

# From Conflict to Cooperation

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## From Conflict to Cooperation: The Evolving China-India Relationship

### Context

The **75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and India** is an opportunity to reflect on their **historical engagement, economic ties, and geopolitical challenges**.

Despite **border tensions and trade imbalances**, both nations continue to play a key role in **global governance and regional stability**.

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### Role of Leadership

- **Diplomatic ties began in 1950** under Mao Zedong and Jawaharlal Nehru.
  - **Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 visit** marked a turning point toward normalization.
  - **Recent meetings between Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi** highlight efforts to rebuild trust.
  - **Leadership-driven diplomacy** has prevented major conflicts despite disputes.
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### Cultural and Economic Exchanges

- **Buddhism and historical figures like Xuanzang and Tagore** reflect deep-rooted cultural ties.
- **Bilateral trade reached \$138.5 billion in 2024**, but **India faces a trade deficit**.
- **Bollywood and Yoga's popularity in China** strengthen cultural connections.

- **Need for balanced trade, investment, and technology cooperation.**
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## Managing Border Disputes and Global Responsibilities

- **Dialogue mechanisms** like the **Special Representative Talks** help manage tensions.
  - **Ladakh clashes highlight unresolved issues**, but **diplomatic efforts prevent escalation**.
  - As key members of **BRICS, SCO, and G-20**, both nations shape global policies.
  - **Joint efforts in climate change, economic stability, and multilateralism** are crucial.
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## Future Directions

- **Prevent border disputes from overshadowing broader cooperation.**
  - **Align China's high-quality development with India's "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision.**
  - **Strengthen trade, investment, and technology partnerships.**
  - **Enhance coordination in global governance and regional security.**
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## Conclusion

Despite challenges, **India and China must prioritize stability, cooperation, and mutual respect.**

By focusing on **economic balance, cultural ties, and diplomatic engagement**, both nations can contribute to **regional and global stability.**