

Chinese, Indian diplomats call for warmer relations

Ties have been stable since the leaders of the two countries met last year after a long-running standoff

AP Beijing

The top diplomats of China and India called for their nations to provide further mutual support, but avoided publicly mentioning a long-standing border dispute in the Himalayas when they met in Beijing on Monday.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told top Indian foreign affairs official Vikram Misri that the sides "should seize the opportunity, meet each other halfway, explore more substantive measures, and strive to understand, support and achieve each other, rather than be suspicious of, alienate and consume each other," China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, right, talks to India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during a meeting in Beijing on Monday. AP

It cited Misri as saying the nuclear-armed Asian giants have "properly managed and resolved differences, and promoted the restart of practical cooperation in various fields."

Ties have been stable since the leaders of the two countries met last year on the sidelines of a multinational summit in

Russia. Days before that meeting, India announced the two sides had agreed to a pact on military patrols along their disputed border in the Himalayas after a spike in tensions that began with a deadly clash in 2020.

That turned into a long-running standoff in the rugged mountainous area, where each side has stationed tens of thousands of military personnel backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and India said the 2024 agreement would lead to the "disengagement" of troops at the Line of Actual Control, the long shared border in the Himalayas, although it's unclear whether that meant the withdrawal of the tens of thousands of additional troops stationed along their disputed border in the Ladakh region.