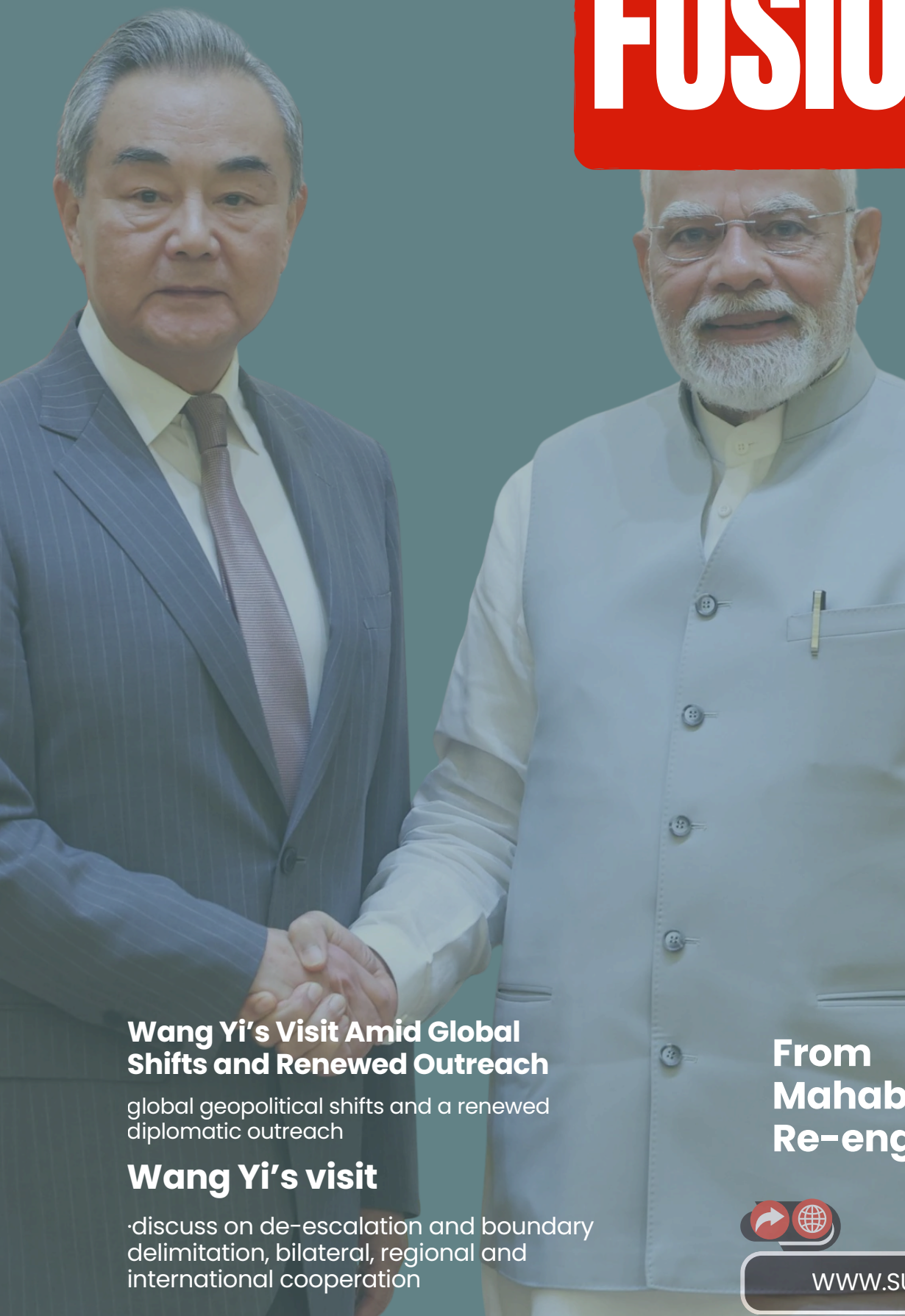


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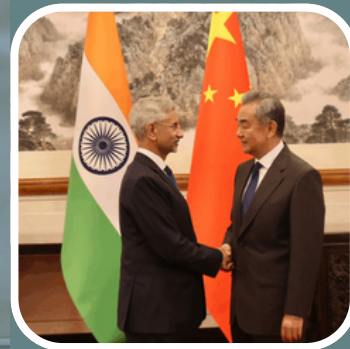
FUSION

**Wang Yi's Visit Amid Global Shifts and Renewed Outreach**

global geopolitical shifts and a renewed diplomatic outreach

Wang Yi's visit

· discuss on de-escalation and boundary delimitation, bilateral, regional and international cooperation

From Mahabalipuram to Re-engagement

India–China Relations 2025: Border Challenges, Trust Deficit & Renewed Engagement

Here is the latest update on India-China relations as of August 2025:

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India from August 18-19, 2025. During his visit, he co-chaired the 24th round of the Special Representatives' dialogue on the India-China Boundary Question with India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. He also held bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two sides positively reviewed the implementation of the important leader-level consensus reached earlier and reiterated the significance of maintaining peace and tranquility along the border to promote overall bilateral development.

India–China Ties: From Mahabalipuram to Re-engagement

India-China ties have a long and complex history marked by periods of cooperation, cultural exchange, conflict, and strategic rivalry. The recent phase of re-engagement between the two nations can be seen through the lens of key events like the informal summits held at Mahabalipuram (also called Mamallapuram) in 2019, followed by efforts to mend ties amidst border conflicts.

Historical Context of India-China Relations

- Diplomatic relations were formally established on April 1, 1950.
- Early goodwill included cultural and religious exchanges, especially the spread of Buddhism from India to China.
- The relationship experienced phases of cooperation, like the 1954 Panchsheel Agreement, but also severe setbacks, notably the 1962 border war.
- Subsequent decades saw a mix of diplomatic exchanges and tensions, particularly over border disputes and trade imbalances.

The Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) Summit, 2019

In October 2019, the second informal India-China summit took place at Mahabalipuram, India.

- The summit was marked by a positive atmosphere, aiming to usher in a "New Era of Cooperation" and a "Chennai Connect" spirit between leaders Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping.

- Informal summits serve as a platform for broad dialogue beyond routine diplomatic talks, including issues like trade imbalances, border issues, and regional/global strategic matters.
- The summit rekindled optimism for bilateral ties after the earlier Wuhan informal summit in 2018.

Post-Mahabalipuram Challenges

- Despite the hope from the summit, relations deteriorated sharply in 2020 with the violent Galwan Valley clash, which was the deadliest military confrontation between the two sides in decades.
- This incident led to a substantial military build-up and ongoing tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Multiple rounds of military and diplomatic talks failed to fully resolve the border stand-offs, preserving a trust deficit.

Recent Re-engagement Efforts (2024–2025)

- In 2024, India and China reached partial disengagement at critical border flashpoints, signaling a thaw in relations.
- This led to renewed diplomatic momentum, including high-level visits like Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to New Delhi in 2025, marking the first ministerial-level engagement since the border disengagement agreement.
- Both sides agreed on cooperation in areas beyond border issues, including trade, investment, water cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.
- Significantly, China allowed the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, reflecting a softening in ties.
- The upcoming meeting between PM Modi and President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin represents further efforts at re-engagement.

Wang Yi's Visit Amid Global Shifts and Renewed Outreach

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to India on August 18-19, 2025, marks a significant moment amid global geopolitical shifts and a renewed diplomatic outreach between the two Asian powers. This visit stands out as the most notable thaw in the India-China relationship since the violent Galwan Valley clash in 2020. Wang Yi's trip included meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, co-chairing the 24th round of boundary talks.

Key aspects of Wang Yi's visit and the broader context include:

- The visit took place amid mounting global shifts, including US trade policies targeting both India and China, which have pushed New Delhi and Beijing closer as they seek to reduce overdependence on Washington.
- Wang Yi's discussions focused on various issues including de-escalation and boundary delimitation, bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including counter-terrorism.
- India raised concerns about China's mega dam construction on the Brahmaputra River, emphasizing the need for transparency.
- Renewed cooperative gestures were announced such as resumption of direct flights suspended during the pandemic, reopening of border trade points, and China lifting export restrictions on critical goods like rare earths and fertilizers.
- This engagement is seen as paving the way for PM Modi's upcoming visit to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, signaling an intent to rebuild stable, predictable ties that contribute to regional and global peace.
- The visit also fits into a larger geopolitical realignment where India is recalibrating its relations amid uncertainties in its partnerships, especially with the US, and China is seeking to strengthen ties with regional powers.
- Analysts point out while the visit marks a symbolic and tactical reset, sustained progress will depend on trust-building and effective dispute management on the ground.
- The visit is also part of a broader trend emphasizing the growing relevance of the Global South through platforms like SCO and BRICS, with India and China positioned as leading players.

Overall, Wang Yi's visit represents a strategic attempt by China and India to move beyond recent hostilities, focus on pragmatic cooperation, and signal a more constructive bilateral engagement amid shifting global dynamics.

Border-Related Mechanisms india-china

India and China have established several border-related mechanisms aimed at managing their long-standing border dispute and maintaining peace and stability along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Key mechanisms and recent developments include:

1. Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India–China Border Affairs (WMCC)

- Established in January 2012 based on an agreement finalized during the 15th round of Special Representative talks.

- It serves as an institutionalized platform for information exchange on border issues between diplomatic and military officials from both countries.
- The WMCC is led by a Joint Secretary-level official from India's Ministry of External Affairs and a Director General-level official from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The mechanism focuses on consultation, coordination, and confidence-building but does not discuss resolution of the boundary question itself.

2. Special Representatives Mechanism

- Separate from WMCC, this mechanism involves high-level talks specifically focused on boundary resolution, led by appointed Special Representatives from each country.

3. Expert Group and Working Group under WMCC (New Initiatives)

- In 2025, India and China agreed to form an Expert Group under WMCC to work on "early harvest" initiatives for boundary delimitation, focusing initially on less contentious border areas.
- A Working Group under WMCC was also established to strengthen effective border management and maintain peace and stability.

4. Creation of General Level Mechanisms in Border Sectors

- In addition to the existing General Level Mechanism in the Western Sector, new General Level Mechanisms have been created in the Eastern and Middle sectors to improve border management at the ground level.
- These mechanisms are diplomatic and military in nature, aiming to address issues as they arise and avoid escalation.

5. Peace and De-escalation Talks

- Both sides agreed to use existing diplomatic and military channels for border management and to begin discussions on de-escalation principles and modalities.

6. Border Management on Ground

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) guards the India-China border, which is not fully demarcated. Border Out Posts (BOPs) are established along the LAC to monitor and manage the border.

- Infrastructure development, such as road building in border areas, has been initiated to enhance effective border management.

7. Cross-Border Trade and Connectivity Measures

- India and China agreed in 2025 to reopen border trade at three designated passes: Lipulekh, Shipki La, and Nathu La.
- Resumption of direct flights and visas facilitation measures were also agreed upon to improve connectivity and bilateral engagement.

These multi-tiered mechanisms form a complex framework of diplomatic, military, and technical channels designed to sustain peace, manage daily border affairs, and gradually work towards a long-term resolution of the border dispute between India and China.

Bilateral Engagements india-china

The recent bilateral engagements between India and China in 2025 reflect a cautious but significant effort to normalize and strengthen their relationship after several years of tension, particularly since the 2020 border clash in Galwan Valley. Key highlights of this engagement include:

- Both sides emphasize the importance of strategic leadership and agreed that a stable, cooperative, and forward-looking relationship is in their mutual interest to fully realize development potential. They committed to implementing understandings reached between their leaders to promote steady development of bilateral relations.
- There is mutual support for each other hosting major diplomatic events: China will back India's hosting of the 2026 BRICS Summit, and India will support China in the 2027 BRICS Summit.
- They agreed to resume and explore various official bilateral dialogue mechanisms and exchanges, including the third meeting of the India-China High-level Mechanism on People-to-People Exchanges in India in 2026.
- Marking a milestone, both agreed to continue supporting events commemorating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2025.
- Direct flight connectivity between India and China, suspended since the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions, will resume at the earliest after updating the Air Services Agreement. Visa facilitation for tourists, business, media, and other visitors in both directions was also agreed upon to strengthen people-to-people ties.
- Border trade will reopen at three designated passes: Lipulekh, Shipki La, and Nathu La, boosting cross-border economic activity.

- Both countries will facilitate trade and investment flows through concrete measures.
- The sides agreed to maintain peace and tranquility in border areas via friendly consultations, with efforts to form working groups and mechanisms to address border delimitation and management.
- Both sides uphold multilateralism and aim to enhance regional stability through cooperation on international platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- Discussions addressed sensitive issues such as China's dam projects on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra), with emphasis on river data sharing and cooperation mechanisms.
- Military and security dialogues continue, including talks aimed at troop withdrawal and border delineation.

These developments mark a positive trend as India and China move from a challenging phase in their relationship toward engagement, cooperation, and mutual respect underpinned by the "three mutuals" framework: mutual respect, mutual sensitivity, and mutual interest. The bilateral talks in 2025 focus on rebuilding trust, reopening trade and travel, and managing their longstanding border disputes through structured dialogue and cooperation mechanisms