INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS: THE WUHAN SUMMIT AND THEREAFTER

by
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State of the Relationship - 2017

- 2017 - a challenging year in bilateral relations.
- But…
- Two summit meetings between PM Modi and President Xi Jinping. Multiple other meetings at various levels.
- Bilateral Trade hit a historic high of 84.4 billion USD.
- Indian movie ‘Dangal’ one of the highest earning non-Chinese language films in China.
- Xiaomi became the biggest seller of mobile phone handsets in India.
- Shows that India-China relations are not determined by one issue.
WHY AN “INFORMAL SUMMIT”?

- Discussion only between leaders.
- Gave them ample time to talk.
- Informal setting so that leaders could be relaxed.
- No agenda. Leaders could pick up any topic for discussion.
- No pressure of documents (MOUs, Agreements) to be signed at end of visit.
WHAT DID THEY TALK ABOUT?

- Almost 10 hours of discussion.
- Spoke on 3 broad themes:
  - domestic developments and direction of country.
  - how each country views the world and recent global and international developments.
  - bilateral India–China relations.
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

- Emergence of both India and China factor for global stability.
- Create conditions for Asian Century
- Build on convergences, handle differences.
- Must be sensitive to each other’s concerns and aspirations.
- India and China jointly offer innovative and sustainable solutions to challenges faced by humankind.
- Common threat posed by terrorism.
SPECIFIC BILATERAL ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Must maintain peace and tranquility in India-China border areas.
- Provide strategic guidance to respective militaries.
- More but balanced trade and investment.
- Ways to reduce India’s trade deficit.
- Enhance investment both ways.
- Promote tourism, education and cultural ties.
- Joint India-China economic project in Afghanistan.
RESULTS FROM WUHAN SUMMIT

- Positive, pro-active atmosphere in relations.
- Conducive for achieving results.
- Work together on expanding relations.
- Manage differences.
- Importance of maintaining strategic communication amongst leaders.