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International Relations (GS Paper 2)

China–U.S. Relations & Xi–Trump Summit

What happened?

Chinese President Xi Jinping met U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on 24 September 2026. Xi emphasised that China and the U.S. should manage their rivalry peacefully and avoid "conflict and confrontation."

Key Points

1. China–U.S. rivalry
   - Both are major global economic, technological and military powers.
   - Xi called for healthy competition within limits and greater cooperation.
2. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
   - Xi stressed that AI development should remain under human control.
   - Both countries discussed cooperation on AI risks, misuse and safety.
   - A proposed AI incident-notification mechanism could help manage national-security risks arising from AI.
3. Taiwan Issue
   - Xi urged the U.S. to oppose "Taiwan independence" and handle the Taiwan issue with caution.
   - Taiwan remains one of the most sensitive issues in China–U.S. relations.
4. People-to-people diplomacy
   - China announced plans to invite 100,000 U.S. youth for educational and cultural exchanges over five years.
   - Two pandas are also to be sent to Zoo Atlanta, reflecting panda diplomacy/soft power.

Why is it important for India?

- Indo-Pacific stability: China–U.S. tensions directly affect the strategic environment around India.
- Taiwan Strait: Any major instability could disrupt global trade and semiconductor supply chains.
- AI & technology: India needs responsible AI governance while developing its own technological capabilities.
- Global supply chains: U.S.–China competition affects electronics, critical minerals, semiconductors and manufacturing.
- Strategic autonomy: India must maintain constructive relations with both major powers while protecting its national interests.

Prelims Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the recent China–U.S. summit:

1. Xi Jinping called for avoiding conflict and confrontation between China and the U.S.

2. Xi emphasised that AI development should remain under human control.

3. Taiwan was among the important issues discussed by the two leaders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Mains Question

Q. "The China–both strategic competition and the need for cooperation characterise U.S. relationship." Discuss in the context of the recent Xi–Trump summit.