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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

# CHINA

## MILITARY DIGEST

AUGUST 2025

- India, China hold Special Representatives' Talks on Boundary Question
- China-Russia "Joint Sea-2025" joint exercise was held
- Pakistan Navy announces launch of third Hangor-class submarine in China
- Liu Zhenli Holds Talks with Australian Defense Force Commander
- Chinese Defense Minister Meets Permanent Secretary of Singaporean Defense Ministry
- PLA Army Artillery Unit Conducts Live-Fire Exercises

## India, China hold Special Representatives' Talks on Boundary Question

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his official [visit](#) to India from 18-19 August 2025 co-chaired the 24th round of the Special Representative Talks on the Boundary Question between India and China with the Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on 19 August 2025. The two sides [had](#) comprehensive, in-depth and fruitful communication on the India-China boundary question and bilateral relations. Since the beginning of this year, Wang Yi noted, bilateral relations between India and China have entered a steady development track, and the boundary situation has continued to stabilize and improve. The two sides should also enhance mutual trust consensus, clarify directions, and set goals in areas such as boundary management, boundary negotiations, and cross-boundary exchanges, to properly address specific issues, achieve more positive progress, and continuously create favourable conditions for the improvement and development of bilateral relations, said Wang Yi. The two SRs agreed on the following: 1) The need to take a political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship while seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable framework for settlement of the boundary question in accordance with the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question signed in 2005. 2) Setting up an Expert Group, under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC), to explore Early Harvest in boundary delimitation in the India-China border areas. 3) Setting up a Working Group, under the WMCC, to advance effective border management in order to maintain peace and tranquillity in India-

China border areas. 4) Creation of General Level Mechanisms in Eastern, and Middle Sectors, in addition to the existing General Level Mechanism in Western Sector, and holding an early meeting of the General Level Mechanism in the Western Sector. 5) Use the border management mechanisms at diplomatic and military levels to carry forward the process of border management, and discuss de-escalation, beginning with the principles and modalities thereof. The two sides also agreed to hold the 25th Round of the Special Representative Talks next year in China.

## China-Russia "Joint Sea-2025" joint exercise was held

China-Russia "Joint Sea 2025 (海上联合-2025)" joint military exercise [opened](#) at a military port in Vladivostok, Russia, on August 1 that lasted until August 5. Themed, "Jointly Maintaining the Security of Strategic Channels and Jointly Responding to Security Threats in the Western Pacific," the exercise aims to further deepen the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Russia. At the opening ceremony, the Russian Commander [said](#) China-Russia joint exercises and training continue to deepen and expand, and the Russian side will continue to deepen joint operations to jointly maintain tranquillity and security in the Asia-Pacific region's oceans. For his part, the Chinese commander said that holding the China-Russia "Joint Sea" exercise is an important manifestation of deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between China and Russia. On August 1, during the port and shore planning phase, the two sides organised joint planning and professional seminars, as well as exchange activities such as friendly ball games, ship tours, and deck receptions. Previously, the

participating forces of both sides completed their assembly on July 31. The Chinese participating forces include the missile destroyers Shaoxing (绍兴) and Urumqi (乌鲁木齐), the comprehensive supply ship Qiandaohu (千岛湖), the comprehensive rescue ship Xihu (西湖), as well as fixed-wing aircraft, ship borne helicopters, and marines. Russia dispatched the large anti-submarine ship Admiral Tributs, the light frigate Loud, the lifeboat Belousov, as well as fixed-wing aircraft, ship-borne helicopters, and marines. The three-day maritime exercise [covered](#) multiple subjects such as submarine rescue, joint anti-submarine warfare, air and missile defense, and surface-to-surface operations, as well as actual weapons training. Since 2012, the China-Russia “Joint Sea” series of exercises has been held 10 times, becoming an important platform for cooperation between the two navies and promoting comprehensive improvements in joint maritime operations. After the exercises, China and Russia also conducted joint maritime patrols in relevant waters of the Pacific.

### **Pakistan Navy announces launch of third Hangor-class submarine in China**

At the Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group’s Shuangliu base in Wuhan, China, the third Type 039A Hangor-class submarine of the Pakistan Navy was [launched](#). The ceremony was attended by senior naval officials from both Pakistan and China. Chief Guest Vice Admiral Abdul Samad, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff in his speech reaffirmed that Pakistan Navy remains fully committed to defending the nation’s maritime interests while simultaneously fostering a secure and cooperative environment across the region. He highlighted the growing significance of maritime security in an increasingly

contested Indian Ocean. Referring to the Hangor-class program, he emphasised that the submarines’ cutting-edge weapon systems and advanced sensors would be pivotal in sustaining a regional balance of power and ensuring long-term maritime stability. The government of Pakistan [signed](#) an agreement with the Chinese side in 2015 to acquire eight Hangor-class submarines. Under the agreement, four submarines are to be constructed in China while the remaining four will be assembled at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW) under a Transfer of Technology (ToT) program designed to strengthen Pakistan’s indigenous naval industry. According to open reports, the first Hangor-class submarine was launched in April 2024, and the second in March 16 this year.

### **Liu Zhenli Holds Talks with Australian Defense Force Commander**

General Liu Zhenli, Chief of Staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department, [met](#) with Admiral David Johnston, Commander of the Australian Defense Force, in Beijing on August 13, 2025. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral, global, and regional security issues, and discussed the need for military transparency and communication. They [agreed](#) to strengthen dialogue in the defense field and promote the development of bilateral military relations. Admiral Johnston reiterated that all countries in the region must always conduct their missions in a safe and professional manner to avoid the risk of miscalculation or escalation. He also emphasised the importance of compliance with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the comprehensive legal framework for all activities in the oceans. He underlined the importance of all countries acting in a manner that respects sovereignty and

maintains peace, security and stability. The meeting followed the 23rd Australia-China Strategic Consultation, held in February 2025.

### **Chinese Defense Minister Meets Permanent Secretary of Singaporean Defense Ministry**

Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun [met](#) with the Permanent Secretary of Singaporean Defense Ministry Chan Heng Kee in Beijing on August 19. During the meeting, Dong Jun said that the defense departments of the two countries should implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, maintain regular exchanges at all levels and in all fields, and contribute to opening up new development prospects for bilateral relations. Dong Jun [said](#) China is willing to work with Singapore to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, maintain regular exchanges at all levels and in all fields, strengthen coordination and cooperation in regional and multilateral platforms, firmly support each other's core interests and major concerns, and jointly safeguard international and regional peace and stability. For his part, Chan Heng Kee [said](#) that Singapore is firmly committed to enhancing defense cooperation with China and is willing to continuously maintain close high-level exchanges with China, and expand and deepen joint exercises and training, communication between military academies, as well as multilateral cooperation, so as to promote the military-to-military relations between the two

countries to achieve greater development. He underlined that Singapore adheres to the one-China policy.

### **PLA Army Artillery Unit Conducts Live-Fire Exercises**

In early August 2025, an artillery brigade of the PLA 80th Group Army [conducted](#) a high-intensity, multi-ammunition, live-fire exercise in an unfamiliar, high-altitude area. The exercise began with the troops advancing toward a designated area a hundred kilometres away from the base. Commanders employed a variety of ammunition types and methods, tailored to the nature of the targets. The artillery unit occupied the firing positions, while the reconnaissance unit utilized drone reconnaissance and radar detection to gather information. Each artillery unit adjusted firing parameters and launched a fire strike. As night [fell](#), the exercise continued, with each artillery unit, relying on the night-time reconnaissance information, striking the targets several kilometres away. The observation post commander used flares to illuminate the artillery positions and direct fire towards the targets. The exercises were aimed at testing the artillery unit's fire power employment, combat command, tactical coordination, and comprehensive support capabilities in high-altitude and cold conditions, and to hone the unit's training capabilities. The exercise also examined the impact of complex weather conditions, hypoxia, and wind and sandstorms in high-altitude areas on artillery accuracy, and recorded high-altitude artillery firing data.