

6. India and China marks 70 years of Diplomatic Relations

Prelims Syllabus: India and its Neighbour

Mains Syllabus: GS-II India and its Neighbourhood- Relations.

Why in News?

- India and China mark the 1st April 2020 as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them starting from 1950 till now.

Important Events in the Past Decade:

- **2010:**
 - ✓ The 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India.
 - ✓ In December, the two countries issued a Joint Communiqué.
- **2011**
 - ✓ It was the 'China-India Exchange Year'.
 - ✓ Both sides held a series of people-to-people and cultural exchange activities.
 - ✓ Both of them signed a memorandum on joint compilation for the 'Encyclopaedia of India-China Cultural Contacts'.
- **2012**
 - ✓ It was the 'Year of China-India Friendship and Cooperation'.
 - ✓ The head of the governments met each other on the side-lines of the 4th BRICS Summit and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
- **2015**
 - ✓ The two sides met on the side-lines of the 7th BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia and the Leaders' Meetings on East Asia Cooperation in Malaysia.
 - ✓ China decided to open the Nathu La Pass (Sikkim) to Indian official pilgrims to Xizang.
 - ✓ India celebrated the India Tourism Year in China.
- **2018**
 - ✓ Chinese President held an informal meeting with Indian Prime Minister in Wuhan which set up a new model of exchanges between two leaders.
 - ✓ Indian Prime Minister visited China to attend the SCO Summit in Qingdao.
 - ✓ The two leaders met again on the side-lines of the 10th BRICS Summit and the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires.

• **2019**

- ✓ The second informal meeting was held in Mamallapuram, Chennai which reaffirmed the Wuhan consensus.
- ✓ Both nations agreed to build a closer partnership for development, enhance the in-depth strategic communication, and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields and advance exchanges and mutual learning between the two civilizations. Both sides met on the side-lines of the SCO Summit in Bishkek and the 11th BRICS Summit.

• **2020**

- ✓ It marks the year of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India.
- ✓ It is also China-India Year of Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges, where the two sides agreed to hold 70 celebratory activities to demonstrate the historic connection between the two civilizations as well as their growing bilateral relationship.

Facts and Figures on China-India Cooperation:

Political and Diplomatic Relations:

- The Communist Party of China (CPC) has maintained friendly exchanges with 9 major Indian political parties including the BJP, Congress and left-wing parties for a long time.
- 20 Inter-parliamentary friendship groups have been set up by China and India.
- There are 50 dialogue mechanisms between China and India for exchanging views on various topics of bilateral, regional and global concern.

Economy and Trade:

- Since the beginning of the 21st century, trade between China and India has grown from less than \$3 billion to nearly \$100 billion, an increase of about 32 times.
- In 2019, the trade volume between China and India was \$92.68 billion.
- With a combined market of over 2.7 billion people and a GDP of 20% of the world's total, China and India enjoy huge potential and broad prospects for economic and trade cooperation.

Science and Technology:

- Both nations have held Joint Research workshops on Science and Technology Innovation.
- Indian companies have set up IT corridors in China, which help promote China-India cooperation in information technology and high technology.

Defence:

- 'Hand-in-Hand' joint anti-terrorist exercises to enhance mutual understanding and trust, exchange training experiences and jointly improve anti-terrorism capabilities.
- China-India defence and security consultation to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the Defence Field.

People-to-People Exchanges:

- Both nations have held meetings of China-India High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism. The two sides have made new progress on exchanges and cooperation in the fields of art, publishing, media, film and television, museum, sports, youth, tourism, locality, traditional medicine, yoga, education and think tanks.
- Sessions of China-India High Level Media Forum and China-India Think Tank Forum were held to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the field of media and think tanks.
- The two countries have established pairs of sister cities and provinces. For example, sister provinces and cities between Fujian Province and Tamil Nadu State, Quanzhou City and Chennai City.
- The number of Indian pilgrims to Xizang Autonomous Region of China has surged from several hundred in the 1980s to more than 20,000 in 2019.

Way Forward:

- Today's achievements of India-China relations embodied the great efforts of several generations.
- Both nations need to master the four keys of:
 - ✓ **Leading:** It means to reach consensus and guide the direction of the development of bilateral relations under the guidance of leaders from both nations.
 - ✓ **Transmitting:** It means to transmit the leaders' consensus to all levels and translate it into tangible cooperation and outcomes.
 - ✓ **Shaping:** It means to go beyond the mode of managing differences, shape bilateral relations actively and accumulate positive momentum.
 - ✓ **Integrating:** It means to strengthen exchanges and cooperation, promote convergence of interests and achieve common development.
- At this moment, it is particularly important to revisit the original aspiration of establishing diplomatic relations 70 years ago and carry forward the spirit of good neighbourliness and friendship, unity and cooperation.