



Modi-Xi Connect and India-China Relations

11-21 October 2019

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping met on an informal summit on October 11-12, 2019 at Mamallapuram, a coastal town near Chennai, which was a port from where trade between the two nations was carried out two thousand years ago. They both spoke on national visions, trade-related issues and investment opportunities. The incremental meeting was productive and beneficial and would expect to yield better results in the area of trade and border peace among both the countries. They agreed to meet in China next year.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
PM Modi offered Xi Indo-Pacific connect in response to BRI offer <i>Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury</i> The Economic Times	The reference to rules-based international order in the statement issued by India following the summit was a delicate attempt to change Beijing's aggressive approach as witnessed in last few years and balance the BRI, which is widely viewed as China's grand strategy to challenge the current world order.
At Mamallapuram, Modi, Xi inject new momentum in Sino-India ties The Week	The significant outcome of the second Modi-Xi informal summit included setting up of a new high-level mechanism to boost trade and investment, China's assurance to address India's concerns in negotiations for the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), security cooperation and additional confidence building measures to main peace on border.
Amid 'Chennai Connect', Modi reminds Xi to prevent differences from escalating The Economic Times	"Strategic communication between both nations have increased....we had promised that we will not let any dispute escalate and increase global interaction . Wuhan spirit has given our ties a new momentum and trust. Today, Chennai connect marks a new era in the relation between the two countries," Modi said in his opening remarks.
Can the Chennai Connect Keep India-China Relations on Track? The Diplomat	While some of the directions of India's foreign policy under Modi have been bold and astute, it is difficult to deny the asymmetry of economic power between India and China. The GDP of China is nearly five times larger than India's. Bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$95.54 billion in 2018, with the trade deficit at \$53 billion in China's favor, the biggest India has with any country.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>At Mamallapuram, Xi and Modi look to past to shape future of Sino-India ties Live Mint</p>	<p>Talks between Modi and Xi were aimed at building on the relationship reset that began in Wuhan in April last year. People familiar with the visit said the summit's informal structure helped provide an easy setting for the leaders to meet and discuss where they see India-China ties going over the next several decades.</p>
<p>Trade, defence, new era of ties: 2-day Modi-Xi Chennai Connect informal summit ends India Today</p>	<p>They both spoke on national visions, govt priorities, trade-related issues, economic issues, investment opportunities, trade deficit and trade imbalance over a sumptuous dinner.</p>
<p>PM Modi, Xi Jinping look to refresh India-China ties at seaside summit Hindustan Times</p>	<p>The Indian side believes these unscripted meetings without any agenda will give the two leaders an opportunity to clear the air on a host of issues, exactly as they had done during their first informal summit in the Chinese city of Wuhan last year, which came in the wake of the 73-day military stand-off at Doklam.</p>
<p>From Wuhan Spirit To Chennai Connect, Sino-Indian Relationship Gathers Momentum After Modi-Xi Informal Meet Outlook</p>	<p>"The signal was clear from the two leaders that they wanted to bring back stability and momentum into relations," said Ashok Kantha, director of Delhi's Institute of Chinese Studies, pointing out that in recent months the pace in Sino-Indian ties had slowed down significantly.</p>
<p>Pakistan expects China to rake up Kashmir issue during PM Modi-Xi Jinping informal meet India Today</p>	<p>Pakistan will be keeping a close eye on the meeting amid expectations that China will bring up the issue of Kashmir and Indian government's August 5 decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. China has been by far the only all-out support for Pakistan's case against India on the Kashmir issue as it has supported Islamabad in taking the matter to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).</p>