 2024. The two leaders inaugurated 'Chancay Port', a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that is reportedly the first smart port in South America.<sup>78</sup> An editorial in Global Times emphasised that the new port will accelerate economic and trade cooperation "from Chancay to Shanghai", which will benefit South America (Global South).<sup>79</sup> Analysts noted that while the US-led West surrounds China with bases and allies/partners, Beijing is expanding trade and investment ties in South America, challenging the US' Monroe Doctrine that views South America as Washington's backyard.<sup>80</sup>

## VII. The G20 Summit – Rio de Janeiro

President Xi addressed the 19<sup>th</sup> G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 18, 2024.<sup>81</sup> To facilitate the modernisation of developing countries, President Xi called on the G20 member states to build bridges of cooperation by channelling

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<sup>75</sup> "At China's Zhuhai air show, Russia signs deals to export Su-57 fighter jet", South China Morning Post, November 14, 2024

<sup>76</sup> "Shouldering Responsibility to Our Times And Jointly Promoting Asia-Pacific Development", MFA PRC, November 16, 2024

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> "President Xi Jinping and Peruvian President Dina Boluarte Attend the Inauguration Ceremony of Chancay Port by Video Link", MFA PRC, November 14, 2024

<sup>79</sup> "From Chancay to Shanghai: A revelation of the times: Global Times editorial", Global Times, November 11, 2024

<sup>80</sup> "My Take | Trade and development used to undermine the Monroe Doctrine", South China Morning Post, November 15, 2024

<sup>81</sup> "Building a Just World of Common Development", MFA PRC, November 18, 2024



more resources into fields such as trade, investment, and development cooperation, and avoid the "small yard high fences" approach (sanctions and decoupling).<sup>82</sup> The Chinese President outlined eight action plans for global development.<sup>83</sup> These include pursuing a high-quality Belt and Road Cooperation, implementing the Global Development Initiative (GDI), supporting Africa's development, promoting cooperation on poverty reduction and food security, undertaking practical cooperation in the fields of clean energy for the benefit of the Global South, implementing the anti-corruption action plan of the G20, and pursuing economic opening-up.<sup>84</sup>

Further, during his remarks at a G20 session on "Reform of the Institutions of Global Governance," President Xi called on member states to improve global governance and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and inclusive economic globalisation.<sup>85</sup> Chinese state media stressed that the G20's focus on addressing hunger, poverty, and inequality, addressing climate change, and reforming global governance demonstrates the growing influence of the Global South.<sup>86</sup>

Following the G20 Summit, President Xi and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met on November 20, 2024, in Brasilia, where the two countries pledged to deepen their partnership by aligning the Belt and Road Initiative with Brazil's development strategies to build a community with a shared future.<sup>87</sup>

## Internal Developments

### Key Developments and Addresses by Chinese Leaders

President Xi urged provincial leaders in China to be patient and fair in their approach to economic reforms, in the wake of reports that some local law enforcement departments have selectively imposed fines on private

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<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> "Working Together for a Fair and Equitable Global Governance System", MFA PRC, November 19, 2024

<sup>86</sup> "G20's focus on development highlights the contributions of the 'Global South': Global Times editorial", Global Times, November 19, 2024

<sup>87</sup> "Xi calls for ushering in next "Golden 50 Years" of China-Brazil relations", People's Daily, November 21, 2024

businesses to boost revenue for their governments.<sup>88</sup> He also reaffirmed the necessity of removing internal barriers to create a unified national market.<sup>89</sup>

Vice Premier He Lifeng attended the commissioning ceremony of China's first domestically designed and built deep-ocean drilling vessel, the 'Meng Xiang', in Guangzhou on November 17, 2024. In his congratulatory letter, President Xi hailed the commissioning of the deep-ocean drilling vessel as a significant step towards increasing China's maritime and technological capabilities.<sup>90</sup>

A meeting between President Xi and Macao Special Administrative Region's newly elected Chief Executive Officer, Sam Hou Fai, took place in Beijing on November 1, 2024. Xi congratulated Sam Hou Fai on his election and lauded the success of "one country, two systems" in Macao.<sup>91</sup>

A report released by Xinhua News Agency and think tanks affiliated with the Communist Party of China (CPC) shed light on China's modernisation drive asserting that it creates a "new model for human advancement".<sup>92</sup> Among other developments, President Xi visited central China's Hubei province and urged efforts to revitalise rural areas.<sup>93</sup>

## Trade and Economy

On November 8, 2024, China approved a CNY 10 trillion (USD 1.4 trillion) plan to refinance local governments' hidden debt to boost the country's flagging economy.<sup>94</sup> Following China's recent economic stimulus measures, a Xinhua report noted that key economic indicators such as consumption, services, and foreign trade have improved and that the country's economic recovery has firmed up in October 2024.<sup>95</sup> However, analysts cautioned that "deflationary pressure, challenges in the property sector, sluggish investment growth, and

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<sup>88</sup> "Xi Jinping urges China's provinces to be patient and fair in push for economic reforms", South China Morning Post, November 05, 2024

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> "Xi congratulates commissioning of China's deep-ocean drilling vessel", People's Daily, November 17, 2024

<sup>91</sup> "Xi meets Macao's incoming chief executive Sam Hou Fai", The State Council PRC, November 01, 2024

<sup>92</sup> "Xinhua Headlines: Think tank report says Chinese modernisation pioneers new model for human advancement", Xinhua, November 13, 2024

<sup>93</sup> "Xi inspects central China's Hubei Province", People's Daily, November 05, 2024

<sup>94</sup> "China approves \$1.4 trillion debt package in latest measure to boost flagging economy", CNN, November 08, 2024

<sup>95</sup> "Xinhua Headlines: China's economic recovery firms up in October amid greater policy support", Xinhua, November 15, 2024

external uncertainties continue to pose risks to China's economic stability".<sup>96</sup> The credit rating agency S&P Global has lowered its GDP forecast for China in 2025 and 2026 to 4.1 and 3.8 percent, respectively, owing to the threat of higher tariffs under the Trump administration.<sup>97</sup>

Chinese Premier Li Qiang delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 7th 'China International Import Expo' (CIIE) held in Shanghai on November 5, 2024.<sup>98</sup> In his remarks, Premier Li reiterated China's resolve to expand the economic opening-up and promote steady growth amidst rising protectionism in Western countries.<sup>99</sup> Further, Li reaffirmed China's commitment to ensuring stable and uninterrupted global industrial and supply chains during his address at the second 'China International Supply Chain Expo' (CISCE).<sup>100</sup> China has removed all market access restrictions for foreign investors in the country's manufacturing sector beginning November 1, 2024.<sup>101</sup>

For the first time, China's annual production of new energy vehicles (NEVs) reportedly exceeded 10 million on November 14, 2024. A Global Times editorial hailed this as a "global green milestone" that will contribute to climate security and the green transformation of the world.<sup>102</sup>

## Defence and Security

On November 27, 2024, a report claimed that Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun was under investigation as part of a broader probe into corruption within the PLA.<sup>103</sup> A spokesperson from the Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected this report as "groundless" and "shadow chasing".<sup>104</sup> However, it confirmed that Miao Hua, the Director of the Political Work Department of the Central Military

<sup>96</sup> "Explainer | 'Little room for complacency': 6 takeaways from China's October economic data", South China Morning Post, November 15, 2024

<sup>97</sup> "S&P Global Ratings cut growth projections for China over Trump's tariffs threat", The Economic Times, November 25, 2024

<sup>98</sup> "China committed to further opening-up as 7th CIIE opens", People's Daily, November 06, 2024

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> "China pledges to ensure stability of global industrial, supply chains", People's Daily, November 26, 2024

<sup>101</sup> "Xinhua Headlines: China fully opens manufacturing sector to foreign investors in landmark opening up move", Xinhua, November 01, 2024

<sup>102</sup> "China's 'annual production of 10 million+' a global green milestone: Global Times editorial", Global Times, November 15, 2024

<sup>103</sup> "China's defence minister placed under investigation for corruption", Financial Times, November 27, 2024

<sup>104</sup> "Groundless: China dismisses report of corruption probe into Defence Minister Dong Jun", South China Morning Post, November 27, 2024

Commission (CMC) is placed under investigation for "serious violations of discipline".<sup>105</sup>

The tensions between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea continued.<sup>106</sup> On November 8, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed two laws, the "Maritime Zones Act" and the "Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act", strengthening the country's maritime claims in the South China Sea.<sup>107</sup> China responded sharply by rejecting these acts as a violation of its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights in the South China Sea.<sup>108</sup> On November 10, Beijing published territorial baselines around Huangyan Dao (Scarborough Shoal), a disputed atoll in the South China Sea.<sup>109</sup> Amidst widening tensions, Chinese aircraft carriers Liaoning and Shandong conducted their first dual-carrier formation exercise in the South China Sea, demonstrating combat capabilities for complex missions.<sup>110</sup>

On the other hand, the US and Philippines signed an agreement to exchange military intelligence.<sup>111</sup> In response, China asserted that defence and security cooperation between Washington and Manila should not undermine regional peace or target third parties.<sup>112</sup> Chinese Foreign Ministry also expressed concern regarding the Philippines' intent to buy the Typhon intermediate-range missile system from the US.<sup>113</sup>

The 15<sup>th</sup> China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition was held in Zhuhai, Guangdong, between November 12-17, 2024.<sup>114</sup> This event marked the debut of medium-sized and multi-role stealth fighter jet J-35A, the surface-to-air missile system HQ-19, and a new unmanned aerial vehicle designed to conduct reconnaissance and attack operations.<sup>115</sup> The Chinese Ministry of National Defence stressed that Airshow demonstrated the PLA Air Force's

<sup>105</sup> "Senior PLA ideology official Miao Hua under investigation for serious discipline violations", South China Morning Post, November 28, 2024

<sup>106</sup> "China summons Philippine ambassador over so-called "Maritime Zones Act" and "Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act", Xinhua, November 08, 2024

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> "Manila and Beijing Clarify Select South China Sea Claims", CSIS, November 21, 2024

<sup>110</sup> "PLA Navy's Liaoning, Shandong for 1st time form dual-carrier group in drill in South China Sea", Global Times, October 31, 2024

<sup>111</sup> "Chinese FM responds to US, Philippines signing military intelligence sharing deal", Global Times, November 18, 2024

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> "The Philippines' plan to buy aggressive missile launcher from US 'provocative,' 'dangerous' and 'irresponsible': Chinese FM", Global Times, November 14, 2024

<sup>114</sup> "Defence Ministry Spokesperson's Remarks on Recent Media Queries Concerning the Military", China Military Online, November 17, 2024

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

modernisation in line with President Xi's thoughts on strengthening the military.<sup>116</sup>

According to reports, US Space Force Chief General B. Chance Saltzman expressed concern about China's rapid development of space-based military systems and spoke about US plans to deploy anti-satellite weapons targeting China and Russia by 2025.<sup>117</sup> Reacting sharply, Chinese Ministry of National Defence urged the US to cease using "China threat in space" as an excuse to deploy weapons that target satellites.<sup>118</sup>

## Technology

To comply with US Commerce Department orders, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) halted advanced semiconductor chip orders (graphics-processor and AI-related) from mainland China.<sup>119</sup> A wider ban on chips manufactured by TSMC could harm several mainland businesses, including electric vehicles and smartphones. With Donald Trump returning to the White House, China's semiconductor industry is preparing for another challenging four years.<sup>120</sup>

President Xi addressed the World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit on November 20, 2024. Xi stressed the importance of accelerating innovative, safe, and inclusive growth in cyberspace and working together for a brighter digital future.<sup>121</sup> At a State Council meeting, Premier Li also reiterated the need to promote the development of digital platform economy.<sup>122</sup>

China launched a crewed spacecraft named Shenzhou-19 on October 29, 2024, as part of the application and development phase of its Tiangong space station.<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> "China's tech firms fear bigger curbs as TSMC stops AI chip supply on US order", South China Morning Post, November 12, 2024

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

<sup>121</sup> "Xi sends congratulations to 2024 World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit", People's Daily, November 20, 2024

<sup>122</sup> "Chinese premier chairs State Council executive meeting", The State Council PRC, November 22, 2024

<sup>123</sup> "China's space endeavor witnesses openness and self-reliance: Global Times editorial", Global Times, October 30, 2024



**Delhi Policy Group**  
Core 5A, 1st Floor,  
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi - 110003  
India

[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)