

Future of India China Ties

What is the issue?

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- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, recently announced in Delhi, the parameters that need to be bilaterally addressed to ease tensions.

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- Despite the many outstanding issues, the future nevertheless looks hopeful.

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What was the Chinese Statement?

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- The statement broadly underpinned the Chinese intent and challenges with regard to India.

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- **The Intent** - The current efforts in easing tensions are unsatisfactory and a 'genuine cultivation of mutual trust' was needed.

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- India-China relations were at a crucial moment at present and both countries needed to make correct choices regarding the future of their relationship.

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- Lessons should be learned from Dong Lang (Doklam) and such episodes should be prevented from happening again.

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- Problems that are leftover from history need to be handled properly without politicizing and complicating them.

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- **The Actionables** - Enhancing strategic communications at all levels, restore established dialogue mechanisms was stressed.

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- The need for deepening practical co-operation in various fields and managing existing differences was voiced.

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- Also, the benefits that await India, if it were to get on board the 'Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)' were emphasised.

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What are some current challenges?

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- **Failed Systems** - The “dialogue mechanism” set up in 2003 with special representatives (SR) from both sides, has been largely ineffective.

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- It was formed to eventually delineated boundary along well-defined and easily identifiable natural geographical features.

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- Also, the Joint Working Group — that was drafting a mutually agreeable Line of Actual Control had failed - leading to a complete stalemate.

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- Notably, this helped in drawing sample maps in the Middle Sector, but failed to make any progress in the Western and Eastern Sectors.

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- Even though a military hotline between the two army headquarters had been agreed upon years ago, it has not yet materialised.

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- **Aggression** - Both countries have improved their border infrastructure, which will increase the possibilities of troops clashing with each other.

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- China is opposed to India’s entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), and is also shielding terrorist operating against India at the UN.

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- Also, as Doklam is a territory disputed between Bhutan and China, China has been voicing for a bilateral settlement by circumventing Indian involvement.

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- Chinese penetration in Sri Lanka, Nepal & Maldives, through high profile projects and finances is seen by India as interference in its backyard.

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What is the way ahead?

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- The border issue needs to be dealt appropriately to prevent it from becoming a distraction from other more productive areas of engagement.

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- Significantly, making provisions to live with an unsettled border for now

makes sense, rather than futile efforts to resolve it.

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- Ensuring sustained goodwill & peace will pave the way for the simultaneous and symbiotic rise of both China & India.

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- These are prerequisites for a more prosperous century that is touted to become the era of Asian dominance.

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Source: The Hindu

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