

China, India reinforce growing ties

by UPI

BEIJING - Visiting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Monday helped India strengthen its ties with China as the two nations pledged to cooperate in major areas. The two Asian giants, which have seen their relations improve in recent years following their 1962 border war, pledged to promote bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy and to seek a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution" to their yet unresolved boundary dispute, the Press Trust of India reported. Singh and Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao and their respective delegations, after lengthy talks, issued a joint statement titled, "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century of India and China," and produced 12 agreements and memorandums of understanding calling for cooperation in various areas. The PTI report said India declared its adherence to the "one China" policy while China responded by declaring support for India's "aspirations" for a seat on the U.N. Security Council. The two countries, which held their first joint military exercise in China last month, agreed to hold the next one in India later this year. Their statement also called for significantly boosting their bilateral trade to about \$60 billion in the next two years. Xinhua quoted Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu as saying China is now India's second biggest trade partner while India is China's 10th largest.

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