

October 2026 | Vol 2 | Issue 4 ₹ 450/-

THE NEWS ANALYTICS HERALD



THE STRATEGIC SQUEEZE

INSIGHT

WHEN INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY
BECOMES THE BATTLEFIELD

BIG STORY

POWER STATEMENT FROM
NEW DELHI

HI-TECH

HUMANOID ROBOTS: THE NEXT
INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

THE POWER PANEL

**GILLES TOUBOUL**

Geopolitical & Financial Market Specialist, Covers Asia and Global Markets, Tel Aviv, Israel .

**AMBASSADOR SUSHIL KUMAR SINGHAL, IFS (R)**

Former Ambassador to Angola. He has served in Tanzania, Belgium, Bangladesh and Hungary.

**M A HOSSAIN**

Senior journalist, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Covers South Asia and the Southeast Asian region for The News Analytics Herald.

**LT GEN PJS PANNU (R)**

Former Deputy Chief of India's Integrated Defence Staff, Senior advisor to SIA (India), distinguished fellow at CLAWS and the founder of Space Club of India

**JUSTUS NAM**

Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Diplomacy and former Foreign Service Officer, Nairobi, Kenya. Covers Africa for The News Analytics Herald.

**LT GEN AB SHIVANE (R)**

Former DG Mechanised Forces, Indian Army. TEDx Speaker, Strategic Defence Consultant, Analyst & Corporate Mentor.

**MOUSA ALTARAWNEH**

Banking and Commodity Finance Director. Expert in Trade Finance, SCF, M&A and Commodity. Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**NOEL ADALIA DIMASACAT**

Defence Analyst and East Asia Scholar, Manila, Philippines. Covers East Asia and Defence Technology for The News Analytics Herald.

**DR. AMIT DUA**

Associate Professor, Computer Science and Information Systems Department, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani.

|| FOREWORD



OUR MAD WORLD

The 1963 classic “It’s a Mad Mad Mad World” reflects today’s reality. A group of strangers, separately and in shifting alliances, try to locate unseen buried treasure and come crashing down together.

The mouth-watering treasure today is the natural resources of our planet, especially the rare ones. Everyone fights for them. A global sponsor of terrorism suddenly becomes the darling of the self-proclaimed greatest democracy in the world.

A hardcore Al Qaeda operator in Syria trades his fatigues for a Savile Row suit and becomes that “handsome democrat”. Europe, once a willing sidekick of the big bully across the Atlantic, tries to assert its autonomy and gets cursed.

Europe burns, the Middle East explodes, Islamism grows, Africa devours itself, and an 81-year-old monstrosity snores happily even as 60 kinetic conflicts rage across our world. Former allies now scream at each other and threaten Armageddon.

All of the so-called geo-politics and geo-economics and geo-everything else is about 200 blind men trying to figure out what our world is all about. I have lived long enough and seen enough. A rabidly anti-Russian character became leader of Georgia, and, lionized and egged on by his Western masters, especially the United States, challenged Moscow, got kicked in his pants and fled after losing a third of his country.

His latter-day incarnation, the leadership in Kyiv, has ruined 80% of his former Soviet Republic by taking on the bear, and curses NATO and the European Union routinely, while begging to join them.

Everyone in Africa is fighting everyone else. This is the theatre of the absurd, with illogical plots and nonsensical dialogue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deepak Vohra', written in a cursive style.

(Ambassador Deepak Vohra IFS (R),
Former Ambassador to Armenia, Sudan and Poland.
Former Special Advisor to the Government of South Sudan.)

|| ABOUT US

The News Analytics Herald is a premier national news magazine dedicated to analysing global developments that shape India's geostrategic landscape. From shifting currents in international relations and geoeconomics to emerging security challenges and transformative military technologies, we provide sharp, contextual insights into the issues that matter most. Guided by a commitment to factual depth and clarity, our analyses offer fresh perspectives on complex debates authored by an esteemed panel of global scholars, diplomats, armed forces veterans, international correspondents, and leading academics. Covering critical domains of diplomacy, defence, and military technology, the magazine brings a distinctly global and scholarly perspective to complex events. Each article is crafted to engage decision-makers, industry leaders, and globally aware readers alike.

|| PUBLISHER

Sandhya Srivastava

 editor@newsanalytics.in

|| OUR EDITORIAL BOARD

Air Marshal Anil Khosla (Retd)
Former Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force

 airmshlanilkhosla@newsanalytics.in

Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd)
Former Army Commander, Indian Army

 rajshukla@newsanalytics.in

Shri Anil Joshi
Former Executive Director, BHEL

 technocrat@newsanalytics.in

Ambassador Srikumar Menon, IFS (Retd)
Former Indian Ambassador to South Sudan,
Angola, Sao Tome & Principe.

 srikumarmenon@newsanalytics.in

Vice Admiral Makarand Aravind Hampiholi (Retd)
Former Commander-in-Chief of the Training
Command of the Indian Navy

 mahampiholi@newsanalytics.in

|| WHAT WE ARE

Title – The News Analytics Herald.
(Certified by Press Registrar General of India. PRGI Regn No: UPENG/25/A1463)

ISSN No – ISSN 3107-782X

Publication Frequency – Monthly.

Year of Commencement – 2025.

Subjects – Multidisciplinary Subjects. Focus on Diplomacy, Defence & Military Technology.

Language – English.

Format – Print.

EDITOR'S NOTE



THE STRATEGIC SQUEEZE

Global power is entering an age of constraint. Strategic ambitions remain expansive, but the military, economic, energy and industrial resources required to sustain them are increasingly under pressure.

Against this backdrop, the 2026 BRICS Summit in New Delhi emerged as more than another multilateral gathering. The presence of leaders from Russia, China, and Iran, among others, underscored the growing weight of alternative strategic platforms amid geopolitical divisions and intensifying great-power competition.

Our cover story examines what the summit revealed about a changing international order and India's growing ability to engage diverse powers while preserving strategic autonomy.

The wider pressures shaping this transformation run throughout this edition. Simultaneous conflicts are stretching military inventories and defence-industrial capacity. Energy insecurity is exposing economic vulnerabilities, while sanctions, tariffs and supply-chain controls increasingly turn interdependence into strategic leverage. Shifting alliances and transactional partnerships further complicate national choices.

For India, this environment brings opportunity alongside pressure. New Delhi must deepen relationships across competing strategic camps while retaining freedom of manoeuvre.

The strategic squeeze is ultimately about power under constraint and which nations can preserve influence when every strategic choice carries a cost.

Jai Hind!

Sandhya Srivastava
Editor-in-Chief &
Publisher

THE NEWS ANALYTICS HERALD

PRGI Regn No: UPENG/25/A1463
ISSN 3107-782X

Vol 2 || Issue 4 || October 2026

Editor in Chief

Sandhya Srivastava

Editorial Board

Ambassador Srikumar Menon, IFS(R)
Air Marshal Anil Khosla(R)
Lt Gen Raj Shukla(R)
Vice Adm MA Hampiholi (R)
Shri Anil Joshi

Consulting Editor

Brig (Dr) Vivek Verma (R)

Digital Partner

Abhishek Kumar

Creative Designer

Swati Singh

Legal Advisor

Adv Deepak Verma

Web Partner

Abhi Technosoft

Edited & Published By

Sandhya Srivastava on behalf of
Geostrat Media Ventures

Published At

0, Vatika Enclave
Mahanagar, Izzat Nagar, Bareilly
Uttar Pradesh – 243122
+91-9557597977

Printed At

New Delhi

Printed By

Viba Press Pvt Ltd
C-66/3, Okhla Industrial Area, Ph-2
New Delhi – 110020
+91- 98100 49515

Corporate Office

Geostrat Media Ventures
L29 - L34, First Floor, Block L
Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
+91- 9557597977

Email: reachus@newsanalytics.in
Website: www.newsanalytics.in

All rights reserved with The News Analytics Herald, an offering by the GEOSTRAT MEDIA VENTURES. Reproduction, in whole or part, without explicit permission of the publication is prohibited. The contents are protected by the copyright.

DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or the owner. Although all efforts have been made to ensure the complete accuracy of the text, neither the editors nor the publisher can accept responsibility for consequences arising from errors or omissions or any opinions or advice given therein.

06. GEOSTRATEGIC

AFTER MECCA: IS THE GULF BUILDING A SECURITY ORDER?



10. BIG STORY

POWER STATEMENT FROM NEW DELHI



14. GLOBAL INFLUENCER OF THE MONTH

FRIEDRICH MERZ — GERMANY'S CHANCELLOR



16. IN FOCUS

INDIA AS A GLOBAL ENERGY SWING POWER



20. INSIGHTS

SPACE WARS AND DRAGON FIRE



24. CURTAIN RAISER

CAMBRIAN PATROL 2026 - SOLDIERING SKILLS IN THE MODERN BATTLEFIELD



26. WAR STRATEGY

WHEN INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY BECOMES THE BATTLEFIELD

30. STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

LEBANON'S DISARMAMENT DEADLOCK AND THE IRANIAN EQUATION

34. IN THE SPOTLIGHT



36. GEOECONOMICS

THE WEAPONISATION OF GLOBAL FINANCE

40. TECH-TONIC

INNOVATION-AS-A-SERVICE: THE BUSINESS CASE FOR SANDBOXED AI LABS



46. HI-TECH

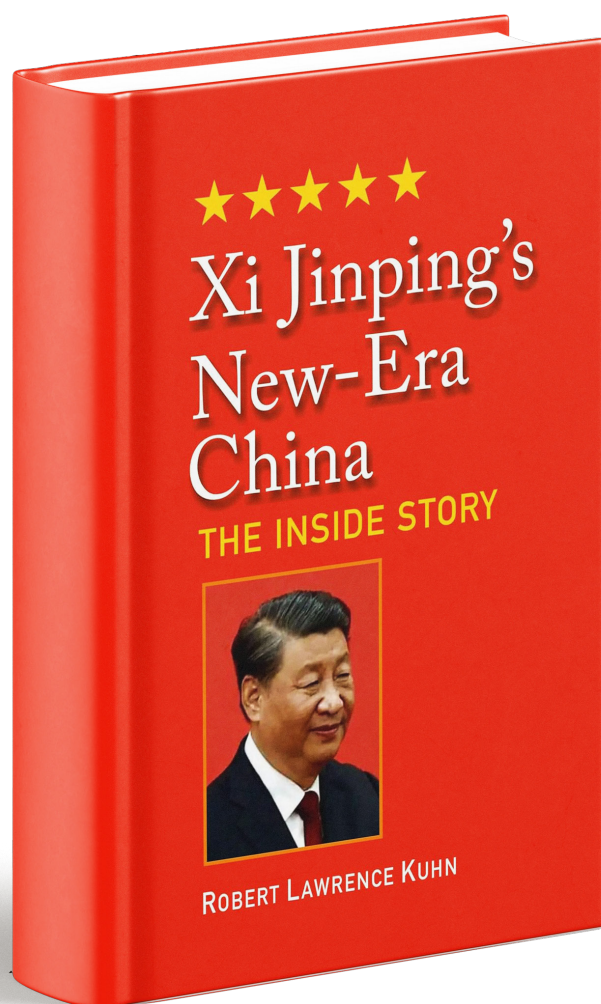
HUMANOID ROBOTS: THE NEXT INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

Decoding Xi Jinping's New-Era China

STRATEGIC READS



Robert Lawrence Kuhn offers an unusually close view of Xi Jinping's political thinking, China's governance model and its strategic ambitions—providing Indian readers valuable insight into a neighbour whose choices will profoundly influence India's economic, security and geopolitical future.



XI JINPING'S NEW-ERA CHINA

The Inside Story

ROBERT LAWRENCE KUHN



Publisher: Pentagon Press LLP



Publication Year: 2026



Pages: 364



Price: ₹ 1,295/-



ISBN: 978-81-980002-5-5

Robert Lawrence Kuhn's *Xi Jinping's New-Era China: The Inside Story* arrives when understanding China is no longer a specialist pursuit. For India, China is simultaneously a neighbour, major trading partner, strategic competitor and consequential actor across the Indo-Pacific and Global South. The book's central value lies in explaining how China's leadership understands its governance system, development and global ambitions.

Kuhn approaches China from a distinctive position. Having engaged with the country and its leadership for decades, he seeks to explain rather than merely judge. Instead of focusing only on what Beijing does, he examines why its leadership believes it acts as it does, using the ideas and institutional logic through which the Communist Party of China (CPC) interprets governance.

At the centre is Xi Jinping. Kuhn presents his worldview as drawing broadly upon three foundations: common prosperity and China's global stature; Marxism adapted to Chinese

AT A GLANCE



Leadership Lens

Explores Xi Jinping's political thinking, governing philosophy and vision for China's national rejuvenation.



Inside China

Offers an inside-facing perspective on China's Party-led governance, development priorities and institutional logic.



Strategic Ambition

Examines China's economic transformation, technological aspirations, diplomacy and expanding role in global affairs.



India Relevance

Provides valuable context for navigating India's complex mix of competition, interdependence and engagement with China.

“ India cannot shape its long-term China strategy without first understanding the political thinking, strategic ambitions and governance logic driving Beijing.”

sovereignty are presented as interconnected elements of national rejuvenation. Kuhn also examines milestones towards 2029, 2035 and 2049, particularly the importance placed on science, technology, indigenous innovation and continued reform.

For India, the strategic relevance is clear. India-China relations combine unresolved border tensions and geopolitical competition with substantial economic interdependence. Kuhn argues that Indian government, business, diplomatic and academic communities require deeper China expertise to navigate this complex relationship. Competition may endure, but greater understanding remains essential for managing it alongside selective cooperation.

The book's strength also requires perspective. Kuhn deliberately offers an inside-facing interpretation, frequently explaining China through the vocabulary and worldview of its leadership. It is therefore best read not as a final verdict on Xi's China, but as an important window into how contemporary China explains itself.

For Indian policymakers, diplomats, military professionals, corporate leaders and China-watchers, that window matters. India will compete, negotiate and trade with China for decades. Xi Jinping's New-Era China ultimately reinforces a fundamental strategic lesson: knowing China better is not merely an intellectual exercise for India; it is an enduring strategic requirement.

conditions; and China's ancient civilisation and political traditions. These connect Party leadership, national rejuvenation, technological self-reliance, social development, sovereignty and China's expanding international role.

The book ranges widely across economic reform, innovation, poverty alleviation, diplomacy, defence and territorial questions. Kuhn highlights long-term planning, policy experimentation, administrative professionalism, industrial strategy, state capital and institutional adaptability as important elements of China's transformation. His account of poverty alleviation, informed by extensive travel, also illustrates how CPC policy is translated into local implementation.

Internationally, China's increasingly confident diplomacy, engagement with the Global South, military strength and emphasis on



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Robert Lawrence Kuhn is a renowned China expert, international corporate strategist, investment banker and public intellectual. Awarded China's **Reform Friendship Medal** by President Xi Jinping in 2018, he has worked with Chinese leaders for over three decades. A prolific author and global media commentator, he holds degrees from Johns Hopkins, UCLA and MIT, and chairs **The Kuhn Foundation**.

TNH TAKE

An insightful window into the thinking and institutional logic shaping Xi Jinping's China. For Indian readers, its real value lies in understanding a consequential neighbour from within—an essential perspective for navigating the enduring interplay of competition, economic interdependence and strategic engagement.

READER'S COMPASS

Strategic Relevance	★	★	★	★	★
Analytical Depth	★	★	★	★	☆
Accessibility	★	★	★	★	☆
Originality	★	★	★	★	☆
Best For Policy · Diplomacy Strategic Affairs · China Studies	Read For Xi Jinping Thought · China's Governance National Rejuvenation · India-China Relations				

WHO SHOULD READ IT

- Policymakers
- Diplomats
- Defence & Security Professionals
- Scholars & China-Watchers
- Business & Industry Leaders



THE BOOK IN ONE LINE

An essential window into Xi Jinping's China—and the strategic thinking India needs to understand its most consequential neighbour and competitor.



SCAN
TO BUY
THE BOOK

Stay Ahead of Global Strategic Developments

Continue receiving *The News Analytics Herald* every month.

1-Year Digital Subscription – Only ₹999

Unlimited access to 12 monthly editions

- ✓ Full TNH Digital Editions
- ✓ Global affairs & geopolitics analysis
- ✓ Defence technology insights
- ✓ Diplomat & policy leader interviews

Activate Your 1-Year Digital Access

Scan the QR code below to start your subscription instantly.



UPI: geostrat@ptyes



WhatsApp:

Text **#TNH999** to +91 95575 97977

PRGI Certified | ISSN Registered

Read by scholars, diplomats and policy professionals.

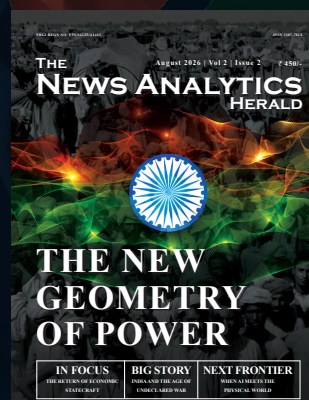
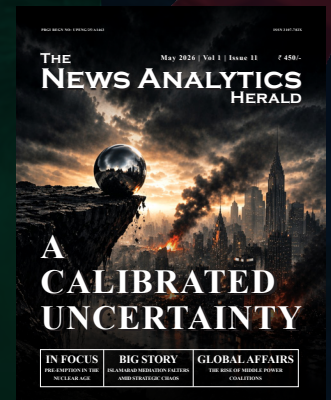
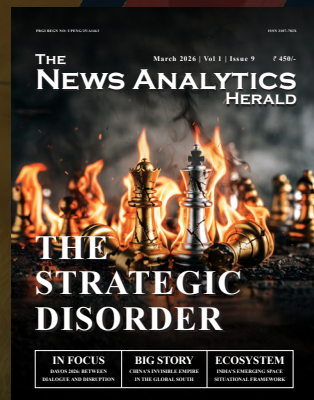


**NEWS
ANALYTICS**
Get The Global Perspective



NEWS ANALYTICS

Get The Global Perspective



www.newsanalytics.in

