

## Trump, Xi vow to tackle global issues

Special guest:Xi Jinping, left, and Donald Trump review Chinese guards during a welcome ceremony in Beijing.AFP

The United States on Thursday highlighted its special ties with China in managing global problems, including nuclear tensions in North Korea, instability in Afghanistan and tackling the scourge of international terrorism.

Visiting U.S. President Donald Trump, signalled at a joint press conference that Washington and Beijing will be the main pillars of a more inclusive international system.

"The United States working with China and other regional partners have an incredible opportunity to advance the cause of peace, security and prosperity all across the world. It is a very special time and we do indeed have that very special opportunity," said Mr. Trump.

"A great responsibility has been imposed on our shoulders Mr. President; truly a great responsibility," he observed, referring to his host Chinese President Xi Jinping.

### Emerging order

Some Chinese scholars were quick to point out that with Mr. Trump's visit, the U.S. and China were becoming the main pillars of an emerging new global order.

"Trump has recognised that China is its main partner to meet short and long-term global challenges, ranging from trade to nuclear issues," said Wang Yiwei, professor at the School of International Studies at Renmin University, in a conversation with *The Hindu*. "I think his visit to China has helped Mr. Trump understand that the relationship between China and the United States should be viewed from long-term, comprehensive and global perspectives."

President Xi was equally upbeat about the unfolding relationship, saying Beijing-Washington ties now stood "at a new historic starting point", which had global implications. "We believe Sino-U.S. relations concern not only the well-being of peoples, but also world peace, prosperity and stability," Mr. Xi observed.

### Massive deals

The remarks by the two leaders were preceded by a ceremony, where massive deals worth \$253 billion dollars, focussed on shale energy, aviation, and computer chips were signed. State-owned China Petroleum and Chemical Corp signed a \$43-billion joint natural gas exploration contract in Alaska. China National Petroleum Corporation inked an initial agreement with Cheniere Energy, specialising in shale gas, for long-term supplies of liquefied natural gas. China's cellphone giants Xiaomi, OPPO and Vivo also signed deals with U.S. telecom mobile chip-maker Qualcomm.

Significantly, China's Silk Road Fund, a unit under the People's Bank of China promoting the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will set up a joint fund with the U.S. During his remarks, President Xi also invited American firms to participate in the BRI. In other contracts, China will buy Tesla electric cars and Boeing aircraft from the U.S.

The two leaders tried to project a common strategic orientation towards the region, underscored by their common stance of achieving denuclearisation of North Korea. Yet, there were differences in the fine-print, highlighted by President Xi's advocacy of a dialogue with North Korea to

supplement UN-backed economic pressure that was being imposed on Pyongyang. But using much harsher rhetoric, President Trump described Pyongyang's leadership as "the murderous North Korean regime", and urged all "responsible nations" to stop arming, financing and trading with it.

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