

CHENNAI CONNECT**Modi and Xi have not allowed recent disagreements to cloud their meeting**

Just ahead of the Chennai informal summit between China's President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior officials said the purpose of the second meeting of its kind, following the Wuhan summit, was for the leaders to show that they are "getting down to business". Cutting through much of the pomp and show at Mamallapuram, the leaders ensured just that — by putting "business" first. In a decision taken after their talks, the leaders established a "High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue mechanism" between the Finance Ministers with the three-pronged objective of enhancing trade volumes, bridging the massive bilateral trade deficit, and increasing mutual investment in sectors agreed upon. If the mechanism works, it will not only succeed in taking away one of the major irritants in ties but also allow influential stakeholders in the business communities of both countries to promote ties as well as help New Delhi and Beijing work more closely on the multilateral stage. A key test of the bonhomie and trust-building will be seen towards the month-end when the two leaders attend the ASEAN-led summit in Bangkok that is due to announce the conclusion of the 16-nation free trade Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement. India has been reluctant to join it thus far, mostly because of concerns over China's predatory trade policies. Among the key takeaways from the Chennai summit, which added the "Chennai Connect" to the "Wuhan Spirit", was the decision to mark the 70th anniversary, in 2020, of the establishment of India-China relations. The others were to nudge the Special Representatives on the boundary issues to meet soon to add more confidence building measures, to cooperate on fighting terror, and to continue the "informal summit" series, with Mr. Modi attending the next meeting in China next year.

Above all, the leaders decided, as they had in Wuhan, that they would "prudently manage" differences and not allow "differences to become disputes" or as Mr. Xi put it, "dilute cooperation". This is easier said than done as many of the bilateral disputes appear to have an external factor. India often sees China through the prism of its ties with Pakistan, while China looks constantly for an American role in Indian actions. Both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the U.S.-India joint Indo-Pacific vision have further derailed bilateral trust. It is thus necessary to remove the worry of "third parties" from the room if New Delhi and Beijing are to move beyond laying the foundations of engagement and building atmospherics to actually resolving the serious issues they have in territorial, economic and strategic areas. Only when they see each other as independent and autonomous decision-makers will the leaders realise their vision of an Asian century where the "elephant and dragon" learn to dance.

Words

Cloud

Kind

Verb

Meaning

Confuse, muddle, obscure, floor, fog, mar

Vicar	Noun	Minister, premier, leader
Enhance	Verb	Boost, augment, embellish, escalate, elevate, proliferate, snowball, increase
Deficit	Noun	Paucity, scarcity, lacuna, meagre, dearth
Augment	Verb	Increase, aloft, ameliorate, mushroom, burgeon boost, enhance
Come off	Verb	Succeed, pull off, bring off, carry off, make it
Irritant	Noun	Annoyance, torment, plague, inconvenience
Promote	Verb	Upgrade, elevate, advance, move up
Bonhomie	Noun	Friendliness, conviviality, geniality, congeniality affability, amicability
Herald	Verb	Declare, proclaim, profess, aver, avow
Comprehensive	Adj.	Extensive, inclusive, complete, full
Reluctant	Adj.	Unwilling, disinclined, unenthusiastic, hesitant
Predatory	Adj.	Exploitative, hunting, raptorial
Nudge	Verb	Prod, stimulate, galvanize, encourage, exhort
Morale	Noun	Confidence, trust, belief, credence, conviction, tenet
Combat	Verb	Fight, battle, scuffle, brawl, confront, beard, skirmish
Prudent	Adj.	Wise, judicious, sagacious, politic, erudite, savant cognitive
Run in	Noun	Conflict, quarrelling, squabbling, falling out
Get along	Verb	Manage, fare, make do, get along
Dilute	Adj.	Un-clarified, begrimed, unfiltered, debased, corrupted defiled
External	Adj.	Outer, outside, outermost, exterior
Derail	Verb	Crash, hinder, thwart, constrain, impede
Empirical	Adj.	Practical, observed, factual, pragmatic, empiric, heuristic
Critique	Noun	Analysis, evaluation, appraisal, assessment
Run down	Adj.	Abandoned, un kept, desolate, forlorn, broken down decrepit, deteriorated
Lee way	Noun	Freedom, emancipation, latitude, elbowroom
Denizens	Noun	Inhabitants, resident, native, local
Proscribe	Verb	Prohibit, prevent, ban, forbid, interdict, outlaw,

		embargo
Re-iterate	Verb	Repeat, re-capitulate, iterate, restate
Articulate	Adj.	Eloquent, fluent, silver tongued, intelligible
		comprehensive
Chauvinistic	Adj.	Jingoistic, excessive, patriotic, xenophobic, Ethnocentric
Put aside	Verb	Dismiss, can cri, set aside

PRIZE FOR PEACE

Abiy Ahmed must view the Nobel as a call to end inter-ethnic conflicts in Ethiopia

The Norwegian Nobel Committee's decision to award this year's Peace Prize to Abiy Ahmed, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, is both a recognition of his efforts for peace in East Africa and a reminder of the challenges ahead for him. Mr. Abiy, who became Prime Minister in April 2018 after his predecessor Hailemariam Desalegn resigned amid a political crisis and social unrest, has taken steps to politically stabilise the country and establish peace on its borders. The committee recognised in particular his "decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea". Eritrea, which got independence from Ethiopia in 1991, has fought a disastrous border war during 1998-2000 with its big neighbour. It split thousands of families and killed about 80,000 people. In Eritrea, the dictatorship used the prolonged border conflict as a convenient excuse for conscription and repression of its critics, which led to a mass refugee outflow. Mr. Abiy, immediately after assuming office, took steps to resume the stalled peace process. He led Ethiopia's first state visit to Eritrea and met its President, Isaias Afwerki. Within days both countries declared the end of the border war.

Mr. Abiy, 43, had also initiated reforms at home, such as lifting the ban on opposition political parties, releasing political prisoners and jailed journalists and removing media curbs. Half of his Cabinet members are women and his government has welcomed the dissidents who were living in exile to return. More important, Mr. Abiy, himself hailing from the Oromo ethnic group, persuaded the Oromo Liberation Front to join a wide-ranging peace process with the government. But his biggest challenge is to calm ethnic tensions in his conflict-ridden country. Ethiopia is a multi-ethnic federation ruled by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front with a tight grip. Mr. Abiy has loosened this grip and called for a pan-Ethiopian identity and a freer economy and polity. But his reform agenda was challenged by ethno-nationalists both within and outside his party. His government remained a spectator when ethnic violence was unleashed in several parts of the country over the past year, and sub-nationalisms emerged stronger. The Oromia and Amhara regions remain tense. Ethnic Gedeos and Gujis are in conflict in the south. Earlier this year, at least 5,22,000 Ethiopians were displaced by ethnic conflicts. With the country set to go to elections next year, many fear that violence could escalate. Mr.

Abiy has to arrest this slide of Ethiopia into an inter-ethnic civil war. Being a Nobel peace prize winner, he should come up with a national action plan to end violence, ease ethnic tensions and resettle the thousands displaced by the violence. That should be as important for him as ending the war with Eritrea.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Conflict	Noun	Dispute, quarrel, squabble, dissension
Recognition	Noun	Identification, recollection, recall, remembrance
Proactive	Adj.	Enterprising, take charge, energetic, driven
Transparent	Adj.	Clear, obvious, explicit, lucid, pellucid, limpid
Amid	Prep.	In the middle of, amongst, among, surrounding
Crisis	Noun	Catastrophe, calamity, cataclysm, predicament
Stabilise	Verb	Brace, steady, make stable
Decisive	Adj.	Deciding, conclusive, determining, final, pivotal, momentous
Initiative	Noun	Enterprise, inventiveness, capability, imagination, Ingenuity
Resolve	Verb	Settle, sort out, solve, work out, rectify
Disastrous	Adj.	Catastrophic, calamitous, cataclysmic, devastating, ravaging, detrimental
Prolong	Verb	Lengthen, extent, protract, continue
Convenient	Adj.	Suitable, appropriate, fitting, favourable
Conscription	Noun	Restriction, limitation, conditioning
Repression	Noun	Suppression, quelling, quashing, subduing
Assume	Verb	Presume, suppose, surmise, conjecture, reckon
Resume	Verb	Restart, recommence, reinstitute, reopen
Curb	Noun	Restraint, restriction, constriction, stricture
Dissidents	Noun	Dissenter, objector, protester, recusant, agitator renegade, subversive
Exile		Banishment, expulsion, expatriation, deportation eviction, extradition
Persuade	Verb	Prevail on, tack someone into, induce, coax, tempt lure, blarney
Tension	Noun	Stress, worries, agony, affliction, torment
Grip	Noun	Grasp, hold, clutch, clasp, clench, grip, control, power, mastery
Unleash	Verb	Release, free, set free, unloose, unbridle
Several	Adj.	Some, various, assorted, sundry, divers
Escalate	Verb	Increase, rapidly, soar, rocket, shoot up
Come up with	Verb	Produce, (a new idea)
Amend	Verb	Revise, alter, change, modify, adapt, adjust, recast
Amends	Noun	Compensations, damages
Preclude	Verb	Prevent, prohibit, debar, hinder, interdict, impede, inhibit
Ambiguous	Adj.	Equivocal, ambivalent, arguable, delphic, cryptic, enigmatic, gnomic
Assertion	Noun	Declaration, contention, claim, submission, pronouncement, announcement, averment