

NEWS FROM CHINA

# CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

## A NEW YEAR NEW HORIZONS



# 新年快樂

HAPPY NEW YEAR



THE YEAR OF PIG





**H.E. Luo Zhaohui**

China's Ambassador to India

## In Year of Golden Pig, China-India ties to scale new frontiers

Spring Festival ushers in not only the Chinese New Year, but also marks new beginnings and the collective yearning to map new horizons in our lives.

In the Chinese calendar, 2019 is the Year of the Golden Pig. Pig symbolises luck, fortune, and prosperity. I wish the people in India and from all over the world a joyous and prosperous life.

As we start another year, there is plenty to rejoice. China's economy has shown remarkable resilience and is on an upswing. Our GDP is now about \$13.6 trillion, with GDP per capita reaching nearly \$9,800.

Spring is in the air, and I am happy to see that the China-India relations remain on an upward trajectory. Propelled by the momentum generated by the first informal summit between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi-ji in Wuhan in April 2018, our bilateral relations right now are on the fast track. Two-way bilateral trade has reached \$95.5 billion. Chinese companies have created more than 200,000 jobs in India.

What is heartening for me is that soft power is gaining greater prominence in our partnership. The first meeting of China-India High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism in December 2018 was a landmark,

and is inspiring both sides to widen the arc of understanding between our two ancient civilisations.

A friend told me that the Indian government is now promoting four soft power elements abroad, namely Yoga, Ayurveda, Buddhism, and overseas Indians. I just wonder why Bollywood movies are not included in this list. In China, watching Bollywood movies, practicing yoga, and tasting Darjeeling tea have become fashionable among the youth.

Buddhism will always be our shared civilisational heritage. China has the largest Buddhist population in the world. Xuan Zang and Bodhidharma are very popular in both countries.

We are grateful to our leaders for their guidance in steering the China-India relations to new heights. I am confident that in the Year of Golden Pig, our people will enjoy happiness and prosperity and our bilateral relations will scale new frontiers.

Let us join hands to make our two countries, and the world a better and harmonious place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of three Chinese characters: 罗照辉 (Luo Zhaohui).



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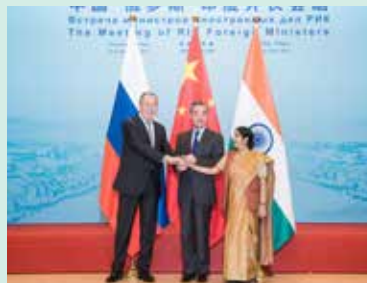
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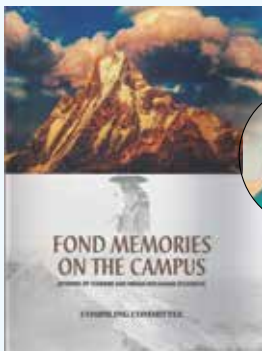


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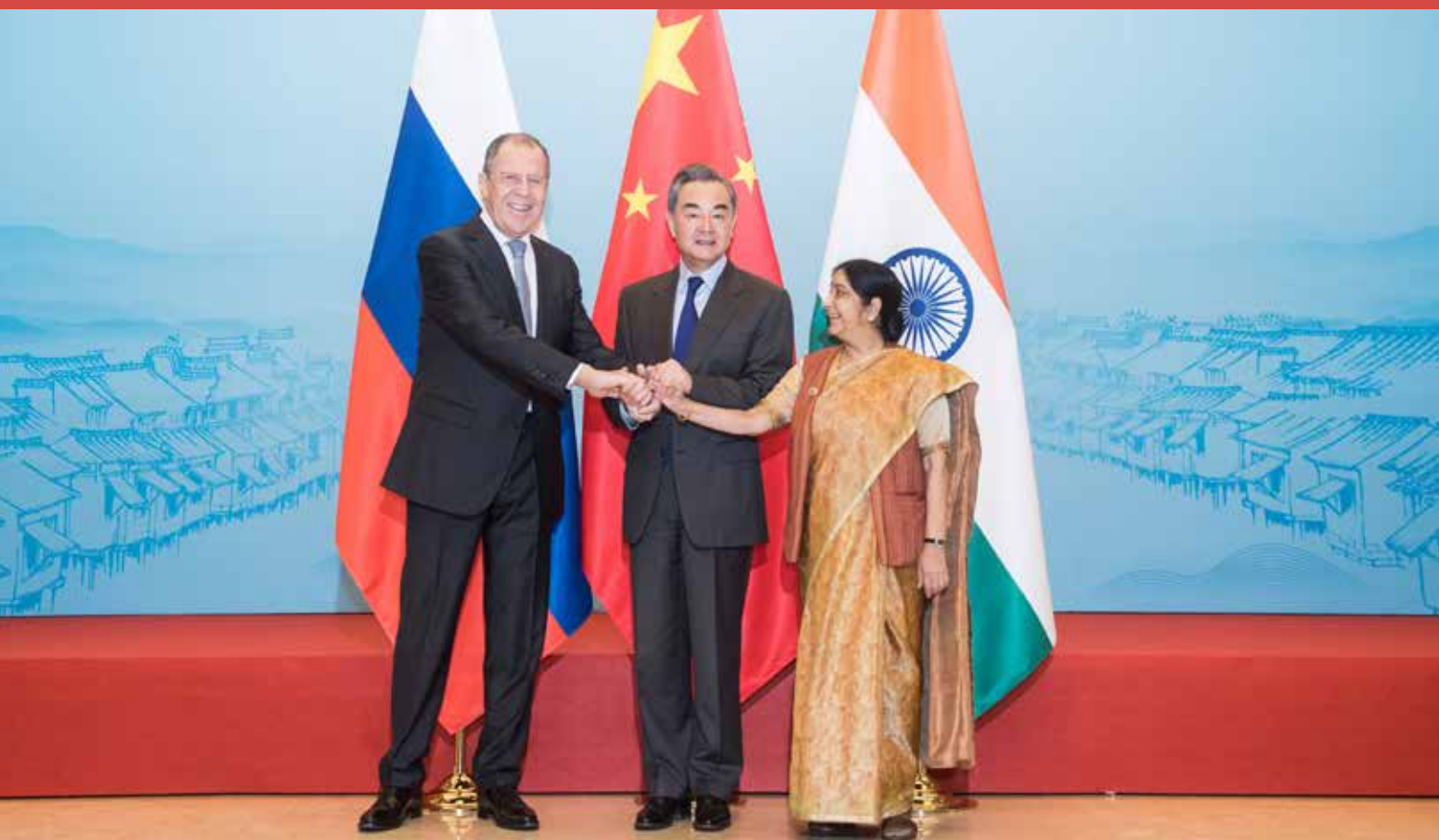
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# China, Russia, India to bolster multilateralism, strengthen cooperation



Amid a volatile international landscape, China, Russia and India have agreed to enhance trilateral coordination to uphold multilateralism, jointly fight terrorism and shape an inclusive solution to global crises.

This broad trilateral understanding was forged during the meeting between Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at the 16th meeting of the three countries in Wuzhen, eastern China's Zhejiang Province, on February 27.

Noting that the world today is undergoing unprecedented changes that have not been seen in the past 100 years, Mr Wang said China, Russia and India, as influential major powers and important emerging economies, should enhance coordination, deepen consensus, cement cooperation and jointly promote world peace and stability.

Mr Wang underlined that the leaders of the three countries successfully held a meeting in Argentina on November 30, 2018, which provided a strong impetus to the trilateral cooperation. He suggested that the three countries should firmly safeguard

the international system with the United Nations (UN) as the core, and adhere to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and deepen counter-terrorism and security cooperation.

China proposed a slew of pioneering initiatives, including setting up a meeting mechanism among the defence ministers of China, Russia and India at an appropriate time. China also proposed to discuss “China, Russia, India plus” cooperation to improve the global influence of the RIC trilateral mechanism.

## Promoting open global economy

It is necessary to resolutely oppose unilateralism and protectionism, continually push forward the liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment and promote the construction of an open world economy, said Mr Wang. He added that all the three countries have proposed their initiatives of connectivity, and they should cooperate with each other and jointly promote the process of regional integration.

Mr Lavrov and Mrs Swaraj said that the international community should observe the principles of the UN Charter and comply with the norms of international laws and relations. They called on the three countries to fully leverage multilateral platforms, including the UN, to further strengthen coordination and cooperation and make joint contributions to properly handle international and regional hotspot issues and tackle challenges facing humanity.

They agreed to intensify communication and coordination within the multilateral platforms such as the Group of 20, Asia-Europe Meeting, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS, the association of the five major emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, to ensure that the mechanisms develop in the right direction, Mr Wang said.

While agreeing to oppose unilateralism and protectionism as well as uphold the rules-based multilateral trading system, Mr Wang urged the three countries to maintain that fair competition and the principle of non-discrimination should

be upheld in the fields of information technology and cyber security.

After the meeting, the three countries released a joint communique. The three foreign ministers also attended a joint press conference and conducted in-depth exchanges of views regarding the current international situation and trilateral cooperation.

## Trilateral counter-terror cooperation

The three sides agreed to jointly combat all forms of terrorism, enhance communication over counter-terrorism policy and practical cooperation and will especially make efforts to eradicate terrorism and extremism.

In her address, Mrs Swaraj underlined that terrorism tops the list of the existential threats that the world faces today, and called for enhanced trilateral, regional and global coordination in combating this scourge.

“Russia, India and China are countries that carry important voices in international politics and have the potential to significantly influence world events. Together we can play a constructive role in addressing pressing issues of common concern and challenges facing our world,” she said.

**Mr Wang said China, Russia and India, as influential major powers and important emerging economies, should enhance coordination, deepen consensus, cement cooperation and jointly promote world peace and stability.**





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The ministers strongly condemned terrorism in all forms and manifestations. They called on the international community to strengthen the UN-led global counter-terrorism cooperation by fully implementing the relevant UN Security

Council resolutions and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In terms of regional and international hot spot issues, Mr Wang said the three countries agreed that inclusive dialogue should be the approach to resolving problems. The three nations support the efforts of the Afghan government and its people in its peace and reconciliation process, and hope that the second meeting between Pyongyang and Washington will make new progress in realising the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula as well as resolving legitimate concerns of the parties involved, he said.

On the Venezuela issue, they said it should be settled by the Venezuelan people through constructive dialogue rather than resorting to violence and military intervention. The next meeting between the three foreign ministers will be held in Russia, Mr Wang said.

Rong Ying, vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies, said in an article published in *People's Daily* that the format of a trilateral partnership has become a significant platform for the three major developing countries to carry out dialogue and cooperation.

## CHINA, INDIA TO FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTING WUHAN CONSENSUS

In their first meeting in 2019, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met in Wuzhen in east China's Zhejiang Province, and explored ways to intensify implementation of the Wuhan consensus.

The two foreign ministers held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral meeting on February 27 and agreed that there has been substantial progress in bilateral ties since the landmark Wuhan summit between the leaders of the two countries in April 2018.



The leaders of China and India held a successful informal summit last year in the city of Wuhan, leading bilateral relations into a new stage of mature and stable development, Mr Wang said after the talks.



In the New Year, China and India should implement the important consensus reached by their leaders, plan for the celebration activities marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties in 2020 and promote stable and further development of bilateral relations, he said.

“Every level of the two countries and also international society are more optimistic of our bilateral relationship. In 2019, we are going to keep working on the consensus of the two leaders,” he said in his opening remarks.

### **Focus on combating terrorism**

Alluding to the suicide attack on the Indian police personnel in Jammu and Kashmir on February 14, Mr Wang said China is concerned about the current tension in South Asia. As a friend of both India and Pakistan, China urges restraint from the

two sides to avoid escalation of the situation, he said.

China expects the two countries to find out the truth of the relevant incident through dialogue and jointly safeguard regional peace, he said.

Mrs Swaraj, on her part, said that India maintains that the international community should work in solidarity and coordination to combat terrorism. She assured her Chinese counterpart that India will deal with relevant issues in a responsible and restrained manner.

Underlining the importance of the meeting, Mrs Swaraj said: “This is our first meeting this year. Therefore, an opportune time for us to take stock of our bilateral relations and look ahead for cooperation.”

“The India-China relationship is an important relationship for both of our countries,” she stressed.

She also underscored the importance of maintaining peace in border areas. “India and China should work together to safeguard peace and tranquility in their border regions and push forward the stable development of bilateral relations,” she said.

Global challenges such as terrorism and regional developments figured prominently in the discussions.

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# Bhutan willing to strengthen ties with China: PM Tshering



Wangchuck and Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji, among others.

The Chinese envoy conveyed to Bhutan's Prime Minister that the Chinese government always attached importance to developing friendly and cooperative relations with Bhutan. He underscored that China is willing to work with the new Bhutanese government to strengthen pragmatic cooperation in various fields and speed up the negotiation process on the border issue, with the overarching objective of taking bilateral relations to a new level.

The envoy observed that Bhutan successfully held elections at the end of last year, leading to a smooth transition of power, which has set the stage for economic development and social stability.

Mr Tshering was sworn in as Bhutan's new prime minister in November 2018.

**B**hutan, the strategically located Himalayan country famous for Gross National Happiness, has signalled its intention to deepen ties with China.

In a meeting with visiting Chinese Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui in the Bhutanese capital Thimphu, Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering conveyed that his country is willing to strengthen pragmatic cooperation with China, including tourism, and resolve the border issue at an early date through friendly consultations.

Mr Tshering also underlined that his country attaches great importance to relations with China and will adhere to the One-China policy.

During his stay in Bhutan, the Chinese envoy also met Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel





## PULWAMA TERROR

# China calls on region to jointly combat terror



**U**nderlining its solidarity with India in the wake of the Pulwama suicide attack, China has termed terrorism “the common enemy of mankind” and exhorted all countries in the region to jointly address this growing threat.

In a condolence message to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on February 15, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, on behalf of the Chinese government, expressed “deep sympathy” to the families of the victims and “sincere condolences” to those wounded in the devastating terror attack that killed 40 personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The attack was engineered by a suicide bomber who

rammed his vehicle into the bus carrying CRPF personnel in south Kashmir’s Pulwama district on February 14.

In his message, Mr Wang expressed “shock” at the suicide attack in Kashmir and stressed that “terrorism is the common enemy of mankind.” “The Chinese side resolutely opposes and strongly condemns all forms of terrorism,” said the message. “Countries in the region should enhance cooperation, jointly address the threat of terrorism and maintain regional peace and security.”

Expanding counter-terror cooperation was identified as a major focus area of China-India

**In his message, Mr Wang expressed “shock” at the suicide attack in Kashmir and stressed that “terrorism is the common enemy of mankind.” “The Chinese side resolutely opposes and strongly condemns all forms of terrorism,” said the message. “Countries in the region should enhance cooperation, jointly address the threat of terrorism and maintain regional peace and security.”**



engagement during the first informal summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan in April 2018.

The two leaders had also decided to expand bilateral security cooperation. In sync with the Wuhan understanding, China and India signed their first-ever security pact during the visit of

Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi to India in October 2018.

The security pact envisages, among other things, enhanced counter-terror cooperation, combating organised crime, drugs and human trafficking, intelligence sharing, exchange programme, sharing of best practices and cooperation in disaster mitigation.

# China, India to intensify counter-terror cooperation

Amid the growing threat of terrorism, senior officials of China and India held the 8th Counter-Terrorism Consultation in Beijing on January 30, 2019, and decided to enhance their cooperation in combating terrorism.

The meeting took place amid deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and the proliferation of terror groups in the region.

The Chinese delegation was led by Mr Liu Shaobin, Director General, Department of External Security Affairs of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Indian delegation was headed by Mr Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism at the Ministry of External Affairs.

Both sides assessed and exchanged views on regional and international counter-terrorism situation, areas of mutual concerns including cooperation at bilateral and multilateral level. The next round of the dialogue will be held in India at a mutually convenient time.

China and India held the seventh edition of Hand-in-Hand counter-terror joint training in Chengdu in December 2018. The joint training, which resumed after a gap of one year, saw the participation of over 100-strong contingents from both nations as they conducted the drills to thwart terrorists.



# China, India focus on enhancing border CBMs

With the objective of sustaining peace in border areas, senior officials of China and India held the 13th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on China-India Border Affairs in New Delhi on January 29-30, 2019, and decided to enhance confidence-building measures.

The WMCC was established in 2012 with two main objectives: one, to act as an institutional mechanism for consultation and coordination for the management of China-India border areas, and second, as a platform to exchange views on strengthening communication and cooperation between the two countries, including between the border security personnel of the two sides.

The Chinese delegation for the 13th WMCC was led by Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Yi Xianliang and the Indian delegation was led by Pranay Verma, Joint Secretary (East Asia), Ministry of External Affairs. Representatives from the foreign ministries, defence ministries and other departments of the two countries also attended the meeting. On the sidelines of the meeting, Mr Yi and his delegation paid a courtesy call on India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.

During the 13th WMCC meeting, the two sides reviewed the situation in the China-India border areas and exchanged in-depth views on enhancing confidence-building measures and advancing consultation on an early harvest of the boundary agreement.

Both sides also agreed to follow the strategic guidance given by President Xi Jinping and Prime

Minister Prime Minister Modi during the Wuhan Summit in 2018 to maintain peace and tranquility in border areas.

The two sides decided to stay engaged on the boundary issue to further strengthen communication and coordination in a constructive manner and enhance mutual trust to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and promote the sustained and sound development of Sino-Indian relations.

The meeting also took note of the 21st round of boundary talks between Special Representatives of China in Chengdu on November 24, which focused on jointly maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas. The talks were co-chaired by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.







# China, India lead global greening effort

Data from NASA satellites show that the world today is a greener place than it was 20 years ago, and much of the credit for this development should go to China and India — the world’s most populous countries. The effect comes mostly from the ambitious tree-planting programmes in China and intensive agriculture in both countries. The report was published on February 11, 2019, in *Nature Sustainability*.

Ranga Myneni of Boston University and colleagues first detected the greening phenomenon in satellite data from the mid-1990s, but they did not know whether human activity was the chief cause. They then set out to track the total amount of Earth’s land area covered by vegetation and how it changed over time.

The research team found that global green leaf area has increased by 5% since the early 2000s, an area equivalent to all of the Amazon rainforests. At least 25% of that gain came from China. Overall, one-third of Earth’s vegetated lands are greening, while 5% are growing browner.

The maps published in the report show the increase or decrease in green vegetation — measured in average leaf area per year — in different regions of the world between 2000 and 2017. The maps don’t measure the overall greenness, which explains why the Amazon and eastern North America do not stand out, among other forested areas.

“China and India account for one-third of the greening, but contain only 9% of the planet’s land area covered in vegetation,” said lead author of the report Chi Chen of Boston University. “That is a surprising finding, considering the general notion of land degradation in populous countries from overexploitation.”

This study was made possible thanks to a two-decade-long data record from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instruments on NASA’s Terra and Aqua satellites. An advantage of MODIS is the intensive coverage they provide in space and time: the sensors have



captured up to four shots of nearly every place on Earth, every day, for the past 20 years.

“This long-term data lets us dig deeper,” said Rama Nemani, a research scientist at NASA’s Ames Research Center and a co-author of the study. “When the greening of the Earth was first observed, we thought it was due to a warmer, wetter climate and fertilisation from the added carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Now with the MODIS data, we see that humans are also contributing.”

China’s outsized contribution to the global greening trend comes in large part from its programmes to conserve and expand forests (about 42% of the greening contribution). These programmes were developed in an effort to reduce the effects of soil erosion, air pollution, and climate change.

Another 32% of the greening change in China, and 82% in India, comes from intensive cultivation of food crops. The land area used to grow crops in China and India has not changed much since the early 2000s. Yet both countries have greatly increased both their annual total

**China’s outsized contribution to the global greening trend comes in large part from its programmes to conserve and expand forests (about 42% of the greening contribution).**

green leaf area and their food production in order to feed their large populations.

The agricultural greening was achieved through multiple cropping practices, whereby a field is replanted to produce another harvest several times a year. Production of grains, vegetables, fruits and more have increased by 35 to 40% since 2000.

## Will the greening trend change?

How the greening trend may change in the future depends on numerous factors.

For example, increased food production in India is facilitated by groundwater irrigation. If the groundwater is depleted, this trend may change. The researchers also pointed out that the gain in greenness around the world does not necessarily offset the loss of natural vegetation in tropical regions such as Brazil and Indonesia. There are consequences for sustainability and biodiversity in those ecosystems beyond the simple greenness of the landscape.

Nemani sees a positive message in the new findings. “Once people realise there is a problem, they tend to fix it,” he said. “In the 1970s and 80s in India and China, the situation around vegetation loss was not good. In the 1990s, people realised it, and today things have improved. Humans are incredibly resilient. That’s what we see in the satellite data.”

(Source: <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/144540/china-and-india-lead-the-way-in-greening>)





# CHINA, US CONCLUDE Substantial progress on

Chinese and US negotiators have wrapped up the latest round of trade talks between the world's top two economies with substantial progress on specific issues.

During the February 21-24 talks in Washington, the seventh round since February last year, the two sides further implemented the important consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump during their December meeting in Argentina, said the Chinese delegation, according to Xinhua news agency.

The two sides focused on the text of an agreement and achieved substantial progress on specific issues such as technology transfer, protection of intellectual property rights, non-tariff barriers, service industry, agriculture and exchange rates, added the Chinese team.

On the basis of the latest progress, the Chinese delegation said that the two sides will continue their work for the next stage in accordance with the instructions of the leaders of the two countries.

The Chinese team was headed by Vice Premier Liu He, who participated in the talks as President Xi's special envoy, and the US team was led by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He (C), also the special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer (R) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin co-chair the formal opening of a fresh round of high-level economic and trade talks at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building of the White House in Washington D.C., on Feb. 21, 2019. [Photo/Xinhua]

**For his part, President Trump met Mr Liu at the White House on February 22, noting that the US-China relationship is extremely important. Mr Trump added that “great progress” has been made in the past two days of talks, while there is still work to be done.**

After months of escalating trade frictions with the US slapping extra tariffs on Chinese imports and China responding with retaliatory measures, Mr Xi and Mr Trump agreed in Buenos Aires that



# TRADE TALKS

## specific issues



Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump, with their respective delegations, at the dinner talks in Buenos Aires on December 1, 2018.

the two countries should strive to reach a mutually beneficial and win-win agreement within 90 days to break the impasse.

In order to realise that goal, Chinese and US trade negotiators have since accelerated their talks. Working-level consultations for the latest round started in Washington on Feb. 19, just days after the sixth round took place in Beijing on Feb. 14-15.

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**The two sides focused on the text of an agreement and achieved substantial progress on specific issues such as technology transfer, protection of intellectual property rights, non-tariff barriers, service industry, agriculture and exchange rates.**

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With the just-concluded round counted in, there have been three rounds of talks in less than a month since the end of January, despite the week-long Lunar New Year holidays in China and Washington's Birthday -- the long weekend in the US.

The trade standoff has impacted negatively on both economies and fuelled much uncertainty in global markets and the world economy.

During a meeting with the US delegation in Beijing following the sixth round of trade talks, President Xi once again highlighted the role of cooperation in resolving the economic and trade differences and frictions, and urged negotiators of the two sides to "make persistent efforts" to reach a mutually beneficial deal.

"Cooperation is the best choice for both sides," President Xi said, adding that "of course, there are principles in cooperation."



Chinese Vice Premier and lead trade negotiator Liu He (R) and US Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin (L) pose for a photo before the opening session of trade negotiations at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China.

For his part, President Trump met Mr Liu at the White House on February 22, noting that the US-China relationship is extremely important. He added that "great progress" has been made in the past two days of talks, while there is still work to be done.

Soon after, Mr Trump tweeted that he "will be delaying" the increase of tariffs on Chinese imports scheduled for March 1, citing "very productive" trade talks between the two countries.

# China and India

## Torches of the East



H.E. Luo Zhaohui

The tide of China-India cultural exchange seems unstoppable. Further infrastructure connectivity has facilitated a heavier flow of interaction between China and India, and even the seemingly insurmountable Himalayan range can do little to impede passionate exchanges between the two Asian neighbours.

This winter, the temperature in New Delhi dropped to a record low. However, the cold weather failed to dampen the growing warmth in China-India cultural exchanges.

Co-chaired by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, the first meeting of the China-India High-level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism was held in New Delhi in December 2018. As the most recent diplomatic event to implement the landmark consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**The establishment of the High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism was unprecedented in the history of China-India relations and represented an innovation that conformed to the will of the general public of both countries.**





during their informal summit meeting in Wuhan (2018), the Delhi meeting of P2P mechanism led to a series of cultural exchanges between the two countries.

First, the meeting was a high-level event and President Xi and Prime Minister Modi sent congratulatory letters to the participants. Alongside State Councillor Wang Yi, seven Chinese vice ministers from the ministries of culture, tourism, education, among others, attended the meeting and held in-depth discussions with their Indian counterparts.

Second, the meeting included a multitude of activities. The two sides organised eight fruitful sub-events, involving think tanks, media, museums, language and culture, and a vocational education cooperation forum. A photography exhibition, a film week, and a book release were also held.

Third, the meeting culminated in several successful outcomes. The two sides agreed to focus on “ten pillars” and “eight priorities” to increase people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two nations. Universities and media

**The Wuhan summit ushered China-India relations into the “fast lane.” Subsequently, the two leaders met three times on multilateral occasions, and three Chinese state councilors visited India.**

organisations of the two nations reached five cooperation agreements. Two Indian colleges agreed to set up Chinese language teaching centres and two vocational education centres.

Fourth, the meeting is set to have far-reaching influence. The establishment of the High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism is unprecedented in the history of China-India relations and represented a new system that conforms to the will of the general public of both countries. The mechanism will help to evoke interest in cooperation between the government departments of the two nations, enhance the importance of people-to-people exchanges, and accelerate comprehensive development of China-India relations.





**Indian physician Dwarkanath Kotnis even sacrificed his life during the medical mission to China**

## History and Reality

Historically, China and India have led the world economy for a long time. British economist Angus Maddison wrote in his book *The World Economy* that the combined GDP of China and India accounted for half of the global total for 1,600 years in the last 2000 years. Moreover, China and India continue to represent two major ancient civilisations of the East. The two nations learn from each other as they make remarkable contributions to human progress.

**Both Eastern civilisations, China and India have always learned from each other and are inclusive in nature. Both nations attach great importance to ethics, morality and self-improvement and advocate harmonious coexistence between man and nature, peace, benevolence and familial kinship, demonstrating the charm of ancient Eastern philosophy.**

The first meeting of the China-India high-level people-to-people and cultural exchanges mechanism was hailed as a huge success.

Standing at a new historic starting point and eyeing further development of bilateral relations, the two nations are inheriting a profound legacy of historical exchange *and* sustaining the general trend of communication between the two civilisations as they forge ahead to recreate an “Asian Century.”

The Xi-Modi meeting in Wuhan laid a solid political foundation for people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and India. During their meeting in Wuhan in April 2018, President Xi and Prime Minister Modi visited an exhibition of cultural relics at the Hubei Provincial Museum, enjoyed a performance of chime bells, and conducted in-depth discussions on mutual learning between the two nations and ancient civilisations. The Wuhan summit placed the China-India relations in the “fast lane.” Subsequently, the two leaders met three times on the margins of multilateral summits, and three Chinese State Councilors visited India. In 2018, bilateral trade reached a record high of \$95.5 billion, and nearly 1,000 Chinese companies operating in India created more than 200,000 jobs. This positive trend in the China-India relations strongly bolstered the success of the first meeting of the high-level people-to-people and cultural exchanges mechanism.

Centuries of mutual learning between the Chinese and Indian civilisations have injected vitality into cultural exchanges between the two nations. Through peaceful coexistence and communication that transcend the limits of time and space, the Chinese and Indian people have created brilliant cultures and set a perfect example in the history of cultural exchanges. The origin of China-India cultural exchanges can be traced back more than 2,000 years. During his expeditions to the western regions, Zhang Qian, an envoy of the Han Dynasty (202 BC–AD 220), made records on Shu cloth and bamboo sticks imported from India. Originating in India, Buddhism thrived in

**Standing at a new historic starting point and eyeing further development of bilateral relations, the two nations are inheriting a profound legacy of historical exchange and sustaining the general trend of communication between different civilisations as they forge ahead towards recreating an “Asian Century.”**

China. Eminent monks such as Faxian, Xuanzang and Bodhidharma made long, arduous journeys to spread Buddhist culture between China and India. During his seven voyages, Chinese explorer Zheng He visited India six times. China's papermaking, silk, porcelain and tea were introduced to India, and Indian songs and dance, astronomy, architecture, perfumes and other items were exported to China. Surviving artefacts from these activities show mutual learning and interaction between the two nations along the ancient Silk Road. Both Eastern civilisations, China and India have always learned from each other and are inclusive in nature. Both nations attach great importance to ethics, morality and

self-improvement and advocate harmonious coexistence between man and nature, peace, benevolence and familial kinship, demonstrating the charm of ancient Eastern philosophy.

In the modern era, the two countries expanded their scope of interactions. Chinese revolutionaries like Dr Sun Yat-sen voiced support for the Indian independence movement. Famous Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore visited China twice, established the Cheena Bhavan (China College) at India's Visva-Bharati University, and called for spreading Eastern philosophy alongside Chinese educator Tan Yunshan. Their efforts enabled the emergence of Indian studies in China and Chinese studies in India, which have since been further expanded. Chinese translator Xu Fancheng spent 33 years in India translating the Sanskrit scripture *Bhagavad Gita*. During the Chinese People's War of Resistance against the Japanese Aggression, India sent a medical team to assist China. Indian physician Dwarkanath Kotnis even sacrificed his life during the medical mission to China.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, India became the first non-socialist country to establish diplomatic relations with China. Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru jointly developed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which have made great contributions to the construction of the new international order. “Hindi-Cheeni bhai-bhai” (“Indians and Chinese are brothers” in Hindi) became a buzz phrase, inspiring generations of young people to commit to consolidating friendship between China and India. Even when political relations between the two nations saw setbacks, the cultural exchanges and interactions between the two nations continued unabated.

People-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and India conform to the general trend of exchanges between different civilisations around the world and meet the practical needs of the two nations. Since the turn of the 21st century, economic globalisation, social information and cultural diversification have prevailed. In this



**As two ancient civilisations that form their own yin and yang, China and India have carried out diverse and colourful cultural exchange for ages. I believe that the two nations will certainly achieve more extensive exchange, friendly cooperation and harmonious coexistence and make greater contributions to world prosperity and stability as long as they continue to learn from each other and respect each other's culture.**

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context, the world is increasingly flat, and various cultures are clashing and integrating with each other. In a century of shared civilisational values, building a community with a shared future for humanity should be a common aspiration for people of all countries. People-to-people and cultural exchanges have become unstoppable trends, acquiring greater speed and intensity.

In addition, infrastructure connectivity has facilitated wider interaction between China and India, and even the seemingly insurmountable Himalayan range can no longer block cultural exchanges between the two Asian neighbours. Yoga, Darjeeling black tea and Hollywood films have gained popularity among China's youngsters. The Indian movie *Dangal* grossed an astonishing \$190 million in China, about twice the revenue it earned in India. Chinese food, acupuncture, martial arts and movie stars are also popular among Indians. Currently, more than 14 sister city and province relationships have been established between China and India, and more than 20,000 Indian students are studying in China. Annual visits between the two countries have exceeded a million. China's Yunnan Menu University is the only university outside India that offers a master's degree in yoga. The two peoples' curiosity towards each other is enhanced through broader interactions, which further stimulates cultural exchanges between the two nations.

## **Promising Prospects**

It is great to sail when the vast sea is smooth. China and India have a combined population of 2.7 billion, accounting for 40% of the global

total, and contribute 20% of the world's total GDP. Promising prospects for cultural exchanges between the two nations have emerged across the board. The first meeting of the China-India high-level

people-to-people and cultural exchanges mechanism marked a good start. Seizing the opportunity, China and India need to leverage the mechanism as a platform to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries and mobilise people from all walks of life to commit to the great cause of strengthening everlasting China-India friendship.

Going forward, China and India need to enhance their cultural exchanges through concrete initiatives. First, the two countries need to take concrete actions to implement outcomes of the meeting, accelerate negotiations on seven cooperation agreements in fields such as culture, sports and museum management, and improve the high-level people-to-people and cultural exchanges mechanism to accumulate more consensus and outcomes for the second meeting.

Second, the two countries need to focus on priority issues. With the "ten pillars" and "eight priorities" designated by both sides in mind, we need to establish cultural centres in both countries and join hands to produce films and organise activities to achieve sustainable cultural exchange.







(Above) PM Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Big Wild Goose Pagoda in Xian, China in May 2015.

(Below) PM Modi takes a selfie with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and children at the joint Yoga-Taichi event at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing in May 2015.

Third, the two countries need to formulate medium-to-long-term plans to create a new cultural exchange framework, featuring both governmental and non-governmental cooperation and extensive participation to ensure that cultural exchange is “rooted in the people and is benefiting the people.”

As two ancient civilisations that form their own yin and yang, China and India have been engaged in diverse and colourful cultural exchanges for ages. I believe that the two nations will certainly achieve more extensive exchange, friendly

cooperation and harmonious coexistence and make greater contributions to world prosperity and stability as long as they continue to learn from each other and respect each other’s culture.

**(The author is China’s Ambassador to India).**



**Yoga, Darjeeling black tea and Bollywood films have gained popularity among Chinese youngsters. Chinese food, acupuncture, martial arts and movie stars are also popular among Indians.**



# China's economy amid uncertainty

An aerial night view of a city skyline, likely Shanghai, with numerous skyscrapers and buildings illuminated with lights. The scene is dense and vibrant, capturing the energy of a major urban center at night.

Despite a complex environment marked by tight global liquidity and increased market uncertainties, China's economy has expanded. This economic resilience will allow the Asian giant to pursue more market-driven growth.





# thrives

Amid external uncertainties and rising protectionism, China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded 6.6% year on year in 2018 (above the official target of 6.5%), illustrating the resilience of the economy. The reading, however, was lower than the 6.8% growth registered in 2017.

According to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on January 21, 2019, China's growth in the fourth quarter was 6.4%, down from 6.5% in the previous quarter. The economy has performed within a reasonable range in 2018, with economic growth being stable and improvement achieved in performance, Ning Jizhe, head of the NBS, said. Contributing to nearly 30% of the world's economic growth, China's economy has remained the largest contributor to global economic growth, he added.

The country's GDP was 90.0309 trillion yuan (about \$13.6 trillion in 2018), with the service sector accounting for more than half of the total. Consumption remained the major growth driver, contributing 76.2% to GDP growth in 2018. Retail sales, the main gauge of consumption, rose 9% from 2017. The data also showed that China's fixed asset investment increased 5.9% year on year in 2018, down from 7.2% in 2017. The country's industrial output climbed 6.2% year on year in 2018, which is 0.4 percentage point lower than 2017.

In a complex environment marked by tight global liquidity and increased market uncertainties, this economic resilience will allow China to pursue more market-driven growth.

Over the past year, China's economic development targets have been fulfilled and supply-side structural reforms have further advanced. The country has deepened its reform and improved the well-being of its people. The goals to cut redundant capacity in the steel and coal sectors were achieved as de-leveraging was pushed forward. A reduction in taxes and fees nationwide totalled more than 1.3 trillion yuan, beating forecasts. Housing inventories also shrank.



# 2019 begins with signs of economic stabilisation

As the first snapshot of China's economic activity in 2019, the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) offered fresh signs of stabilisation. The PMI for the manufacturing sector was at 49.5 in January, slightly up from 49.4 in December, 2018, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said. A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below reflects contraction.

Although the figure stayed below the boom-bust line for a second month, the slight increase in the reading ended a consecutive four-month decline, NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe said. The manufacturing sector experienced faster expansion, with the sub-index up by 0.1 points, Mr Zhao said. Despite a mild decline in the reading for new orders, the sub-index for new export orders rebounded by 0.3 points from December, 2018, showing moderate recovery in external demand, he added.

The sub-indices for raw material inventories, raw material purchase prices and factory-gate prices was higher from December, 2018, while those for new orders, employment and supplier delivery time dropped. Large companies saw the manufacturing PMI up 1.2 points to 51.3, whereas the readings for small and medium-sized companies dropped 1.3 and 1.2 points, respectively.

## Decoding New Data

Zhang Liqun, a researcher with the Development Research Center of the State Council, said the new data pointed to signs of the country's economic stabilisation, but the foundation still needs to be consolidated. "Headline PMI edged up largely due to temporary re-stocking in the raw materials industries, helped by lower inventory levels at the start of the year," investment banking firm CICC

## Foreign investors' confidence high

The Chinese economy is resilient because of the government's stable macroeconomic policies and continuous efforts to infuse economic vitality. At the micro level, China's decision-makers pay more attention to procyclical and countercyclical fine-tuning. The nation's market-driven approach towards economic reform has increased the confidence of foreign investors: 60,533 foreign-funded enterprises were set up in China in 2018, up 69.8% year on year. In October 2018, Germany's BMW announced that it will pay 3.6 billion euros (\$4.1 billion) to raise its stake in BMW Brilliance Automotive, a joint venture with China's Brilliance Auto, from 50% to 75%.

From the world's factory to the world's market, China has become the world's industrial hub. Based on its own national conditions, the reforms will create an open market economy based on Chinese characteristics, along with international comparative advantages.

said in a research note. However, the data indicated that aggregate demand growth continued to be sluggish, while consumer and producer confidence remains weak for now, the note added. Looking forward, the CICC said, it would closely watch for changes in leading indicators such as credit cycle and monitor sectors vulnerable to demand-supply imbalances, especially the property sector, as well as the evolution of household income and consumption.



## China Slowdown? Four Reasons for Cheer

As China posted slower growth last year, many are worried that the continuing downward pressure on the world's second-largest economy could slow down global growth. However, a closer look at the economy would prove that the concerns over a slowdown spillover are overstated.

A more sustainable growth model, coupled with a policy package to stimulate growth, will underpin the economy in 2019, bringing abundant opportunities to global investors who stay prepared to cash in on the ever-evolving market.

Here are four reasons to remain upbeat about the Chinese economy.

### More sustainable growth

While the 6.6% GDP growth rate that China registered last year was slower than that in 2017 and the double-digit growth was often seen in the past decades, investors should not overlook the fact that the growth was based on a much larger economic scale, analysts said.

The Chinese economy expanded to over 90 trillion yuan (\$13.6 trillion) in 2018, almost tripling its size from 10 years ago, official data showed.

“It’s true the economy is slowing, but if you look at the output added each year, it’s still very impressive,” said JP Morgan Chief China Economist Zhu Haibin.



By his calculation, even if China's growth slows to 6 percent, it still means the economy would expand by some \$700 billion a year, almost the size of some emerging economies.

Such economic performance has allowed the country enough room to shift from the old investment and export-driven growth model to the one that draws strength from consumption and innovation, which is more sustainable and less dependent on external factors.

While acknowledging economic headwinds, especially in the first half of 2019, Nomura Securities said in a report that the economy would likely see a rebound in the second half.

## Robust consumption

Although earlier indicators showed signs of weaker domestic consumption, rational observers remain quite optimistic about the sector's greater potential in driving China's economy.

The anxiety about China's consumers is largely overdone, said a report by British think tank Oxford Economics. "We remain fairly positive on China's consumption outlook," added the report. China's retail sales will remain solid in 2019 thanks to strong consumption services and increasing growth-supporting measures despite a slowdown in the automobile sector, the report said.

The Chinese consumer continues to trade up more than down, according to the McKinsey Global Institute. Across fresh foods, alcoholic beverages, cosmetics and more, 10 times as many

consumers report trading up to higher-priced goods than down.

These trends are driving increases in imports of premium goods from several Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development markets, it said.

New York-based research firm eMarketer predicted that China would become the world's biggest retail market this year with total retail sales reaching \$5.63 trillion.

## More room for investment

Thanks to the ongoing government deleveraging campaign, the build-up of debt since the financial crisis in 2008 is now much less of a concern for the Chinese economy.

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Traffic flows through an entrance way to a section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.



In 2018, China made steady progress in what it calls “structural deleveraging,” using tailored measures to bring down leverage in different sectors. The corporate sector, often considered the most troubled in terms of debt levels, has seen a decrease in the leverage ratio thanks to the debt-to-equity swap programme, which allows companies to exchange their debt for stocks.

As most of China’s debt is priced in local currency, and the debt owed by strategic sectors are often backed up by the central government, it is unlikely a financial crisis would occur, said Credit Suisse in its report on investment outlook for 2019. With stable debt levels, the country has more room for effective investments to shore up growth. The country has vowed to ramp up efforts to fix weak areas in infrastructure and increase investment to support relocation programmes. “As we continue to implement policies this year, we can expect stronger investment data,” said Ning Jizhe, head of the National Bureau of Statistics.

## Further opening-up

China bucked the trend of the global foreign direct investment (FDI) slide in 2018 as the largest investment recipient in the world, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

UNCTAD’s director of Investment and Enterprise James Zhan attributed more investment flows into China to factors such as further liberalisation, particularly in the service and financial sectors, and intensified efforts for promoting investment in high-tech industries. “Last year was another record high level, and the prospects for a rise of FDI into China remain optimistic,” said Mr Zhan.

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The first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.





# *Spring in the air* **NEW BEGINNINGS**









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# BONDING WITH CADRES, THE XI WAY



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, talks to residents as he visits a “hutong,” or traditional alley, in Qianmen area in central Beijing, the capital of China, on Feb. 1, 2019. He extended New Year greetings to Chinese people of all ethnic groups.

**O**n the eve of the Spring Festival, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Beijing’s primary-level cadres and residents in downtown neighbourhoods and extended Lunar New Year greetings to Chinese people of all ethnic groups.

President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, inspected the preparation work for the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

When inspecting the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau and talking to officials, President Xi underscored the city’s glorious mission and its critical responsibility to safeguard the social stability of the national capital as 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

The Chinese President asked for coordinated efforts to promote work in all fields with resolve to complete the mission.



## Blending tradition & modernity

Touring a “hutong,” or traditional alley, in central Beijing’s Qianmen area, he called for stepping up efforts to protect cultural heritage sites and conserve traditional culture while renovating the city’s old areas. He called for improving local residents’ living conditions and protecting historical and cultural landmarks, so that history and modernity can perfectly blend. He stressed specific measures to maintain the original features of hutong areas.

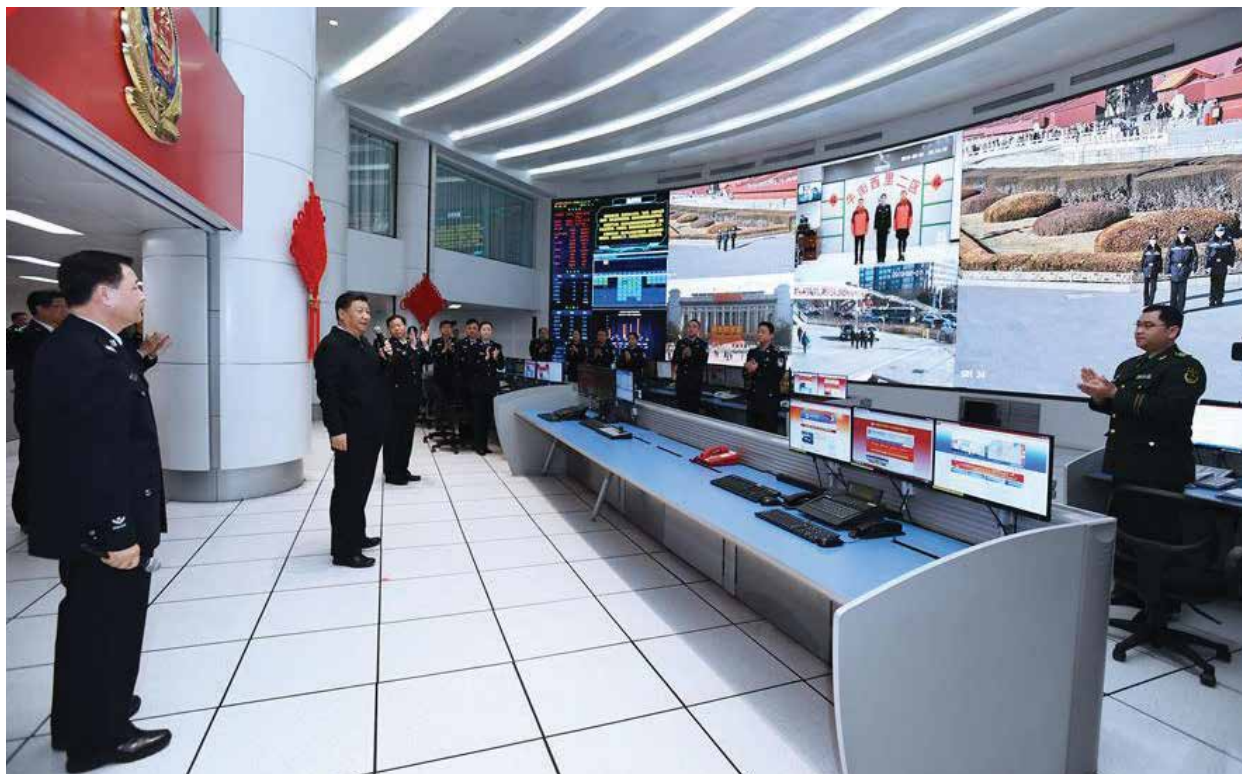
Mr Xi walked into two courtyards along the hutong, and inquired about the living conditions of local residents after the renovation projects in the neighbourhood. “What the CPC pursues is to make the people’s life better,” he told the

residents, gladly chatting and making dumplings with them.

Highlighting close attention from the CPC Central Committee to the renovation of old towns and shanty areas, President Xi said that the Party aims to create a more comfortable and better living environment for the people and solve problems they care about most so that they can enjoy modern life even in old hutong areas.



Chinese President Xi Jinping visits residents’ homes; and talks with police officers on duty via video calls as he inspects the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau.







Chinese President Xi Jinping visits residents' homes in Qianmen area in central Beijing. (Below) President Xi shakes hands with police officers as he inspects the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau.

about the preparation for the Games and the planning and construction of the venues and infrastructure.

President Xi stressed the need to stay committed to hosting the Games in a green, sharing, open and clean manner, and to complete all preparation tasks with high standards. The venue construction must meet the Olympic standards and be completed on time, Mr Xi said.

Stressing on the importance of technology, intelligence, greenness and frugality, Mr Xi said that advanced technological approaches should be applied and energy-saving and environment-friendly requirements should be strictly enforced. He emphasised that the environment



After chatting with residents, Mr Xi went to a property service center to visit staff and community workers. On the way back, he dropped in at a restaurant, chatted with the owner and some customers and wished them good luck.

President Xi also visited a nearby express delivery station and interacted with the deliverymen who were on duty, stressing that priority should be given to solving employment problems and creating more jobs.

### **Mission 2022: Green Olympics**

Later in the day, President Xi arrived at the Shougang Park in Shijingshan District, the seat of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, to learn

Touring a "hutong," or traditional alley, in central Beijing's Qianmen area, President Xi called for stepping up efforts to protect cultural heritage sites and conserve traditional culture while renovating the city's old areas. He called for improving local residents' living conditions and protecting historical and cultural landmarks, so that history and modernity can perfectly blend. He stressed specific measures to maintain the original features of hutong areas.



Underlining that Beijing will become the world's only host of both the Summer and Winter Olympics, President Xi stressed that China must fulfill the solemn commitments it made to the world. "Hosting the 2022 Winter Olympics is an important support to the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region," he said, adding that Hebei Province must develop together with Beijing.

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"Hosting the 2022 Winter Olympics is an important support to the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region," Mr Xi said, adding that Hebei Province must develop together with Beijing.

During his visit to the National Winter Sports Training Centre, the Chinese leader focused on promoting sportsmanship with Chinese characteristics, boosting coordinated development of mass sports, competitive sports and the sports industry, and speeding up building China into a country strong on sports.

and cultural relics should be well protected, and Chinese styles should be on full display.

Mr Xi also visited the office building of the Beijing Organising Committee and interacted with some of the staff and volunteers there.

Vice Premier Han Zheng, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, accompanied Mr Xi on the inspection tour of the preparation work for the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.







# THE WORLD'S BIGGEST HOMECOMING







# COMING PARTY



The Chinese Lunar New Year is the biggest festival of the country. Like every year, the 2019 festival (February 5-19) holiday season was marked by one of the world's biggest episodes of migration of people to their hometowns, family reunions, shopping and fireworks. Weddings and blind dates are also often scheduled during this time, along with visiting relatives and friends. The holiday season migration could not have been possible without China's Railway Network and the bullet trains performing yet another 'symphony on the rails'. From January 21 to March 1, 2019, China's railway network is expected to transport 413 million passengers.

The Chinese Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important traditional festival of the country. To celebrate the festival, the Chinese -- no matter where they live and how exhausting the travel is -- make it a point to return to their hometowns to celebrate the occasion with their families and friends. It's almost like an annual pilgrimage.

In recent years, however, newer ways of celebrating the festival have emerged. Many ask their family members to join them in the cities where they work. Others choose to stay in cities or travel elsewhere. However, there is still a sizeable number who prefer the traditional way of celebrating the festival in their hometowns.

## Destination Home

One such person is 24-year-old Rongrong. On January 23, 12 days before the Chinese Lunar New Year, Rongrong finished work early and began her journey to her hometown in southeastern China's Fujian Province with her mother, grandmother, cousin and nephew. The little boy was excited, and the others were eager to reach their hometown as soon as possible to start preparing for the festival.

Born and raised in Beijing, Rongrong considers the 'hometown' a place that one visits only during the festival. Her family has lived in Beijing for a long time, and even her grandmother — the oldest in the family — has lived in the capital for several years. Still, whenever this festival approaches, the family makes it a point to return to their hometown that is more than 2,000 kilometres from Beijing.

Due to their delayed flight, Rongrong's family landed in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, around 9 pm. It took another two hours to drive from the airport to their residence at Dongwu Village, Xiuyu District, in the province's Putian City. After cleaning the house and unpacking their luggage, they went straight to bed.



“It feels like a real festival here,” said Rongrong’s grandmother. “We will make red sticky rice dumplings, go on lantern tours and celebrate the New Year’s Eve. This is our family reunion. Everyone should be here.” She added that it’s a good idea to return to their hometown to celebrate the festival even though the entire family now lives in Beijing because “this is our home, where our roots are anchored”.

Although Rongrong doesn’t have much memory of living in the village, she has been going there for the festival every year. “The festival in Beijing involves little more than a big meal, but here it’s much more colourful and festive,” Rongrong said. “Most of my relatives still live here, and many traditions are only preserved by them.”



Weddings and blind dates are often scheduled for the season, alongside visiting relatives and friends.

Like many other villages in China, most Dongwu villagers work elsewhere, and only a few are left behind. The natives only return around the Spring Festival.







Weddings and blind dates are often scheduled during this time, along with visiting relatives and friends. Like many other villages in China, most Dongwu villagers work elsewhere, and only a few are left behind. The migrants only return around the time of the festival to ensure that their social bonds with family members and neighbours are not lost. Moreover, ceremonial activities are usually organised during the festival.

A few days before the festival, Rongrong's family still had a long to-do list: Cleaning, purchasing household products, visiting relatives, preparing festival specialties and more. As the Chinese New Year drew closer, her other relatives reached the village from other parts of the country.







## AGE IS JUST A NUMBER: SENIORS LIVE IT UP

**D**ata released by China's National Bureau of Statistics' show that in 2017, 241 million people living in China were 60 years old and more, accounting for 17.3% of the population. As the world's first country with over 100 million senior citizens, China is facing a severe aging problem.

As the 'senior wave' hits China, the traditional pension mode is also changing. Ahead of the festival, Taikang Yanyuan, a high-end retirement community in Changping District of Beijing, was also engulfed by a festive atmosphere.

### Retirement Begins with Learning

Chen Yiyuan, who is 84, and his 85-year-old wife Sun Liufang were among the first residents of the community. With the support of their

children, the couple moved here in July 2015. A senior university has been organised in the community. Courses vary from Sudoku, cloth art, painting, music and calligraphy to teaching residents to use WeChat, mobile banking and online shopping. Teachers are all residents in the retirement community. Every day, the couple checks the schedule for classes they are interested in. Chen has also become a teacher to share his







professional expertise by offering aerospace lessons to residents.

Speaking on how they planned to spend the New Year festival, Sun revealed: “We have decided to stay here for the Spring Festival. Our children and grandchildren will come to meet us for a reunion dinner. Our schedules are full, and we don’t want to miss out on the activities and classes offered by the community.”

## New Concept of Senior Care

Meng Fanmin, 76, has been living in the retirement community for more than three years. “Our generation has many deep-rooted prejudices about retirement,” she admitted. “Most still believe that only those without children end up in nursing homes. They have little knowledge about retirement communities, imagining poor conditions and insufficient help. They have no clue about the rapid development of domestic elderly care in China.”

“The community is our new home, where we will spend the Spring Festival,” Meng stressed, adding that during the festival, they will enjoy the company of both their children and friends in the community. The community had several festivities on the Laba Festival (the 8th day of the 12th month in the Chinese lunar calendar) too, making it a place even livelier than their own homes.

## Injecting Life into Time

Zhang Jiaqing, now in his 90s, is as energetic as ever. Several days before the Spring Festival, he welcomed relatives, friends and students. Despite the flow of visitors, his daily routine was not broken: Twice a day, his staff took him in a ‘Little BMW’, an electric cart, to the nursing area to see his wife Li Huan.

Zhang and Li are typical Chinese empty nesters. Their son and daughter have moved abroad. A few years ago, Li was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. As her condition worsened, Zhang could not take care of her, and she moved into the medical centre for treatment.



A year-and-a-half ago, after discussing with their children, Zhang decided to move into the retirement community with his wife.

“The Spring Festival is around the corner,” he said. “Another year is gone. Staying alive is no longer enough, we want to live with dignity.” Zhang is satisfied with his wife’s current situation. Senior care, in a simple words, is “giving them time to live.” Today, the elderly seek a higher spiritual pursuit of “injecting life into time,” according to Zhang.





# HOW CHINA'S TRAINS HANDLE THE MIND-BOGGLING

## SPRING FESTIVAL RUSH

China's Spring Festival travel rush will last 40 days this year. Nearly three billion trips, which is equal to the combined population of Europe, America, Africa and Oceania, are expected to be made across the country during this period. The 'world's biggest human migration' has not only become symbolic for the Chinese people, but has also drawn attention from around the world. Recently, CNN published an article on China's Spring Festival travel rush that declared, "In any other nation, these many travelers would grind local infrastructure to a halt. But China is unlike any other nation and well-equipped to handle the masses."







## Fast Train to Spring

January 21 marked the first day of China's Spring Festival travel rush in 2019. At 6:50 am, bullet train G2372 started from Xiamen for Chengdu, the capital of southwestern China's Sichuan Province. The G2372 high-speed train is among the 50 pairs of trains that have recently joined the network of China Railway Chengdu Group Co. Ltd. It began operation on January 5. Since then, Xiamen and Chengdu have been linked with a high-speed railway line.

This train crosses 2,540 kilometres in 13 hours and 39 minutes. It passes through Fujian, Hunan and Guizhou provinces and Chongqing Municipality before reaching the Sichuan Province, connecting the coastal areas





of southeastern China to landlocked mountainous areas in the southwest. It connects cities such as Chengdu, Chongqing, Guiyang and Xiamen, all popular tourist destinations.

At one end of the rail line are southwestern regions with surplus labour, and at the other end are southeastern coastal areas in urgent need of workers. The trend of Chongqing residents working in Xiamen is an example of this labour migration.

According to Li Jihua, general secretary of the Chongqing Chamber of Commerce in Fujian, in the past four decades since the beginning of China's reform process in the late 1970s, many Chongqing residents have moved to Xiamen. Today, about 2,00,000 Chongqing residents work and live in Xiamen. "Many passengers go home for the Spring Festival with piles of luggage and children," said Yuan Xiangyi, a conductor of the G2372 bullet train.

## On a Bullet Train

Liang Feng and her husband Chang Liyuan, both in their 50s, were bound for their home in Suining City, Sichuan Province. They boarded the train in Longyan City, Fujian Province, and planned to get off in Chongqing. "Our son will pick us up, and then it will take two more hours to Suining," said Liang. The couple had been working in another city for over 10 years, and it was their first trip home on a bullet train.

In the past, they took "green trains", which were much slower than the bullet train. Over a decade ago, the trip used to take two days and two



nights and several transfers. Years later, they took a long-distance bus that offered direct service, but that trip still took 30 hours. This year, their son bought bullet train tickets for them. "Second-class seats cost 840 yuan (US\$125) each," she gasped. "The trip is fast, but it's expensive."

Liang and Chang earn about 200 yuan (US\$30) a day. They save 50,000 yuan (US\$7,415) every year. They want to buy a house and car for their son's marriage. "I'll quit my job when our son





From January 21 to March 1, 2019, China's railway network is expected to transport 413 million passengers. During this period, Chinese trains will perform yet another 'symphony on the rails' as they whisk people home and back to their workplaces with good wishes for the new year.

gets married," she vowed. "I'll stay at home and take care of their child. My wish this year is that our son gets married and that everyone in our family stays well."

Ye, 57, hails from Chengdu. He was travelling back home with five colleagues who are also from the city. He had been working for more than

seven years in cities such as Qingdao, Guiyang and Kunming. He moved to Xiamen in August 2018 to become a subway construction worker. As the Spring Festival drew near, their company bought the tickets home for them. His ticket was priced at 1,030 yuan (US\$153). According to Ye, he isn't yet sure where he will work after the festival. It depends on where demand for labour is the highest. When asked whether he misses home while working outside, he answered quickly: "How can I not miss home?"

From January 21 to March 1, 2019, China's railway network is expected to transport 413 million passengers. During this period, Chinese trains will perform yet another 'symphony on the rails' as they whisk people home and back to their workplaces with good wishes for the new year.





# LOSAR: Spring Festival sweeps Tibet

People celebrate Losar or Tibetan New Year/Spring Festival in Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Feb. 5, 2019. The New Year under the Tibetan calendar coincided with the Spring Festival this year, which fell on Feb. 5.









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# Gala Spring Festival Show in Delhi: Chinese Performers Dazzle...



A scintillating cultural performance was held at the Siri Fort auditorium in New Delhi to celebrate the Spring Festival. India's Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu and China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui jointly inaugurated the event, which was attended by a distinguished audience of diplomats, businessmen, cultural personalities and students.

Supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, the Spring Festival celebrations showcased Chinese music and dance. The show-stealer was a performance by an acrobatic troupe of Inner Mongolia Bureau of National Art Troupe.

The Chinese envoy conveyed the greetings of the people of China and hoped that the Year of the Golden Pig will bring joy and prosperity to people of India and the world. Alluding to the post-Wuhan momentum in bilateral relations and growing cultural exchanges, the envoy hoped that China-India ties will scale new heights in 2019 and beyond.







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# BEYOND PROTOCOL: IT'S TIME FOR FUN & GAMES



## How Chinese diplomats celebrate...

From singing, dancing and poetry reading to playing games and tug-of-war contests, the Chinese New Year party at the embassy in New Delhi exuded energy and exuberance. It was a time for merry-making and letting your hair down. All the Chinese diplomats, their family members, representatives of Chinese enterprises, media and students in India bonded together like one big family to toast the Year of the Golden Pig.

It was also a time for Chinese diplomats and nationals living in India to display their hidden talents as they participated in singing, dancing, poetry reading, calligraphy, Tai Chi and dramatic performances. The ambassador presented prizes to the lucky draw winners and those who won



recent embassy sports competitions such as table tennis, badminton, billiards, tennis and poker. "Congratulations to all and wish everyone work happily and exercise well," tweeted China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui.







# Bonhomie & Camaraderie





# Bonding on Campus: Intertwining Hearts and Minds



Dr. JIANG YILI

China and India are world famous civilisations and both have nurtured their splendid ancient cultures lasting for thousands of years. The two countries have long been friendly to each other in history. The written history of exchanges between the two countries, though separated by mountains and rivers, dates back over 2000 years. The two peoples learnt from each other in the long span of history, which has enriched each other's magnificent cultural treasures and created the "twin precious jades" of Eastern civilisations.

People-to-people exchanges are the most colourful and significant chapters in the Sino-Indian history. As a very important link connecting the two countries, the ancient Silk Road witnessed visits of envoys and merchants. Zhang Qian made two journeys to the Western Regions as an envoy. Wang Xuance travelled to

India three times as an envoy. Zheng He led seven maritime expeditions to the Western Oceans and stopped by in India six times.

It was the mutual exchange of what each did not have in terms of produce and technology that prompted the two civilisations to get to know each other. The Sino-Indian Buddhist exchanges have left behind many touching stories. Prominent Chinese monks such as Xuan Zang and Yi Jing and many others either crossed mountains and sailed the deep sea and ocean, undertook expeditions all by oneself, or crossed a vast expanse of desert, climbed high snow-clad mountains and finally arrived in India to learn Buddhist doctrines.

Three eminent Indian monks -- Dharmaratna, Kumarajiva and Bodhidharma -- travelled 10,000 miles to the east carrying Buddhist holy books. Buddhism gradually blended into the Chinese civilisation and profoundly influenced



the Chinese moral ideology and philosophy, literature, sculpture, painting and music as well as other various fields. In Indian history Buddhism was once on the verge of decline. It was again the record and narration written by the Chinese monks travelling in India that became valuable documents and literature for Indian historic research and for exploring the ancient Buddhist sites.

In the contemporary struggle for anti-colonial domination and the desire for national liberation, the two nations showed the spirit of mutual sympathy and support. It was also during this period that the studies of India in China and the studies of China in India were beginning and developing. Sun Yenshen, Zhang Taiyan and many other revolutionists kept a close eye on the Indian political situation and society. They learnt lessons from how India became colonised by the British in order to explore a path for saving our nation.

The poet-sage Tagore visited China twice, and established the Chinese institute in the international university (Visva-Bharati University) in Santiniketan, India, with the help of Mr Tan Yunshan and other Chinese scholars. Later, those Indian scholars who had studied and worked there went to other parts of India, and set up more colleges and departments as well as academic institutions for Chinese research and studies. A

lot of Chinese scholars and artists, including Xu Zhimo, Xu Beihong, Zhang Daqian, Jin Kemu, Xu Fandeng, Chang Renxia, visited Santiniketan or sought asylum.

Starting from 1920s and 1930s, Chinese and Indian students began to study in each other's country through different channels. In 1943, the two governments decided to exchange students, many of whom made outstanding contributions to Sino-Indian cultural exchanges. After the founding of the People's Republic of China and the independence of India, the exchanges between China and India in literature, arts, education, sports and many other fields flourished. In 1988, the two governments signed the first cultural cooperation agreement, ushering in a brand new chapter of people-to-people exchanges between the two great nations.

Amid increasing exchange of friendly visits between the two peoples as well as cultural exchanges, today as we are standing on the shoulders of our predecessors, we have no reason not to do better than our forefathers in these aspects. Last year, there were no more than one



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million visits between China and India. There are around 20,000 Indian students studying in China now, with about 2,000 Chinese students studying in India. Considering the total population of the two countries and the scale of overseas students, there is still a huge potential for Sino-Indian student exchange programmes. In view of some circumstances that led to occasional misunderstanding, it is vitally important to put more students under the Sino-Indian educational exchange programme to enhance mutual understanding.

I used to be one of the students studying in India. In the early 1990s, I studied in the philosophy department of Delhi University, and my doctoral thesis was “the Comparative Studies of Buddhism and Hinduism”. I was lucky enough to become the first Chinese to be awarded a doctoral degree in India. During my college days, I travelled to almost all the Buddhist sacred places and well-known ancient temples in India together with the scholars from the Buddhism Department of the Delhi University.

This valuable experience enabled me to learn about some other aspects of the Indian society. The complexity and diversity as well as the colorfulness of the Indian culture, the warm heartedness and simplicity as well as eloquence

and talkativeness of the populace there, the inheritance of their national culture and traditions, all these aspects left a deep impression on me. The alien culture was a sort of a culture shock for me at the beginning. But if we look at it from a more comprehensive and more dialectical perspective, we will notice a lot of similarities between the two cultures.

The philosophical concept of “Brahmtamalkyam” in Indian language, which means (the most lofty and dominant) “Brahma (created in the theological sense) and our souls

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**This book includes some jottings and impressions by Chinese and Indian scholars and students during their stay in China and India respectively. From different angles, the book reflects what they saw and heard, how they came to realise what cultural shocks in various degrees they were confronted with during their study period. It vividly reflects their joys and sorrows and shows all sorts of flavours in life they experienced.**

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are one indispensable entity”, and the Chinese ideology of “Harmony between Heaven and human”, all stress the harmonious coexistence between the human beings and the nature.





**Many Chinese students indicate that only when you finally arrived in India and savoured the country deep in your heart and used your footprint to measure this land, can you change your stereotyped thinking and impression that you used to have about India.**

The two peoples attach great importance to clans and clan groups, advocate peace, focus on their own accomplishment in self-cultivation and examination of themselves. It also reflects the idea of reaching the same goal via different routes in Chinese medicine and traditional Indian medicine, in Chinese Tai Chi and Indian Yoga. Culturally speaking, all these above may easily cause a feeling of recognition and a sense of affinity between the two peoples.

In the fall of 2016, after an interval of around two decades, it was my honour to work once again in India. I witnessed India's magnificent economic development and great changes in political, cultural and social atmosphere against the background of globalisation.

Returning to my alma mater -- Delhi University --- I was delighted to find so many towering buildings in the campus. The library where I used to study disappeared long ago, and the coffee

and milk stand next to the teaching building, were nowhere to be found. Looking at those young faces on the campus, all sorts of feelings welled up in my mind. I still vividly remembered the scene at that time going around between the teaching building and the library, in winter, standing in the cozy sunlight, while holding a cup of hot coffee or milk tea, chatting with classmates. The past events leaped up before my eyes like pictures. The three years I spent in India as a student fostered strong affection in my heart for this great country and university. It also made me realise the profoundness and comprehensiveness of the Indian culture. Such a culture nourished me. It will benefit me for my whole life.

Coming back to the campus, I managed to contact my former tutor, Prof. Prasad. He is now the dean of the philosophy department. For years he has been educating people and has students everywhere. It was quite a pity that I could not get contact details of my old friends in the girl's dormitory.

This book includes some jottings and impressions by Chinese and Indian scholars and students during their stay in China and India respectively. From different angles, the book reflects what they saw and heard, how they came to realise what cultural shocks in various degrees they were confronted with during their study period. It vividly reflects their joys and sorrows and shows all sorts of flavours in life they experienced. It provides a rare opportunity for us to get to know about the life of students studying abroad. Many Chinese students indicate that only when you finally arrive in India and savour the country deep in your heart and use your footprint to measure this land, only then you can change your stereotyped thinking and impression you have about India.

In terms of establishing friendly relations between China and India, it is extremely important for the two countries to strengthen ideological and cultural exchanges among their populace in order to understand their respective counterpart in a real comprehensive, rational and objective



way. The Indian students who have been to China have also gained a lot. They have a more direct cognition about Chinese culture and about the great accomplishments made by the Chinese people in the past decades.

“Among the countries with oriental civilisations, only India and China are the great and proud ones. When we talk about being on an intimate terms with each other, we treat each other straight from the depths of our hearts; when we observe the outward natural appearance of the two countries, they are as dependent on each other as the jowls and the jawbone”.

Reviewing the course of friendly relations among the people regarding Sino-Indian cultural exchanges, China and India had the affections of cross-reference ever since the ancient time. Now we enjoy friendly relations as we pull together in times of troubles. Today, as new emerging powers we share the sacred responsibility of national rejuvenation side by side through globalisation.

I sincerely hope that this community composed of students studying abroad will become envoys and bridges for promoting Sino-Indian friendly exchanges for the purpose of reinforcing mutual understanding between the two nations and for making greater contribution in facilitating Sino-Indian cultural exchanges.

Last but not least, through the joint efforts of students and people of all walks of life, we can promote the ideological and cultural exchanges between China and India, and reach our goal of being on intimate terms with each other. The ship of Sino-Indian friendship will sail more steadily and go even farther. We can compose the most brilliant musical movement of creating an Asian Century through our joint efforts.

(This is the Preface to the book, *Fond Memories on the Campus: Stories of Chinese and Indian Exchange Students*)



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Dr. Jiang Yili is a Counselor at the Embassy of People’s Republic of China in India and an expert on China-India relations. She holds a Ph.D. in religion from the University of Delhi and a Master’s degree in Buddhism from Peking University, China. Prior to joining the Foreign Ministry of China, Dr. Jiang Yili was an Associate Professor with Institute of Asian-Pacific Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She is married to China’s Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui.

## XINJIANG: THE UNTOLD STORY

# A NEW LIFE: EMPOWERING & SKILLING UYGUR YOUTH



It was a voyage of discovery and learning. In January this year, some Chinese diplomats posted in India and other countries got a rare opportunity to visit Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and witness first-hand the colourful life of trainees in vocational education and training centers in Kashgar, Hotan and Moyu. It was a touching experience to see that the trainees were provided with multi-skill training, good study and living conditions, and enjoyed many entertainment and sports activities. Through learning vocational skills, Chinese language and legal knowledge, the trainees see clearly the harm of terrorism and religious extremism and become more proactive in shaking off poverty and pursuing a modern life with a better future.







Uygur trainees learn hairstyling. (Below) Students in the classroom.





A private space for Uygur trainees for making phone calls to family members. (Right) Uygur trainees at a manicure design class.



Uygur trainees at a cooking class.







Painting has brought new colour into the lives of Uyur trainees. A Chinese diplomat with an Uyur painter; and Uyur trainees at a painting class. (Below) Uyur trainees at an e-commerce class.





Uyghur trainees learning babysitting (top). Trainees playing table tennis (below-left) and taking psychological counselling (right)

**Pictures by Ji Rong & Cai Xiaotian**

Ji Rong is Press Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India. Cai Xiaotian is Third Secretary at Press Section of the Embassy.





(Clockwise from left) Uyur trainees having lunch; enjoying singing and dancing class; and studying garment making.





# ALATAW PASS

## Traversing modern Silk Road

### *China-Europe freight trains on fast-track*

**A**lataw Pass, located in the heart of Eurasia, has come to symbolise possibilities of trans-continental connectivity. A vital node of the iconic Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), this busy rail port in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, receives freight trains from both ends of Europe and Asia.

More than 70% of China-Europe freight trains run through the pass. To date, 2,605 trains have travelled through it, marking a year-on-year growth of 16.69%. According to the customs office of the pass, 1,004 were return trains, increasing 44.25% from a year earlier.

In 2018, imports and exports via the pass reached 22.37 million tonnes, up 9.2% year on year, while the trade volume totalled 77.9 billion yuan (\$11.5 billion), up 7.3%. Customs officials said the clearance efficiency at the pass significantly improved in 2018. China-Europe freight trains made 6,363 trips in 2018, surging 73% from 2017, according to the China Railway Corporation. Freight traffic has been more balanced, with the number of trips from Europe to China accounting for 72% of trips, up from 53% in 2017. The trains connect 59 Chinese cities with 49 cities in 15 European countries.



The freight service, a crucial part of the BRI, began operation in March 2011. For the past years, trains have carried garments, auto parts, chemicals, and other Chinese goods to Europe, while bringing back food, machinery, equipment and timber.

## An ancient route

The pass at the China-Kazakhstan border was once an important passage on the ancient Silk Road. Missionaries sent by King Louis IX of France crossed it as early as the 13th century. One of the missionaries, William of Rubruk, wrote a long report on the prosperity of the Silk Road. The report is regarded as a masterpiece of medieval geographical literature.

Following the industrial revolution and improved ocean transportation, the Alataw Pass waned in importance until emerging again as an important outpost of the BRI construction.

On March 19, 2011, the first China-Europe freight train crossed the pass from the southwest China metropolis of Chongqing to Duisburg in Germany via Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Poland. Since the BRI was proposed in autumn 2013, more than 100 countries and international organisations have showed support and actively participated in its construction.

More than 60 cities in China and Europe have launched China-Europe freight trains. The longest route connects east China's Yiwu City, known as the "world's supermarket," with London.

More than six trains run through the pass every day. Improved clearance efficiency and traffic volume have cut transportation costs by over 30%; it is only one fifth that of air transport.

Meanwhile, travel time is one third or a quarter of that needed for sea transport.

The pass -- among the most inland points on earth -- has become a busy centre connecting the East Asia Economic Rim and the European economic circle.

## A manufacturing hub

On a patch of barren land, not far from the Alataw Pass station, one can see rows of factories with blue roofs and lines of newly planted trees. This is Xinjiang's first bonded zone that was set up in May 2011. As of the end of June, more than 100 global companies had come to operate businesses in bonded logistics, manufacturing, international trade and financial settlement.

A massive factory of a medical textile company houses German-made production line machinery worth 150 million yuan. It was transported by China-Europe freight trains, along with tonnes of raw cotton from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The thread

manufactured in the factory will be transported via the China-Europe railway to central China's Henan Province, where high-quality medical gauze will be woven and transported again via the railway back to the European market.

Qin Songxiang, vice-president of the company, said the Alataw factory has the geographical advantage of being close enough to raw materials and the market, plus its favourable bonded zone policies.

"With the economic drive being so strong, business people like us just can't resist the temptation to have a finger in the Belt and Road pie," he said.

**The freight service, a crucial part of the BRI, began operation in March 2011. For the past years, trains have carried garments, auto parts, chemicals, and other Chinese goods to Europe, while bringing back food, machinery, equipment and timber.**

Jonathan E. Hillman, director of the Reconnecting Asia Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the BRI is “hugely ambitious.” He added many in the West are encouraged by its economic potential, because if it works well, it does benefit all participants, including the West.

At the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in May, 2018, the Chinese government promised another 100 billion yuan (about \$14.5 billion) to augment the Silk Road Fund, 380 billion yuan equivalent in loans for infrastructure and development projects from Chinese policy banks, and 300 billion yuan to conduct overseas yuan fund business.

The trade volume between China and Belt and Road countries in 2016 topped \$1.07 trillion. China’s investment in those countries stood at \$14.5 billion. Statistics from Thomson Reuters showed that Chinese companies’ total investment and acquisition in the Belt and Road countries already exceeded \$33 billion as of early August.

According to the joint communique of the leaders’ roundtable of the Belt and Road forum, the BRI provides new opportunities for international cooperation that is open, inclusive and beneficial to all.

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# LEARN EVERYDAY CHINESE

wèn hòu  
问候 (1)  
GREETINGS

## 01 你好

### HOW DO YOU DO

#### 一 句子 Sentences

001 你好! ① How do you do?  
Nǐ hǎo!

002 你好吗? ② How are you?  
Nǐ hǎo ma?

003 (我)很好。(I'm) Fine.  
(Wǒ) Hěn hǎo.

004 我也很好。I am fine, too.  
Wǒ yě hěn hǎo.

#### 二 会话 Conversations

1

大卫: 玛丽, 你好!  
Dàwèi: Mǎlì, nǐ hǎo!

玛丽: 你好, 大卫!  
Mǎlì: Nǐ hǎo, Dàwèi!

2

王兰: 你好吗?

Wáng Lán: Nǐ hǎo ma?

刘京: 我很好。你好吗?

Liú Jīng: Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ hǎo ma?

王兰: 我也很好。

Wáng Lán: Wǒ yě hěn hǎo.

#### 注释 Notes

##### ① 你好! Hello! / Hi!

日常问候语。任何时间、任何场合以及任何身份的人都可以使用。对方的回答也应是“你好”。

It is an everyday greeting and is used at any time, on any occasion and by a person of any social status. The reply should also be “你好”.

##### ② 你好吗? How are you?

常用问候语。回答一般是“我很好”等套语。一般用于已经相识的人之间。

It is an everyday greeting and is usually used between acquaintances. A polite expression such as “我很好” can be used as a reply.

#### 生词 New Words

1	你好	nǐ hǎo		Hello!
2	你	nǐ	代	you (single)
3	好	hǎo	形	well, fine
4	吗	ma	助	used at the end of a question
5	我	wǒ	代	I, me
6	很	hěn	副	very
7	也	yě	副	also, too
8	你们	nǐmen	代	you (plural)

#### 专名 Proper Nouns

1	大卫	Dàwèi	David (name of a person)
2	玛丽	Mǎlì	Mary (name of a person)
3	王兰	Wáng Lán	Wang Lan (name of a person)
4	刘京	Liú Jīng	Liu Jing (name of a person)



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In nearly a century, Beijing's Forbidden City was illuminated and opened to the public for night visits for the first time to celebrate China's Lantern Festival, which marked the end of the Lunar New Year holiday.