

- The two countries also jointly expounded the Panchsheel (Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence) in 1954. Prime Minister Nehru visited China in October 1954. The India-China border conflict in 1962 was a serious setback to ties; Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's landmark visit in 1988 began a phase of improvement in bilateral relations.
- In 1993, the signing of an **Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)** on the India-China Border Areas during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit reflected the growing stability and substance in bilateral ties.
- After the nuclear tests in May 1998, the relations faced a minor setback. President K.R. Narayanan's visit to China in May 2000 marked a return to high-level exchanges. Prime Minister **A.B. Vajpayee visited China in June 2003 during which a Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation was signed.** This was the first comprehensive document on the development of bilateral relations signed at the highest level between India and China.
- The year **2011 was the Year of China-India Exchange.** The strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity between China and India maintained the momentum of sound and steady growth. Friendly exchanges and cooperation in various fields expanded. In recent times, the relationship saw a low with **Doklam standoff in 2017.** The recently held **Wuhan Informal Summit (2018)** reflected a positive development in the India-China bilateral ties.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINA FOR INDIA:

1. **Cultural:** Cultural relations between China and India date back to ancient times. The **Silk Road** not only served as a major trade route between India and China but is also credited for facilitating the spread of **Buddhism** from India to East Asia.
2. **Economic:** China is the **largest trading partner** of India with over 70 billion of bilateral trade.
3. **Political:** China is the fastest emerging **global superpower.** So a good relationship with China is in India's interest. Moreover, **bilateral border conflicts** and issues in the context of **Pakistan** etc also have serious political implications.
4. **Strategic:** Issues like **One Belt and One Road** especially **China Pakistan Economic Corridor** along with **String of Pearls** require a better relationship between two giants in this region.
5. **Global level:** China's cooperation is essential for securing Indian interests at the global level in organizations like **UNFCCC, UNSC, BRICS and WTO** etc.

ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP:

- At the geopolitical level, China and India have much in common. Both are ancient civilisations that carry the scars of past imperial conquests. Both are rapidly modernising and regaining their status as a global trading and economic powerhouses. In addition, they are the two most populated nations – collectively home to over one-third of the world's population.
- Geographical proximity, political difference, the vastness of size in population and area, enviable stances at the global level, faster economic development of both India and China play an influential part in defining their bilateral relationship.
- There is a regular interaction between leaders and officials of both the countries including at the highest political level. Yet despite these commonalities, China and India have been unable to resolve their shared boundary and other tensions. Thus, the relationship between the two frontline countries in this part of the world is a mixed pack of conflicts and pacts, resolution and