

US-China Summit

Why in news?

Recently, the US President Joe Biden and the Chinese President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of the [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\)](#) Summit in San Francisco in 2023.

What are the key highlights of US-China Summit?

- **High level diplomacy**- Apparent realisation that high-level engagement and open channels are key in preventing competition from sliding into conflict.
- **Military cooperation**- It focussed on the restoration of military-to-military communications which is crucial for managing tensions between the two nations.
- **Counter narcotics**- China pledged to curb the outbound shipments of substances used to make *fentanyl*, a powerful opioid that has contributed to many fatal overdoses in the US.
- **Technology**- Both agreed to discuss risk and safety issues involved with artificial intelligence.
- **Human rights**- US has called China to end human rights violations in Xinjiang, Tibet and other regions, all of which China has dismissed as interference.
- **Climate change**- Both countries agreed to sharply increase clean energy, displace fossil fuels and reduce emissions that are warming the planet.
- **Middle East conflict**- The complex role of both countries in the Middle East were highlighted, acknowledging the challenges and responsibilities each nation holds.
- US sought China's help to de-escalate tensions with Iran and to urge Iran not to launch proxy attacks on US targets in the Middle East as the [Israel-Hamas conflict](#) continues in Gaza.
- **Taiwan**- China urged the US to uphold commitments regarding Taiwan's independence as US maintains ***One China Policy*** on Taiwan.
- **Stabilise US-China ties**- Both agreed to set a minimum level of cooperation and communication to prevent their rivalry from escalating into conflict.
- This was their goal when two countries last met in Bali in 2022, but it was disrupted by a [spy balloon incident](#).

How does the US China Summit affect India's interests?

- **India-US relationship**- India is a strategic partner of US and it benefits from reduction in US-China relationship as it reduces the risk of conflict and instability in the region.
- **G-2** - A cause of concern for India is Sino-American collaboration in Asia.
- But the summit was about organising a truce rather strategic partnership that seemed possible at the turn of the century.
- **China's diplomatic push**- China's relationship with global powers and within South

Asia with countries like Bhutan is a cause of concern for India, considering the unresolved India-China border standoff at the Line of Actual Control.

- **Economic impact**- Many US companies like Apple and Microsoft are encouraged to diversify and move manufacturing plants to India due to strained relationship between US and China in the past.
- **Climate change**- US and China have made pacts in the past that doesn't take India's concerns into account.
- **Geopolitical strategy**- India should closely watch the potential US-China understandings on regional security issues in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe

What lies ahead for India?

- **Strengthen ties**- India should take advantage of the new possibilities to strengthen its ties with the US, maintain its long-standing ties with Russia, and manage the difficult ties with China.
- **Productive engagement**-India should utilise the QUAD forum with US, Australia and Japan.
- **Structural shift**- The recent shift in US-China summit is a little cause of worry for India as its own rise in the international system allows it to effectively handle any sudden shifts in great power relations.
- **Focus on AI**- India should pay attention to new areas of US-China engagement, such as regulating artificial intelligence.
- **Lesson for India-China**- The Summit showed the importance of diplomatic engagement for preventing conflict, which can be adopted to resolve the border crisis.

References

1. [The Hindu- Xi and Biden meet how it affects India](#)
2. [Indian Express- US-China truce](#)