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Xi's aspiration behind "The Third Belt and Road Forum":

And India's disquiet

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The Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held in Beijing, China, on October 17–18, 2023. During the event, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) commemorated its tenth anniversary. The main objectives of the Belt and Road Plan include people-to-people links, financial integration, unhindered trade, and facility connectivity. When the first Belt and Road meeting was conducted in 2017, 29 international leaders attended. When the second meeting was held in 2019, the number of attendees skyrocketed to 37. But only 23 people showed up for the third Belt and Road forum that was conducted the week before. The experts contend that the declining attendance is partly a consequence of the BRI problem.

The Third Belt and Road forum is held on the 10th anniversary of the BRI project. There is now a Digital Silk Road proposed as part of BRI. Hard infrastructure was the main focus of the first wave of BRI investments, which are currently valued at US\$1 trillion. Power plants, railroads, highways, ports, telecom infrastructure, and smart cities all over the world were financed and constructed by state-owned Chinese banks and corporations. China is strongly supporting the BRI's "Digital Silk Road" segment, which focuses on innovation, e-commerce, and science and technology. China's declaration at the Forum to start the

“Artificial Intelligence (AI) Global Governance Initiative” was one of the most noteworthy ones. Beijing hopes to influence international regulations and standards for this cutting-edge technology, having already experimented with domestic AI legislation.

A testing and assessment system for AI risk levels, AI governance frameworks, norms and standards based on broad consensus and the establishment of a new international organisation to oversee AI are among the core components of the proposals. China also called for “opposing drawing ideological lines or forming exclusive groups to obstruct other countries from developing amid these ideas, referring to the ever-tightening web of export restrictions and U.S. penalties that are specifically intended to hobble China’s AI sector. Thus, any nation that joins the AI Global Governance Initiative will be endorsing the American tech limitations on China.

Many condemned the BRI for increasing corruption, serving China’s self-serving interests, and trapping impoverished Global South nations in debt. However, the turnout for the most recent BRF suggests that, for the Global South, the BRI continues to be a representation of Chinese ascent and its aspirations for the world as well as a crucial way for them to make up for their infrastructure shortcomings. The attendance of Russian President Vladimir Putin as the main guest at the Third Belt and Road Forum attracted significant interest from around the world. The Third Belt and Road Forum had the challenge of diminishing participation from European states. However, the Czech Republic, Greece, Serbia, Switzerland, Belarus, Russia, and Italy were present at the 2019 Belt and Road Forum. However, only Serbia and Hungary were present in 2023

But the wider attendance of Global South leaders like Prime Ministers Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka, Joko Widodo of Indonesia, Srettha Thavisin of Thailand, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar of Pakistan, James Marape of Papua New Guinea, and Kenyan President William Ruto also

the pivotal factor of third Belt and Road Forum. During the 2023 Belt and Road Forum Xi emphasised the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) dedication to open, green, and clean cooperation and Xi made care to highlight the hydro, wind, and solar energy-based power plants being built as part of the project.

As part of India-China disturbed relations, Chinese President Xi Jin Ping skipped the G20 summit held in India. Also, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi skipped the Belt and Road forum even for the third consecutive time. India is arguing against building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir region. China is coming under fire for loans totalling billions of dollars for unviable projects that ended up trapping smaller nations like Sri Lanka in debt and plunging them into a severe economic catastrophe.

India criticises BRI that China overrides the sovereignty concerns of New Delhi. During the address, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar warned, the nations in the Indian Ocean region to be wary of the dangers of "hidden agendas in unviable projects or unsustainable debt at the 23rd Council of Ministers Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on October 11 in Colombo. This was ostensibly a reference to China, which the West accused of engaging in “debt trap diplomacy”. This caused disquiet in India to BRI.

Above all criticism, China is looking forward to future projects of BRI.as per the White paper record of the Belt and Road Forum pointing that as its top-level concept for opening up and win-win international cooperation, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is something Beijing will continue to promote. Beijing refers to the BRI as a key pillar of Xi’s foreign policy vision, a global community of shared future," in that paper. This white paper declaration focuses on the next decade of emerging China-US competition and the US tried to

tackle the Chinese BRI project by emphasising the 'Build Back Better' World project proposed by G7 nations in 2021. However, the relevance and future of this project are still unknown. And its relevance is not rising like BRI. So the coming decade is more crucial for both China and the US and also for the emerging other superpowers like India in the international geopolitical Chess game.