

▶ New Delhi may find decoupling with China a mistake: expert

# Xi meets Indian PM Modi at BRICS summit in Kazan

By Yang Sheng

Chinese President Xi Jinping met Wednesday with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Summit. Chinese analysts said the meeting has strategic significance as the recovery of China-India relations serves not only the interests of both countries, but also the multi-polarization of the world order.

During his meeting with Modi in Kazan, Russia, Xi urged China and India to facilitate each other's pursuit of development aspirations. Xi said the two sides should strengthen communication and cooperation, properly manage differences and disagreements, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

This is the first bilateral meeting between the two leaders since 2019, when they met bilaterally in the southern Indian city of Chennai at the second informal India-China summit. The first informal meeting

between the two leaders took place in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province, in April 2018. In 2023, Xi also had talks with Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in South Africa at the latter's request.

Lin Minwang, a deputy director of the Center for South Asian Studies at Fudan University, said on Wednesday that the meeting shows that China-India relations are now on the track of recovery, as the two sides have reached resolutions on issues concerning the border area, so the obstacle that has blocked the recovery of bilateral ties has been removed.

"India's policy that aims at decoupling from China has failed to attract meaningful support from the US-led West to help 'Made in India' and the country's modernization and industrialization. This proves that India can't profit from being hostile to or decoupling from China, and it is even making it difficult for India to realize its own development," Lin said.

But this is just the economic reason, a key reason is that the Modi administration may have found that the US is very uncertain and unreliable, as US foreign policy may see a U-turn after the presidential election in November, so India must take action first to minimize the risks, experts said.

Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow with the Institute of International Relations at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, said on Wednesday that Modi is signaling that he wishes to stabilize and normalize India's ties with China, but apart from issues over the border, there are still many uncertainties, challenges and problems.

Experts are calling for India to facilitate people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and fix other relevant policies, so the Indian government can instill confidence and trust among Chinese firms and people that they can invest in India.

## Potential Saudi-Iranian naval exercise to promote stability in Persian Gulf, Red Sea regions: experts

By Li Yawei

Saudi Arabia has reportedly proposed a combined exercise with Iran in the Red Sea, a rare move that experts regard as a positive outcome and continuation of the resumption of diplomatic relations, which carries a positive significance for the stability of the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

The head of the Iranian Army Navy announced that Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in a joint naval exercise, a move aimed at strengthening regional cooperation, with both nations extending invitations to each other concerning their presence in the ports. Iran's English language daily Tehran Times reported on Tuesday.

While Iran and Saudi Arabia maintained a peaceful approach to diplomacy, cooperation between the two countries is likely to extend to the military field, which implies that the tide of reconciliation is not stagnating or reversing, rather it is progressing much further, said Zhu Weilie, director of the Middle East Studies Institute of the Shanghai International Studies University.

In April 2024, the two countries announced the resumption of diplomatic ties with immediate effect in Beijing after the first formal meeting between the two countries' top diplomats in more than seven years.

Zhu believes that China is highly appreciative of the possibility of cooperation between the two countries in the security field, and Zhu regards China as a facilitator of regional unity.

This collaboration between Saudi Arabia and Iran could potentially pave the way for further dialogue and de-escalation of tensions in the region, benefiting both countries and the broader international community, according to the Tehran Times Daily.

Any potential cooperation between the two sides this time should not be over-interpreted as targeting the US or other regional rivals, but instead reflects more of a cooperative effort to strengthen security management in the Red Sea region, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor from the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University. Two regional powerhouses, once strategically confrontational, are now cautiously advancing their cooperation after the resumption of diplomatic ties, benefiting the stability of the region, Liu added.

In the context of the current situation in the Middle East, Zhu said, this potential joint exercise calls for the attention of the global international community and serves as a reminder that it should be more concerned with the will of the regional countries themselves rather than the actions of major countries.

### ▶ Steady global growth

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (second from left) speaks during the IMF-World Bank annual fall meetings in Washington, DC, on October 22, 2024 local time. The IMF maintained its global growth forecast in 2024 at 3.2 percent. Photo: VCG



## Chinese envoy criticizes certain Western countries for 'double standards,' downplaying Gaza crisis

While Australia, the US and a handful of other Western countries turn a blind eye to their severe human rights issues at home, in the meantime they point their fingers at other countries, which says a lot about their hypocrisy on human rights, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Wednesday, in response to over 100 countries who have voiced support for China in various ways and opposition to interference in China's internal

affairs under the pretext of human rights at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly.

"We urge Australia, the US and a handful of other Western countries to face up to and address their own severe human rights problems, stop the wrongful moves of politicizing human rights issues and using them as tools, and play a constructive role in international cooperation on human rights," Lin said.

Australia and the US, among a few others, reached new lows in their practice of "double standards" in front of the world, by downplaying the situation in Gaza, while smearing against China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region over human rights issues, said Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, at the Third Committee of the 79th session of the General Assembly, on Tuesday, according to the official website

of the Permanent Mission of China to the UN.

This reveals, once again, the true intentions of Australia and the US to use human rights as a pretext to interfere in China's internal affairs and curb its development, and to broadly suppress developing countries that adhere to an independent and autonomous foreign policy, Fu noted.

In terms of human rights issues, Australia and the US among a few others have no

qualification to criticize other countries as they have their own severe human rights issues at home, but they always find reasons to point fingers at others, Li Haidong, a professor from the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

Global Times

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