

Rationale for the Wuhan Summit (India-China)

What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- Indian PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping had an informal meet recently in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

\n

- China's assent to going for an informal summit with India needs a deeper analysis in the prevailing geo-political scenario.

\n

\n\n

What was China's possible motive?

\n\n

\n

- India by itself may not be a serious problem for China.

\n

- But China regards India as a potential ally of the US and Japan against China.

\n

- The border is in control of the Chinese if they wish to exercise it.

\n

- It's because they are on higher slopes and have more troops there.

\n

- But arresting India's potential drift towards the US and its allies is in China's interest.

\n

- Being informal, no documentary evidence was required for any agreements of great significance.

\n

- So an informal summit was a low-cost, high-benefit option for China.

\n

\n\n

What do post summit statements suggest?

\n\n

- \n
- Statements made by Xi Jinping after the summit, clearly indicate the above motives.
- \n
- **Strategic perspective** - He emphasised that India and China should look at their relations from a strategic perspective.
- \n
- This is clearly in mention of India's increasingly closer ties with the US.
- \n
- Further, compared to India, China takes Japan more seriously.
- \n
- There is possibility for a clash in the East China and South China Seas.
- \n
- Japan and India, by themselves would not worry China.
- \n
- But the combined might of the US and Japan would be a serious blow to the Chinese.
- \n
- **Economy** - Economic development also appeared in the post-summit statements.
- \n
- The Chinese do not think they need India for its development.
- \n
- However, deeper economic relations with India could be viewed as a means to an end.
- \n
- A means to ensure that India does not drift off into a US-Japan-India strategic triangle.
- \n
- **Civilisation** - Xi also stressed on a deeper and wider exchange between the two great civilisations.
- \n
- Generally, to talk about India's civilisation is a good diplomacy.
- \n

\n\n

How does it benefit India?

\n\n

- \n
- Until the 2019 elections, the government in power would prefer to avoid any border threats.
- \n
- This is particularly in relation with problems with Pakistan.
- \n

- India used the summit as a kind of assurance from the Chinese.
- It is to ensure that China, as Pakistan's benefactor, did not interfere on the border.

What does the summit mean for Pakistan?

- Post-summit statements suggested that India and China should pursue "a joint economic project" in Afghanistan.
- India cannot take up its Afghanistan projects all alone.
- This would invite attacks from the Taliban, supported by Pakistani military.
- But the Taliban would not attack joint China-India projects.
- This is because the Pakistanis would not allow that to happen.
- Pakistan is too indebted to China, and China has its own interests in Pakistan.
- China is building a port there, and there is a China-Pakistan economic corridor, serving Chinese interests.

Source: Indian Express

Quick Fact

Wuhan

\n\n

\n

- Wuhan is the capital city of Hubei Province in central China.

\n

- It has been a major industrial city for a long time.

\n

- The 1911 Republican revolution started there.

\n

- An informal summit would normally take place in a place other than Beijing or Shanghai, and Wuhan was a natural choice.

\n

\n\n



\n



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering