



Institute of Chinese Studies

# WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

*India-China Relations: What  
can be Expected after Kazan*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Speaker :

**Maj. Gen. Mandip Singh**

2 April 2025

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**Speaker:** Maj. Gen. Mandip Singh, Visiting Fellow, Mercator Institute of Chinese Studies, Berlin; Senior Fellow, Centre for Land Warfare Studies, New Delhi; Distinguished Fellow, United Services Institution, New Delhi; and, Advisor, Technology and Business Incubation Foundation, IIT Ropar.

**Chair:** Dr. Atul Bhardwaj, Visiting Fellow, Department of International Politics, City St. George's, University of London; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi.

**Date:** 2 April 2025

**Venue:** Zoom Webinar

- The seminar explored the dynamics of India-China relations over the last five years, focusing on the lead-up to the recent thaw between the two countries. The speaker analysed various facets of this bilateral relationship, including military engagement, the trade deficit, and China's influence on countries in India's neighbourhood.
- Contextualising China's actions within the region, the speaker noted that most South Asian countries bordering India such as Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh have begun to reassess their involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This shift is largely attributed to mounting financial pressures, including widening trade deficits and growing concerns over long-term debt sustainability. These nations are increasingly wary of the economic implications of large-scale infrastructure projects funded through Chinese loans, which, while promising development, also pose risks of debt dependency.
- The speaker noted that there has been a shift in India-China relations since the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan in October 2024. This shift is marked by the adoption of a pragmatic approach aimed at fostering cooperation and stability. Amid the evolving geopolitical landscape, both countries are gradually recognising the need of cooperation over competition.

- Following the 2020 Galwan clash between Indian and Chinese troops, the existing bilateral economic mechanisms came to a standstill , and they have remained stagnant since. This affected border trade significantly. However, in recent times, there has been a gradual relaxation, as reflected in investments from the Chinese EV manufacturer BYD in Telangana. According to the speaker, this is indicative of renewed engagement.
- Furthermore, the speaker opined that India’s commitment to multipolarity aligns with China’s broader objectives. Efforts to resolve border tensions have facilitated renewed dialogue mechanisms, with a commitment to uphold existing agreements and refine border management protocols.
- In conclusion, the speaker noted that India and China are progressively embracing a pragmatic framework for enhancing bilateral relations. Sustaining the current military and diplomatic momentum is essential towards fully restoring the pre-2020 status quo.

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