




## Biden-Xi Summit

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### Why in News

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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

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- **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

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- **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**