
INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS : THE WUHAN SUMMIT AND THEREAFTER

by

Ambassador Gautam Bambawale



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



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.



