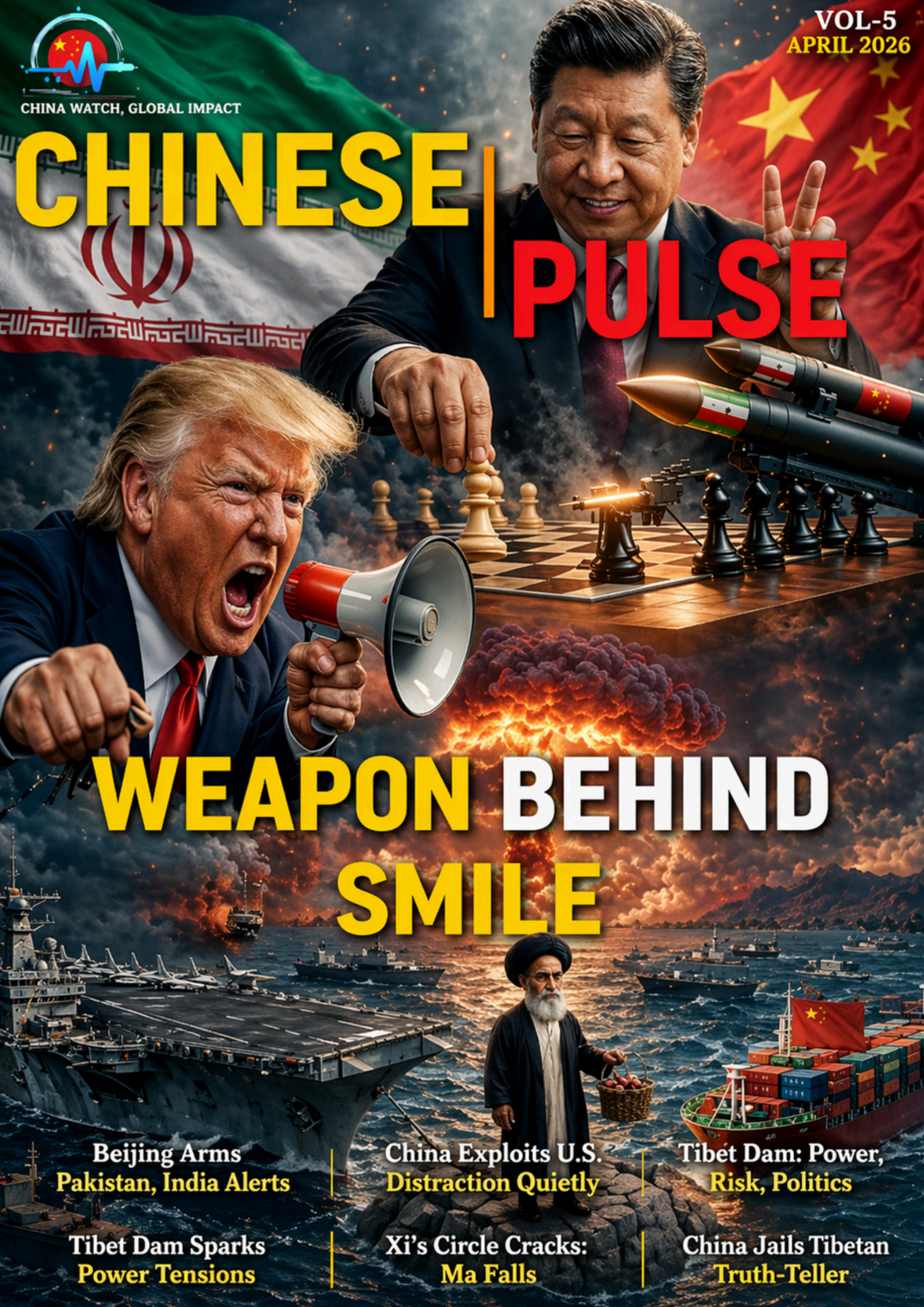


CHINA WATCH, GLOBAL IMPACT

VOL-5  
APRIL 2026

# CHINESE | PULSE



## WEAPON BEHIND SMILE

**Beijing Arms  
Pakistan, India Alerts**

**China Exploits U.S.  
Distraction Quietly**

**Tibet Dam: Power,  
Risk, Politics**

**Tibet Dam Sparks  
Power Tensions**

**Xi's Circle Cracks:  
Ma Falls**

**China Jails Tibetan  
Truth-Teller**

# FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

China publicly pushes Middle East calm while secretly arming Iran with MANPADS after U.S.-Israel strikes, rebuilding defenses and fueling escalation through blatant hypocrisy.



**Rahul Mahajan**

**C**hina whispers arms to Iran, shouts peace.

The Middle East exposes Beijing's diplomatic hypocrisy. U.S. intelligence reveals China secretly shipping MANPADS to Iran post-U.S.-Israel strikes, despite public peace advocacy. These aren't flashy radar batteries. Man-portable systems excel through simplicity: one soldier, instant launch, total concealment. Truck-mounted or man-carried, they create no-go zones over Iranian cities, Gulf ports, border flashpoints. A single operator shifts air superiority calculus, deterring strikes that crippled Tehran last month. China knows this intimately—its own HQ-17 systems mirror the tech.

China's strategic ambiguity with Iran—arming Tehran covertly while cooperating with the West—dates to the Iran-Iraq War, when Beijing sold both sides weapons, profiting massively. In the 1980s-90s, China provided nuclear tech but halted in 1997 under U.S. pressure, canceling \$4B deals. This strategy has turned Iran into a "distressed asset" for China. By keeping Iran economically afloat but diplomatically and militarily constrained, China ensures a steady supply of discounted energy while using Iran as a strategic counterweight to U.S. influence in the Middle East

China's strategy secures deep economic gains and geopolitical leverage. By buying nearly 90% of Iran's oil at discounts of \$8–\$12 per barrel, Beijing saves billions annually while bypassing U.S. sanctions through its Yuan-based payment system (CIPS).

Geopolitically, China keeps the U.S. entangled in Middle Eastern conflicts, distracting Washington from the Indo-Pacific. This "double game" allows China to act as a neutral peacemaker—as seen in the 2023 Saudi-Iran deal—enhancing its global prestige without military risk. Finally, Iran serves as a vital bridge for the Belt and Road Initiative, integrating Eurasian trade under Chinese influence.

China performs a pragmatic balancing act by acting as Iran's vital economic lifeline while maintaining strategic neutrality. It buys nearly all Iranian oil exports to fuel its economy, yet restricts military aid and brokers peace deals with Arab rivals to protect regional stability and Belt and Road investments.

*Rahul Mahajan*

**Rahul Mahajan**

## China Update

China International News

## Caricatures Stand

China's News with Caricatures

## Diplomacy

China's Strategic Border Highway

China's Dual Diplomacy Unveiled

China Exploits U.S. Distraction

## TIBET

China's Dam: Power, Politics

Tibetan Prisoner's Resilient Return"

## PLA

China-Pakistan Partnership Reshapes Strategy

"Xi's Purge: Military Loyalty"



## PLA Military Update

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## Global Affairs

Xi's Purge: Power Struggles

India Rejects China's Renaming

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## X Corner

Trending on X

## Chinese Social Media

Trending on Weibo & TikTok

# CHINA UPDATE

APR 2026

● [www.chinascop.org](http://www.chinascop.org) ●

Chinese Pulse

## Iran Gets Russia–China Strategic Backing

Russia and China vetoed a Bahrain-backed U.N. resolution on Hormuz, saying Trump's threat proved it risked enabling U.S.-Israeli escalation. The 11-2 vote followed oil fears. Trump then paused strikes for two weeks after Iran accepted a ceasefire and allowed tightly controlled transit under military supervision.



## South China Sea Tensions Deepen as China's Assertiveness Draws Renewed Regional Pushback

the Philippines accused a Chinese navy ship of directing fire-control radar at one of its vessels near Sabina Shoal and condemned it as provocative. Later that month, China announced naval, air, and coast guard patrols around Scarborough Shoal. In April 2026, Manila opened a new coast guard base on Thitu Island and again cited the 2016 arbitration ruling against Beijing's claims.



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# CHINA UPDATE

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APR 2026

● [www.chinascop.org](http://www.chinascop.org) ●

Chinese Pulse

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## China Steps Up Diplomacy Amid Iran Conflict



China urged de-escalation during the Iran crisis, coordinated with Russia at the United Nations, and portrayed itself as a mediator focused on protecting shipping, energy security, stability, and global markets.

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## Taiwan Tensions Rise as KMT Leader Visits Beijing Amid Military Pressure.

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During the Iran crisis, China urged de-escalation, coordinated closely with Russia at the United Nations, and presented itself as a mediator seeking to protect shipping routes, safeguard energy security, prevent wider regional escalation, and reduce the risk of economic instability.



# CHINA UPDATE

APR 2026

www.chinascop.org

Chinese Pulse

## China–India Trade Ties Show Cautious Thaw

Economic relations between China and India are easing slightly after post-2020 tensions. India is selectively relaxing investment and import restrictions on Chinese firms for economic needs. However, deep strategic mistrust persists, and both countries continue limited cooperation while unresolved border and geopolitical issues constrain broader normalization.



## China Mediates Afghanistan–Pakistan Talks

China played a mediating role between Afghanistan and Pakistan by hosting and supporting diplomatic talks in Urumqi. By April 8, Beijing reported that both sides agreed to pursue a broader political solution and avoid escalation, reflecting cautious but positive momentum toward regional de-escalation and dialogue-based conflict management efforts.



# CHINA UPDATE

APR 2026

www.chinascop.org

Chinese Pulse

## EU Steps Up Scrutiny of China's Trade Practices

China faced scrutiny as European Union lawmakers visited after eight years, raising concerns over low-cost exports, safety standards, and restricted market access. Talks highlighted trade imbalances and transparency issues. Beijing later issued e-commerce guidelines and signaled openness to expanding imports from Europe amid ongoing economic friction.



## Brazil BYD Labor Case Draws Scrutiny



Brazil added Chinese EV giant BYD to a labor “dirty list” over a 2024 contractor scandal involving 163 workers in abusive conditions. A court later suspended the listing pending final judgment, but the case sustained reputational pressure on the company amid ongoing labor-abuse allegations reports.

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# CHINA UPDATE

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MAR 2026

● www.chinascoop.org ●

Chinese Pulse

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## **Border tensions, trade coexistence**

India and China are increasingly separating long-standing border tensions from growing cooperation in trade, security, and regional diplomacy. After recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation engagement, both sides signal cautious engagement and managed coexistence despite unresolved disputes, aiming to stabilise ties while avoiding escalation along the disputed frontier in Asia region overall.

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## **Strait crisis threatens global energy stability**

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Tensions in the Strait of Hormuz involving the United States and Iran are threatening global energy security. Possible disruption of oil shipments could raise prices and shipping costs worldwide. China and India, both heavily dependent on Middle Eastern energy imports, are especially exposed. The situation increases inflation risks and adds uncertainty to already fragile global economic and geopolitical conditions.



# Caricatures

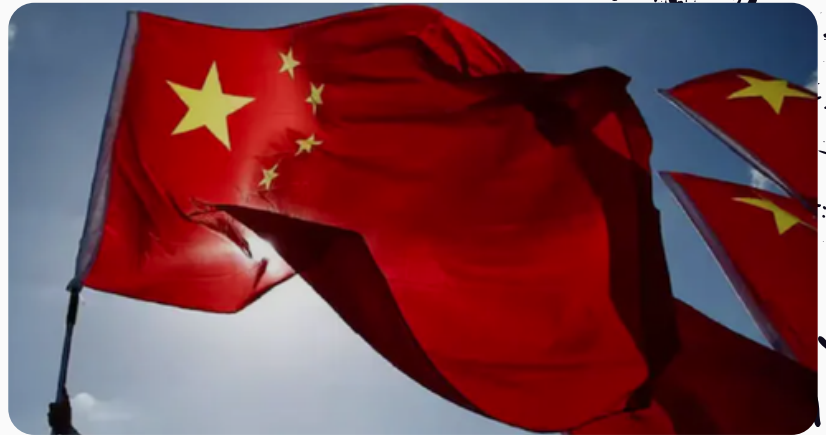


# STRATEGIC ENCIRCLEMENT



## *Expansionism*

**CONCRETE  
AGGRESSION:  
CHINA'S 15TH  
PLAN  
TARGETS  
INDIA**



China's 15th Five-Year Plan masks aggression as development, turbocharging military highways along India's borders to seize disputed lands like Aksai Chin and Galwan. The 394km Dushanzi-Kuqa road in Xinjiang parallel to a post-1962 invasion route slashes troop transit times, while Tibet upgrades and a Lhasa-Hotan rail fortify the LAC. Beijing's "prosperity" ploy echoes salami-slicing: ghost villages, renaming sprees, and encroachments that killed 20 Indians in 2020. India must expose this fortress-building and counter with QUAD-backed defenses before concrete paves the path to war.





According to SCMP, A prime example is the 394km Dushanzi-Kuqa Highway slicing through Xinjiang's Tianshan Mountains. Construction kicked off in September 2025, with completion eyed for 2032. This route parallels a 1970s road built right after the 1962 Sino-Indian war, when China seized Aksai Chin. Once done, it will slash travel times across the mountains to a third or half, allowing year-round access. Critics see this as no mere economic boost it's designed for rapid military logistics in a flashpoint region near Ladakh.

Beijing claims such builds foster prosperity in backward areas. But the timing and location scream military intent. Xinjiang borders Ladakh and shares proximity to Aksai Chin, a flashpoint since 1962. Improved roads mean quicker deployment of troops, armor, and supplies, tilting the balance against India in any standoff.

The plan upgrades three key highways into Tibet linking toward Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. It also builds two major routes across all nine border provinces and advances the coastal highway from Dandong to Dongxing, forming a strategic network encircling India from the west and north.

The plan goes further, upgrading three key highways into Tibet gateways to Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. It also targets two massive highways across all nine land-border provinces, plus advancing the National Coastal Highway from Dandong (near North Korea) to Dongxing (Vietnam border). These form a web encircling India from the west and north.

In August 2025, China launched the Xinjiang-Tibet Railway Company for a 1,980km line from Lhasa to Hotan. Hotan oversees Galwan Valley, site of the deadly 2020 clash that killed 20 Indian soldiers and sparked a prolonged standoff. This rail artery will link two volatile regions, funnelling resources to the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Coupled with highways, it creates a dual-threat transport backbone.

China boasts the world's largest highway network, built to spur growth. Yet border zones lag deliberately, kept underdeveloped until strategic needs arise. Now, with disputes flaring, Beijing pours concrete to "fortify frontiers" against "terrorism spillover" and neighbour conflicts a veiled nod to India.



Experts like Liu Zongyi from Shanghai Institutes argue infrastructure serves both growth and defense. "Building roads is the first step to prosperity," he says, aiding quick emergency responses. True enough poorer regions gain jobs and access. But history shows China's pattern: infrastructure masks salami-slicing tactics, nibbling territory bit by bit.

Post-2020 Galwan, both sides accelerated builds. China announced a Lhunze-Mazha highway in 2022, skirting Depsang Plains, Galwan, and Hot Springs. India countered with the 1,637km Arunachal Frontier Highway, linking 12 districts and 1,683 villages along the LAC. Tensions boiled over in January 2026 when India protested China's Shaksgam Valley roads land Delhi claims. Beijing dismissed it as "illegal occupation" on "its own territory." This isn't mutual development; it's a race where China holds the initiative. Its state-driven economy funds mega-projects unchecked, while India's democratic hurdles slow progress.

The result? Beijing encroaches, claiming "stability" while eroding India's buffer zones. These moves heighten risks along the 3,488km LAC. Faster Chinese logistics mean deadlier standoffs troops can reinforce in hours, not days. Galwan proved Beijing's willingness to use force; enhanced networks make aggression cheaper.

India faces a two-front threat, with Pakistan in cahoots via CPEC through disputed Shaksgam. China's frontier pushes signal no thaw despite recent diplomacy. Prosperity rhetoric fools no one roads to "lagging" areas conveniently hug borders, prepping for conflict.

New Delhi must match pace. Fast-track BRO projects, integrate tech like drones for surveillance and rally QUAD partners for intel. Diplomatically, expose this at UN forums on militarization. Domestically, reframe border builds as national security, not just development, to build consensus. China's plan isn't about shared growth it's fortress-building for dominance. India can't afford complacency. Robust countermeasures now will deter tomorrow's war.

# DIPLOMATIC DECEPTION

SMILES,  
MISSILES,  
MANEUVERS



## China's Double Game: Calm Diplomacy in Public, Quiet Rearmament in Private

The Middle East is testing China's trustworthiness once more. Reports have surfaced that China is preparing to send air defence systems to Tehran, which would reveal a major contradiction at the core of China's regional diplomacy—publicly encouraging calm while privately assisting a partner in rearming for the next round of confrontation—at the same time that Beijing is portraying itself as a stabilising force that helped push Iran toward de-escalation.



**In public:**  
China presents itself as a force for peace, restraint, dialogue, and de-escalation in the Middle East.

**In private:**  
It is accused of helping Iran rebuild its military capability, especially through reported air-defence support like MANPADS.

The security situation in the area has significantly changed as a result of China's decision to provide Iran with air defence weaponry. Beijing has been attempting for weeks to portray itself as a stabilising force that encourages diplomacy and de-escalation. However, the current picture is drastically different. China is prepared to assist Iran in rebuilding a portion of its military defence following the recent conflict with the United States and Israel, rather than only observing from a distance. This is important because air defence is more than just selling guns. It has a direct impact on the operational safety of Iranian forces and the potential cost of any future attack against Iran.

PC delegates reviewed and passed "Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress," a tool to force assimilation on Uyghurs, Tibetans, and others. Man-portable air defence systems, or MANPADS for short, are the systems being delivered. These missiles are shoulder-fired and intended to strike low-flying aircraft, including jets, drones, helicopters, and transport planes. Although they are modest in comparison to huge radar-linked missile batteries, their mobility, ease of concealment, and rapid mobility make them hazardous. This makes them particularly helpful in a volatile setting like the Gulf or Iran's border regions.



Critics call it a "death nail" in autonomy promises, legalizing Han dominance, forced relocations, and cultural erasure. In Xinjiang, it backs mass detention sterilization, and mosque destruction; Tibet faces "high-pressure" on "separatists."

They can be quickly moved by a truck, a small crew, or even a single operator, creating uncertainty for any surrounding aircraft. The systems anticipated in this situation are shoulder-fired anti-air missiles, according to Reuters, although other media described them as MANPADS.

The inconsistency is evident at this point. China speaks the language of peace, but it is also making it easier for Iran to resist and maybe intensify future hostilities. Air defence systems influence the next stage of conflict in addition to providing protection. They boost resilience, lessen susceptibility, and foster self-assurance for sustained resistance. This move's timing is also important. In recent months, Iran has been under constant military pressure, which has revealed flaws in its air defence system. Tehran is focused on rebuilding that barrier.

This enables China to continue influencing events on the ground while maintaining its diplomatic stance. Private action and public restraint maximise advantage while minimising political cost. As a supplier of oil, a geopolitical counterweight, and a major force in determining Middle Eastern dynamics, Iran is an essential regional partner. Iran can maintain its resilience under duress by bolstering its defence capabilities.

**China is establishing itself as a strategic facilitator by intervening now rather than as a detached observer.**



**East conflict quietly, expanding influence through covert support to Iran while publicly**

This is about getting ready for what will happen, not about avoiding conflict. Additionally, there is a deliberate subtlety in the way this assistance is provided. The transfer is set up to prevent immediate visibility rather than publicly declaring military cooperation.

Additionally, it increases China's might without the need for direct military action. China is shaping the next phase of Middle proving that Beijing's real position is defined by action. China is establishing itself as a strategic facilitator by intervening now rather than as a detached observer.

# China Seizes America's Distraction



Rather than openly provocation Beijing's approach emphasizes patience and precision exploiting timing opportunities and subtle manoeuvring to reshape regional realities in its favour. The analysis suggests that Western preoccupation during critical times has allowed China to use its strategic influence to adjust regional stability without inciting full-scale war.

## CHINA EXPLOITS STRATEGIC OPENINGS AS U.S. DISTRACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST REDRAWS ASIA'S POWER MAP

While turmoil in the Middle East is returning China is quietly reassessing its moves across Asia. The latest report Japan Forward report suggests that Beijing is taking advantage of U.S. distraction to increase strategic influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

“ Cautioned that the conflict is a "multi-theater issue," warning that China could leverage the distraction to challenge regional stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. ”



Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

## SHIFTING FOCUS AND STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY.

The shift is neither fresh nor exhilarating. If Washington devotes its military and diplomatic attention to the Middle East its ability to project power across Asia is inevitably compromised. The Iraq War years and the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 are two significant precedents that the Japan Forward report highlights.

When American involvement in Iraq was at its peak during the early 2000s, Beijing quickly took action to extend its control of the South China Sea

constructing new outposts and strengthening its maritime position with minimal external interference. After 20 years, China heightened its pressure on Taiwan by over 900 troops, as evidenced by U.S. forces leaving Afghanistan. The Air Defense Identification Zone on the island is targeted by the People's Liberation Army. Beijing's strategic approach is emphasized in every episode: to strengthen its position by exploiting opportunities when Washington is not giving it enough attention. China exploits Western distraction, using patience, precision, and timing to reshape Asia without triggering war

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN DISTRACTION.

The report states that the re-allocation of U.S. military assets has significant strategic implications. American carrier strike groups are effectively withdrawn from the Western Pacific region when they are deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean or deterrence operations in the Red Sea, as their quick presence can create a delicate balance between delicate balance between. Although it may be a short-term move, the redeployment does not necessarily indicate weakened readiness in the Indo-Pacific



Always mindful of such gaps, Beijing promptly moves to fill the strategic void left behind whether it be by constructing new bases, expanding naval patrols, or conducting more frequent exercises near disputed waters. Although these actions may seem small on their own they have a significant impact on the power dynamics in Asia as viewed through contrasting lenses.



## **CALIBRATED MOVES, ENDURING IMPACT.**

The Japan Forward report states that China's current strategy is marked by "incremental and judicious steps," which involve extensive military drills and the establishment of dual-use infrastructure in the South China Sea and nearby islands in Asia. The decisions taken are carefully crafted to avoid open hostilities, being part of an intentional long-term strategy to change reality without triggering swift counteraction. According to the report, the gradualism is similar to a "salami-slicing" strategy where slight and seemingly minor gains accumulate into irreversible strategic advantage. By exercising restraint as a weapon, Beijing is constantly creating the regional order while negating any indication of clear reasons for escalated conflict.

## **PARALLELS ON THE HIMALAYAN FRONTIER**

After the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, China quickly expanded logistics hubs, all-weather roads, and permanent military posts along the Line of Actual Control. This reflects a broader strategy of controlled escalation and gradual consolidation through infrastructure. By creating new strategic realities before rivals can respond, Beijing tests India's resolve over time. For India, the challenge is long term, demanding sustained vigilance and parallel efforts to strengthen its own frontier infrastructure and preparedness.

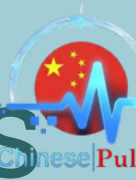
## **THE EXPANDING INDO-PACIFIC CHESSBOARD.**

The shifting balance now stretches across the Indo-Pacific, from the Himalayas to the South China Sea. As Washington becomes more absorbed in the Middle East, its room to maneuver in the Western Pacific narrows, unsettling partners like Japan, Australia, and India. This raises concern that reduced U.S. focus could embolden China. Beijing is using this moment to deepen diplomatic and economic influence through the Belt and Road Initiative while reinforcing its naval reach, presenting itself as a steady power amid global instability.

## **TIMING AS STRATEGY.**

China's growing power is emerging not through open aggression, but through deliberate opportunism, patience, and precise timing. As the Japan Forward analysis argues, Beijing often avoids provoking direct crises and instead exploits moments when global attention, especially that of the United States, is fixed elsewhere. Every period of American distraction in the Middle East gives China additional space to consolidate territorial claims, expand infrastructure, and test strategic boundaries across Asia. The turmoil in the Middle East is therefore more than a humanitarian and political crisis; it is also a geopolitical opening. In that space, Beijing is quietly reshaping Asia's strategic landscape to secure long-term advantage.

# Tibet Dam, Regional Stakes



## Power Project, Pressure on Brahmaputra



### CHINA'S TIBET MEGA-DAM: POWER, RISK, AND REGIONAL POLITICS ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA

China's new hydropower project in Tibet is drawing global attention for its huge scale, high cost, and possible impact on Asia's most important river systems. Planned for the lower Yarlung Tsangpo, near the Great Bend, the dam could become the world's largest hydropower project. Supporters see it as a major step toward clean energy, energy security, and regional development. But the project also raises serious concerns about environmental damage, earthquake risk, and the effects on India and Bangladesh downstream. It is not just an energy project. It is a project with power, risk, and deep regional meaning. The dam is planned for the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo River, at the Great Bend, where the river drops roughly 2,000 meters over about 50 kilometers. That dramatic descent gives the site extraordinary hydropower potential and explains why engineers have focused on it for years. Reports suggest multiple plants and underground works, costing about 1.2 trillion yuan, making it among the world's most expensive projects.

AT FIRST GLANCE, THE LOGIC BEHIND THE PROJECT IS SIMPLE. CHINA NEEDS MORE CLEAN ELECTRICITY, STRONGER GRID SECURITY, AND NEW SOURCES OF GROWTH IN ITS WESTERN REGIONS. TIBET OFFERS EXACTLY THE KIND OF RESOURCE BEIJING WANTS: VAST UNTAPPED HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL, RUGGED TERRAIN, AND POWERFUL RIVERS THAT CAN BE TURNED INTO A MASSIVE LOW-CARBON ENERGY BASE. BUT THE SAME FEATURES THAT MAKE THE PROJECT ATTRACTIVE ALSO MAKE IT DIFFICULT, CONTROVERSIAL, AND POLITICALLY SENSITIVE.

China's infrastructure projects ever attempted in China, and it signals that Beijing views the scheme as a national priority rather than a local development project.

For China, the dam fits neatly into a larger strategic vision. It supports the country's carbon-neutrality target for 2060, reduces reliance on coal, and strengthens the west-to-east transmission strategy that sends power from inland provinces to energy-hungry coastal regions. In other words, this is not only a dam; it is part of China's broader attempt to build a cleaner and more resilient energy system.

The Great Bend is one of the most difficult places in the world to build major hydropower infrastructure. The canyon is steep, remote, and geologically unstable, with harsh weather and limited access for construction and transport. Large-scale underground tunnelling, slope stabilization, and constant monitoring would likely be essential to make the project work safely. That challenge is not theoretical.

Tibet is seismically active, and a 6.8 magnitude earthquake in January 2025 renewed concern about the vulnerability of major infrastructure in the region. In such a setting, even small design flaws can become serious risks. Dams, tunnels, reservoirs, and diversion channels all have to withstand not only water pressure, but also earthquakes, landslides, and the long-term stresses of a hostile mountain environment. This is why many analysts see the project as an extreme test of Chinese engineering capacity.

If it succeeds, it will showcase China's ability to build at the frontier of hydropower development. If it encounters serious problems, the consequences could be costly in financial, environmental, and diplomatic terms. Ecological concerns surrounding the project are significant. The Yarlung Tsangpo canyon hosts fragile mountain ecosystems, rich biodiversity, and vital sediment flows that sustain downstream rivers. Large dams can disrupt these systems by altering water temperature, blocking fish migration, trapping sediment, and changing seasonal river cycles that support agriculture and habitats. Human concerns are equally serious, as the river holds cultural and spiritual importance for Tibetans. Infrastructure projects raise issues of displacement, land use, and environmental balance. While China presents the dam as part of a green transition with limited impact, critics question the scale, risks, and lack of transparency.

**CHINA'S TIBET MEGA-DAM: POWER, RISK, AND REGIONAL POLITICS**  
**ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA**

China's mega-dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) promises clean energy and economic growth—but raises serious ecological, human, and geopolitical concerns.

**ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS**

- ALTERED WATER FLOW**  
Dams can change the natural flow of the river, affecting ecosystems downstream.
- BLOCKED FISH MIGRATION**  
Dams block fish passage, disrupting breeding cycles and aquatic biodiversity.
- TRAPPED SEDIMENT**  
Dams trap sediment that is vital for soil fertility and delta sustainability.
- CHANGED SEASONAL RHYTHM**  
Dams can alter seasonal water patterns, impacting floods, droughts, and wetland cycles.
- IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL HABITATS**  
Changes in water flow, temperature, and sediment affect farms, wetlands, and ecosystems.

**HUMAN CONCERNS**

- CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**  
The river holds deep cultural and spiritual importance for Tibetans.
- DISPLACEMENT & LAND USE CONCERNS**  
Large projects raise questions about local displacement and land use impacts.
- DEVELOPMENT VS. ENVIRONMENT BALANCE**  
Concerns remain about balancing development goals with environmental protection.
- LIMITED TRANSPARENCY**  
Lack of information on the dam's technical details fuels skepticism and mistrust.

**CHINA'S POSITION**  
China says the dam is part of a green energy transition and will not significantly harm the environment or downstream water supply.

**CRITICS' CONCERNS**  
Critics argue the scale of the dam and lack of transparency pose serious risks to ecosystems, communities, and regional water security.

**THE BRAHMAPUTRA IS MORE THAN WATER—IT IS LIFE, CULTURE, AND THE FUTURE FOR MILLIONS. ITS PROTECTION MATTERS.**

The strongest international reaction has come from downstream countries, especially India and Bangladesh. The Yarlung Tsangpo becomes the Brahmaputra after entering India, and its flow affects livelihoods, irrigation, flood control, and ecology across a vast region. Any ability to regulate or redirect water in the upper reaches of the basin therefore carries strategic weight.

India has repeatedly expressed concern about the project and has called for transparency on design, safety, and downstream impact. Bangladesh is watching closely as well, because changes in river flow or sediment movement could affect farming, delta management, and flood risk in the final stretch of the river system. The absence of a robust, binding water-sharing framework only adds to the anxiety.

That is why the project is seen by many observers as more than an energy project. It is also a geopolitical instrument, even if Beijing presents it strictly as a domestic development effort. In South Asia, water is not just a resource; it is a source of bargaining power, vulnerability, and mistrust.

China's Tibet hydropower megaproject combines two of the most powerful forces in modern statecraft: the drive for clean energy and the politics of control over vital natural resources. Its potential benefits are enormous, including low-carbon electricity, regional development, and a stronger national grid. Yet its risks are just as large, ranging from seismic danger and ecological disruption to downstream diplomatic tension. The project will be judged on more than megawatts and money. It will also be measured by whether China can build responsibly in one of the world's most fragile environments while reassuring neighbours who depend on the same river.

China's Tibet hydropower megaproject represents a bold step toward clean energy, energy security, and regional development, reflecting Beijing's long-term infrastructure vision. At the same time, it raises serious concerns about ecological damage, seismic risks, and the impact on downstream countries such as India and Bangladesh. As one of the world's most expensive projects, it combines engineering ambition with geopolitical sensitivity. Its future will depend on balancing development goals with environmental protection, transparency, and cooperation over shared transboundary river systems.

**CHINA'S TIBET MEGA-DAM: POWER, RISK, AND REGIONAL POLITICS ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA**

**THE PROJECT**

- World's largest hydropower project planned on the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet.
- Estimated capacity of 6,020 MW, three times the size of China's Three Gorges Dam.
- Aims to boost clean energy, drive regional development, and strengthen China's national grid.
- Located in a seismically active zone with extreme geological risks.

**REGIONAL REALITY: DOWNSTREAM CONCERNS**

<p><b>INDIA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Yarlung Tsangpo becomes the Brahmaputra in India.</li> <li>Its flow impacts livelihoods, irrigation, flood control, and ecology across a vast region.</li> <li>India has repeatedly urged China for transparency on design, safety, and downstream impact.</li> </ul>	<p><b>BANGLADESH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in river flow or sediment movement could affect farming, delta management, and flood risk downstream.</li> <li>Bangladesh seeks clarity and monitoring cooperation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>REGIONAL REALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The absence of a robust, binding water-sharing framework adds to anxiety.</li> <li>The project is seen by many observers as a geopolitical instrument, not just an energy project.</li> </ul>
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**IN SOUTH ASIA, WATER IS NOT JUST A RESOURCE: IT IS A SOURCE OF BARGAINING POWER, VULNERABILITY, AND MISTRUST.**

**BEYOND ENERGY: STRATEGIC STAKES**

<p><b>STRATEGIC LEVERAGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control over upstream water gives China potential influence in regional dynamics.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DIPLOMATIC TENSIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited transparency fuels speculation and strains trust with downstream nations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HUMAN &amp; CULTURAL DIMENSIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The river holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for Tibetans.</li> </ul>	<p><b>LOCAL IMPACTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns over local displacement, land use, and the balance between development and protection.</li> </ul>	<p><b>POWER OF PERCEPTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In geopolitics, perception can be as powerful as actual control.</li> </ul>	<p><b>REGIONAL STABILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water uncertainty can affect cooperation, stability, and peace in South Asia.</li> </ul>
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**THE BIGGER PICTURE: OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS**

<p><b>POTENTIAL BENEFITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-carbon, clean energy at unprecedented scale</li> <li>Regional development and infrastructure growth</li> <li>Stronger national grid and energy security</li> <li>Economic opportunities and job creation</li> </ul>	<p><b>KEY RISKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seismic danger and engineering challenges</li> <li>Disruption of downstream river systems</li> <li>Diplomatic tensions and geopolitical fallout</li> <li>Erosion of trust and regional cooperation</li> <li>Ecological and social uncertainties</li> </ul>
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**LOOKING AHEAD**

China's Tibet hydropower megaproject combines two of the most powerful forces in modern statecraft: the drive for clean energy and the politics of control over vital natural resources.

Its potential benefits are enormous, but so are the risks. The project will be judged on more than megawatts and money. It will also be measured by whether China can build responsibly while reassuring neighbours who depend on the same river.

**WATER CONNECTS. TRUST BUILDS. THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON BOTH.**

**Medog waterkrachtproject**

Vier tot zes tunnels door de berg **Namcha Barwa** om 50% van de rivier de **Yarlung Tsangpo** om te leiden

ARUNACHAL PRADESH Betwiste grens

CHINA AUTONOME REGIO TIBET

NEPAL BHUTAN ASSAM MYANMAR

200km

**Cascadedammen in de berg**

Hoogteverschil 2.000m 50km

<p><b>OSTEN</b></p> <p>Medog \$167 mld.</p> <p>Driekloven-dam \$37 mld.</p> <p>Hooverdam 2,5m<sup>3</sup></p>	<p><b>MATERIALEN</b></p> <p>Medog 90-150 miljoen kubieke meter</p> <p>50 mln. ton cement, 250 mln. ton zand en aggregaat</p> <p>Drieklovendam 30m<sup>3</sup></p>	<p><b>BETON</b></p> <p>Medog 6 miljoen ton</p> <p>Empire State Building 52.000 ton</p>	<p><b>STAAL</b></p> <p>Medog 6 miljoen ton</p> <p>Empire State Building 52.000 ton</p>
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KOPPER 500.000 ton

10 jaren investering. Nieuwe banen

# Quiet Struggle for Tibetan Cultural Identity

18 Years for  
Defending Tibetan:  
A Voice China Could  
Not Silence



After spending eighteen years in prison for defending the right of Tibetans to preserve and use their language, Yeshe Sangpo has been released from a Chinese prison in poor health, reflecting both his dedication and the continued suppression of Tibetan cultural identity. His story, which began with a peaceful protest in 2007 and ended with his quiet return home in 2026, reflects the long-standing struggle of Tibetans who simply want to protect their linguistic and spiritual heritage in a region where freedom of speech and expression are tightly controlled.

## VIOLENT LANGUAGE PROTESTS IN SERSHUL

Yeshe Sangpo, a resident of Bum Nying Village in Sershul County, Kardze Prefecture, Sichuan Province, was one of many Tibetans forced to speak out against the restrictive language policies imposed by Chinese authorities.





Together with his brother, Lobsang, Sangpo led a group of local villagers in a peaceful protest in 2007, demanding the government respect their right to study, use, and promote the Tibetan language, which is the foundation of their cultural identity. At the time, authorities were promoting Mandarin Chinese as the primary medium of instruction in Tibetan schools, diminishing the role of the Tibetan language in education, public life, and administration. For many Tibetans, these measures were seen as a deliberate attempt to erase their heritage and assimilate society into the state's monocultural framework.

What began as a peaceful demonstration for cultural rights quickly turned violent when Chinese police used batons and physical force to disperse the crowd. Onlookers reported that protesters were severely beaten, causing anger and panic among the group. A Chinese police officer was reportedly killed during the clashes, an incident that authorities later used to justify harsh punitive measures. In the days that followed, police raided Sershul County and arrested dozens of Tibetans suspected of involvement. Yeshe Sangpo and his brother were among those detained, accused of playing a key role in the unrest. While details of the investigation are still unclear, experts believe authorities seized the opportunity to make an example of Sangpo by portraying him as a criminal rather than an activist.

According to Tibetan sources, Yeshe Sangpo went on trial in Sershul County in May 2008, after being detained for several months without any official charges. The proceedings lacked transparency or fairness. Defendants in such politically sensitive cases are rarely provided with independent legal advice, and verdicts are often announced before the trial even begins. Sangpo was convicted of the death of a policeman during a protest and sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Human rights advocates have long argued that the charges were politically motivated. His sentence came amid heightened tensions in Tibetan areas just before the 2008 Beijing Olympics, a time when China intensified its campaign to suppress dissent and deflect international criticism. For Tibetan activists, Tsangpo's sentence was not justice; it was punishment for challenging government authority and standing up for cultural protection. Tsangpo served nearly two decades in Ra Nga County Prison

**Violent Language Protests in Sershul: The 18-Year Ordeal of Yeshe Sangpo**

Yeshe Sangpo, a Tibetan language rights defender, was arrested in 2007 for leading peaceful protests against the imposition of Mandarin in Tibetan schools. He was sentenced to 18 years in prison. In 2026, he was released in poor health after nearly two decades of suffering.

**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

- 2007 Peaceful Protest:** Yeshe Sangpo and his brother Lobsang led villagers in Sershul County to protest against the enforced use of Mandarin in Tibetan schools.
- 2007 Violent Crackdown:** Chinese police used batons and physical force to disperse protesters. A police officer was killed during the clashes.
- 2007 Mass Arrests:** Dozens of Tibetans were arrested in Sershul County. Yeshe Sangpo and his brother were among those detained.
- 2008 (May) Sham Trial:** Sangpo was tried in Sershul County in a non-transparent proceeding, without independent legal representation.
- 2008 (May) 18-Year Sentence:** He was convicted of the death of a police officer and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Charges widely seen as politically motivated.
- 2026 (March) Released:** Yeshe Sangpo was released after 18 years in prison in poor health, physically and mentally scarred.

**THE PROTEST: DEFENDING LANGUAGE & IDENTITY**

- Tibetans protested against policies that promoted Mandarin as the main medium of instruction.
- They demanded the right to study, use, and promote the Tibetan language.
- Protest seen as a fight to protect their cultural identity from erasure.

**18 YEARS OF SUFFERING**

- Imprisoned in Ra Nga County Prison.
- Poor food, no medical care, forced labor.
- Isolation, limited communication with family.
- Severe physical and mental health deterioration.

**RELEASE IN 2026**

- Released on March 25, 2026.
- Health is poor; needs long-term medical care.
- Family and supporters continue to call for justice and recognition.

**"They wanted to silence our language, but they could not silence our spirit."**  
— Yeshe Sangpo

**HIS STORY IS A REMINDER:**

- The struggle for language is the struggle for existence.
- Cultural rights are human rights.
- Tibetans continue to resist, non-violently, for their identity.

## RELEASE IN 2026 AND CURRENT SITUATION

On March 25, 2026, Yeshe Tsangpo was released at the age of 58, having completed his 18-year sentence. Reports in the Tibet Times and other diaspora outlets indicate that he returned home in very frail health, although his medical details have not yet been disclosed. His release occurred quietly, without any official public identification, and local sources say he remains under the surveillance of Chinese security officials. For Tibetan communities, Sangro's release is bittersweet—it's a homecoming overshadowed by the clear impact of prolonged detention. His story is a reminder of the human cost of cultural dissent in Tibet, where even peaceful advocacy for language rights can lead to decades in prison.

Eighteen years in prison did not silence Yeshe Sangro's message — it amplified it. His frail health upon release underscores the enduring repression of Tibetans who strive to preserve their identity through language, culture, and faith. As he returns home, his story continues to resonate as both tragedy and testament: a stark portrayal of the human spirit's resilience and the heavy price paid for defending one's cultural voice.

# satire

## China's South China Sea April 2026 Special



WHEN YOU FORGET TO READ THE FINE PRINT ON "PEACE."



Water Cannon Diplomacy 😂

## DEBT-TRAP FISHING.



THE FRIENDLY WAY TO OWN YOUR NEIGHBORS

# BEIJING TILTS SOUTH ASIA

China's growing military support for Pakistan is once again raising concern in India, especially after reports of a possible \$12 billion defence package involving stealth aircraft and missile-defence systems. Analysts say the deal, if completed, would deepen the China-Pakistan security partnership and sharpen the strategic triangle between Beijing, Islamabad and New Delhi.



## Beijing's Military Support to Pakistan Reshapes India's Strategic Calculus

Pakistan has long depended heavily on Chinese weapons and recent reporting suggests that Chinese systems now make up the backbone of its air defence and strike capability.

That includes fighter jets, surface-to-air missiles, radars, drones and integrated air-defence networks that improve Pakistan's ability to detect threats, guide attacks and coordinate across its armed forces. For India, this shift means facing a more technically advanced adversary on its western front.

For New Delhi, the main concern is not only the weapons themselves, but the broader political and strategic message behind them. China's backing gives Pakistan a stronger deterrent posture and forces India to prepare for a more difficult two-front security environment, with active tensions along both the Line of Actual Control with China and the international border with Pakistan. This is why many Indian analysts and policymakers view the China-Pakistan relationship as more than just normal defence trade and see it as a deliberate effort to keep India engaged and constrained regionally. The 2025 India-Pakistan conflict added fresh attention to Chinese military hardware. Chinese systems were used under real combat conditions, giving Beijing a chance to study performance, refine designs and tout results in future export offerings. At the same time, some analyses also pointed out that Chinese air-defence systems showed limitations under pressure, revealing gaps in reliability and interoperability during intense operations. Nevertheless, even this mixed outcome strengthens Beijing's incentive to continue supplying and upgrading Pakistan's arsenal.

**CHINA'S MILITARY SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN: A GROWING SECURITY CHALLENGE FOR INDIA**

China has become Pakistan's most important military supplier, providing advanced weapons, technology and defence systems that strengthen Islamabad's military capabilities and complicate India's security environment.

**MAJOR CHINESE WEAPONS AND SYSTEMS IN PAKISTAN**

- FIGHTER JETS:** JF-17 Thunder (Co-developed with China). Multi-role combat aircraft forming the backbone of Pakistan's Air Force.
- SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES:** HQ-9B, LY-80. Long-range systems that strengthen Pakistan's air defence shield.
- RADARS & EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS:** HJ-8B, JF-27. Long-range detection, tracking and targeting assets' look, air and sea.
- DRONES & UAVs:** CH-4, Wing Loong-2. Armed and surveillance drones used for strikes, reconnaissance and ISR.
- INTEGRATED AIR DEFENCE NETWORKS:** Integrated command, control and communication systems. Enhance coordination between air defence, radar, missiles and command centres.

**WHY INDIA IS CONCERNED**

- Stronger Deterrent for Pakistan:** Chinese systems give Pakistan greater offensive and defensive capabilities.
- Two-Front Security Challenge:** India faces simultaneous tensions on the western border with Pakistan and the northern border with China.
- Strategic Constraint:** Forces India to divert resources, modernise faster and stay engaged on multiple fronts.
- Political & Strategic Messaging:** China-Pakistan ties signal a long-term strategy to keep India pressured and regionally constrained.

**THE 2025 INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT: KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Chinese systems were used in real combat, allowing Beijing to evaluate performance, refine designs and boost future exports.
- Some Chinese air defence systems showed limitations under intense operations, exposing gaps.

**CHINA'S OFFICIAL POSITION**

"China maintains that its defence cooperation with Pakistan is normal, aimed at regional stability and meeting Pakistan's legitimate security needs, not directed against any third country."

**WIDER REGIONAL IMPACT**

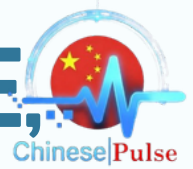
- LINK TO CPEC:** Military support is closely linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Beijing's long-term strategic interests.
- ENCIRCLEMENT CONCERNS:** India fears growing Chinese infrastructure, military assets and partnerships across South Asia.
- DIPLOMATIC CONSTRAINT:** Deepening China-Pakistan defence ties limit India's room for manoeuvre in regional diplomacy.
- CONTINUING TENSIONS:** This partnership will remain a major source of tension in India-China relations for the foreseeable future.

For India, a stronger China-Pakistan military partnership means a more complex, uncertain and challenging security environment in the years ahead.

China officially frames its ties with Pakistan as normal defence cooperation aimed at regional stability, not as an explicit anti-India alliance. Beijing emphasizes that it is only helping Pakistan meet its security needs and does not seek to destabilize the region. However, the timing, scale and technological sophistication of these transfers create strategic ambiguity, China avoids openly saying it is targeting India, while still strengthening Pakistan in ways that clearly affect India's security calculations and force it to divert resources to the western front.

The wider regional impact is significant. China's military support to Pakistan also connects closely to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and broader Chinese ambitions in South Asia, where India is already wary of being encircled by infrastructure and military assets aligned with Beijing. This means that deeper defence cooperation between China and Pakistan will likely remain a major source of tension in India-China relations and could limit New Delhi's room for manoeuvre in regional diplomacy.

# "XI'S PLA: LOYALTY, DISCIPLINE, UNYIELDING SCRUTINY"



## *Xi Jinping's Message to the PLA: Loyalty, Discipline, and a Military Under Scrutiny*

Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent call for top military officers to maintain "purity" is not merely a stand against corruption but a deeper reflection of the intricate relationship between politics, loyalty, and power within the People's Liberation Army (PLA). This remark comes at a crucial juncture, where China's military, plagued by corruption scandals and internal factionalism, faces a challenging task of reformation.



### **XI JINPING'S CALL FOR PURITY: A SYMBOL OF CONTROL**

Xi's demand for mental purity within the PLA is symbolic of his broader strategy to tighten his control over the military and affirm the political discipline that aligns with his vision for China. Following the major anti-corruption campaign since 2023, which saw numerous senior officers removed due to corruption and loss of political trust, Xi has emphasized the need for officers who are both politically reliable and militarily competent. Corruption scandals, especially in the military's leadership ranks, have cast a shadow over the PLA's effectiveness, undermining both its performance and its morale.

**XI'S DECLARATION OF STRENGTH**  
A PURE, LOYAL, AND MODERN PLA—THE CORNERSTONE OF CHINA'S FUTURE

**THE CORE MESSAGE**

- The PLA must be pure, politically disciplined, and loyal to the Communist Party.
- Corruption, factionalism, and disloyalty are threats to national security and regime survival.
- A strong military is not just about fighting capability, but about trust, loyalty, and ideological coherence.

**WHY THE PURGE? DEEP-ROOTED CHALLENGES WITHIN THE PLA**

- WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION:** Senior officers in procurement, logistics, and strategic planning have been involved in massive financial misconduct.
- POWERFUL NETWORKS:** High-ranking officers wielded significant influence, their removal disrupts entrenched factors and interests.
- IMPACT ON COHESION:** Purge drives risk undermining trust and unity within the ranks, potentially affecting combat readiness.
- REFORM UNCERTAINTY:** Deep penetration of corruption and factionalism raises doubts about the effectiveness and long-term impact of reforms.

**THE BIG QUESTION**

Will the purge create a more formidable PLA—or leave behind divisions that weaken China's defense capabilities?

**XI'S VISION FOR THE PLA**

**A STRONG PLA BUILT ON:**

- INNOVATION & MODERNIZATION:** Building a world-class military through technology, reform, and strategic innovation.
- IDEOLOGICAL COHERENCE:** Ensuring the army upholds the Party's doctrine and core values.
- DISCIPLINE & INTEGRITY:** Zero tolerance for corruption, factionalism, and disloyalty; building a clean and professional force.
- COMBAT READINESS:** A unified, trusted, and well-led force ready to safeguard China's interests.

**POLITICAL LOYALTY:** Absolute loyalty to the Communist Party above all else.

**TRUST, LOYALTY, DISCIPLINE: THE REAL POWER**

The future of the PLA is not determined solely by its weaponry or budget, but by:

- TRUST:** Unity within the ranks.
- LOYALTY:** Unwavering allegiance to the Party.
- POLITICAL DISCIPLINE:** Firm adherence to the Party's leadership and direction.

**THE ULTIMATE GOAL**

To build a world-class military that is not only strong in battle but also politically reliable, ideologically steadfast, and fully under Party control.

**THE ROAD AHEAD**

Xi's leadership strategy is calculated but political modification today for a stronger, more unified PLA tomorrow. Whether it will forge a more formidable force or create hidden divisions remains to be seen.

**“The PLA is an indispensable instrument in achieving the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation and building China into a powerful, innovative, and globally influential nation.”**  
— Xi Jinping

## The Deep-Rooted Problem of Corruption

The corruption issue within the PLA has been a longstanding one, deeply embedded in its structures. Senior officers in critical areas such as procurement, logistics, and strategic planning have been implicated in scandals that go beyond financial misconduct. Some of the high-ranking officers involved in these activities have wielded significant influence, and their removal has not been without consequences. While these purges are aimed at restoring discipline and loyalty to the Communist Party, they also risk damaging the military's internal cohesion. The deep penetration of corruption and factionalism has raised concerns about the effectiveness of reforms and their impact on the PLA's future performance.



### The Strategic Implications of Purges

Xi's efforts to address corruption within the military are not merely a matter of internal discipline; they also have significant strategic implications for China's broader geopolitical stance. The PLA has become a key player in regional security, particularly in the Taiwan Strait, the South China Sea, and China's contested borders with India. A divided or weakened PLA would be unable to project power effectively, and the political instability within its ranks could cause external powers to question China's military reliability.



Moreover, the removal of senior leaders during the anti-corruption campaign could lead to disruptions in confidence across the hierarchy, potentially causing regular soldiers and officers to question the future direction of the military.

## The Need for Political Discipline

Xi's push for political rectification and purity goes beyond mere ideological correction; it reflects the need for a highly disciplined force that can act decisively in the face of external and internal challenges. Xi's focus is clear: a military that is not only skilled on the battlefield but also politically reliable. The PLA's future, Xi believes, will not be determined by its technological capabilities or budget alone, but by its ability to maintain loyalty to the Communist Party and ensure the ideological coherence that will strengthen its unity and resolve.



**XI JINPING'S CALL FOR THE PLA REMAIN "PURE"**  
Beyond Corruption — A Drive for Loyalty, Control, and Military Transformation

**INTRODUCTION**  
Chinese President Xi Jinping's call for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to remain "pure" is more than an anti-corruption campaign. It is a broader political message about loyalty, discipline, and the future of China's military. The PLA is not only a combat force but also a pillar of the Communist Party's rule. Xi's message targets both high-level leaders and grassroots loyalty in the face of deep-rooted corruption, factionalism, and challenges to authority within China's most powerful institution.

**1. CORRUPTION AND DISCIPLINE**  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.

**2. MAINTAINING THE PLA'S IMAGE**  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.

**3. A MESSAGE OF AUTHORITY**  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.

**4. THE PLA'S ROLE IN THE FUTURE**  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.

**5. EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PLA PERSONNEL**  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.

**6. POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.

**7. MORE THAN ANTI-CORRUPTION**  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.

**8. THE CORE MESSAGE AND ITS RESPONSE**  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.  
• Reinforces discipline and loyalty within the PLA for peace.

**CONCLUSION**  
Xi Jinping's call for the PLA to remain "pure" is a comprehensive effort to build a modern, loyal, and disciplined military that serves not only China's leaders but also the Communist Party's long-term rule. The future of the PLA, in Xi's view, will be determined by its ability to maintain loyalty to the Communist Party and ensure the ideological coherence that will strengthen its unity and resolve.

## The Purge as a Source of Uncertainty

While the ongoing anti-corruption campaign is framed as a method to enhance the military's discipline, it has also contributed to growing uncertainty within the ranks. The sudden removal or disappearance of senior leaders can create anxiety among officers and soldiers, leading them to question whether promotions are based on merit or loyalty. This uncertainty, coupled with the ongoing purges, could undermine the PLA's unity and trust, making it difficult for Xi to achieve his military objectives in the long term.

# Xi's Declaration of Strength

Xi's call for the PLA to remain "pure" is more than just a response to corruption; it is a declaration of strength and authority. He aims to create a military that is innovative, politically disciplined, and fiercely loyal to the Communist Party. The urgency of this message suggests that Xi sees a critical need to resolve deep-seated issues within the PLA, as its ability to function effectively depends on its internal cohesion and loyalty to the Party. However, the effectiveness of this approach remains uncertain. Will the purge result in a more formidable military force, or will it leave behind divisions that weaken China's defense capabilities?



**HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF**  
 XI JINPING'S PURGE OF THE 2ND HIGHEST PLA GENERAL  
 ZHANG YOUXIA ECHOES THE DOWNFALL OF LIN BIAO

**NO ONE IS ABOVE**  
 LOYALTY. DISCIPLINE.  
 PURGE. CONTROL.

**LIN BIAO**  
 MAO'S DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR  
 DIED IN A PLANE CRASH IN 1971  
 AFTER ATTEMPTING A COUP

**ZHANG YOUXIA**  
 XI'S 2ND HIGHEST PLA GENERAL  
 PURGED IN 2025  
 AMID GROWING POWER & INFLUENCE

**FIVE YEARS. TWO GENERALS. ONE WARNING.**  
 POWER WITHOUT LOYALTY LEADS TO DOWNFALL.

**1971 THE DOWNFALL OF LIN BIAO**

- MAO'S DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR**: Lin Biao was Mao Zedong's chosen heir and held supreme military power.
- PILOT AGAINST MAO**: Accused of plotting a coup to seize power from Mao.
- PLANE CRASH**: Flew to the Soviet Union but died in a mysterious plane crash.
- MASS PURGE**: Mao launched a massive purge to eliminate dissent and rivals.

**2025 THE PURGE OF ZHANG YOUXIA**

- RISING POWER**: Zhang Youxia was Xi's trusted general and No. 2 in the PLA.
- GROWING INFLUENCE**: His expanding influence raised concerns within the Party.
- SUDDEN PURGE**: Removed from office in 2025 in a sudden anti-corruption sweep.
- MESSAGE SENT**: Xi reinforces absolute loyalty and zero tolerance for threats.

**HISTORY'S LESSON: POWER MAY RISE.**

“THE PLA IS AN INDISPENSABLE INSTRUMENT IN ACHIEVING THE CHINESE DREAM OF NATIONAL REJUVENATION AND BUILDING CHINA INTO A POWERFUL...”



**China's Central Military Commission after the 20th Party Congress**

**Zhang Youxia 张又侠**  
 CMC Vice Chairman

**Xi Jinping 习近平**  
 CCP General Secretary  
 State Chairman  
 CMC Chairman

**He Weidong 何卫东**  
 CMC Vice Chairman

**Li Shangfu 李尚福**  
 CMC Member  
 Minister of National Defense

**Liu Zhenli 刘振立**  
 CMC Member  
 Chief of the CMC Joint Staff Department

**Miao Hua 苗华**  
 CMC Member  
 Director of the CMC Political Work Department

**Zhang Shengmin 张升民**  
 CMC Member  
 Secretary of the CMC Commission for Discipline Inspection

PLA's future is not determined solely by its weaponry or budget. It is the trust, loyalty, and political discipline that will shape the military's role in China's future. Xi Jinping's leadership strategy, focused on political rectification and ideological coherence, reflects his belief that a strong military is not only one that excels in combat but one that remains firmly under the control of the Communist Party. Whether his approach will strengthen the PLA or merely create divisions remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: Xi views the PLA as an indispensable instrument of his broader vision to transform China into a powerful, innovative, and politically coherent global force.

# PLA MILITARY UPDATE

PLA

PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY

## DF-17



China's DF-17 hypersonic missile, range of 1,800–2,500 km, deployed by China's Rocket Force, capable of evading defenses, and part of China's A2/AD strategy, targeting U.S. assets in the Indo-Pacific.

## MILITARY SATELLITES LAUNCHED

PLA Navy commissioned two new Type 055 to secure military communications and space surveillance, battlefield awareness, secure data links, and target tracking capabilities—missile, assigned to the Eastern Theater Command.



## J-20 FLEE

China expands J-20 stealth fighter fleet, Fifth-generation, designed to challenge traditional Western stealth platforms in Indo-Pacific airspace by PLAAF.





## H-20 STEALTH BOMBER

H-20 stealth bomber is in advanced testing, designed for long-range nuclear and conventional strikes. Range up to 10,000 km. Full operational status is years away.

## FUJIAN AIRCRAFT

Aircraft carrier Fujian, successfully testing its electromagnetic catapult (EMALS) system, including catapult launches and arrested recoveries of carrier jets such as the J-35 stealth fighter, J-15T, and KJ-600 AEW aircraft. expected to be deployed within China's East China Sea operations zone, with potential for future operations in the Pacific.



## AI-DRIVEN WARFARE SYSTEMS ADVANCING

China integrates AI into military command systems for faster decision-making, aiming for "intelligentized warfare" with autonomous platforms and enhanced ISR.



# XI'S CIRCLE CRACKS: POWER STRUGGLES



## THE POWER STRUGGLE

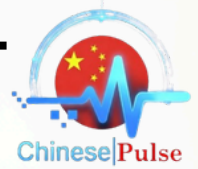
MA XINGRUI'S DOWNFALL SIGNALS A DANGEROUS SHIFT IN THE PARTY'S BALANCE

## MA XINGRUI SCANDAL: EXPOSING HIDDEN POWER NETWORKS IN CHINA"

In the opaque world of Chinese elite politics, corruption cases often serve a deeper purpose than law enforcement, they reveal shifting fault lines within the Communist Party. The investigation into Politburo member Ma Xingrui is one such case. At first glance, it appears to follow the familiar script of Xi Jinping's long-running anti-corruption campaign. But a closer examination shows something more serious

the exposure of an informal network of influence that extended beyond official channels and into the families of China's political elite. For a system built on centralized authority, discipline and loyalty to the top leadership, such hidden networks are not just illegal, they are dangerous. The Ma Xingrui case, therefore, is less about corruption alone and more about control, factional balance and the growing anxiety within China's political and military establishment.

## THE INVESTIGATION AND HIS POLITICAL CAREER



Ma Xingrui became a main member of China's top political leadership on 22 October 2022, when he was elected to the 20th Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party at the First Plenum of the 20th Central Committee. That is the key date when he entered the small group that helps run China at the highest level. Before reaching that level, Ma had already built a strong career inside Xi Jinping's governing system. He served as Party Secretary of Shenzhen from 26 March 2015 to 30 December 2016, then became Governor of Guangdong on 30 December 2016. Later, on 25 December 2021, he was appointed Party Secretary of Xinjiang, one of the most politically sensitive posts in China. His rise from aerospace leadership into provincial and then national politics showed that he was not just a regional official, but a trusted technocrat-politician with importance in governance, security and strategic policy. In Xi Jinping's government, Ma's importance came from three things. First, he was a Politburo member, which placed him among China's top decision-makers. Second, he held the Xinjiang Party Secretary post, a position central to Beijing's control over security, ethnic policy and border governance. Third, reporting around his case also identified him

as deputy head of the Central Rural Work Leading Group, showing that he remained part of the central policy structure even after leaving Xinjiang. On April 3, 2026, state media announced that Ma Xingrui was under investigation for "serious violations of Party discipline and state law." Yet, the language of the announcement immediately drew attention among political observers. Key elements typically present in such notices were missing. The title "comrade" was not used and there was no mention that the investigation had been approved by the Party Central Committee. In the Chinese Communist Party's carefully coded political language, such omissions are rarely accidental. They can signal a shift in how the leadership views the individual not just as an official under investigation, but as someone already politically discredited. Some analysts interpret this as an early indication that Ma has lost protection at the highest level. Equally notable was the sudden disclosure of Ma's previously unpublicized role as deputy head of the Central Rural Work Leading Group. Ma's case highlights growing intra-Party scrutiny, as he becomes the third Politburo member investigated since 2022, signalling that even top leadership ranks face unprecedented disciplinary uncertainty within China's political system.

## THE WIFE'S NETWORK: A NEW MODEL OF CORRUPTION

The most striking aspect of the case lies not in Ma himself, but in the activities attributed to his wife, Rong Li. Reports of Xinhua News paper suggest that she distributed Hong Kong-registered insurance policies valued between several million and over ten million yuan per recipient to the families of senior officials. This method represents a sophisticated evolution of corruption:

- It bypassed traditional cash transactions, making detection more difficult.
- It targeted the families of officials, embedding influence at a personal level.
- It operated under the cover of social relationships, blurring the line between gift-giving and bribery.

What emerged was not a simple bribery scheme but a web of reciprocal obligations among elite families. In such a system, loyalty is not enforced through ideology or hierarchy, but through shared benefits and mutual dependence. For Xi Jinping, this is a far greater threat than ordinary corruption. Financial misconduct can be punished and controlled. But a network that quietly binds together senior officials and their families has the potential to evolve into a parallel power structure

one that operates outside formal Party discipline. The eight-month investigation before the public announcement suggests that authorities were not just gathering evidence but mapping connections. Each link uncovered would have expanded the perceived scope of the network, increasing concern at the top.

### LINKS TO THE PLA AND THE AEROSPACE FACTION

Ma Xingrui's career trajectory adds another dimension to the case. Before rising through the political ranks, he held key positions in China's aerospace and defence sector. An area closely linked to the People's Liberation Army. This background places him within what some analysts call the "aerospace faction," a network of officials with ties to defence industries and military research institutions.

Such networks are particularly sensitive because they intersect with:

- Strategic industries critical to national security
- Procurement and funding channels linked to the PLA
- Political patronage systems that extend into military leadership

Speculation has also emerged about connections between this network and major property developers like Evergrande and Vanke, both of which maintained relationships with political elites before their financial crises. At the same time, unusual signals from China's security environment have added to the sense of internal tension. The appearance of former Premier Wen Jiabao under protection from the PLA's Joint Staff Department rather than Xi-controlled security units has raised questions about alignment within the security apparatus. While no direct link has been confirmed, the timing of these developments suggests that the Ma case may be part of a broader effort to reassert control over both political and military networks.

### **A POLITBURO UNDER PRESSURE**

The cumulative effect of these developments is a growing sense that the Politburo itself has become a high-risk position.

- Three members investigated within a short period
- Increasing scrutiny of elite networks
- Speculation about further purges targeting senior figures

This reflects a shift in Xi Jinping's governance strategy. Earlier phases of the anti-corruption campaign focused on removing rivals and consolidating authority.

The current phase appears more systemic targeting not just individuals, but the networks that sustain them. As a result, political survival now depends not only on loyalty, but on the absence of independent connections. Any informal alliance, especially one that operates through family or financial ties, can be interpreted as a potential threat.

### **CONCLUSION**

The investigation into Ma Xingrui is not an isolated incident, it is a signal of deeper structural tensions within China's political system. The exposure of a family-based bribery network highlights how power can circulate outside formal institutions, creating hidden alliances that challenge centralized control. Each purge weakens existing structures while increasing uncertainty among remaining elites. In a system where stability depends on internal cohesion, this balance is becoming harder to maintain. Ultimately, the Ma Xingrui case illustrates a critical reality: China's anti-corruption campaign has evolved into a broader struggle over power, loyalty and control, one that now extends across the Party, the military and the networks that bind them together.

# China Rebuffed"

INDIA REJECTS CHINA'S RENAMING OF ARUNACHAL LOCATIONS:  
A MOVE THAT COULD STRAIN BILATERAL TIES

## India Rejects China's Arunachal Renaming Attempt"



In a recent diplomatic clash India has firmly rejected China's attempt to rename locations in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh highlighting the tensions simmering beneath the surface of their already complicated relationship. This latest action from Beijing which India describes as an effort to

fabricate baseless narratives threatens to destabilize the ongoing efforts to normalize and rebuild bilateral ties between the two countries. Arunachal Pradesh located in the northeastern part of India, has been a longstanding flashpoint in the territorial dispute between India and China. China claims the region as part of what it refers to as "Southern Tibet," a claim India has consistently and resolutely opposed. The region is not only geographically strategic but is also symbolically significant for both countries. India has always maintained that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of its territory, a stance that has remained unchanged despite Chinese assertions. The issue at hand is not new; it has been a persistent element of the larger territorial disputes between India and China. The latest incident is just one in a series of actions taken by Beijing to stake its claim over the region. These actions include China's repeated attempts to rename locations in Arunachal Pradesh, an attempt to create a new narrative that reinforces its territorial assertions.



China's recent move to assign "fictitious" names to various places in Arunachal Pradesh marks the latest chapter in a years-long series of renaming exercises. In 2017, 2021, and 2023, the Chinese Civil Affairs Ministry published lists of renamed locations in the disputed region, all under the name "Zangnan" – a name that Beijing uses to refer to the entire area. The renaming is not just a bureaucratic exercise but a symbolic assertion of China's claim, intended to change the narrative surrounding the region. Yet, India has once again rejected this attempt, reaffirming that Arunachal Pradesh is, and will always be, an undeniable part of its sovereign territory. India's response to these repeated provocations has been unequivocal. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), through its spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, has made it clear that China's actions are "mischievous" and aimed at creating false narratives. India insists that no amount of renaming will alter the reality on the ground.

"These attempts by China at introducing false claims and manufacturing baseless narratives cannot alter the undeniable reality that these places and territories, including Arunachal Pradesh, were, are, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," Jaiswal firmly stated.

The MEA's response also underlined the potential long-term diplomatic consequences of China's actions. The spokesperson warned that such provocative moves could derail the delicate progress that had been made toward stabilizing and improving India-China relations, which had been severely strained following the violent clashes in Eastern Ladakh in 2020. While both sides have been making efforts to rebuild their relationship, unilateral actions like these threaten to undo all the hard work that has gone into thawing tensions.



The territorial dispute over Arunachal Pradesh is not an isolated issue. It forms part of a broader set of ongoing challenges in the India-China relationship, which has been characterized by both cooperation and conflict over the years. The situation in Arunachal Pradesh is not just a matter of territorial integrity for India; it has deep implications for the security and stability of the entire region.

In 2020, tensions reached a peak with the violent border clashes in Ladakh, which left dozens of soldiers dead on both sides. Since then, both nations have engaged in talks to de-escalate the situation and restore peace, with some successes in reducing tensions on the ground. However, China's consistent efforts to assert its claims over disputed territories, including through symbolic actions like renaming places, continue to complicate these diplomatic efforts. For India, the challenge is multifaceted. On the one hand, there is a need to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

On the other, there is the delicate task of managing regional security and maintaining strong relationships with neighboring countries. China's actions in Arunachal Pradesh, particularly its renaming of locations, could lead to increased tensions not just with India, but with other countries in the region that may view such moves as part of Beijing's broader strategy to assert territorial dominance in the region.

**INDIA'S FIRM REJECTION OF CHINA'S RENAMING OF PLACES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

SIGNALS THE COUNTRY'S **UNWAVERING COMMITMENT** TO ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
AN INTEGRAL PART OF INDIA

**"ZANGNAN"**  
FICTITIOUS NAMES

- UNWAVERING COMMITMENT**  
India firmly rejects China's attempts to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh and reaffirms that the region is, and will always be, an integral part of its sovereign territory.
- NEED FOR MUTUAL RESPECT**  
Both India and China must work towards a future where mutual respect, not territorial assertiveness, guides their relationship.
- IMPORTANCE OF DIPLOMACY**  
Peace and stability in the region depend on a commitment to peaceful negotiation, dialogue, and the preservation of sovereign borders.
- PATH TO A STRONGER ASIA**  
Only through peace, respect, and cooperation can India and China navigate their differences and build a more stable and prosperous future for Asia.

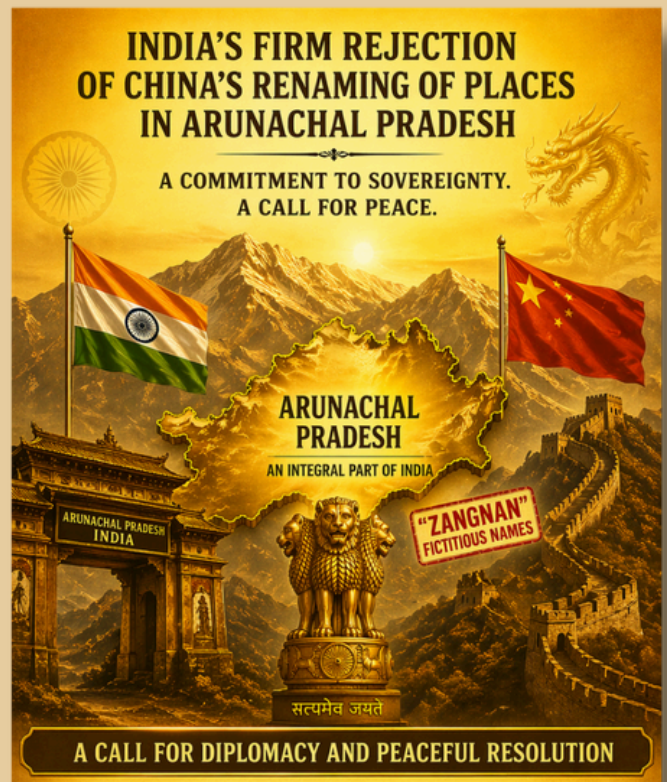
**PEACE • RESPECT • DIALOGUE • STABILITY**  
**THE PATH TO A STRONGER ASIA**

The infographic features a golden Lion Capital of Ashoka at the top right, a map of Arunachal Pradesh in the center, and a handshake between Indian and Chinese hands at the bottom. The background includes a sunset over the Great Wall of China and a gate labeled 'ARUNACHAL PRADESH INDIA'.

India's rejection of China's renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh is a strong reaffirmation of its territorial stance. However, it also serves as a reminder that the preservation of peace and stability in the region requires more than just defending borders – it requires diplomatic dialogue, mutual respect for sovereignty, and a commitment to resolving disputes peacefully. India has consistently called for dialogue and diplomatic engagement to address the complex issues that plague India-China relations. Both countries have a shared interest in regional stability, and their cooperation is essential for peace in Asia. But for this cooperation to be effective, both sides must demonstrate a commitment to respecting each other's territorial integrity and refraining from actions that can exacerbate tensions.

For China, the continued assertion of territorial claims through actions like renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh could backfire. Rather than strengthening its position, it risks further alienating India and complicating the diplomatic landscape. Both sides have worked hard to de-escalate tensions after the Ladakh conflict, and China's provocative actions threaten to undo the progress made in these efforts.

The dispute over Arunachal Pradesh is just one example of the broader, ongoing territorial challenges between India and China. While these issues are unlikely to be resolved overnight,



the importance of preserving diplomatic channels and continuing dialogue cannot be overstated. India's firm rejection of China's renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh signals the country's unwavering commitment to its territorial integrity. It also underscores the need for both nations to work towards a future where mutual respect, not territorial assertiveness, guides their relationship. As tensions continue to simmer over territorial issues the importance of diplomacy cannot be overstated. Both India and China must recognize that peace and stability in the region depend not just on military power, but on a commitment to peaceful negotiation, mutual respect, and the preservation of sovereign borders. Only through these principles can the two nations navigate their differences and build a more stable and prosperous future for Asia.

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN CHINA AND THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

**I**n March 2026, the youth unemployment rate in China for individuals aged 16-24 (excluding students) increased to 16.9%, reversing a six-month decline.

The percentage of unemployed individuals aged 25-29 experienced a rise to 7.7%, while the overall urban unemployment rate rose slightly to 5.4%. In the beginning, Chinese officials from the National Bureau of Statistics have explained that the increase is a result of seasonal factors, particularly due to the delayed arrival of the Chinese New Year.

According to the government, employment growth in the service sector and expected increases in employment by early 2026 are indicative of a stable employment situation overall.

### The Reality Behind the Numbers.



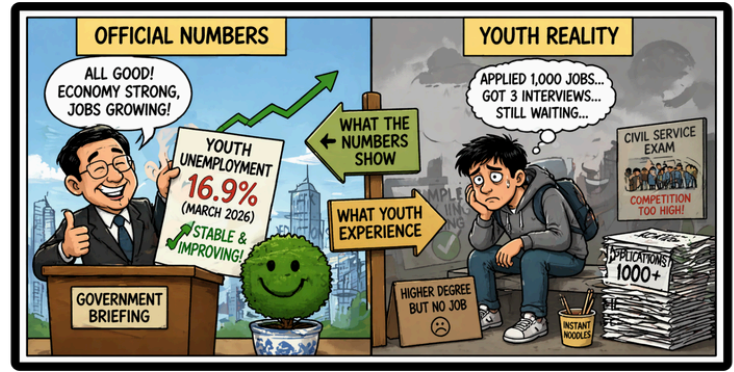
The national urban unemployment rate may seem low, but the level of youth unemployment has not been elevated. Before the March increase, China's youth unemployment rate was significantly higher than world average. In mid-term it was once 21.3%, but in recent months has dropped to 14-17%.

The official statistics of the government may be weakened by exclusions for students from the youth unemployment data. Many young workers are either finding employment only on temporary grounds or for a low salary or they are simply not finding work. The pressure on young jobseekers is much greater when underemployment and informal work are taken into account.



# Slower economic growth and job cuts.

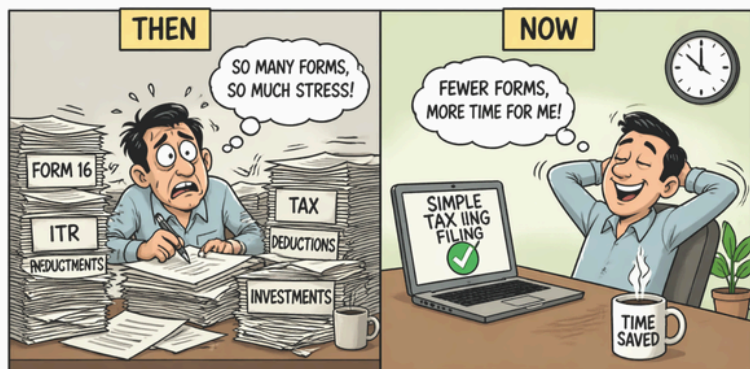
The job market is under pressure due to a lack of rapid economic growth. Despite China's GDP growth being faster than most other countries, it has not been consistent. Private sector confidence is low, while real estate investment has slowed and businesses are reluctant to expand or hire new employees. The outcome is a lower number of job openings, particularly for young people. Moreover, the mounting global economic difficulties of weaker external demand and deflation are prompting companies to be more cautious about hiring and increasing labor costs. Why is this? China's growth figures may indicate progress, but the job market, particularly for young people, remains challenging.



## MORE GRADUATES, FEWER JOBS.

The rise in job opportunities for graduates is another factor contributing to the pressure. There is a projected increase of 4% in the number of students who graduate in 2026, with an anticipated total of 227 million. The surge of young job seekers is occurring at a time when employment is slowing down. A large number of educated youths are entering the workforce, leading to a fierce competition for secure and lucrative jobs. A large number of graduates end up in temporary or low-paying jobs that are not entirely satisfactory to their level. Some have shifted their attention from job hunting to preparation for the civil service exams, which offer job security but are fiercely competitive. The job market is already under pressure due to the sheer number of applicants, which exceeds the number available.

Translated from Chinese Show original  
In March of this year, China's youth unemployment rate ended six consecutive months of decline and rose back to 16.9%.



## The actual challenges faced by young job hunters.

While official figures do provide some clarity, they may overlook the real struggles young people face when seeking employment. Despite applying for thousands of jobs, many recent graduates who were unsuccessful in their attempts at civil service find that they only receive a few short interviews. Many young people in cities like Beijing and Shanghai are attempting to enter the workforce, but the government's optimistic outlook on the job market is contradicted by this situation.



## Policy Responses and Persistent Challenges.

China's policymakers have implemented job-creation campaigns and programs to assist young people in finding employment, particularly in areas like technology, services and vocational training. Despite their potential benefits, these measures don't address the root causes of structural unemployment, particularly among graduates and early-career workers. The official emphasis on job stability may overlook the fact that young people still encounter significant challenges in obtaining meaningful and well-paying jobs.



The economic model of China often prioritizes GDP growth and stability over overall unemployment, but the job market for young people offers a unique perspective. A lot of young individuals experience high unemployment rates, fierce competition and a lack of alignment between their abilities and the demands of the economy. The struggle persists as youth unemployment has risen to 16.9% in March 2026. While the country is experiencing economic growth, a large number of young people are still affected by an unreliable labor force. While the official statistics may seem favourable, a significant number of young people's experiences are not as positive.

# X CORNER



Fareed Zakaria   
@FareedZakaria

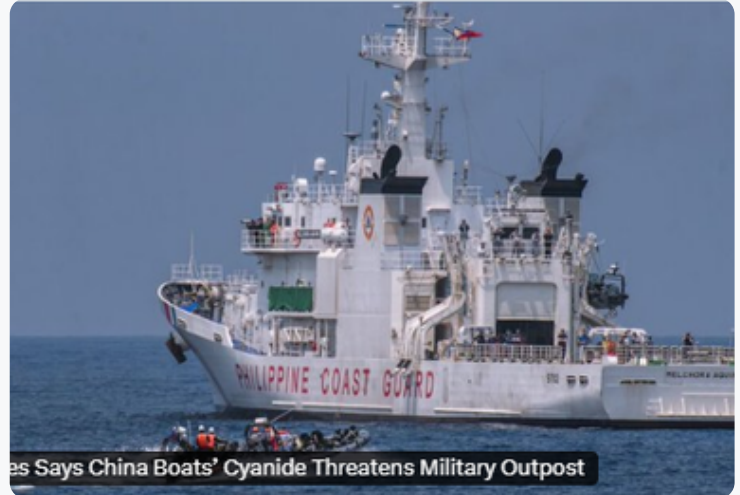


U.S. volatility is advancing China's long game

## U.S. Volatility Boosts China's Strategic Advantage

Zakaria argues U.S. unpredictability in policy and warfare strengthens China's global influence and long-term strategic position amid shifting world power dynamics.

Bloomberg   
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Philippines Says China Boats' Cyanide Threatens Military Outpost

## Philippines Says Chinese Boats Used Cyanide, in South China Sea

The Philippines confirmed Chinese vessels used cyanide near Second Thomas Shoal, raising environmental damage and military-outpost stability concerns amid South China Sea disputes.

FT   
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## Financial Times: "China Shock 2.0 – A New Wave of High-Tech Exports Set to Reshape Global Economy"

Financial Times highlights how China's rising high-tech exports could spark a "China Shock 2.0," disrupting global markets, increasing competition, and reshaping industries, wages, and trade balances worldwide.

# IMPORTANT VISITS

## Keir Starmer's Groundbreaking Visit to China: Strengthening UK-China Ties



UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer visited China from January 28 to 31, marking the first trip by a UK Prime Minister in eight years. The visit focused on improving trade, climate change, and global security.

Starmer met President Xi Jinping to discuss boosting economic ties, especially in green energy. He also raised concerns about human rights and Hong Kong. The visit helped reset UK-China relations, with both sides agreeing to keep working together despite differences, focusing on respect and cooperation.

## Taiwan's Kuomintang Chairwoman Cheng Li-wun Visits China for Talks with Xi Jinping

Cheng Li-wun, Chairwoman of Taiwan's opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), visited China from April 7 to 12, 2026. During her trip, she met with Chinese President Xi Jinping to discuss cross-strait relations. With tensions rising in the region, Cheng stressed the need for peaceful dialogue and cooperation to maintain stability across the Taiwan Strait.



Although the KMT traditionally supports closer ties with China, her visit gained attention due to Taiwan's divided political landscape. The meeting aimed to promote engagement and ease growing tensions as Taiwan faces increased pressure from Beijing.

## Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's Diplomatic Visit

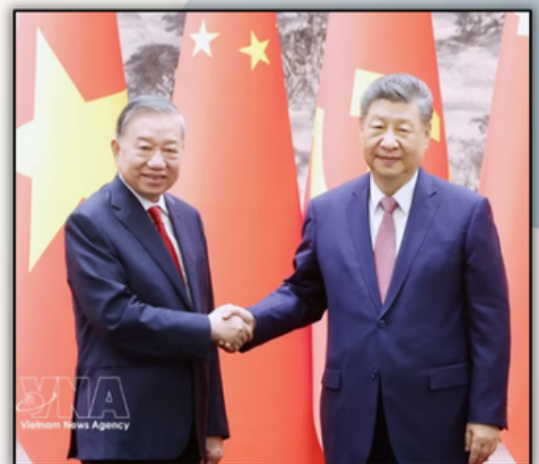


Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was scheduled for a diplomatic visit starting April 13, 2026. The visit aimed to strengthen Russia's ties with the host country, focusing on diplomatic, security, and economic issues.

Lavrov was expected to meet with government officials to discuss regional security, energy cooperation, and global relations. The visit highlighted Russia's efforts to maintain strong global partnerships amid ongoing geopolitical challenges. Lavrov's presence underscored Moscow's intention to reinforce strategic alliances and influence future diplomatic and economic collaborations with the host nation.

## Vietnam's State Visit to China: Strengthening Ties and Promoting Tourism Cooperation

Vietnam's General Secretary and State President, To Lam, visited China from April 14-17, 2026. He met with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang to strengthen ties between the two countries. They signed agreements on trade, security, and infrastructure and launched the "Viet Nam–China Tourism Cooperation Years 2026–2027" to boost tourism and cultural exchanges.



This visit highlights the growing partnership between Vietnam and China, focusing on regional stability, economic growth, and mutual understanding.

## Mozambique President Daniel Francisco Chapo's Official Visit to China

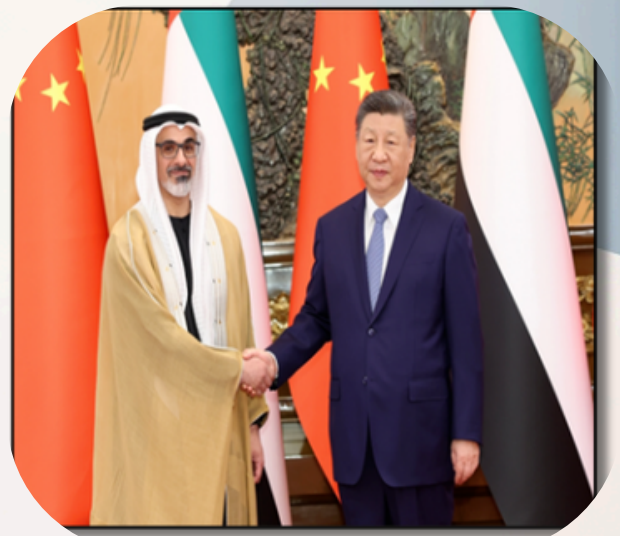


Mozambique's President, Daniel Francisco Chapo, visited China from April 16-22, 2026, to strengthen ties and enhance cooperation. He met with Chinese leaders, including President Xi Jinping, to discuss trade, infrastructure, and regional security.

The visit aimed to boost collaboration in agriculture, energy, and technology. It underscored the growing partnership between Mozambique and China, focusing on economic growth, cultural exchanges, and strengthening diplomatic relations amid shifting global dynamics.

## Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's Diplomatic Visit to China

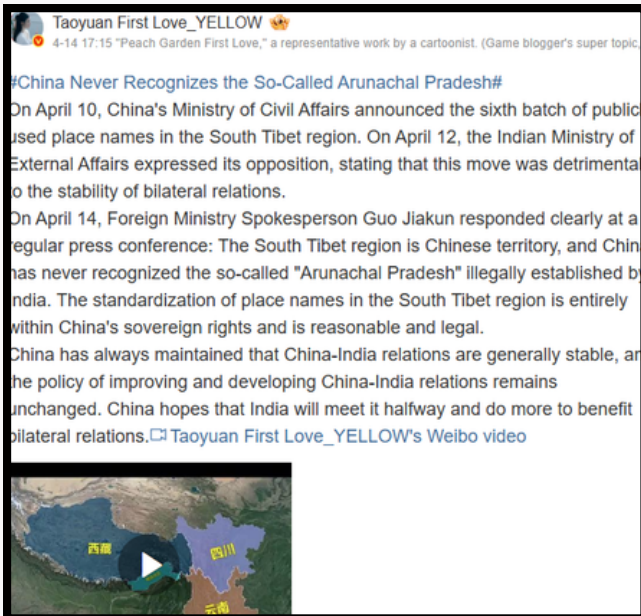
On April 12, 2026, Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi visited China to strengthen UAE-China relations. He met with Chinese leaders, including President Xi Jinping, to discuss trade, energy, and regional security. The talks focused on expanding cooperation in renewable energy, infrastructure, and technology.



This visit highlighted the UAE's efforts to deepen global ties and enhance its role in regional and global affairs, opening new opportunities for collaboration and boosting diplomatic and economic exchanges.

# CHINESE SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

## TRENDING ON WEIBO



### China Rejects India's "Arunachal Pradesh" Claim over Southern Tibetan Region

China's Foreign Ministry states that the southern Tibetan area is Chinese territory and does not recognize India's so-called "Arunachal Pradesh," urging India to support bilateral relations.



### "Tibet Military Region Conducts Major Live-Fire Exercise"

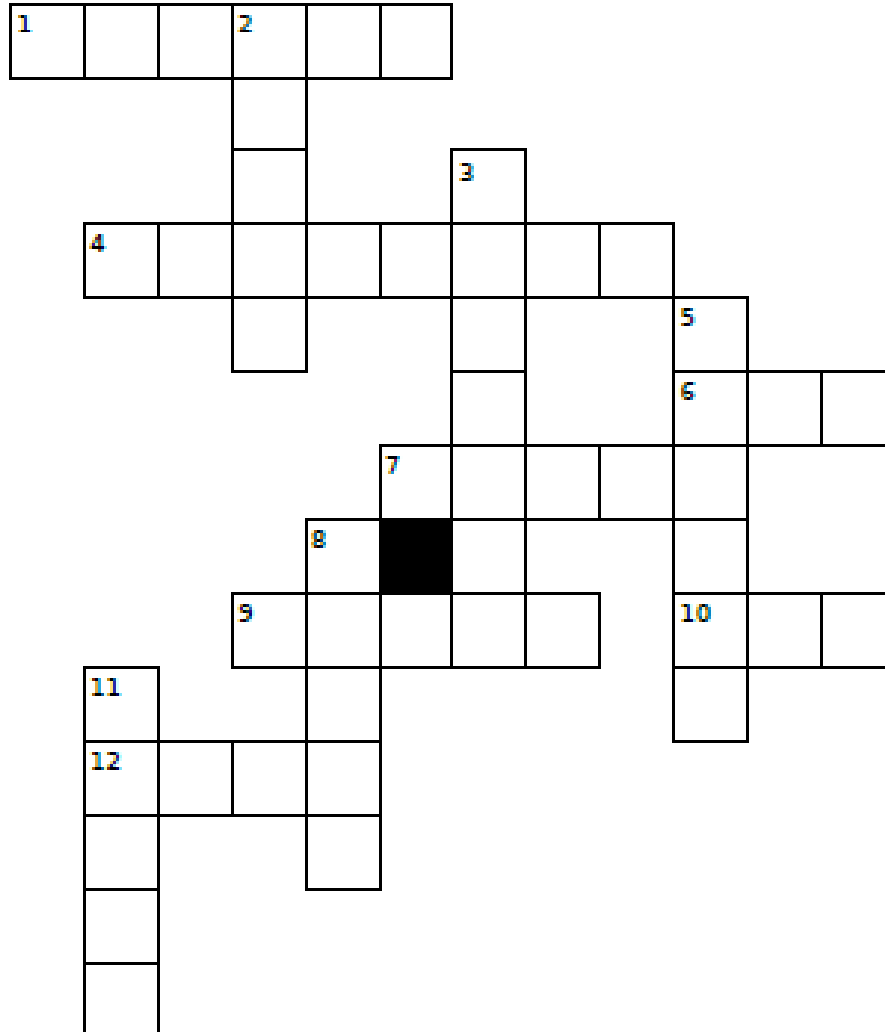
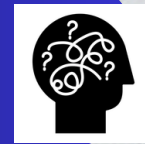
The Tibet Military Region recently conducted a large-scale plateau live-fire exercise. Artillery units carried out intensive shooting drills under realistic combat conditions, testing coordination, firepower, and overall combat readiness of officers and soldiers.

## TRENDING ON TIKTOK TIKTOK



### "Victor Gao on the China-India Border Dispute: Unpacking Geopolitical Tensions"

Victor Gao, former interpreter for Deng Xiaoping, offers insights into the China-India border dispute in a conversation with Al Jazeera. He explores the underlying factors fueling tensions between these two major Asian powers, providing a nuanced perspective on their geopolitical rivalry.



**Down:**

- 2. Unmanned aerial vehicle,
- 3. Shoulder-fired air defence systems
- 5. Strategic strait carrying global oil
- 8. Asian power accused of dual strategy
- 11. Disputed Himalayan region

**Across:**

- 1. China's navigation satellite system
- 4. Region of Uyghur Muslims
- 6. Main commodity passing through Hormuz
- 7. Detection system used in warfare
- 9. Capital of Tibet
- 10. Country opposing Iran
- 12. Middle Eastern country linked with arms news

# SNAP TRIVIA !

## LEVEL 1 – EASY

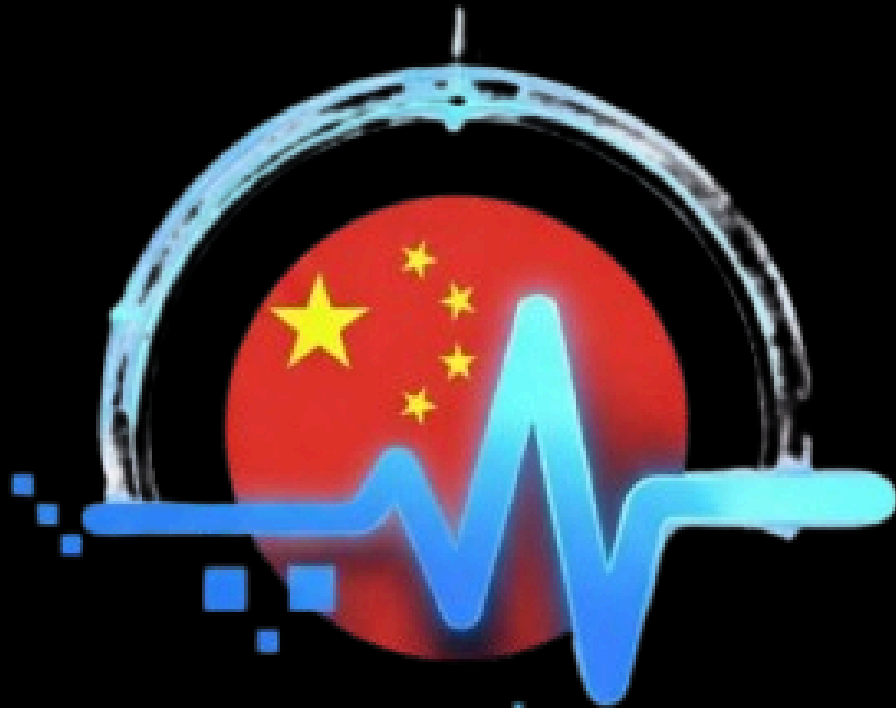
1. China expressed concern over a U.S. action in which waterway?
2. Which ethnic group faces ongoing repression under Chinese policies?
3. In which region do parents report children being sent to boarding schools to learn Mandarin?
4. Which Chinese naval vessel sailed through the Taiwan Strait?
5. Which sea did China warn other countries could lose trust due to joint drills?

## LEVEL 2 – MODERATE

1. Which satellite helped Iran monitor U.S. military bases in the Middle East?
2. What Chinese satellite system is enhancing maritime surveillance capabilities?
3. What Chinese satellite system is enhancing maritime surveillance capabilities?
4. Which conflict is linked to the Chinese satellite's role in military targeting?
5. Which U.S. intelligence body raised concerns over China's potential military support to Iran?

## LEVEL 3 – HARD

1. Which law passed by China in 2026 promotes ethnic unity?
2. Which region's surveillance technologies are linked to Chinese satellite systems used by Iran?
3. What pact allows China to expand security cooperation with neighboring countries?
4. What policy is being enforced through China's ethnic unity law, particularly in Tibet and Xinjiang?
5. Which event marked the beginning of Tibet's unbroken struggle against Chinese repression?



Chinese|Pulse

"Where charm meets **Danger**

and

every smile hides a silent **strike**

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