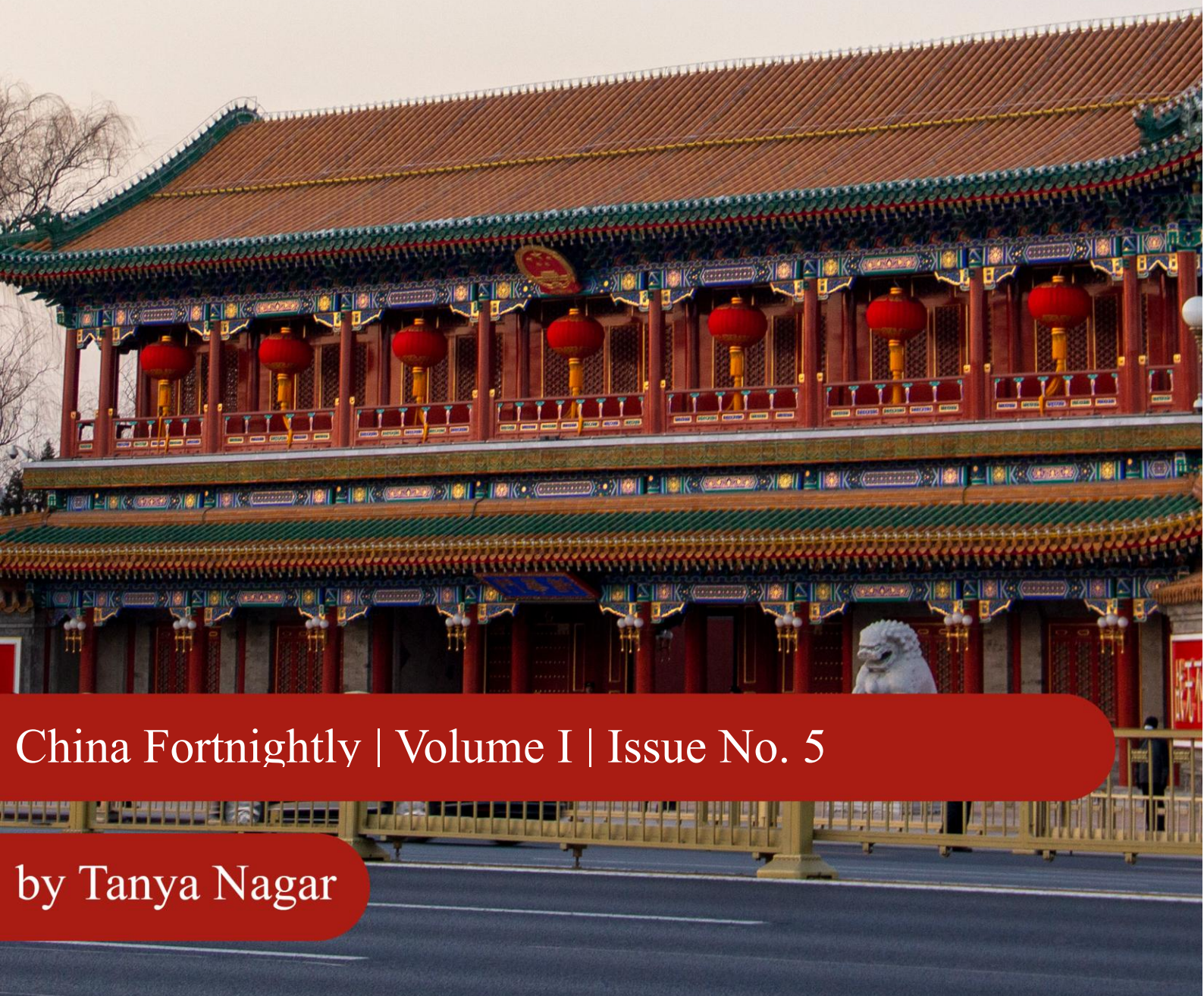


CLAWS Newsletter



China Fortnightly | Volume I | Issue No. 5

by Tanya Nagar

➤ POLITICS

2 April 2025 | **In a first for CPC, two Politburo members [swap roles](#):** The heads of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) human resources and influence departments have switched jobs. State news agency Xinhua confirmed that Li Ganjie has become head of the United Front Work Department, while Shi Taifeng, according to an official announcement, is the new chief of the Organisation Department. There has never been a prior instance of Politburo members exchanging roles.

15 April 2025 | **China [lists 3 alleged NSA spies](#) wanted for cyberattacks during Asian Winter Games:** The police of northeastern Chinese city, Harbin issued arrest warrants against three alleged agents of US's National Security Agency (NSA) for using AI to launch cyberattacks during the Asian Winter Games held in the city in February. State news agency Xinhua reported that the NSA "tried to disrupt the event system and affect the normal operation" of the games. Xinhua further added that the NSA also launched cyberattacks on "key sectors such as energy, transport, water conservancy, communications and national defence research institutes" in Heilongjiang province, home to Harbin city.

➤ MILITARY

2 April 2025 | **Expert claims Chinese vessel in Philippines' waters may be [collecting intelligence](#):** SeaLight director Ray Powell, a maritime expert, said that the Chinese research ship Song Hang that passed inside Philippines' archipelagic waters may be gathering intelligence information about a 'potential adversary', according to Inquirer.net. Powell explained that although Song Hang is listed as a fisheries research ship, it is assumed that it is dual-use. He argued that the ship's indirect path through the Sulu Sea is a cause for concern.

2 April 2025 | **PLA likely deployed new [hypersonic anti-ship missiles](#) around Taiwan:** Two YJ-21 missiles, also known as Eagle Strike-21, were seen on board an H-6K strategic bomber seen taking off from an unidentified airfield in a video posted on 1 April 2025 to the PLA Eastern Theatre Command's official social media account. It was released soon after the opening of another massive, unexpected joint-exercise 'Strait Thunder 2025A' in the waters and airspace to the north, south and east of Taiwan. Current anti-missile systems are not capable of intercepting the YJ-21.

6 April 2025 | **PLA's aircraft carrier likely took [alternative route](#):** The PLA's Shandong aircraft carrier possibly took an alternative route ahead of the two-day PLA 'Strait Thunder-2025A' exercise around Taiwan. The Shandong appears to have bypassed the wider Bashi Channel, a strategic and heavily monitored chokepoint, between the self-ruled island and the Philippines, and instead chose to pass via the narrower waterways within the Philippine archipelago.

10 April 2025 | **Xi signs order enforcing [drug administration](#) in the military:** Xi Jinping, chairman of the central Military Commission (CMC), has signed an order revising the guidelines for the enforcement of a drug administration law in the Chinese armed forces. The new guidelines, take effect from 1 June and are aimed at refining the administration of medicines in the armed forces. Under the revised guidelines, efforts will focus on improving the management of military drug reserves, securing a steady supply of medicines, promoting the rational use of pharmaceuticals and enhancing oversight of medicines specifically required by the armed forces.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

9 April 2025 | **Beijing issues ['cautionary' warnings](#) to citizens about US travel:** China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, while making a note of deteriorating bilateral relations amidst the ongoing tariff war, issued two warnings to its citizens urging them to exercise caution while travelling to US. China's Ministry of Education also issued a separate warning, citing a US Ohio State bill targeting 'China's influence'. The Ministry's notice reminded all overseas students "to conduct safety risk assessments...when choosing to study in relevant states in the US in the near future."

10 April 2025 | **China to [discourage US film screenings](#) in the country:** As part of its retaliation against the Trump administration's tariffs, China plans to reduce the import volume of US films, according to the China Film Administration. In 2024, 33 American films (excluding multinational co-productions) accounted for approximately 58 per cent of the total revenue from newly imported films, according to China Film News.

15 April 2025 | **Xi Jinping urges solidarity against American bullying in [Vietnam visit](#):** During his meetings in Vietnam, the first stop in President Xi Jinping's Southeast Asia tour, he emphasized on the need to work together to fight US's "unilateral bullying." China and

Vietnam should join hands to safeguard global free trade and maintain the stability of supply chains, Xi added. Xi also met Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, and urged for China and Vietnam to strengthen strategic cooperation and communication. Xi and his Vietnamese counterpart Lam oversaw the signing of multiple agreements, including deals aimed at improving supply chains and railway cooperation between the two countries.

15 April 2025 | **US's plan to contain China's AI will [boomerang](#), warns top Chinese cyberspace official:** Sun Weimin, chief engineer at the Cyberspace Administration of China, the country's primary web regulatory body remarked during the World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit in Hong Kong that USA's efforts to curb China's advancements in AI are likely to backfire and constrain US's own progress. High tariffs tend to disrupt global value chains for hi-tech products and hinder the pace of global innovation, she further added.

15 April 2025 | **Beijing hits back after US official makes a [dig at aid to Global South](#):** The Chinese Embassy in Argentina told US to stop creating disharmony after Scott Bessent, US Treasury Secretary accused China of signing predatory deals with the developing countries. The Chinese Embassy in Argentina rejected Bessent's comments and further added that the US should refrain from sabotaging other nations' efforts to aid Global South countries.

➤ ECONOMY

1 April 2025 | **China's elaborate social credit system gets [new guidelines](#):** Beijing has further emboldened its social credit system, first outlined in 2014, by bringing forth 23 new guidelines, which include plans for government and enterprise credit ratings, alongside incentives and disincentives. The document released by the State Council is said to aim towards creating a fair and orderly competitive market environment.

9 April 2025 | **As Trump tariffs rise, Chinese exporters [ditch shipments](#) mid-voyage:** As trade tensions between China and US escalate, some Chinese exporters have resorted to ditching shipments mid-voyage and surrendering containers to shipping companies to avoid steep tariffs. The prospect of tariff imposition has led to a flood of order cancellations and therefore, some companies have decided to suspend all container business until tariffs stabilise or alternative markets are secured. Facing an uncertain market, exporters are also reportedly scaling back operations.

9 April 2025 | [Chinese defence stocks](#) provide stability amid global market turbulence:

Defence equipment companies trading in Hong-Kong and mainland China have emerged as the latest hedge against the shock waves triggered by Trump's tariffs. CSSC offshore and marine engineering surged 16 per cent while AviChina Industry and Technology gained 8 per cent. In Shenzhen, jumps were made by China Harzone Industry and Xian Triangle Defence. This is in contrast to the broader market volatility.

14 April 2025 | **China goes all-out to [boost consumption](#) amid tariff war:** China rolls out

more efforts to encourage consumer spending as it rushes to offset the adverse effects of the ongoing trade war that has jolted its export sector. Hainan island is holding a six-day event, billed as a national level expo for consumer products. The China International Consumer Products Expo is the largest premium consumer goods exhibition in the Asia-Pacific region. According to state news agency Xinhua, over 4,100 brands from more than 70 countries are participating in the expo. China's Ministry of Commerce, together with five other key agencies, kicked off a "Shopping in China" campaign. Additionally, the ministry launched a nationwide campaign to help China's foreign trade enterprises transition to the domestic market. Meanwhile, some local governments are also allocating more funds to push consumer spending.

About the Editors

Tanya Nagar is a Research Assistant at Centre for Land Warfare Studies. She writes on issues concerning environment, development policy and information governance.



All Rights Reserved 2025 Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)

No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, archived, retained or transmitted through print, speech or electronic media without prior written approval from CLAWS. The views expressed and suggestions made in the article are solely of the author in his personal capacity and do not have any official endorsement. Attributability of the contents lies purely with author.