

Meeting will improve bond: Indian students

WUHAN: Indian students at the Wuhan Medical University hailed the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, stating that the PM's visit would help improve the ties between the two countries.

Meenakshi Santhosh, an Indian student at the university, said it was a "good move" on Modi's part to meet Xi.

"It will help India and China improve their bilateral ties," Santhosh, who is among the 500 Indian students studying at the university, said.

The students were also brimming with excitement at the prospect of catching a glimpse of Modi. Close to 100 students had gathered opposite Modi's hotel to see him on Thursday night.

After reaching the hotel from

the airport, Modi made it a point to wave in the direction of waiting students.

Indian student Alwin Lukose Thomas, who was waiting outside the hotel, said he got to know about the visit through a post on a mobile application that is popular among the Chinese. "We were very excited," he said.

Both Thomas and Santhosh said they did not face any hostility from the locals or university administration during last summer's Doklam standoff between the two countries. "We didn't face any problems. The locals were as normal as always (during the standoff)," Meenakshi said.

According to local media, the number of Indian students studying in China has increased over the past decade.

SUTIRTHO PATRANOBIS