

NEWS | ASIA-PACIFIC

China's Fifth Plenum opens as AI exports mask weak home demand

Beijing's top leaders meet from today, with markets watching for growth support. Q3 growth relied on exports while domestic demand stayed weak.

By **Manasee Kurlekar** | October 26, 2026



China's leadership meets behind closed doors for the 5th plenum.

The Fifth Plenum runs 26-29 October, focused largely on Party governance and discipline ahead of the 21st Party Congress in 2027. No major stimulus is expected, but the closing communiqué

will be watched for stronger language on growth and consumption. The economy they're steering runs on exports while domestic demand stays weak.

Q3 GDP grew 4.5%, the very bottom of Beijing's 4.5-5% target. AI-driven demand for chips and electronics pushed September exports up 36.3%, the biggest jump since early 2021. Spending at home is still weak, and the CSI 300 has slid into bear territory after a 10-week rout.

The plenum is mainly about Party discipline ahead of the 2027 Congress. Markets will still read the closing communiqué for any stronger language on boosting consumption.

Read online: <https://worldbusinesswatch.com/news/46/318/chinas-fifth-plenum-opens-as-ai-exports-mask-weak-home-demand.html>

© 2026 World Business Watch. All rights reserved.