



Context & Significance Of The Second India-China Informal Summit

Both Asian Powers Are Fast Emerging As Two Major Poles In A Multi-Polar Global Order

By Rahul K Bhonsle@

India China relations are accepted as the most significant bilateral equation of consequence in the Indo Pacific or as the Chinese continue to call it Asia Pacific in the 21st Century.

In the larger strategic praxis of the global context these are subsumed by the United States (US) - China relations, however, in the decades ahead as India and China realises their full economic and political potential there is no doubt that Beijing and New Delhi are likely to emerge two major poles in a multi polar global order. Stable relations between the two nations with civilizational history that goes down many millenniums thus assumes importance for the world at large.

As two emerging powers in the same larger regional complex of the Indo Asia Pacific – a term that will fully embody the nuances of both India and China, competition is inevitable be it for economic, resources, political influence and the inevitable military one upmanship.

LEGACY ISSUES

When there are legacy issues such as boundary and territory, the relationship can become acrimonious particularly in the context of all-pervasive nationalism which is the hallmark of the current era.

When super imposed on the ongoing differences between the two countries such as India's rejection of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) a Chinese "Marshal Plan," China's stalling of Indian



WUHAN:- Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, April 28, 2018. (Xinhua/Xie Huanchi/IANS)

membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), trade imbalance and so on, there is possibility of differences gravitating into disputes.

MAINTAINING BALANCE

Coming back to India-China relations trust is major challenge with both remaining wary of each other's proximate partnership with the US and Pakistan respectively.

Against this backdrop, maintaining balance and maturity is important for which apart from formal summits – the format of informal summits has been evolved by leaders of India and China – Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping. The first informal Summit was held in Wuhan, China on April 27-28, 2018.

The objective of the summit was primarily as an exchange of views on issues of national and global significance and understanding each other's visions for their respective countries as well as, the regional and international environment.

STRATEGIC CONCERNS

The Wuhan Summit came against the backdrop of a long 73-day standoff between Indian and Chinese troops on the tri-junction of the India-Bhutan-China (Tibet) boundary in Doklam in mid-2017.

While no shot was fired by either side, proximate presence had raised concerns over possibility of a misstep leading to conflagration but this was avoided. As the two leaders met immediately after in September 2018 for the

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping, there was a reasonable degree of assurance of stability in the strategic engagement despite some transactional issues that had occurred in the recent past.

The Wuhan Informal summit was pathbreaking in the sense that this was a new format for strategic communication established at the highest level for providing guidance and ensuring that "differences are not converted into disputes."

There have been major developments internally as well as, externally, as the Indian and Chinese leaders meet in the temple town of Mamallapuram near Chennai in Tamil Nadu (most likely on 11 and 12 October, 2019.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Apart from the larger context of the US-China trade wars, bilaterally a major dispute over the status of Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) has emerged after repealing of Article 370 which granted special provisions to the state and bifurcation into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on 05 August 2019 by the Indian parliament.

China has reacted to this development raising sovereignty with the area of Aksai Chin (presently annexed by China being a part of Ladakh). Moreover, China's support to Pakistan on the larger issue of J & K being a bilateral dispute between the two countries as opposed to the Indian view that this is only an internal matter has been observed adversely in New Delhi. While there are other issues of concern between the two sides, the principal one on which strategic communication if not understanding will have to be established by the top duo of Xi and Modi at Mamallapuram, will be on the status of J & K.

The signal that emerges from the temples of the holy town which is an idyllic surrounding for this all-important Summit will dictate the course of India China relations in the near term.

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Don't Ignore The Signs Of Financial Abuse

By Kelsey Sheehy Of Nerdwallet

Nearly 70% of millennial women have experienced financial abuse by a romantic partner. Let that sink in for a second.

That means, for every 10 women you know in that age group, odds are that seven of them have had a partner use money to control or manipulate them, according to a 2017 survey of 2,000 people ages 18-35 by CentSai, a financial wellness website.

It's not surprising given that 1 in 4 women will experience partner violence in their lifetime – often for the first time before they are 25 years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And financial abuse is present in nearly all domestic abuse cases.

But financial abuse can and does occur absent of any physical violence. And it isn't strictly a millennial problem, nor is it something that happens exclusively to women. Almost 50% of men in the survey by CentSai said they experienced some form of financial abuse.

Recognizing Financial Abuse:

Financial abuse can run the gamut from subtle to egregious. It might look like a partner who can't keep a job or pay their share of the bills. Or one who makes you feel guilty for spending your own money. But it could also be a partner who offers to handle the household finances, then gradually restricts your access to those accounts.

Some other common forms of financial abuse: They open credit cards in your name without your knowledge; They default on accounts in your name, ruining your credit.

— They make you take out loans or borrow from your family, but don't pay it back.; and they hide money from you.

— They refuse to let you work or try to sabotage your career.

If you feel like you're being taken advantage of financially, bring it up with your partner. How they react will tell you a lot. Do they get angry?

Do they shift the blame to you? Do they make you feel guilty for questioning them? Or do they apologize and take

meaningful steps to remedy the situation? "A good sign is if you feel like you can have that conversation and your partner is receptive to it," says Katie Hood, CEO of the One Love Foundation, a non-profit that teaches young people how to identify and avoid abusive relationships.

But if you're avoiding these types of conversations out of fear for how your partner could react, that might be a warning sign. "When someone is in an abusive relationship . they basically start managing their life around another person's anger and volatility," Hood says.

Financial abuse, like most forms of abuse, typically isn't a one-off behaviour, but part of a trend that escalates over time, so it's important to look for the patterns, Hood says. "I think about it like falling down a rabbit hole," Hood says. "It starts out great – you're adored. The next step is isolation . they basically pull you away from your support network and tether you to them. Then, they start the emotional abuse – manipulating you, being controlling, sabotage, calling you names, calling you crazy."

How To Get Help

First, assess your risk level. If you fear for your safety call a local hotline immediately. If you're not concerned for your safety, start building an exit plan.

"The first step is to be aware. The second is to start doing some protection," says Shannon Thomas, author of "Exposing Financial Abuse." At this stage, it's important to not tell your abuser you're going to leave. "I've talked to folks that confronted the abuser, and the next day all the money was out of the account."

Instead, get educated. Find out where your joint accounts are and how to get access to them. Bank staff can be helpful, Thomas says. It's difficult, but important, to be honest about what you suspect is going on. Remember, it's something they've likely heard before.

If you suspect a loved one is experiencing financial abuse, express your concern without berating their partner. Point out patterns that you see and ask for their assessment.

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