

Taiwan's Critical Position in Indo-Pacific: India's Response to China's Reactions

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Abstract

"China Factor," has always been a crucial element that shapes India's attitude towards Taiwan. According to number of China experts, the journey of India- Taiwan relations have happened under the shadow of China only. Taiwan never featured prominently within India's Act East Policy as always been overshadowed by much bigger Sino-Indian ties. In the last few years, the concept of Indo-Pacific region has received immense political, economic and strategic attention. Undoubtedly, India is among the politically and strategically major players in the region along with China, Japan, Australia, South Korea, the United States and countries of Southeast Asia. Taiwan constitutes a vital component of Indo-Pacific due to its crucial geographical position in the region. To a significant extent, it is also due to the island nation's critical position in relation to Sino-US relations. Taiwan's strategic location links the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan. Most importantly, they are used as critical sea routes for exporting and importing of goods worth \$ 5.5 trillion annually, according to Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). These routes are extremely important for the import of energy resources to three East Asian countries – China, Japan and South Korea. Since the Indo-Pacific has turned into the center of global dynamism and trade agreements, undisruptive sea lines of communication are crucial for region's growth and prosperity. However, China's assertive policies and actions make Taiwan restless and worried. India looks at the Indo-Pacific as an open, libertarian and democratic zone. In the face of assertive China, assessing India's reaction is crucial as it advocates rules -based, open, balanced liberal order and stable trading environment in the Indo-Pacific region. Being the largest democracy and among the fastest growing economies of the world, it is important for India to acknowledge Taiwan's democratic position and economic capability. In fact, power dynamics in the Indo-Pacific have recently altered, and it's the appropriate time for New Delhi to engage more politically and economically with Taiwan.

1. Introduction:

India's relation with Taiwan is not always steady as "China Factor," has been a crucial element that shapes New Delhi's attitude towards Taiwan. However, New Delhi has specific significance for Taiwan given India's strategic, political and economic weight. Last year, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan mentioned that India's policy towards Taiwan is steady and consistent, and it's focused on promoting bilateral ties on trade and commerce, investment, education and tourism among others. India's bilateral trade with Taiwan was \$5.7 billion in 2020 along with significant amount of Taiwanese foreign direct investment in India. New Delhi and Taipei also established an investment bilateral agreement in 2018. India's keenness to engage more with Taiwan is evident as both the countries have agreed to collaborate in broader areas like agriculture to technology.

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significant extent, it is also due to the island nation's critical position in relation to Sino-US relations. Taiwan's strategic location connects the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan. India is among the politically and strategically major players in the Indo-Pacific region along with China, Japan, Australia, South Korea and countries of Southeast Asia. In the face of assertive China, it's the appropriate time for New Delhi to engage more politically and economically with Taiwan.

2. Recent Trends in India- Taiwan Ties:

We could witness, in the post pandemic period, India and Taiwan are moving closer economically and politically. Even they are engaged in doing business during the time of intensified cross- strait conflicts and military stand-off at the disputed India- China border (Purohit, 2022) India and Taiwan resumed their economic and people to people exchanges in 2022 only. Within a short period, New Delhi and Taipei have quietly developed a robust economic partnership

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coupled with an expanding mélange of political interactions (Smith 2022).

In fact, couple of bilateral visits between New Delhi and Taipei in the last quarter of 2022 indicated the eagerness to engage with each other more seriously. In early October 2022, Chen Chern-chyi, Taiwan's Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs visited India with number of bilateral economic proposals and participated in the annual deputy ministerial dialogue. He was accompanied by a team of top Taiwanese executives and industry experts who participated in the Sixth India - Taiwan Industrial Collaboration Summit and first ever round table featuring CEOs of both sides. It was the first high-profile visit from Taiwan since the COVID 19 pandemic broke out in 2020.

While addressing India-Taiwan Industrial Collaboration Summit, Minister Chern-chyi mentioned that India could be the best production place for Taiwan. He also acknowledged Make in India policy of India by mentioning that it is in line with Taiwan's policy. Minister Chern-chyi also met Mr Piyush Goyal, India's Commerce and Industry Minister. India and Taiwan signed a Bilateral Investment Pact in December 2018 and launched negotiations on a possible free trade agreement in December 2021. The meeting with Indian commerce minister provided a fresh push to complete the free trade agreement between India and Taiwan.

The high-profile bilateral visits continued as Indian Member of Parliament Sujeet Kumar visited Taiwan in October 2022, which was the first visit by an Indian parliamentarian to Taiwan in six years, to attend the Yushan Forum and the inaugural Taiwan-India Dialogue hosted by the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation and Observer Research Foundation. India - Taiwan bilateral trade is showing an upward trend as it touched USD \$9 billion in fiscal year 2021-22, a good jump from USD \$1.19 billion in 2001. The State Bank of India in 2021 raised \$300 million issuing Taiwanese "Formosa bonds," the first Indian bank to do so. According to official data by MEA, India ranks 14th largest export destination and 18th largest source of imports. Around 130 Taiwanese companies have also set up shop in India, investing over \$2.3 billion in sectors such as medical equipment manufacturing and information and communications technology. (Purohit, 2022).

India is also looking for greater cooperation with Taiwan's semiconductor giants to boost its goal of building up its domestic chip-making industry. Taiwan is known for manufacturing the most sophisticated semiconductors that are used in iPads, iPhones, electric cars, jet fighters and other electronics. Since 2021, New Delhi and Taipei have started negotiations on setting up of a semiconductor manufacturing facility by a Taiwanese owned company in India. So far, Taiwan has similar manufacturing hub only in the United States. The Indian Government has already projected few sites for the facility. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) and the United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), prominent semiconductor producers from Taiwan, are interested to

execute the project, according to the reports. For Taiwan, setting up a manufacturing hub will reduce its dependence on mainland Chinese market by achieving bigger access to India for Taiwanese businesses.

Beijing is however, getting uncomfortable with all these positive developments between New Delhi and Taipei. In the year 2022, we could witness both Taiwan and India's heightened tensions with China. In recent times, undoubtedly, India's relations with Taiwan have undergone a significant makeover. In addition, India's sharp reactions to China's aggressive behavior and further deterioration of ties with Beijing has led New Delhi to realize importance of engaging closely with Taiwan in the areas of trade, technology transfer and people to people ties.

3. China Factor and Indo-Pacific:

"China Factor," has always been a crucial element that shapes India's attitude towards Taiwan. According to number of China experts, the journey of India- Taiwan relations have happened under the shadow of China only. Taiwan never featured prominently within India's Act East Policy as always been overshadowed by much bigger Sino-Indian ties. Even bilateral trade between India and China is USD\$106 billion in 2021 much higher than with Taiwan.

However, China's attitude towards India's recent closeness with Taiwan is not positive. India is recognized as a major power in South Asia and a prominent political and naval power in Indian Ocean. China's expansion policy includes both South Asia region and Indian Ocean. In addition, the Chinese has been behaving aggressively over issues in Yangtse on the Line of Actual Control (LOC) where the Chinese side has been opposing Indian positions. Being the world's largest democracy, India is also significant in the Sino-Indian rivalry, which President Biden projects in ideological terms of free nations versus autocracies. Although New Delhi is becoming more interested in working on the idea of engaging with Taipei, the opportunity is still limited. New Delhi needs to be more vocal and firmer on its stand regarding China's bullying in order to engage more seriously with Taiwan.

In addition, India is counted among the politically and strategically significant players in the Indo-Pacific region along with China, Japan, Australia, South Korea and countries of Southeast Asia, and different island states in the Indo-Pacific rim, also known as littoral state. The Indo-Pacific area is increasingly seen as a worldwide centre of gravity, both for its economic opportunity and for its security threats. Two critical developments are mainly responsible for increasing importance of Indo-Pacific (Deshpande, 2022):

1. The dramatic rise of China in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, and
2. The Sino-US rivalry and the comparative decline of US in the region.

Why is the Indo-Pacific significant? The region has 38 countries accounting for 65 percent of the world's population, 63 percent of the world's GDP, and 46 percent of the merchandise trade of the world (Deshpande, 2022). In addition, the region also hosts 50 percent of the global

maritime trade, making the region a centre for global trade and commerce. The region also has some of the crucial as well as useful natural resources of the world. Therefore, the Indo-Pacific region has the great potential to turn into a flashpoint of great-power rivalry into a crisis over significant security and political issues.

Shifting geopolitical calculations, with China's rise as a key player and the declining role of the United States as a major power, have shifted global attention towards the Indo-Pacific region (Zafar 2022). Today, there are numerous flashpoints in the region as Beijing seeks to alter the power balance in its favor, while Washington is skeptical about Chinese intentions. There is a number of unresolved territorial and maritime issues in the Indo-Pacific region. China's hostile claims on East and South China Sea regions have led to competing territorial claims being raised by countries, such as Vietnam, the Philippines, and Japan. All these developments have also, therefore, forced other powers to make their entry to participate in the balance of power in the region. Also, Beijing's belligerence and use of wolf-warrior diplomacy increased insecurity in the region (Zafar 2022). In addition, flashpoints of skirmish along the Southwestern border with India in the Himalayas, the construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea, and the imposition of the nine-dash line have challenged the international community to review their ties with China (Angels 2022).

The relative decline of US influence in the Indo-Pacific has opened up new opportunities for other significant powers such as Japan, Australia, and India to become active in preserving political stability and supporting economic sustainability in the Indo-Pacific Region. India is a prominent Asian power (Despande, 2022). The Indian Ocean is fleetly expanding as a strong profitable and people resource, and the contemporary setting has seen the emergence of Asian powers. This region is allowed to be fairly limited since it concentrates on the US, China, and Japan while disregarding Southeast Asia and East Asia. Asian powers are now on the rise, and the Indian Ocean is snappily developing into a region with enormous profitable and mortal resource eventuality. The Indo-Pacific is a pivotal shipping route between the Middle East and North Africa's vast oil and gas inventories.

Numerous experts say that how countries in the region should take a commanding part in shaping the profitable and security armature of the Indo-Pacific and seek to tie in India more nearly with the US, Australia and Japan. The United States has talked about India's asked part as a "net security provider" to save maritime transportation routes and global commons in the Indian Ocean. Over the decades, India has taken a way to expand its presence and enhance its influence throughout the region which has made such a prospect more charming to the US policymakers. From the Act East policy, there has been an inception towards engaging East policy with growing profitable relations with the ASEAN and other East Asian countries. India is also in

the means of promoting the maritime presence throughout the Indian Ocean. Along with transubstantiating its defence procurement by accession and establishing aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, and line tankers.

The Indian and Pacific abysses, as well as the girding mainland, are all part of the Indo-Pacific theatre. Although it is still a developing paradigm, the maturity of experts believe it captures the transfer of power and influence from the West to the East. Indo-Pacific is both a strategic and a profitable realm that includes pivotal marine routes that link the coast lands of the two abysses. The region is related to maritime security and cooperation because it is largely a navigational region. Specifically, the Indo-Pacific becomes strategic as it provides a more intertwined approach to the region that is fast-gaining elevation on the global chart. Maintaining influence in the Indo-Pacific forms a central part of the US entitlement strategy, which China finds problematic.

According to Stephan Nagy (2022), many countries, including India, have deep worry about what Chinese rule or greater Chinese presence within the Indo-Pacific and in the international community means for issues such as human rights, rule-of-law, democracy, and of course, the governance of political entities like Taiwan. China's increasing presence close to the territorial waters, and ambitious projects in neighbourhood under the Belt and Road Initiative are a direct threat to India's position as the main security provider and regional power. The Indo-Pacific setup has provided an opportunity for New Delhi to maximize its strategic interests while responding to new developments in the security environment.

4. Taiwan in Indo-Pacific:

Taiwan constitutes a vital component of the Indo-Pacific due to its crucial geographical position in the region. To a significant extent, it is also due to the island nation's critical position in relation to the Sino-US relations. Taiwan's strategic location connects the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea, East China and the Sea of Japan, which makes it a key political entity within the Indo-Pacific that has the capacity to disrupt sea lines of communication if a conflict arises across the Taiwan Strait (Nagy 2022). Taiwan's lead in semiconductor manufacturing also makes its place prominent in global technology supply chains, so any disruption in the technology supply chains would have consequences in technology-based industries.

Taiwan also has great geopolitical significance in the Indo-Pacific Region. The island is located in the middle of what the United States considered its "forward defense perimeter" in the 1950s and what China now considers the so-called "First Island Chain", which runs from Japan through the Ryukyus, Taiwan, and the Philippines (Scott 2022). Taiwan protects immediate entry to the Western Pacific via the Yonaguni Strait between Taiwan and Japan, and the Bashi Channel between Taiwan and the Philippines. Taiwan's deep-water naval bases at Su'ao and Hualien, on

the east coast, allow submarines to slip directly undetected into one of the deepest maritime channels in the Pacific. So, Taiwan could be used as a route that can open and shut westward from the Pacific and eastward from the Chinese mainland (Scott 2022). Therefore, Taiwan is crucial for Beijing not only politically but also for its geopolitical significance.

Since the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan and Tibet have been sensitive issues in Sino-US relations. Particularly, Taiwan's dilemma and cross-Straits relations always play a significant role in US-PRC ties in fact they are inherent in it. China's unstoppable growth in recent times has made Cross-Straits relations even more interesting and complex. The 21st century was being referred to as both the "Asian era" and the "century of China". The economic development of China has certainly been outstanding, and its enhanced economic power is linked to a growing voice in political affairs. There is no doubt that China plays a key role in the Indo-Pacific security architecture because it is the biggest residential power in Asia, and it has the potential to become the "next superpower". China's leap into the global economy by adopting a market-oriented model brought the country into the ranks of great powers.

China's speedy economic development and its appearance as a great power is a critical event in the current geopolitical setting of Asia. Most international scholars also believe that Beijing's fast economic, social, and technological growth is altering the global community. Therefore, New Delhi always needs to keep in mind China when it makes policy toward Taiwan. In fact, policy toward and support for Taiwan are a key element in US relations with the PRC and an important component of US policy in Asia.

Taiwan has been facing an increasingly aggressive China since 2021. New speculations and anxiety have surfaced about the political future of the island nation as Chinese President Xi Jinping, on 8th October 2021 declared China's possible peaceful "reunification" with Taiwan. This controversial statement came after Beijing sent a record number of military jets into its defence zone in Taiwan. During the speech, President Xi did not indicate the use of military strength; however, he warned that the Chinese people had a glorious tradition of opposing separatism. President Xi's statement has sent mixed signals across the world but escalated unresolved China-Taiwan dispute regarding Taipei's ambiguous political status. Since the Democratic People's Party's (DPP) Tsai Ing Wen became the President of Taiwan in 2016, Beijing has resorted to a series of aggressive actions against Taipei, which included economic pressures and military bullying. President Tsai's domestic politics and her administration's close ties with the US have angered Beijing. As part of Taiwan's push for more political space in the Taiwan Strait, Tsai has sought to bolster Taiwan's Defence by increasing the Defence Budget, reforming the reserves, improving its image from the authoritarian Kuomintang era, and purchasing billions

of dollars in arms from the US since taking office. These were enough reasons that make the PRC furious.

President Xi during China's 20th Communist Party Congress held in October 2022, renewed the vow to reunify the PRC with Taiwan. He also launched a strategy of 'the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation' which aims to unify Taiwan with China by 2049 — the 100th anniversary of PRC. That threat is made even more apparent by an increased Chinese military presence surrounding Taiwan and Japan's southwestern islands. The world witnessed China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) activities surrounding Taiwan have ramped up in recent months. According to media reports, from July to August 2022, there was a 766 percent increase in the monthly average of PLA aircraft flying around Taiwan's airspace. In early August, the PLA sent out a total of 186 aircrafts around Taiwan—the highest four-day average of the year (Lee & Sadler 2022).

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan even fueled these activities. Beijing was furious as the U.S. "blatantly violated China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," it also launched missiles, which landed in Japan's economic exclusion-zone waters after passing over the Taiwan Strait. The PLA Navy also retaliated as the presence of Chinese vessels in the waters surrounding Taiwan significantly increased since Pelosi's visit. A number of international relations experts even predicted a fourth Taiwan Strait Crisis.

The situation further deteriorated in early 2023, ignoring China's assertiveness and repeated warnings, leader of DPP and Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen entered the United States in April 2023 in a carefully choreographed transit. During the visit, she conducted a high-profile meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Reportedly, other US officials and lawmakers also met with Tsai and supported her movement for "independent Taiwan." The China become furious again as the Beijing saw the trip as a Taiwan's move to escalate tension. China has been advocating a peaceful reunification of Taiwan along with the policy of One Country, Two System. So, Washington's permission to allow Tsai's transit and allowing the meeting between Tsai and McCarthy, was a clear violation of one China principle and the obligations of the three China-US joint communiques as interpreted by Beijing. So, Beijing reacted and conducted two days military drill at the Taiwan Strait by deploying multiple jets, warships and its Shandong aircraft carrier to exhibit that it is capable to fully block Taiwan in any actual combat situation. The PLA further threatened Taiwan by issuing a statement that "any form of Taiwan independence separatism and foreign interference" would be resolutely crushed.

Although China repeatedly claims, Taiwan is no longer just a sovereignty issue for China, but a key component in achieving a geopolitical victory in the China-US great power rivalry and challenging the Indo-Pacific rules-based order. This motive in Chinese territorial behavior is a cause for worry for India and some other fellow democracies. New Delhi advocates rules-based, an open and balanced liberal order, and a stable trading environment in the Indo-Pacific region.

5. India's Reaction:

India looks at the Indo-Pacific as an open, libertarian and democratic zone. So, it is crucial for New Delhi to protect Taiwan to ensure rules-based liberal order in the Indo-Pacific region. However, according to a number of China experts, the journey of India-Taiwan relations has happened under the shadow of China only. Taiwan never featured prominently within India's Act East Policy as always been overshadowed by much bigger Sino-Indian ties. Diplomats from Taiwan always complain about New Delhi's non-reaction to China's bullying.

China's militarization at Taiwan Strait is a continuous process. Similarly, its territorial dispute with India is still unresolved as the PRC rejects the McMahon Line. In March 2023, the PRC had announced Indian territory of Arunachal Pradesh as Zangnan or Southern Tibet. Beijing showed its aggression at border of India-China on several occasions.

Reacting to all the complains from Taipei, New Delhi finally broke its silence in August 2019 as India's Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson made a short and calculated statement as China was overreacting during US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in the same month. New Delhi presented a guarded critique of Beijing by urging an "avoidance of unilateral actions to change the status quo" (Pant & Mattoo 2022). Further, New Delhi refused to mention Beijing's "One China" principle, the view that it has sovereignty over the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan (Pant & Mattoo, 2022). Taiwan appreciated India's stand as Taipei's De facto Ambassador Baoshuan Ger stated "Taiwan appreciated India for standing up for justice, peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait in the wake of China's military offensive." (Economic times, 2022)

The PRC strictly practice the "one China" and always considered "Taiwan" is an inseparable piece of mainland China. Over the years itself, the concept of "one China" principle evolved along with China's attempt to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. According to Harsh P. Pant (2022) from the Observer Research Foundation, the omission of the "one China" principle in the official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs is intentional. It was articulated in 2014 by then-Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, that Beijing could not expect New Delhi to verbalize its support when China has ignored Indian sovereignty concerns in Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. Beijing reacted immediately as Sun Weidong, Chinese ambassador to India called on New Delhi to reiterate its support for the "one China" principle.

There are numerous benefits if New Delhi engages more closely with Taipei. Taiwan is a young democracy in East Asia, which offers a pluralistic and inclusive experience to its residents. Over the years, it grew stronger, and this island nation became one of the strongest gender equitable liberal democracies in Asia. Taiwan's democratic system must remain intact and continues to promote

liberal democratic values such as human rights, democratic governance, freedom of press and open governance (Nagy 2022). Taiwan's vibrant democratic model, which is praised in the Indo-Pacific region for its openness and transparency, could be an opposition to PRC's authoritarian model of development. The Indo-Pacific region deserves more free and democratic liberal democracies like Taiwan. So, it is the responsibility for all the major democracies of the region to protect Taiwan from potential Chinese invasion as the PRC attempts to erode Taiwanese civil society and confidence in its governance through various ways of using strong words and coercion. So, being a fair democracy, India must be concerned about Taiwan's future as reunification by force or war would disrupt sea lines of communication and technology supply chains by providing China a dominant position in the first island chain to the second island chain. It will sabotage the power balance in the region by pushing the United States from the western part of the Pacific Ocean (Nagy 2022). So, Taiwan's position as a democratic political entity within the Indo-Pacific continues to be dependent on cooperation and support from similar democracies like Japan, the United States, Canada, India, etc.

Taiwan is attractive for economic reasons as well as the country could be a crucial partner for India in achieving its ambitions of establishing itself as an alternative supply chain hub. India could attract huge investments from Taiwan and utilize its production-linked incentives like, "digital India, "Make in India," and creating a hub for semiconductor manufacturing in India. India imports all of its chips, and according to the India Cellular and Electronic Association, 75 percent of those used in the Indian smartphone industry come from Taiwan. In addition, India could benefit by using Taiwan's technology to counter cyber attacks. Recently, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences' 30-year-old IT system was hit by a massive cyber attack. The hack indicated cyber signaling by a nation-state – China being the top suspect.

6. Conclusion:

India must be alert as the PRC's action against Taiwan must serve as a lesson for New Delhi as well. When peace and security at Indo-Pacific is threaten by the PRC, it will affect India's larger interest as well. So, what is the possible role of India if China tries to reunite forcefully? American historian Hal Brands (2022) in his opinion piece in Bloomberg writes that if China attacks India, New Delhi might grant access to its Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in the eastern Bay of Bengal, to assist a blockade of China's oil supplies. Also, the Indian Navy could help Taiwan to keep PLA Navy ships out of the Indian Ocean. According to Brands, New Delhi has a real stake in the survival of a free Taiwan (Brands 2022).

Whatever role is suggested by American or other Western experts regarding India's role, New Delhi must support the joint effort to maintain the "status quo" in the Taiwan Strait. The "status quo" could be interpreted as the

preservation of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait until the political status could be resolved peacefully by agreement between Taiwan and China. Taiwan's active role in the Indo-Pacific region would benefit all countries in the region, economically and strategically.

India still endorses the "one China" policy and has not given any political recognition to Taiwan. It does not maintain any military relations either. However, due to China's continuous intrusions along the border of the Himalayas, number of Indian experts and commentators are arguing that Taiwan and India have a common enemy in China.

Looking at the recent changes in the Indo-Pacific, it could be argued that Taiwan needs to form its ongoing survival and flourishing amid surrounding stronger powers like the PRC, India, Japan, and the United States. Taipei has been happy to use the term Indo-Pacific while describing and locating its regional role (Scott, 2022). It is important for all the countries in the Indo-Pacific region to endorse stability and peace across the Taiwan Strait to maintain the undisturbed transfer of goods and services. Alongside, peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait must be secured by maintaining the status quo following each country's one-China policy (Nagy 2022). There is a challenge here as global perceptions of cross-strait ties also affect the continuation of the "one China Policy." Its protection compels its proprietors to choose between alignment with the PRC or Taiwan. For many countries, the economic benefits of alignment with China mean long-term trade and investment ties between their respective countries and can form a one-sided relationship that gives China greater leveraging power across issues of mutual concern (Angels 2022). This will undermine Taiwan's significance in the region.

New Delhi must continue its engagement with Taipei which constitutes a critical part of any kind of relationship with Taiwan. Here people to people ties are crucial as India continues connecting through universities, civil societies, health organizations, trade agreements, and technology sharing, such that Taiwan's presence in the international system is accepted as a political entity within the context of the one-China policy. India also cannot ignore China as India – China trade relations are robust. So, New Delhi must endorse the status quo, peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and region while ensuring that Taiwan and the PRC must find a peaceful solution to their political and territorial dispute and bring steadiness to the Indo-Pacific region. In order to counter the aggressive China, New Delhi must look for new friends as well.

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