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* China Fortnightly, a segment of the CLAWS Newsletters, offers a concise overview of key developments in China, blending sharp analysis with expert insights.

Internal Politics & Society

In the second fortnight of September, in the run-up to China's National Day on October 1, several political developments unfolded over the last 15 days. Standardised guidelines for the Xi Jinping Thought training syllabus and a new compilation on civil affairs tighten ideological education and cadre management, signalling a sustained emphasis on Party-led doctrinal cohesion across the bureaucracy. Two State Council white papers on women's development and Xinjiang frame developments through the lens of CPC leadership continuity and governance control, reinforcing narrative control at home and abroad. Mid-level personnel moves—spanning foreign affairs, the NDRC, and customs—reflect ongoing portfolio alignment over the last few months to policy priorities and external engagement imperatives. Ahead of National Day, the messaging couples political loyalty with calibrated stances on Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, underscoring mobilisation and discipline. Additionally, the cultural ceremony of Confucius in Qufu and an active typhoon season highlight parallel themes of civilisational soft power and risk posture amid evolving climatic drivers.

19 Sep (Qiushi): The CPC Central Committee published a **curriculum and teaching syllabus book on Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era**. It comprises 26 courses—standardising cadre education and signalling continued institutionalisation of ideological instruction across training systems. The framing stresses “standardised guidance” for educating Party members and officials, reaffirming doctrine as the organising logic for policy execution and cadre incentives. The move reflects a durable push to tighten command-and-control over ideological content while reducing interpretive drift in local implementation.

19 Sep (State Council Information Office): The SCIO released a **white paper on “China's Achievements in Women's Well-Rounded Development in the New Era”**, highlighting a multi-chapter policy architecture and alignment with Chinese modernisation efforts. The document projects confidence in rights protection and capability enhancement while positioning women's participation as integral to national rejuvenation and global engagement narratives. The tone seeks to reassure domestic audiences that social policy performance supports broader legitimacy claims. Despite women comprising 48.9% of the population, they hold only 30.9% of CPC membership and under 8% of senior leadership roles. In the NPC, women account for 26.5% of delegates, yet none serve on the Politburo Standing Committee. Representation declines sharply up the hierarchy: 37.5% at the village level, 9.3% at the county, 5.3% at the municipal, and 3.2% at the provincial tiers.

20 Sep (State Council Information Office): The SCIO released a **white paper on “CPC Guidelines for Governing Xinjiang in the New Era: Practice and Achievements”**, showcasing governance successes, while alleged contradictory evidence reveals systematic demographic manipulation and ongoing coercion. Beijing touts regional GDP exceeding 2 trillion yuan with 6.1% growth in 2024, yet Xinjiang's birth rate plummeted to 7.1 per thousand in 2023—among China's lowest regional rates. International investigations document over one million Uyghurs arbitrarily detained, with mass surveillance systems continuing to operate through 2024. UN reports alleged forced labour affecting 3 million workers transferred through state programs in 2023, while detention facilities previously described as “closed” continue operating. Despite proclaimed development achievements, systematic control persists beneath official narratives of economic integration and social stability.

[21 Sep \(QSTHEORY.CN\)](#): The Central Party Literature Press published “**Selected Excerpts of Xi Jinping’s Discourse on Civil Affairs Work**”, six themes and 224 excerpts spanning 2012–2025, some released publicly for the first time. Positioned to guide responses to population ageing, social assistance, welfare, and governance, the compilation operationalises people-centred rhetoric into administrative priorities. It underlines the Party’s supervisory role over social management while tying service delivery to regime responsiveness and reform cadence.

[26 Sep \(State Council Information Office\)](#): The SCIO announced the **appointment and removal of several officials**, including Cai Wei as assistant foreign minister; Shen Zhulin to National Development and Reform Commission deputy head (removed from deputy head of the National Data Administration); and Zhang Baofeng as deputy chief of the General Administration of Customs, replacing Wang Lingjun. The changes point to calibrated alignment across external relations, macro-planning, data governance, and trade facilitation functions. Incremental personnel tuning suggests attention to execution capacity amid complex external and domestic policy agendas.

[28 Sep \(China Daily\)](#): Qufu marked the 2,576th **anniversary of Confucius’ birth with online and offline ceremonies**, provincial leadership participation, and a global live broadcast as part of the Confucius Cultural Festival. Ritual choreography and educational framing underscore cultural continuity, curriculum resonance, and the projection of civilisational heritage to international audiences. The event amplifies soft-power narratives that reinforce societal cohesion while buttressing state-endorsed interpretations of tradition.

28 Sep ([Science and Technology Daily](#) & [China Meteorological Administration](#)): **South China’s 2025 typhoon season has been unusually active**, with 30 tropical cyclones (19 named storms) in the western North Pacific versus a 25.1 seasonal average. Experts attribute the surge to an ENSO-neutral to La Niña transition and elevated western Pacific sea surface temperatures. Super Typhoon Ragasa forced the evacuation of 2.2 million people from Guangdong, caused over US \$100 million in damages, and killed 17 people in Taiwan due to a barrier lake collapse. Days later, Typhoon Bualoi struck Hainan with 30 m/s winds, prompting Level III emergency responses and ferry suspensions. Continued cyclone formation is expected into autumn.

[30 Sep Xiǎo jiàng gōng fāng \[小匠工坊\]](#): **Democracy and Supervision in [Chinese] Political Life: Comprehensive Analysis and Practical Application**. The concept of “people’s democratic dictatorship” is central to China’s political framework, reflecting a class-based state led by the working class and the worker-peasant alliance. In this system, grassroots democracy applies to the majority of the populace, while dictatorship targets hostile, counter-revolutionary forces. Citizens enjoy constitutional political rights—including voting [at villages], free speech [on personal and governance grievances], and oversight—balanced by corresponding obligations such as upholding national unity and security. Although decision-making and supervision occur through public consultation and oversight mechanisms, all within the Party lines. Grassroots self-governance expands participation, while law-based government administration ensures legal accountability within the one-party socialist system.

Security & Defence

A coordinated youth military camp, multilateral defence diplomacy, and steady grey-zone law enforcement defined the fortnight, alongside tangible naval aviation milestones and joint training that widened China's security network reach. PLA units emphasised mobility, engineering support, and around-the-clock realism, while new regulations tightened military land governance in step with modernisation needs. Coast guard and riverine missions extended presence from Ren'ai Jiao to Kinmen and the Mekong, signalling 'routine' enforcement in contested and transboundary spaces. Military health and disaster diplomacy, and humanitarian lift—from the "Silk Road Ark" medevac in Nauru to Y-20 airlifts for Pakistan—paired soft-power narratives with expeditionary logistics rehearsal.

16 Sep (MoND): A youth military camp of "Joining Together to Strengthen the Nation" for Hong Kong and Macao was recently held at the Guangdong Provincial Armed Police Corps. The youth camp brought 30 Hong Kong "Youth Ambassadors" and 500+ Hong Kong–Macao students into a Guangdong PAP setting for military training, sub-cultural exchange, and experiential drills tied to the 80th WWII anniversary. It was framed to forge willpower, national defence awareness, and patriotic sentiment, evoking shared Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao wartime memory. The curricular blend suggests a persistent pipeline approach to political socialisation that integrates identity, discipline, and basic defence literacy. Its cross-border participant profile aligns civic mobilisation with a longer-horizon United Front logic focused on cohesion and stability.

17 to 19 Sep (Xiangshan Forum): The 12th Xiangshan Forum convened over 1,800 delegates from more than 100 countries and organisations under the theme "*Safeguarding the International Order and Promoting Peaceful Development*", integrating plenaries on security governance, mutual interests, and Asia–Pacific security (avoided Indo-Pacific omission) with eight parallel sessions. The agenda covered major-power relations, conflict settlement, emerging-technology governance, and arms control, complemented by side dialogues and the inaugural "Xiangshan Vision" high-level media engagement. Delegations from the Global South and active-conflict parties augmented crisis-management debates. The Track 1.5 format facilitates informal, non-binding China favours high-profile, multinational mediation efforts where formal channels falter. China positions Xiangshan as its Shangri-La Dialogue equivalent in Asia, alongside the Munich Security Conference, Halifax International Security Forum, and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting–Plus.

17 Sep (China Military Online): 76th Group Army Night Live-Fire Manoeuvres. The group's vehicles saw round-the-clock live-fire in unfamiliar terrain, stressing endurance, mobility, and fire control under degraded conditions. The emphasis on continuous movement, terrain unfamiliarity, and sustainment points to dispersed operations readiness and logistical agility. Such replications of friction—fatigue, darkness, and navigational uncertainty—aim to compress the lag between training and combat tempo. Regularised cross-terrain evolutions serve tactical survivability and mission continuity under multi-domain disruption.

17 Sep (China Military Online): Xinjiang Military Command Regiment Barrier-Breaching Drills. The integrated heavy-equipment road repair with obstacle reduction to preserve freedom of movement in austere corridors. Engineering-manoeuvre fusion underscored counter-interdiction priorities, rapid route restoration, and sustainment in frontier conditions. Drills reflect plateau mobility imperatives and protection

of lines of communication against environmental and human-made obstacles. The activities aim to close the gap between tactical mobility and operational access in contested terrain; integrated engineer support increases tempo and expands manoeuvre options; such routines build redundancy into movement plans and complicate adversary denial.

17 Sep (China Military Online): **Defence Bilaterals with Global South Countries.** Defence bilaterals saw Minister Dong Jun meet counterparts from **Malaysia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Namibia, Rwanda, and Senegal** to advance higher-level cooperation and risk response. The cadence sustains a South–South lattice of training pipelines, professional exchanges, and institutional dialogues. Engagements combined political signalling with modular cooperation that scales by function and domain. Access and trust-building proceeded without heavy treaty overheads, fitting an incrementalism suited to diverse security partners. The approach links reputational capital to practical security dividends. Outcomes reinforce parallelism between diplomatic and defence tracks.

19 Sep (China Military Online): **The sixth China–Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) High-Level Defence Forum** was held in Beijing, with military officials of 18 LAC countries pledging deeper, flexible, trust-based security cooperation, as Dong Jun outlined a Global South model centred on resilience and pragmatic ties. The forum advances training, doctrine exchange, and coordinated messaging on sovereignty and stability. It positions LAC participation within a “shared future” frame that legitimises sustained defence contact. The narrative turns cooperative security into a reputational and network-building asset across hemispheres.

21 Sep (Jilin Provincial Government): **The PLAAF open-day Changchun Air Show** in Jilin Province showcased the aviation industry, demonstrating flight precision, safety, and platform reliability. The spectacle operates as recruitment branding and a proof-of-concept for sustainment and maintenance regimes. Civil–military integration gains traction as advanced aviation becomes a normalised public touchpoint. Displays also deliver strategic communication to domestic and foreign observers without explicit doctrine briefs. Emphasis on discipline and choreography suggests maturity in training pipelines. The event underwrites perceptions of readiness and professionalisation.

22 Sep (China Military Online): **Fujian Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS)** trials completed inaugural catapult takeoffs and arrested landings for J-15T, J-35, and KJ-600, marking a notable carrier aviation inflexion. EMALS broadens launch envelopes, deck cycles, and sortie generation, unlocking fixed-wing AEW with KJ-600—central to sea denial and sea control. The development materially alters the temporal control of the air–sea battlespace and widens mission sets at a distance. It aims to accelerate convergence toward carrier strike group availability and layered maritime ISR. Platform integration implies impending doctrinal updates in carrier air wing employment. Momentum favours operationalisation within a measured test-and-trial continuum.

22 Sep (China Coast Guard): **The 25th North Pacific Coast Guard and Law Enforcement Forum Senior Officials' Meeting.** The meeting in Shanghai saw China Coast Guard (CCG) ship Sanmen host delegations from Canada, Japan, the ROK, the US, and Russia, spotlighting missions, eco-protection, and carbon-sink enforcement. Despite broader maritime frictions, such forums preserve technical dialogue and crisis-management channels. Law-enforcement diplomacy offers lower-temperature

venues for risk reduction. Agenda design signals a preference for rule-application narratives even as core positions hold.

24 Sep (Xinhua): The **157th joint patrol mission along the Mekong River Network** to combat cross-border crime launched from Jingha, Yunnan, with Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand targeting online gambling, telecom fraud, and narcotics, plus an information exchange in Muang Mo. Since 2011, patrols have institutionalised basin security as a shared good. Shipping protection, crime deterrence, and procedural harmonisation underpin the importance given to transboundary commerce. Riverine law-enforcement cooperation demonstrates durability despite political churn. Lessons migrate into national policing and customs practices. The patrols' regularity deters opportunistic networks.

25 Sep (Xinhua): **Formations of the Fifth Bureau of the China Coast Guard (CCG)** vessels conducted law-enforcement patrols in the waters near Ren'ai Jiao. It asserted a routine presence framed as sovereignty defence and rights protection. Regularised law-enforcement patterns perform on-water adjudication short of naval escalation. This calibrated grey-zone toolkit applies pressure while managing risk and escalation ladders. Persistence, not sporadic spikes, accumulates facts on the water. Operational tempo aligns with evidence-building and messaging rhythms. Such patrols normalise proximity operations under legalistic framing.

26 Sep (Suizhou Legal Education): **A set of Regulations on Military Land Management** was issued by the State Council and Central Military Commission, effective 1 Nov, to tighten protection, rational use, and administrative clarity for land under military management. The framework mitigates encroachment risk and optimises basing and training footprints amid urban expansion. Legal codification aims to reduce friction in infrastructure development and modernisation timelines. Interfaces with local governments gain clearer boundaries and procedures. The rules improve transparency in land administration without sacrificing operational security.

26 (China Military Online): The **five-day Future International Midshipmen Leadership Camp** concluded at the Chinese PLA Naval Submarine Academy in Qingdao, Shandong Province. It hosted nearly 100 cadets from 11 countries and seven Chinese academies, blending competitions with cultural immersion. Training targeted leadership, teamwork, and intercultural fluency as professional enablers. Academic exchanges seed career-long networks and influence future maritime norms. Outputs expand touchpoints for port calls, exercises, and staff talks. Early-career contact lowers barriers to future operational coordination. The format complements senior-level naval diplomacy with a pipeline approach. The event attracted participation from naval academies from ten countries, including Russia, Italy, and Turkey.

28 Sep (China Military Online): **China Sends First Batch Of Emergency Flood Relief Supplies To Pakistan.** Two Y-20s airlifted the dispatch from Zhengzhou with emergency supplies, following a USD 2 million grant and an additional 100 million yuan in material aid, and reached Pakistan. Airbridge operations exercised rapid staging, multinational coordination, and delivery assurance. Humanitarian response consolidated bilateral goodwill while stress-testing transport readiness. Real-world lift complements tabletop logistics planning with validated timings. Packaging and distribution chains gain empirical tuning. The statement adds that the remaining supplies are now being urgently prepared and will be shipped in the coming days.

30 Sep (Gānquán xiàn róng méiti zhōngxīn [甘泉县融媒体中心]): **National Defence Education Knowledge Promotion.** China's National Defence Education aims to strengthen public awareness of national defence and security knowledge, emphasising that defence is a collective responsibility. Its defence policy is independent and defensive, focused on safeguarding sovereignty. National Defence Education, mandated by law, integrates patriotic education, military skills training, and civic duties across schools, society, and government. National Defence Education Day reinforces this ethos annually, promoting patriotism and public participation. This holistic approach connects military readiness with societal engagement to foster national resilience and crisis preparedness.

External Affairs & Diplomacy

Across the second half of September, Beijing intensified outreach with Seoul, Washington, Rabat, Pyongyang, and Moscow while pushing UN-centric governance narratives and opposition to 'unilateralism and protectionism', with APEC coordination and one-China adherence recurring as diplomatic anchors. Leadership-level signalling with President Trump provided a stabilising vector for the next phase of ties, complemented by vice- and ministry-level engagements and a rare congressional visit framed as an "ice-breaking journey". On regional files, Beijing paired a four-party Afghanistan track and consular facilitation with Russia, with targeted engagement of the Afghan mission, while Morocco ties were elevated in tandem with a notable India–Morocco defence industrial milestone. Defence messaging underscored the first public triad reveal while reaffirming 'no-first-use' and minimum deterrence, aiming to project selective predictability amid assertive great-power signalling. At UNGA margins, BRICS ministers—chaired by India as incoming 2026 chair—amplified Global South and UNSC reform themes, even as the meeting drew limited traction on China's domestic web, indicating calibrated external signalling.

17 Sep (Global Times): **Wang Yi met South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun** in Beijing, warmly welcoming Cho's first official visit under the new South Korean administration. Wang highlighted recent President Lee Jae-myung and President Xi Jinping's phone call that set a path to elevate the China-ROK strategic cooperative partnership, emphasising 'good-neighbourliness', sincere handling of sensitive issues, mutual trust, and deepening cooperation. Wang framed the two countries as "inseparable neighbours", urging opposition to trade protectionism and joint defence of the global free trade system. Cho underscored strong momentum to improve ties, including accelerated APEC-linked high-level exchanges, reinforced economic and cultural cooperation, and advancement of ROK-China and ROK-Japan free trade talks. He reaffirmed South Korea's commitment to regional security, including denuclearisation dialogue on the Korean Peninsula. South Korea seeks pragmatic and balanced ties with China, emphasising economic cooperation while safeguarding its security alliance with the US. Seoul prioritises managing sensitivities, national interests, and mitigating geopolitical risks amid US-China rivalry, aiming for mature, diversified, and stable bilateral relations..

18 Sep (Xinhua): **Xi Jinping's Ambassadorial Rotations:** Xi appointed Ren Hongyan (Trinidad and Tobago, replacing Fang Qiu), Chen Xufeng (Montenegro, replacing Fan Kun), Lu Shan (Poland, replacing Sun Linjiang), and Lyu Guijun (Niger, replacing Jiang Feng). The portfolio rebalancing signals routine rotation aligned with regional priorities across the Caribbean, Balkans, EU's eastern flank, and the Sahel, likely calibrated to economic security, energy, and stability considerations. Such postings anchor political-economic engagement alongside defence dialogues and outreach. Sequencing suggests attention to corridors where infrastructure, resources, and multilateral equities intersect. Diplomacy and defence signalling thus travel in tandem while retaining

functional autonomy. Rotations also refresh in-theatre access and network quality. Steady churn aligns representational capacity with policy priorities.

19 Sep (MoFA): **Xi Jinping and Donald Trump held a phone call**, aiming to stabilise bilateral ties. Xi emphasised mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and resolving the TikTok issue through market-based negotiations under “Chinese law”, while urging the US to avoid unilateral trade restrictions and ensure a fair business environment. Trump, in turn, praised the September 03 military parade in Beijing marking the anniversary, described the US–China relationship as the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and expressed hope for long-term, stable ties. The call highlighted the continued attempt by both leaders to preserve high-level guardrails around the relationship, linking political signalling with strategic, security, and commercial aspects. However, technology governance and trade policy remain the near-term flashpoints, testing how far stabilisation efforts can hold amidst broader geopolitical competition.

19 Sep (MoFA): **Wang Yi and Moroccan FM Nasser Bourita held talks on the sidelines of the UNGA** and discussed high-level growth and rising “gold content” of the strategic partnership ahead of its 10th anniversary, aligning on sustained leadership-level exchanges and expanded sectoral cooperation, including increased opportunities for Moroccan youth to study in China. Beijing tied the UN’s 80th anniversary to its Global Governance Initiative, underscoring its vision for reshaping global order. A new MFA strategic dialogue MoU adds institutional heft, positioning the relationship for diversified economic and diplomatic deliverables. Separately, on September 23, 2025, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Morocco’s Defence Minister Abdelatif Loudyi inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Limited’s state-of-the-art defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid, Morocco. The 20,000 m² plant, Morocco’s largest defence facility and the first by an Indian private firm in Africa, will produce the indigenous WhAP 8×8 armoured vehicles jointly designed with DRDO.

23 Sep (MoFA): **Wang Yi received a delegation led by US Congressman Smith** for the first time since 2019—an “ice-breaking journey” bringing bipartisan expectations—while urging accurate understanding, rational handling of differences, and exploration of cooperation. He credited head-of-state diplomacy for tone-setting via three calls between Xi and Trump, stressed that China and the US are partners, not rivals or enemies, and reiterated the importance of maintaining Taiwan Strait stability. Beijing signalled openness to more lawmaker exchanges, positioning congressional channels as complements to executive dialogues to reduce misperception risks.

24 Sep MoFA): The **23rd round of China-Russia consular consultations** took place in Moscow between Long Zhou, Director-General of China’s Consular Department, and Aleksey Klimov, his Russian counterpart. They discussed the status of consular cooperation, easing cross-border personnel exchanges, and safeguarding citizens and institutions. Both sides agreed to implement the consensus reached by their heads of state, enhance communication, and optimise facilitation arrangements to support high-level bilateral relations. Separate discussions with Russia’s crisis management director focused on deepening coordination. From the Russian perspective, the talks reaffirm operational trust and emphasise practical cooperation to sustain mobility and reinforce broader strategic alignment between the two countries. This institutionalised engagement strengthens the foundation for continued coordinated development.

24 Sep (People's Daily Online): **Liu Jinsong, Director General of the Department of Asian Affairs, Conveys Condolences and Provides Emergency Aid for Earthquake Devastation in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.** Afghan Ambassador to China Karimi met Liu. China's provision of emergency humanitarian assistance is worth approximately 50 million yuan (around 7 million USD). Aid supplies, including tents, blankets, food, and other essentials, have been dispatched and delivered to the quake-affected areas, particularly in Kunar province, where the earthquake caused severe casualties and destruction. The two officials exchanged views on China-Arab relations and issues of common concern, maintaining working-level contact channels with Kabul's representation. This engagement sustains diplomatic bandwidth for humanitarian stabilisation while preserving flexibility on the broader political recognition dynamics..

25 Sep (MoFA): **The fourth informal meeting of foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran on Afghanistan.** Yue Xiaoyong, Special Envoy for Afghan Affairs, attended and chaired the meeting with Russian FM Sergei Lavrov during the 80th session of the UNGA sidelines. This 'Quad' on Afghanistan issued a joint statement. The track focused on the situation in Afghanistan and common concerns, reflecting a neighbours-plus regional format that seeks to shape post-conflict stabilisation parameters and external military footprint constraints. It signals sustained sub-regional coordination intended to influence governance, security, and reconstruction baselines.

26 Sep (MOFA-Russia): One of the key yet underreported events during the 80th UNGA sidelines was the **Informal BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting, chaired by India** as the incoming BRICS chair for 2026. The ministers issued a comprehensive 16-page "*BRICS Joint Media Statement*", underscoring the urgent need for UNSC reform to amplify the voice of the Global South. China and Russia reiterated their support for Brazil and India's aspirations for greater UNSC membership, reflecting a shared reformist agenda within the bloc. Interestingly, while this meeting received limited visibility on Chinese media platforms initially, Russian and Indian outlets highlighted it more prominently. China published official remarks through its Permanent Mission to the UN, Ambassador Fu Cong, demonstrating calibrated external messaging that balances internal media bandwidth with a strategic display of BRICS unity on reformist multilateralism. This measured approach reveals Beijing's intent to maintain cohesion within the BRICS coalition while managing optics ahead of India's 2026 chairship. It points to Beijing's careful diplomacy—supporting reform measures that enhance Global South representation without disrupting the bloc's delicate external positioning. Such nuanced messaging also aligns with China's broader strategic priority.

26 Sep (MoFA): **China–US vice FM-level talks** in New York saw Ma Zhaoxu and Deputy Secretary of State Landau have an exchange of views on China–US relations and international and regional issues of common concern, with both sides agreeing to maintain dialogue, manage differences, and expand cooperation. This sustains working-level ballast under top-down guidance, with red-line reiteration paired to channel maintenance.

29 Sep (Xinhua): **New K Visa Facilitates the Entry of Young Foreign Scientific and Technological Talents into China.** The K visa, effective October 1, 2025, aimed at attracting young foreign professionals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Unlike previous visas, the K visa does not require a Chinese employer's sponsorship and offers greater flexibility in entry frequency, visa validity, and duration of stay. This initiative aligns with China's broader "Thousand Talents Program"

(TTP) to boost innovation and international collaboration amid tightening US immigration policies, such as increased H-1B visa fees. While the K visa expands opportunities for STEM professionals globally, key details remain unspecified, including specific eligibility criteria and duration limits, reflecting a cautious approach to international talent integration.

30 Sep (Bù cún guójì [不存国际]): **Wang Yi–North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui talks.** Wang stated that China and North Korea are friendly neighbours linked by ‘mountains and rivers’. The traditional China–DPRK friendship, personally forged and meticulously nurtured by older generations of leaders of the two parties and countries, is seen as a ‘precious treasure’. Maintaining, consolidating, and developing China–DPRK relations has always been the unswerving strategic policy of the CPC. The meeting reaffirmed the traditional ties between the two communist parties and focused on enhancing strategic communication and cooperation amid regional tensions. Both sides expressed a shared commitment to counter “hegemonism” and “unilateralism”, reflecting concerns about US policies and regional security dynamics. Choe emphasised North Korea’s support for China’s ‘Global Governance Initiative’ and expressed readiness for closer multilateral collaboration. The discussions also addressed regional and international issues, underscoring efforts to sustain bilateral relations amidst complex geopolitical challenges.

Economy, Finance, Trade & Commerce

Regulatory assertiveness sharpened across competition, export controls, procurement standards, and financial supervision, signalling a firmer steer over technology, finance, and market order while preserving room for outward-facing growth. Industrial policy emphasised green development, digital-energy integration, seed and services upgrading, and large-scale infrastructure financing as levers for long-term resilience and capacity building. Logistics diversification advanced through an Arctic Ocean container express, border railway upgrades, and route hedging in response to European corridor disruptions, underscoring redundancy as a strategy. Dual-use and cyber ecosystems were showcased to align commercial innovation with security imperatives and talent cultivation, framing technology as both a growth engine and governance domain. Financial and payments internationalisation progressed via the digital RMB’s international operation centre, complementing state bank lending and standards policy to tighten systemic coherence.

15 Sep (China Economic Weekly): **China's top market watchdog, the State Administration for Market Regulation, launched a further probe into Nvidia for antitrust violations** linked to conditions imposed on its 2020 Mellanox acquisition, citing risks of exclusion in GPU accelerators, interconnects, and high-speed Ethernet markets. This indicates expanded competition scrutiny over foundational compute and networking layers that anchor AI supply chains, projecting regulatory confidence while reserving leverage on global tech actors.

17 Sep (Securities Times): **Premier Li Qiang inspection tour to Gansu and Qinghai,** where he urged efforts to coordinate high-quality development, while adding a new phrase ‘high-level protection’ since the province is considered sensitive, and to accelerate the construction of a modern industrial system that leverages local characteristics and advantages. Li emphasised green energy, green computing, and Yellow River conservation. The itinerary weaves together western development, digital-energy integration, and environmental stewardship into a coherent modernisation vector with localised comparative advantages.

19 Sep (China Business Industry Research Institute): **The 2025 China Top 500 Service Enterprises Ranking**, with the average revenue scale in the elite group exceeding 100 billion yuan (about 14 billion U.S. dollars) for the first time. The rapid rise of internet/IT, finance, logistics, and business services has led to 184 entrants. Scale and sectoral mix reflect structural upgrading into higher-value services, broadening the growth mantle beyond manufacturing..

19 Sep (The Paper): **Premier Li Qiang chaired a State Council executive meeting on building a "beautiful China"** on all fronts. Li Qiang issued directions for advanced "Beautiful China" domestic product standards for government procurement, and a "Banking Supervision and Administration Law of the People's Republic of China (Draft Amendment)" to be submitted to the NPC Standing Committee. Standards and legal tightening aim to synchronise objectives, competition in procurement, and financial stability, creating predictable lanes for industrial planning.

20 Sep (IT Home): **China's Top 500 Manufacturing Enterprises 2025** was released at the World Manufacturing Convention in Hefei, Anhui Province. Jointly issued by the China Enterprise Confederation (CEC) and the China Enterprise Directors Association (CEDA), the ranking has been published for 21 years in a row, highlighting the consistent progress of China's manufacturing sector. Based on companies' operating revenue, the list shows that the threshold for entry rose from 11.09 billion yuan (about 1.56 billion U.S. dollars) at the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020) to 17.37 billion yuan in 2024. Meanwhile, the combined operating revenue of the top 500 companies increased from 40.24 trillion yuan to 51.68 trillion yuan. Despite multiple global economic challenges, Chinese manufacturing enterprises, as represented by the top 500, responded with innovation and strengthened their foundations through structural optimisation.

19 Sep (Beijing News Network): **The 2025 International Dual-Use Advanced Technology & Equipment Expo** in Beijing, under the theme: "applying technology for peace, safeguarding peace through technology". It showcased UAVs, counter-drone systems, and autonomous platforms, with firms like DG. Broadtrum and CTRS highlighting detection, jamming, and kinetic interceptors, and JOUAV displaying autonomous hangars. Coupling with Xiangshan Forum outreach, the event cultivates a dual-use ecosystem for export-ready solutions while reinforcing low-altitude security know-how.

22 Sep (Zhoushan Port): **Arctic express: Ningbo-Zhoushan launched** a China-Europe Arctic container express via the Northeast Passage, cutting Zhoushan–Felixstowe transit to about 18 days for cross-border e-commerce and high-value goods, per Sun Xuejun of Zhejiang Seaport Logistics. This diversifies long-haul lanes around chokepoints, pairing speed with route optionality for time-sensitive cargo.

25 Sep (Zhang Da Travels Around The World): **The China-Europe freight train has resumed** after Poland reopened crossings with Belarus; industry leaders forecast a 7–10 day backlog clearance and explored alternatives via the Caspian or St. Petersburg intermodal routes, with FM spokesperson Lin Jian citing 110,000 cumulative trips and USD 450 billion in cargo value for the service. Operational resilience is being reinforced through route diversification and premium pricing during normalisation.

25 Sep (People's Bank of China): **International Digital RMB Centre:** The PBOC's international operation centre for the digital RMB launched in Shanghai, unveiling cross-border digital payments, a blockchain service platform, and a digital asset platform; Governor Pan Gongsheng and Tsinghua's Tian Xuan framed it as a step toward global payments influence. Institutionalising cross-border rails elevates currency internationalisation scaffolding without abandoning prudential control..

25 Sep (Security and Control Bureau): **MOFCOM imposed export controls the US** on Huntington Ingalls Industries, Planate Management Group, and Global Dimensions, and separately listed three U.S. firms as unreliable entities, with CASS's Gao Lingyun arguing alignment with non-proliferation and national security. Targeted measures function as calibrated deterrents while telegraphing a stable environment for compliant investors.

26 Sep (MOFCOM): **China Hits U.S. Firms with Export Controls, Lists Them as 'Unreliable Entities'.** MOFCOM added Saronic Technologies, Aercomm, and Oceaneering International to the unreliable entity list for military-tech cooperation with Taiwan, imposing bans on trade and new investment while reiterating openness to law-abiding firms. The designation imposes reputational and access costs on security-sensitive collaboration while keeping a wider investment door open.

28 Sep (Heilongjiang Provincial People's Government): **Suifenhe–China-Russia Border Rail Upgrade:** The border railway upgrade was completed, with new tracks enabling speeds up to 120 km/h, more than doubling capacity from 55 km/h and expediting transloading at Suifenhe Station. Throughput gains strengthen borderland logistics and complement continental corridors.

30 Sep (Línglíng Chū Jiàn [玲玲初见]): **China's Rare Earths and Science & Technology: A Strategic Priority for Party and Nation.** China maintains its dominance in global rare earths with 44 million tons in reserves—about a third of the world's supply—and accounts for 69% of global production and over 90% of refining and processing capacity. These minerals are essential to electronics, green energy, and defence technologies. China's strategy focuses not merely on extraction but also on controlling the full value chain, including advanced separation and manufacturing, which gives Beijing influence over international supply and pricing. Environmental upgrades have reduced pollution, but global competitors face challenges in breaking China's lead. India, like others, remains exposed to supply risks and the effects of Beijing's industrial policy.

Science, Technology, Industry & Resources

China accelerated frontier R&D across fusion robotics, advanced battery chemistry, and bio-inspired flight, while continuing space launches for weather, IoT, and constellation expansion. S&T policy briefings tied “new quality productive forces” to industrial upgrading with emphasis on AI, renewables, and green development. Deep-space aims advanced through a 15-m telescope project and lunar in-situ construction concepts, while medical micro-robotics entered application phases. Commercial space matured with sea-launched SD-3, expanded IoT networks, and Long March cluster launches, while BeiDou supported large-scale autonomy pilots. Instrumentation policy also linked high-end scientific tools to self-reliance, reflecting the wider industrial strategy underpinning China's innovation push.

16 Sep (Shangquan News): **A Maintenance Robotics platform of the Comprehensive Research Facility for Fusion Technology (CRAFT)** completed expert acceptance of a

robotic remote-handling platform simulating reactor conditions. The system includes a cladding-maintenance robot capable of handling 60-tonne payloads with high precision and a heavy manipulator rated for 2.5 tonnes. Designed for radiation-hard, high-heat flux environments, the setup tackles key bottlenecks in reactor maintenance and inspection. Officials claim it is a core verification bed for future fusion reactors, with possible spillovers to nuclear safety, aerospace, and heavy-equipment handling. While technically notable, practical commercial deployment timelines remain uncertain, and challenges in scaling safe fusion operation continue.

18 Sep (Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics): **Hydride-Ion Battery Demonstration.** The Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics reported the first experimental hydride-ion battery, enabled by a core-shell electrolyte using BaH_2 on CeH_3 , achieving room-temperature H-transport. The prototype used a NaAlH_4 cathode and CeH_2 anode, delivering 1.9 V to power a test LED. Researchers suggest applications for large-scale energy storage, hydrogen-energy links, and mobile power, pending optimisation. While it represents a step from concept to verification, the route remains at an early stage, requiring durable materials, stable cycling, and scalability before feasible deployment. It reflects China's continuing push to diversify energy storage chemistry amid global battery competition.

18 Sep (Xinhua): **Bio-Inspired RoboFalcon UAV.** Engineers at Northwestern Polytechnical University unveiled RoboFalcon2.0, a flapping-wing unmanned aerial robot capable of autonomous take-off using bird-like kinematics. The reconfigurable wing design combines flap, sweep, and fold, producing controlled low-speed aerodynamics validated in real-world flight tests. The project demonstrates proof of concept for agile UAVs capable of complex manoeuvres in urban or challenging terrain. Analysts note that such biomimetic flight systems may aid surveillance or urban reconnaissance but face challenges in endurance, payload capacity, and scaling efficiency. The programme reflects China's continued exploration of niche UAV platforms to complement more conventional drone architectures.

18 Sep (Ministry of Science and Technology): **S&T Policy Briefing by Minister Yin.** Minister of Science and Technology Yin Hejun linked “new quality productive forces” to innovation-industry integration, citing a 42% rise in output from large high-tech manufacturers since 2020 and noting China had 524 firms among the global top-2,000 R&D investors. Achievements highlighted include records in photovoltaic efficiency, offshore wind turbines, and rapid solar-wind capacity expansion in H1-2025. Yin also positioned AI, IoT, humanoid robotics, brain-computer interfaces, and large language models as drivers of diffusion. While the narrative projects technological leadership, systemic challenges in intellectual property enforcement and uneven innovation ecosystems remain significant considerations.

20 Sep (Xihai Metropolis Daily): **Large Astronomical Observation/Submillimeter Telescope Project.** China launched construction of the 15-metre Xue-shan-mu-chang SubMillimeter Telescope on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Scheduled for 2027, it aims to study cold interstellar matter, galaxy evolution, and astrochemistry. Led by the Purple Mountain Observatory, the site benefits from high altitude and low water vapour conditions. Integration with next-generation Event Horizon Telescope initiatives is expected to boost imaging of black holes. Officials frame the project as filling domestic gaps in submillimeter astronomy and enhancing competitiveness. From a regional view,

such capabilities align with China's deep-space ambitions, with potential applications tied to space-based situational awareness and scientific prestige.

21 Sep (Hefei People's Congress): Lunar Bricks & Technology Exhibits. At the World Manufacturing Convention in Hefei, China's Deep Space Exploration Laboratory demonstrated a prototype solar-thermal device for producing lunar construction bricks at temperatures exceeding 1,300°C. The proof of concept is linked to China's International Lunar Research Station roadmap, aimed at having a basic facility by 2035. Other unveils included reusable heat shields, computational lithography methods, brain-computer interface advances, and robotics platforms. Analysts view the brick prototype as an early exploration of in-situ resource utilisation, though practical scalability and operational feasibility on the Moon remain distant. The demonstration reflects ambitions for sustaining long-term lunar infrastructure.

25 Sep (Sichuan Academy of Aerospace Technology): Sea-Launched Smart Dragon-3 Rocket. China launched a Smart Dragon-3 rocket from a sea platform near Rizhao, marking the eighth SD-3 mission. SD-3 can deliver 1.5 tonnes to a 500-km sun-synchronous orbit and is marketed for small satellite clients. This mission placed 11 Geely-06 satellites for private company Geespace's IoT constellation, now expanded to 64 satellites. Sea-based launches increase trajectory flexibility and decrease reliance on fixed pads, enhancing commercial cadence. Analysts note growing private-public overlap in launch capacity, though questions remain about sustainability and demand. The event underscores Beijing's intent to mature its commercial space ecosystem and satellite internet architecture.

25 Sep (National Energy Information Platform): First-Phase Network Geespace IoT Constellation Completed. Geespace declared completion of its phase-one IoT satellite constellation at 64 satellites, enabling near-real-time global surface communications (excluding polar zones). The network reportedly handles 340 million messages per day for up to 20 million users, with plans to expand toward high-frequency services and direct-to-smartphone links. Partnerships were announced with telecom and automotive firms, including Geely Auto. A dedicated manufacturing facility reduced satellite turnaround time significantly, while academic partnerships seeded experimental platforms. Analysts caution that commercial viability depends on demand reliability and coordination with global internet governance regimes, where spectrum and orbital congestion issues remain unresolved.

27 Sep (China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation): A Modified Long March-6 LEO Launch. A modified Long March-6 rocket launched an eleventh group of low Earth orbit internet satellites from Taiyuan, expanding a constellation aligned with "resilient network services." This was the 597th Long March mission, signalling a significant launch cadence. The flight reflects industrialised production of small satellite buses and tailored launcher variants optimised for constellation economics. Chinese officials portray the rapid cluster deployment as securing independent communications networks and enhancing industrial maturity. Observers note the increasing overlap between civil and military utility in such deployments, especially given redundancy and resilience emphasis across strategic communications systems.

30 Sep (Shanghai Science and Technology): 2025 Pujiang Innovation Forum's Scientific Instruments Forum. China's strategy to develop high-end scientific

instruments is central to its ambition for technological self-reliance and industrial upgrading. At the 2025 Pujiang Innovation Forum, collaborations with state academies and local government showcased platforms integrating research, industrialisation, and talent development. Domestic companies demonstrated advances in core components and novel applications, starting to challenge long-standing foreign technology monopolies. Despite progress, issues remain in automation and software ecosystems. The scientific instruments market is forecast to grow at a 5.8% CAGR, driven by R&D, healthcare, and high-tech industries. This trajectory highlights the strategic linkage between instrumentation breakthroughs and the future of China's innovation capacity.

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