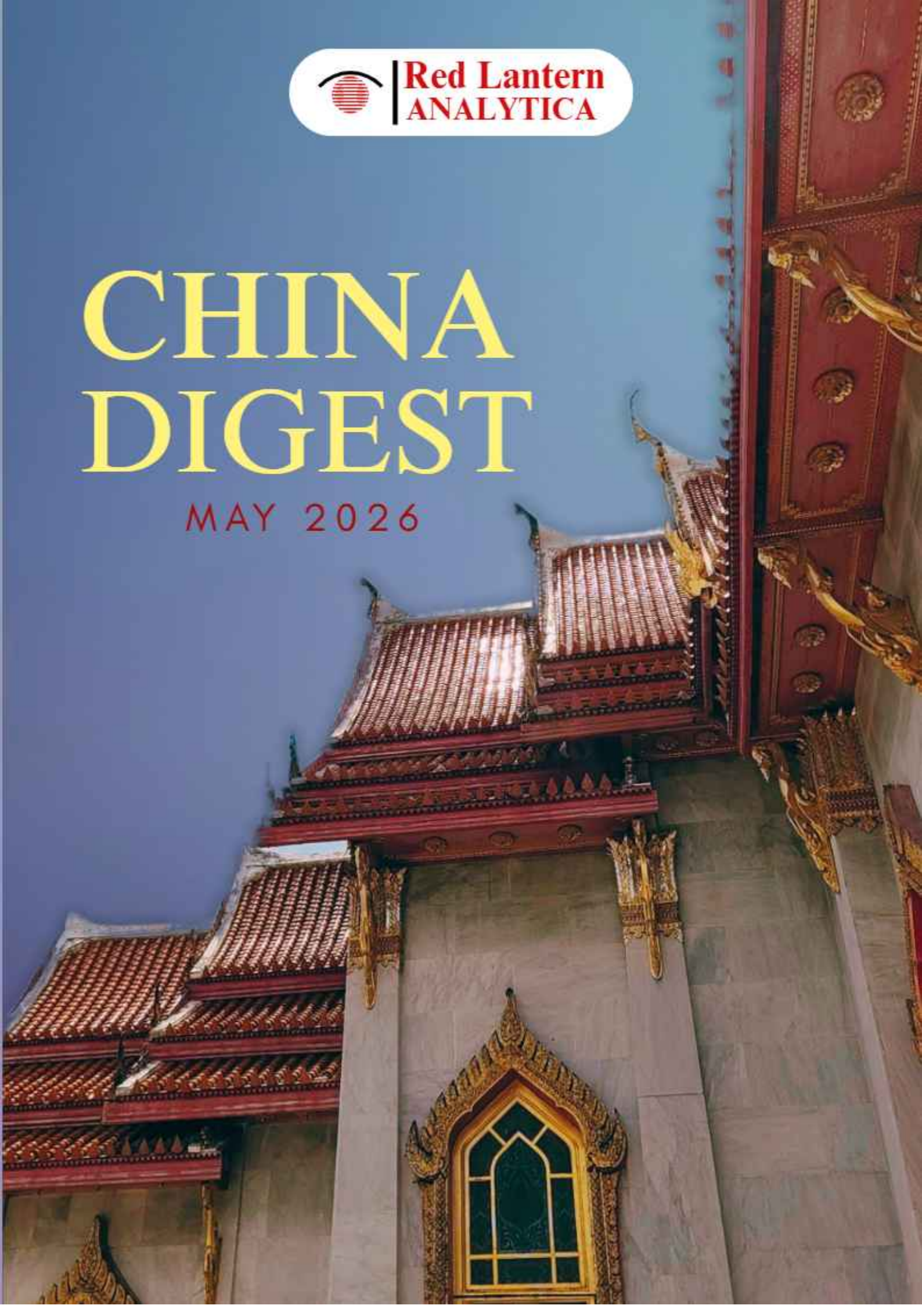




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# CHINA DIGEST

MAY 2026





## **China Defends Claims Against 'Freedom of Navigation' Operations**

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China stated that it opposes any country using freedom of navigation operations to undermine its sovereignty claims in disputed waters. The remarks reflect Beijing's continuing concerns over foreign naval activities in the South China Sea and highlight ongoing tensions regarding maritime security, territorial disputes, and competing interpretations of international maritime law.



## China and EU Hold Talks Over Steel Trade Measures

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China confirmed ongoing negotiations with the European Union regarding steel trade measures and market access concerns. Discussions focused on tariffs, industrial overcapacity, trade protectionism, and stabilising economic relations amid broader geopolitical tensions. Both sides aim to manage commercial disputes while maintaining economic engagement between China and European markets.



## **China Warns Taiwan Against Interfering in PLA Air Missions**

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China stated that Taiwan should not interfere with Chinese air force missions conducted around the island. The remarks came amid continuing military activity near Taiwan and rising cross-strait tensions. Beijing reaffirmed its sovereignty claims while Taiwan criticised the operations as destabilising to regional security and Indo-Pacific stability.



## **Germany Calls for Cooperation and Competition with China**

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Germany's economy minister stated during a visit to China that modern economic relations require both cooperation and competition. Discussions focused on industrial policy, trade dependencies, supply chains, market access, and economic resilience. The visit reflected Europe's evolving approach towards balancing economic engagement with strategic caution regarding China.



## **China Claims Dutch Frigate Was Driven Away from South China Sea**

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China's military claimed it drove away a Dutch frigate operating in the South China Sea, accusing it of violating Chinese sovereignty. The incident highlights growing tensions between China and European naval presence in Indo-Pacific waters, amid increasing international freedom of navigation operations and disputes over contested maritime territories.



## **China and Pakistan Seek to Revitalise CPEC and Gwadar Development**

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China and Pakistan agreed on broad measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation, focusing on revitalising the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and development of Gwadar Port. Discussions included infrastructure, connectivity, economic investment, and regional integration, reflecting both countries' efforts to reinforce strategic partnership amid changing geopolitical and economic conditions.



## **Japan and China Hold Brief Trade Talks Amid Diplomatic Tensions**

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Japan's trade minister held brief discussions with his Chinese counterpart amid ongoing diplomatic disputes between Tokyo and Beijing. Talks focused on trade relations, economic communication, and regional stability while tensions persist over security concerns, maritime disputes, and broader geopolitical competition in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific region.



## **Chinese Foreign Minister to Chair UN Security Council Meeting**

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China announced that its foreign minister would chair a United Nations Security Council meeting in New York before visiting Canada. Discussions are expected to focus on global security, multilateral cooperation, geopolitical tensions, and China's diplomatic engagement with international institutions amid evolving global strategic competition and regional conflicts.



## **APEC Envoys Discuss Supply Chains and Trade Imbalances in China**

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Trade envoys from APEC economies gathered in China to discuss trade imbalances, economic cooperation, and supply chain resilience. Discussions reflected concerns over global economic fragmentation, industrial dependencies, and protectionist policies while highlighting the importance of maintaining stable regional trade networks amid rising geopolitical uncertainty and economic competition.



## Russia and China Criticise US Missile Defence Plans During Summit

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Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping jointly criticised former US President Donald Trump's proposed "Golden Dome" missile defence initiative, arguing it threatens global strategic stability. The summit highlighted deepening Moscow-Beijing strategic alignment concerning international security, military balance, arms competition, and opposition to perceived US-led security architectures.



## **Russia–China Summit Highlights Agricultural and Meat Trade Risks**

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A joint Russia–China summit statement highlighted concerns regarding risks affecting bilateral meat trade and agricultural cooperation. Discussions focused on food security, sanitary regulations, trade stability, and strengthening economic coordination amid evolving geopolitical conditions and disruptions impacting global commodity markets and international agricultural supply chains.



## **Taiwan Calls Chinese Military Activity Biggest Regional Threat**

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Taiwan stated that China's military actions remain the greatest source of instability in the region. The remarks reflected growing concern over increased Chinese air and naval operations near Taiwan, escalating cross-strait tensions, and broader security implications for Indo-Pacific stability and regional strategic balance.



## China Agrees to Increase US Agricultural Imports

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The White House announced that China agreed to purchase at least \$17 billion worth of US agricultural products annually. The arrangement reflects efforts to stabilise bilateral trade relations despite continuing geopolitical disagreements over Taiwan, technology restrictions, economic competition, and broader strategic tensions between Washington and Beijing.



## **China Criticises Taiwan Foreign Minister's Geneva Visit**

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China denounced Taiwan foreign minister's visit to Geneva during the World Health Assembly, reiterating opposition to Taiwan's international diplomatic engagement. Beijing reaffirmed its One-China principle while Taiwan sought broader participation in international institutions, highlighting continuing tensions over Taiwan's global representation and sovereignty-related diplomatic disputes.



## **Xi-Trump Summit Reveals Continuing Differences Over Taiwan and Iran**

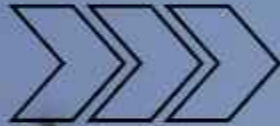
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Chinese President Xi Jinping and former US President Donald Trump described their summit discussions as successful despite persisting differences concerning Taiwan, Iran, trade, and strategic security issues. The talks highlighted attempts to stabilise bilateral relations while underlining continuing geopolitical disagreements shaping the broader US-China strategic rivalry.



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