china-india rivalry: challenges and opportunities for Bangladesh

Since President Xi jinping's visit to Bangladesh in 2016 Bangladesh and China have turned their relationship into a strategic partnership. >

China has since pledged almost $38 billion in aid and loans to Dhaka where more than $8 billion economic package offered by India.>

(LI JIMING – Chinese ambassador) In Bangladesh, the total number of Chinese companies already reached 100 which is the biggest number compared with other countries. The other countries, they have less numbers of enterprises working those processes those now and we will see much more in recent future.>

The development in the relationship contrast with that between India and Bangladesh. That's been under strange since New Delhi rolled out the citizenship amendment act last December. Critics say it discriminates against Muslims AND has led to protests and violence.>

The nations are also in dispute over water resources the imposition of tariffs and the killing of dozens of Bangladeshi civilians by Indian border guards this year.>

In August India's foreign secretary made a surprise visit to Dhaka his foster abroad since pandemic in an attempt to mend relations.>

Very special message he carried from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina was not made public.>

Analysts said that was an indication India is concerned China could be using its economic power and funding of construction and defense projects close to India's border with Bangladesh to undermine new delhi's relations with daca.>

China is now bangladesh's single biggest foreign investor.>

some Indian analysts are also skeptical about China's large investment in Bangladesh.>

so we'll have to wait and watch how these projects progress I think they're just at the proposal stage and even Bangladesh knows the dangers of getting too close to China or even getting money from China because the debt trap is something that is now evident to everyone in the world.>

India's taken several steps in recent months to improve transport connections with Bangladesh. Now Bangladesh has described the project with China as economic diplomacy. That's widely been seen as an attempt to diffuse the growing tensions.>

but many analysts said China's growing economic leverage has already cast a shadow over daca’s traditional relationship with New Delhi.>