

# India hails renewed trade ties with China

Countries move to repair relations shattered five years ago by border clash

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China and India have achieved a “new environment” of “peace and tranquillity”, New Delhi’s national security adviser told Beijing’s top diplomat, as the world’s two most populous countries move to repair ties shattered by a deadly border clash in 2020.

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi yesterday had meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India’s

national security adviser, Ajit Doval, encounters that will pave the way for Modi’s first visit to China in seven years at the end of this month.

The two sides said they had agreed during Wang’s visit to resume as soon as possible direct flights, which have been suspended since 2020, and to facilitate visas for travellers between them. India said they also agreed to reopen border trade at three Himalayan crossings.

Analysts say the geopolitical disruption of US President Donald Trump’s trade wars has helped create an opening for the nuclear-armed rival Asian powers to push a rapprochement started when Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping last year in Kazan, Russia.

“Since my meeting with President Xi in Kazan last year, India-China relations have made steady progress guided by respect for each other’s interests and sensitivities,” Modi said after his meeting with Wang yesterday.

At a separate meeting with the Chinese foreign minister to discuss de-escalation of border tensions, Doval told Wang: “There has been an upward trend. Borders have been quiet. There has been peace and tranquillity.”

Wang said he was “heartened” by the border stability, adding that China-India relations were “facing an important opportunity of improvement and growth”.

The Chinese foreign minister told his

Indian counterpart, S Jaishankar, yesterday that both nations were seeking to move ahead after a “difficult period in our relationship”, according to Chinese state news agency Xinhua.

China and India have been at loggerheads for decades, but relations hit a recent nadir after 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed in clashes along their disputed Himalayan border in 2020.

Tensions jumped again this year over China’s weapons supplies, including fighter jets, to Pakistan during a four-day cross-border conflict in May.

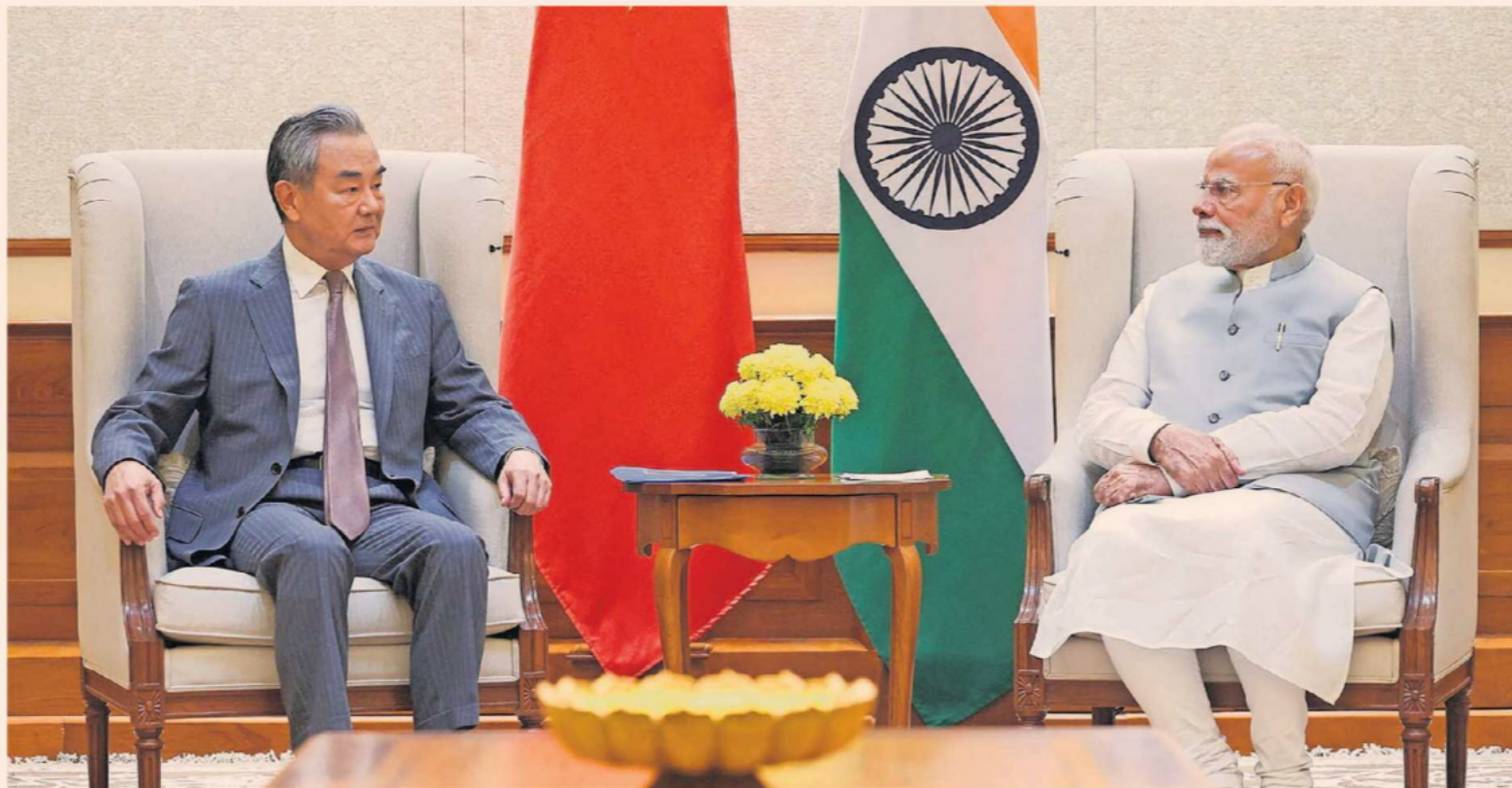
Jaishankar said discussions with Wang would cover economic and trade issues, including cross-border trade, as

well as pilgrimages, people-to-people contacts and river data sharing.

In an oblique reference to Trump’s trade war, the Indian foreign minister noted that “when the world’s two largest nations meet, it is natural that the international situation will be discussed”.

Beijing also agreed to address New Delhi’s “needs” by allowing shipments of rare earths, fertilisers and tunnel boring machines, according to diplomats familiar with the matter.

A thaw between Beijing and New Delhi began last October, after they agreed on patrols of their 3,500km border and Modi and Xi held their first bilateral meeting in five years at a summit of Brics nations in Kazan.



In talks:  
Narendra Modi,  
right, meets  
Wang Yi,  
Chinese foreign  
minister, in  
New Delhi  
yesterday.  
India’s premier  
will now pay  
his first visit  
to China in  
seven years  
India’s Press Information  
Bureau/Routters