



Biden-Xi Summit

Why in News

Recently, President Joe Biden of the United States and Chinese President Xi Jinping met for the **first virtual bilateral meeting**. The meeting ended with the clear divergences in the positions taken by the two sides.

- US-China confrontation is on multiple fronts including ideological and cultural **hegemonic rivalry**, **trade wars** which has often been called the **[New Cold War](#)**.

Key Points

▪ US' Reservations Against China:

- **Human Rights Violations:** US raised concerns about the human rights violation practices in **[Xinjiang \(Uighur Muslims\)](#)**, **[Tibet](#)**, and **[Hong Kong](#)**.
- **Trade War:** US' **[trade deficit](#)** with China was around USD 375 billion for 2017. Due to this, former US President Donald Trump imposed import duties on Chinese exports to the US.
 - The US president held that the need is to protect American workers and industries from China's unfair trade and economic practices.
 - The US Treasury Department has declared China as a **[currency manipulator](#)**.
- **Free and Open Indo-Pacific:** **[China's assertiveness in South China Sea](#)**, claiming the majority of sea as its territory, has prompted the US to reiterate the importance of freedom of navigation and safe overflight to the region's prosperity.
- **Taiwan:** China and **[Taiwan](#)** separated amid civil war in 1949 and China considers Taiwan part of its territory to be taken control of by force if necessary. However, Taiwan's leaders say that Taiwan is a sovereign state.
 - The US remains committed to the **['One China' policy](#)**. However, it "strongly opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo or undermine peace and stability across the **Taiwan Strait**".

▪ China's Reservations Against US:

- **Alliances and Groupings:** China has raised reservations regarding the alliances and groupings led by the US. China held that these groupings created "divisions" in the world.
 - This was a reference to the **[Quad grouping](#)**, which includes US, India, Australia and Japan and the **[AUKUS deal](#)** among Australia, UK and US to deliver nuclear-powered submarines to Australia.
 - Moreover, the US has recently proposed to expand **[G7 to G-11](#)** without including China in it.
- **Competition for Dominating World Finances:** To counter the US-dominated **[International Monetary Fund](#)**, **[World Bank](#)** and **[World Trade Organization](#)**, China has come out with alternative financial institutions like **[Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank](#)**, and **[New Development Bank](#)**.

▪ US-India-China Relations:

- **US Helping India address disputes with China:** US aims to support India via military, diplomatic and intelligence channels to help address continental challenges such as the [border dispute with China](#).
- **US Supports India's reservations against Belt Road Initiative:** US seeks the transparent infrastructure-debt practices in the countries facing debt due to Chinese financing under [Belt Road Initiative](#).
 - [Build Back Better World \(B3W\)](#) is an international infrastructure investment initiative announced by the Group of Seven (G-7) richest democracies in June 2021.
 - The B3W initiative is being seen as the US' initiative to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- **Balancing China:** The US is in favour of strong India, in cooperation with like-minded countries, which would act as a counterbalance to China in the [strategic Indo-Pacific region](#).
 - Due to this, India and the US have signed four fundamental defence agreements:
 - [The General Security of Military Information Agreement \(GSOMIA-2002\)](#).
 - [The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement \(LEMOA-2016\)](#).
 - [The Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement \(COMCASA-2018\)](#).
 - [The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement \(BECA-2020\)](#)

Way Forward

- **US-China's Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of leaders of China and the US to ensure that the competition between the countries does not veer into conflict, whether intended or unintended.
- **India to Maintain Interest Oriented Balancing:** India should realise its rising global power and rather than getting enmeshed in US-China rivalry, it should prioritize its own interests and growth by maintaining peaceful mutual relationships.

[Source: IE](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/biden-xi-summit>