
India-China Bilateral Brief

On 01 April 1950, India became the first non-socialist bloc country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. The border conflict of 1962 was a setback to bilateral ties, but Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 visit marked a beginning in the improvement of bilateral relations.

2. During Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit in 2003, India and China signed the *Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation*, and mutually decided to appoint Special Representatives (SRs) to explore the framework of a boundary settlement. During the April 2005 visit of Premier Wen Jiabao, the two sides established a *Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity*.

3. Over the past decade, India-China relations have expanded and diversified through several high-level visits. During President Xi Jinping's visit to India in September 2014, the two sides redefined their bilateral engagement as a *Closer Developmental Partnership*. In May 2015, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited China, and held meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. Prime Minister Modi and President Xi held their first Informal Summit in Wuhan on 27-28 April 2018 and their Second Informal Summit in Chennai on 11-12 October 2019.

4. Prime Minister Modi has visited China to participate in the G20 Summit in Hangzhou (September 2016), the BRICS Summit in Xiamen (September 2017), the SCO Summit in Qingdao (June 2018) and most recently for the SCO Summit in Tianjin (01 September 2025). President Xi visited India in October 2016 to participate in the BRICS Summit in Goa. Premier Li Qiang had visited India for the G20 Summit in September 2023.

5. The leaders of the two sides have also met along the sidelines of various multilateral events, including the SCO Summit in Astana (09 June 2017) and Bishkek (13 June 2019), the G20 Summit in Osaka (30 June 2019), and the BRICS Summit in Brasilia (13 November 2019).

6. Bilateral relations had been adversely impacted by incidents along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020. In the following years, the two leaders had brief interactions on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali (November 2022) and the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg (August 2023) respectively. Following the conclusion of an agreement on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control leading to disengagement from all the friction points of 2020, the two leaders held their first full delegation-level talks in nearly five years on 23 October 2024, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan. Subsequently, Hon'ble Prime Minister visited China where he held a bilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping on 31 August 2025, and participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Summit 2025 in Tianjin on 01 September 2025.

Other high-level visits and mechanisms

7. Several exchanges between the two sides have taken place since the October 2024 meeting of the leaders in Kazan. These include the 23rd and 24th Special Representative Talks, with National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval visiting Beijing for the 23rd round on 18 December 2024, and Politburo member and Foreign Minister Wang Yi visiting New Delhi for the 24th round on 19 August 2025. During the latter visit, Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on the Prime Minister and met with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval. Foreign Minister Wang Yi also visited India in June 2026 to attend the meeting BRICS National Security Advisors, and on the sidelines held a bilateral meeting with NSA on 22 June 2026. External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister Wang Yi have held bilateral meetings on the sidelines of multilateral events on 18 November 2024 and 21 February 2025 in Rio De Janeiro and Johannesburg respectively and on 22 July 2026 on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum .

8. Past exchanges at the Foreign Ministerial level have included External Affairs Minister's meetings with Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of multilateral events in Vientiane on 25 July 2024, in Astana on 04 July 2024, and in Jakarta on 14 July 2023. The then State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China had visited India for the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 2 March 2023 and the SCO Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 04 May 2023, holding bilateral meetings with the External Affairs Minister on the

sidelines. Prior to this, Foreign Minister Wang Yi had visited India for G20 related meetings on 25 March 2022 and met with External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor on the sidelines.

9. On other Ministerial engagements, On the sidelines of SCO-related meetings in China, National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval met Special Representative Wang Yi in Beijing on 23 June 2025; Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held talks with Defense Minister Dong Jun in Qingdao on 27 June 2025 and on 27 April 2026 in Bishkek; and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on 14 July 2025.

10. The Special Representatives (SR) mechanism on the India-China Boundary Question was established in 2003, and 24 rounds of talks have been held so far. The 24th round of talks between Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor and Mr. Wang Yi, Politburo member and Foreign Minister were held in New Delhi on 19 August 2025.

11. The Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) came as an outcome of an agreement signed during the 15th Round of SR talks in New Delhi in January 2012. Since June 2020, the two sides have engaged in discussions through WMCC and Senior Commanders' Meeting (SCM) for disengagement in the border areas along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. The WMCC has held 35 meetings so far, and the latest one was held on 28 May 2026 in Beijing.

12. India and China have several dialogue mechanisms in place at various levels, across bilateral political, economic, cultural, people-to-people and consular matters, along with dialogues on regional and global issues. The frequency of these mechanisms had been impacted over the past few years, on account of the state of bilateral relations and COVID-related restrictions. Following the gradual normalization, the second edition of the India – China strategic dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretary and Executive Vice Foreign Minister from the Chinese side was held in New Delhi on 10 February 2026.

13. People-to-people ties have been an important component of the bilateral relationship. In 2025, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumed for Indian pilgrims through both the Lipulekh and Nathu La routes, after a nearly five-year-long hiatus. The Yatra also continued in 2026, with the first batch from Nathu La flagged off in June 2026.

Direct flight services connecting designated points between the two sides were resumed in October 2025.

14. Exchanges on water resources and trans-border rivers have been maintained between India and China. An Expert-Level Mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues regarding trans-border rivers was set up in 2006. Sixteen meetings of ELM have been held so far and the last one was held in New Delhi on 22-23 April 2025.

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