



Advertisers' Feature

Her Excellency  
Smt. Pratibha Patil  
President of the Republic of India  
New Delhi

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese people, warm congratulations and best wishes to you, and through you to your government and people.

China and India are close neighbors. The friendly exchanges between our two peoples date back to ancient times. Over the past 60 years since we established diplomatic relations, our bilateral ties have grown steadily thanks to joint efforts of both sides. In the new century, we have forged a strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity and formulated a ten-pronged strategy to deepen bilateral ties. Our political, economic, trade, cultural and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation have grown across the board and borne fruits. We have coordinated and worked with each other closely in international and regional affairs.

As two major emerging developing countries, China and India face common tasks and challenges, have extensive shared interests and shoulder important responsibilities. The good-neighborly friendship and cooperation between China and India and their common development not only benefit our two peoples but also serve peace and development of Asia and the entire world. The Chinese side deems its relationship with India one of its most important bilateral relationships. To develop a long-term and stable strategic and cooperative partnership with India is the set principle and policy of the Chinese government. We are ready to deepen friendship, enhance mutual trust, and broaden cooperation with India to tackle various global challenges, uphold the interests of developing countries and promote sustained, steady and in-depth growth of our strategic and cooperative partnership.

May the Republic of India enjoy prosperity and its people happiness.

May the friendship between the Chinese and Indian peoples grow with the times and be passed down from generation to generation.

Hu Jintao  
President of The People's Republic of China  
Beijing, 1 April 2010



His Excellency Mr. Hu Jintao  
President  
People's Republic of China  
Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of India, I convey sincere felicitations, warm greetings and good wishes to you, the Government and the people of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China.

Our bilateral relations have gained in strength and momentum and have assumed global and strategic dimensions through our joint efforts. As a result, our two countries have established a Strategic & Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. There are regular high level visits between us, trade and investment flows have risen sharply, cultural interaction has flowered and people-to-people ties have strengthened. Our close cooperation is conducive to peace and stability in Asia and the world.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, we in India look forward to continue working closely with China in taking our relations to new levels. I look forward to working with you in achieving this goal.

With the assurances of my highest consideration.

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil  
President  
Republic of India  
April 01, 2010



His Excellency  
Shri. Manmohan Singh  
Prime Minister of the Republic of India  
New Delhi

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese government and also in my own name, warm congratulations and sincere wishes to you and the Indian government.

China and India are linked by mountains and waters and enjoy cultural commonalities and a traditional friendship of over two thousand years. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 60 years ago, peace, friendship and mutually-beneficial cooperation have been the mainstream of our bilateral relations. You and I have agreed that there is enough space in the world for both China and India to develop and there is enough scope where we can strengthen cooperation. We should strive for win-win progress and common development by drawing on each other's strengths and through mutual support.

In the new era, China-India relations are facing broad prospects of development. The Chinese government attaches great importance to its strategic and cooperative partnership with India. I am ready to work with you to continue to enhance mutual understanding and trust and strengthen friendly exchanges and cooperation in all fields to serve the wellbeing of our two countries and peoples and contribute to peace and prosperity in Asia and the world.

May China-India friendship last forever.

Wen Jiabao  
Premier of the State Council of  
The People's Republic of China  
Beijing, 1 April 2010



His Excellency Mr. Wen Jiabao  
Premier of the State Council  
People's Republic of China  
Excellency,

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China, I extend warm greetings and best wishes to the Government and the friendly people of China.

India and China are ancient civilizations who have had a long tradition of learning from and enriching each other's cultures. The 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations is a significant event in the modern history of our two countries.

Today, India-China relations have diversified into almost all areas of human endeavour. They have achieved a high level of maturity that serves the interests of both our peoples and the cause of peace, stability and progress in the region and the world. We share a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. We are important trade partners. We cooperate closely on many global issues. The Shared Vision for the 21st Century which we signed in 2008 provides the road map for our continued interaction and cooperation in the years ahead.

On this happy occasion, we regard the future of India-China relations with optimism. I look forward to working with Your Excellency to harness the vast potential for the further expansion of our ties to realize the mutual aspirations of our two peoples.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Manmohan Singh  
Prime Minister  
Republic of India  
April 01, 2010



His Excellency  
Shri Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna  
Minister of External Affairs of the Republic  
of India  
New Delhi

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, I wish to extend warm congratulations and best wishes to you.

India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 60 years ago, China-India relations have continued to grow under the guidance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. China and India have conducted fruitful exchanges and cooperation in all fields and maintained sound coordination and collaboration in international and regional affairs, which have brought real benefits to our two countries and peoples. I will work with you to enhance our mutual understanding, trust and cooperation and advance the China-India strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity.

May China-India friendship and cooperation grow from strength to strength.

Yang Jiechi  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
The People's Republic of China  
Beijing, 1 April 2010



His Excellency Mr. Yang Jiechi  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
People's Republic of China  
Beijing  
Excellency,

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China, I convey greetings and best wishes to you and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

India and China are ancient civilizations. Today, we are rapidly developing countries which share the objective of improving the living standards of our people. In recent times, we have emerged as two of the fastest growing economies in the world. We are also important partners in trade and investment. We coordinate closely on global issues including climate change, international economic matters and world trade negotiations.

India and China have embarked on a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership which is a factor contributing to stability in Asia and the world. Our countries also have a Shared Vision for the 21st Century which provides the framework for our continued cooperation in the coming years.

On this important occasion, we reiterate our resolve to work closely with China for the peace and prosperity of our region and the globe. I look forward to working with you in realising this goal.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

S. M. Krishna  
Minister of External Affairs  
India  
April 01, 2010





## Message from H.E. Ambassador Zhang Yan on the Occasion of Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India, it is a high time to make a retrospective on China-India relations and look into the future.

China and India, two ancient civilizations linked by mountains and rivers, can trace their friendly exchanges and amity back more than 2000 years. In the past 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two countries have surmounted all challenges and made impressive progress. The catch phrase of "Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai" has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples. The famous Panchsheel, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, co-initiated in the 1950s by China and India, remain to be one of the important guiding principles in international relations. Mutually beneficial cooperation and common development has been the main feature of China-India relations. As the great Indian

poet Tagore once noted that India feels that China is a very close relative.

The historical visit to China by the then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988, ushered in a new era of China-India relations. Entering into the 21st century, China-India relations moved into a fast track of development. In 2003 Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited China and the two sides agreed to establish a Long-term Constructive Partnership. During Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in 2005, the two countries further upgraded their relationship into a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. President Hu Jintao visited India in 2006, during which China and India developed a "Ten-pronged Strategy" to enhance bilateral relations. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited China in 2008. With the signing of A Shared Vision for the 21st Century of China and India, the two countries agreed to promote the building of a

harmonious world of peace and common prosperity through further advancing China-India strategic and cooperative partnership.

Today, China-India relations are developing in an all round manner characterized by frequent high level interactions and communication, and expanding exchanges at all levels and in all fields.

As two fastest growing economies, the bilateral economic cooperation experienced a fast growth. The two-way trade has reached US\$51.8 billion in 2008. China has become one of India's biggest trade partners. In 2009, against the backdrop of severe global financial crisis, the bilateral trade volume still maintained a comparatively high level of US\$43.4 billion. Economic cooperation has yielded tangible benefits to the people of two countries.

The cooperation in culture, education and tourism has also witnessed rapid expansion. India has become one of the tourist destinations for Chinese



H. E. Ambassador Zhang Yan of People's Republic of China in India.

citizens. Every week there are about 30 direct flights shuttle between China and India. People to people exchanges are on steady increase. Exchange of personnel reaches around 500,000 every year. The annual exchange of visits by 100-member youth delegations from both countries went on smoothly for the last four years. Besides, contacts and cooperation

are expanding in the fields of industry, agriculture, science and technology. The interactions between the armed forces of the two countries emerges as a new highlight. Two sides have already held two joint anti-terrorist trainings.

China and India have maintained close consultation and cooperation in the regional and international affairs. The two countries

enjoy convergence of interests on issues such as world trade negotiation, climate change, energy and food security, as well as fighting against the financial crisis. Both are committed to building a fair, just and reasonable international economic and trade system. In the G-20 Financial Summit and the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, China and India worked closely and constructively, and safeguarded the interests of the developing countries.

During the meeting between two leaders on the sideline of the BRIC leaders' meeting in Russia in June 2009, Chinese President Hu Jintao said that India is an important neighbor of China. China is committed to the promotion of harmonious, neighborly and amicable cooperation between China and India. China is ready to work with the Indian side to maintain the sound momentum for development of the bilateral Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan

Singh, on his part, stated that the Indian Government will give top priority to its relations with China and is committed to advance bilateral cooperation in various fields on the basis of progress made in the past.

Guided by the far-sighted and strategic vision of the leadership of two countries, we are confident that further development of friendship and cooperation between China and India is irreversible. In the current context, China and India should carry on the past and look into future, and move forward hand in hand.

On this auspicious day, I would like to pay my tribute to those who have rendered their invaluable contributions to the noble cause of promoting China-India relations. I sincerely hope that China and India, two splendid human civilizations, would complement each other and prosper together for the brighter future of their own as well as make their fresh contributions to world peace and development.

respectively this year, such occasions will serve as platforms for enhancing mutual understanding and friendship. We believe that good-neighborly friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development of China and India is not only a blessing to the 2.5 billion peoples of our two countries, but will have positive influence on the peace, stability and prosperity of Asia and the world as a whole. China and India should carry on the past and look into future, and move forward hand in hand.

On this auspicious day, I would like to pay my tribute to those who have rendered their invaluable contributions to the noble cause of promoting China-India relations. I sincerely hope that China and India, two splendid human civilizations, would complement each other and prosper together for the brighter future of their own as well as make their fresh contributions to world peace and development.

## New dimension towards Economic Co-operation



China and India are close neighbors with a long-history friendly intercourse. The establishment of diplomatic relation between two countries in 1950 opened a new chapter of economic cooperation. Since the 1990s when China and India entered rapid development tracks, the trade and economic relations between two countries have displayed considerable improvement. Nowadays dragon and elephant are the star performers on world stage.

The bilateral trade volume between China and India boosts 200 times from 0.26 billion USD in 1990 to 52 billion USD in 2008 with an average annual growth rate of 30%. The whole-year trade volume in 1990 can be achieved every two days in 2008. Impacted by the global financial crisis, bilateral trade tumbled to 43.4 billion USD, registering a negative growth of 16%. But we have realized in the meantime that monthly bilateral trade volume turned to a big surge from November 2009, and the momentum of growth is encouraging. China is the second biggest trading partner of India in the 2008-09 financial year, and on the other hand, India is the 10th trading partner of China in 2009. We are fully

confident that the goal of 60 billion USD bilateral trade volumes by 2010 set by the prime ministers of the two countries can be achieved as proposed.

The total two-way investment reached about 600 million USD by the end of 2008, according to the statistics from the relevant departments. China's well-known enterprises, such as Sany Heavy Industry, Haier, Huawei Technology, ZTE Telecom, etc., have established R&D centers or manufacturing bases in India. Meanwhile, India's giant corporations, such as TATA Group, Reliance Industry, INFOSIS, WIPRO, etc., have also invested in China. A strong foundation has been built for enormous potential of bilateral investment in the years ahead.

The statistics the Ministry of Commerce of the P. R. China shows that, by the end of 2008, the accumulative contract value of projects signed by Chinese enterprises in India reached 31.4 billion USD. India is the largest overseas project-contacting market for China for three consecutive years since 2006. Chinese enterprises are actively involved in projects such as power plants and roads and provide tremendous support to local employment, infrastructure construction and economic development

in India.

As developing countries with big populations and emerging markets, China and India are strongly complementary to each other economically and the bilateral cooperation had a broad prospect. Furthering cooperation of trade, investment and infrastructure construction will bring more benefits to our two peoples and the people of the world. The economic relations between China and India is one of the most significant bilateral relations in the contemporary global economic scenario.

The international financial crisis has brought adverse effects to both China and India, but two countries still maintain vitality in the context of the downturn of the global economy. The crisis highlights the integration of interests of both countries. We firmly believe that, development is the key to China and India's success in overcoming difficulties and is both countries' top priority. Furthering China-India trade and economic relations, not only serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, but also helps to improve the confidence of growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

History has proved that China and India can in-

teract smoothly and share common prosperity. Today, ever closer exchanges and interaction of businessmen of China and India contain enormous energy and have far-reaching impact. China and India have 2.4 billion industrious, honest and intelligent people, with whom we will be able to eliminate all the discordant voices in bilateral trade and economic relations, with whom we will be able to succeed in performing the historic tasks of economic development, with whom we will be able to jointly write a magnificent poem of great revitalization of the two ancient civilizations.

In China, 60th year is the end of one time-cycle, which means a new cycle will begin. After celebrating the 60th anniversary of founding of new China, we will congratulate each other on the 60th anniversary of establishment of China-India diplomatic relations. We have a new historic opportunity for the development of trade and economic relations. It is our shared view that, in the new historical starting point, as long as we set our sight on the longer term, mutually-beneficial economic cooperation between two countries will certainly have a brilliant future.

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# A Journey to reckon with



Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong met with Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for four times. The two leaders exchanged views in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. This picture was taken in Beijing on October 21, 1954.



On October 23, 1954, the people from various circles in Beijing gathered in Zhongshan Park to hold a grand party to welcome Prime Minister J. Nehru. When Nehru and Beijing Mayor Peng Zhen walked into the gathering site, they were warmly welcomed by the people.



In October, 1954, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru paid a 12-day official visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. When he arrived in Beijing, Nehru was greeted by more than 500,000 people along the two sides of the street from the airport to the guesthouse.



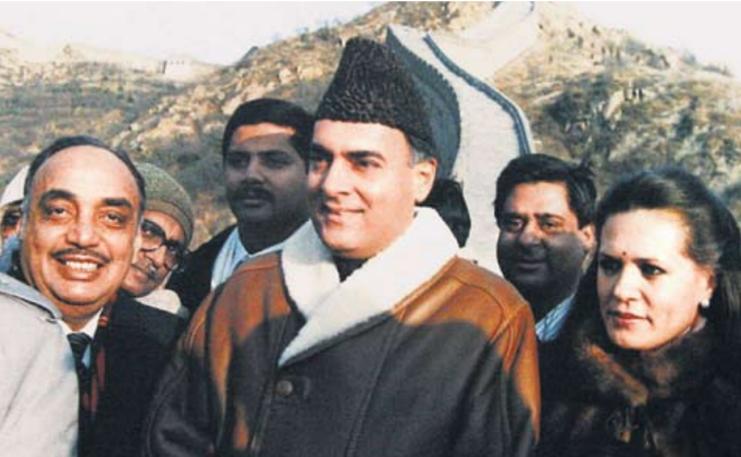
In February 1979, Indian Foreign Minister A.B. Vajpayee made an official visit to China. It was the first visit paid by a minister of the Indian cabinet to China since the 1960s, signaling the resumption of high-level political exchanges between the two countries. On February 14, Vajpayee met with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping.



Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi with Chinese youth delegation.



On December 21, 1988, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Deng said the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence advocated by China and India had stood test. They were explicit, clear and resolute. China and India, the advocating nations, should recommend the principles to the international community, implement the principles and follow the principles not only in handling their relations, but also in the relations and exchanges with other countries.



On December 20, 1988, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited the Great Wall during his visit to China.



December 11 to 16, 1991, at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Chinese Premier Li Peng paid an official and good-will visit to India.



On May 18, 1992, Indian President Ramaswami Venkataraman started a state visit to China. It was the first Indian President to pay a visit in China since the two countries established diplomatic relations. During his visit in Beijing, Ramaswami Venkataraman held talks with President Yang Shangkun, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng respectively. The leaders of the two countries broadly exchanged views on bilateral relations, regional and global issues. The two sides expressed their wish to further resume and develop the traditional friendly relations between the two countries.



January 13 to 18 in 2002, at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji made an official visit to India. This picture shows Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was holding a welcome ceremony in honor of China's Premier Zhu Rongji, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, presidential premises in New Delhi on January 14, 2002.



On the afternoon of October 26, 2007, Chinese President Hu Jintao, who is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met at the Great Hall of the People with Indian National Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi, also leader of the Indian United Progressive Alliance.



On January 14, 2008, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with his visiting Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh at the Great Hall of the People. Both sides reached broad consensus on furthering China-India strategic and cooperative partnership in the new situation and signed the joint statement A Shared Vision for the 21st Century of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India.



President of the Indian National Congress Party and Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance Sonia Gandhi paid a visit to China in August 2008 at the invitation of the Communist Party of China to witness the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games and met Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping.



# India and China: A 60 year journey

On April 1, 1950, India became the first non-Socialist country to formally recognise the People's Republic of China. The establishment of diplomatic ties between the two neighbours six decades ago set the stage for resuming a relationship that had been time-honoured through history. As is well known, ties between India and China stretch back over millennia, when traders along the Silk Road exchanged not just tea and silk, but also ideas, between the thriving cultural capitals of two ancient civilisations.

India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, firmly believed that resuming this time-tested partnership was key to the fundamental interests of both young nations, and also to protecting the interests of developing countries in a world increasingly polarised by the Cold War. It was on this positive vision that the two neighbours embarked on establishing a political partnership sixty years ago.

## Uncertain first steps

Chinese philosopher Confucius famously said: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." So it was for India and China. The first step was, however, hugely significant. In April 1954, the two countries signed an agreement on trade and communications, and also, for the first time, introduced the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence into the introduction of that agreement. Two months later, Premier Zhou Enlai visited India, holding talks with Prime Minister Nehru. The Five Principles were officially announced as the basic tenets guiding the two countries' ties.

The Five Principles call for: mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; mutual non-aggression; mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs; equality and mutual benefit; and peaceful co-existence. The 1954 declaration proposed that "these principles not only be applicable to relations between nations, but also to the general international relationship." The Five Principles continue to remain an integral part of the two countries' relationship today. But despite the initial optimism, bilateral relations would soon face a significant setback and an unprecedented challenge. In 1962, the two countries would clash over a territorial dispute, a legacy from colonial times. The 1962 war, which continues to impact the two countries' relationship today, led to a difficult first few decades for the newly-independent fledgling nations.

## A turning point on the road to progress

A turning point in the two countries' relations after this troubled start was Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing in 1988. His four-day visit to the wintry capital in December 1988 was the first to China by an Indian Prime Minister in 34 years. Chinese Premier Li Peng held talks with Mr. Gandhi. Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Deng Xiaoping, the father of China's economic reforms and the then Chairman of the Central Military Commission, also held frank exchanges with the young and charismatic Prime Minister, as the two estranged neighbours sat to-



January 15, 2008, Chinese President Hu Jintao met with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

gether to begin to work out their differences.

The two sides then reaffirmed their commitment to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, which continue to hold the two countries' ties together. The two countries also agreed to work towards restoring and improving good neighbourly relations between China and India on the basis of the five principles, which they stressed will exert a positive impact on peace and stability in Asia and the world. During that historic visit, Prime Minister Gandhi and his counterpart Premier Li also resolved to settle the boundary issue, a legacy of 1962, through peaceful and friendly consultation.

But most crucially, the two sides also agreed to actively develop bilateral relations in other fields to create an atmosphere conducive to a reasonable settlement of the boundary issue. Scholars and analysts on both sides of the border regard this 1988 visit as a turning point in Sino-Indian relations, and one that has set the stage for continued engagement and enhanced co-operation between the two countries into the 21st century. Since this historic visit, high-level visits between leaders of the two countries became increasingly regular, while exchanges in numerous fields, from science and technology and aviation to culture and trade, have continued to develop.

## A new century, a new partnership

This new pattern of closer co-operation between the two neighbours has been most evident since the turn of the century, when regular visits between the Heads of State of the two nations have cemented the new partnership. It was in this context that bilateral relations faced another watershed moment, with the visit of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Beijing in 2003. His was the first visit by an Indian prime minister in a decade, and he became only the fourth Indian prime minister to visit China in over five decades of diplomatic relations. The two sides signed ten agreements during the landmark visit, including a Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China. And, most significantly, the two countries pledged to improve the trade partnership, which, in spite of the obvious potential, remained largely stagnant at a paltry few millions. But that

was soon set to change.

Subsequent visits by the two countries' leaders, from Premier Wen Jiabao's visit in 2005 to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's in 2008, have reaffirmed the co-operative and comprehensive partnership that has begun to develop between the two countries. In a visit to China in 2007, Sonia Gandhi, the chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance which led the government, best described the new spirit of relations in a speech at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Ms. Gandhi said: "The China-

tions of peaceful contact and exchange to sustain a catalytic partnership that is relevant for the 21st century? This is today's imperative." She said she firmly believed "we have much to contribute to one another", and that the relationship "had already assumed increasing importance to the stability and prosperity of the world at large."

## Trade leading the way

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's 2008 visit to Beijing not only reaffirmed this sentiment, but also underlined what was fast becoming the new focus to the

vised target for \$ 60 billion was set for 2010, which both countries expect to meet this year. The booming trade relationship between the two countries has most certainly been the most prominent success story in Sino-Indian ties. Between 2006 and 2008, bilateral trade more than doubled. Trade surged to a record \$ 52 billion, which made China India's single largest trading partner. Mutual investments between the two countries have also grown rapidly. Chinese investments in India, mostly in infrastructure projects, in-



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met with Chinese National People's Congress Chairman Wu Bangguo.

India relationship is in some ways unique in history. There is perhaps no other example of two countries, indeed two ancient many-splendoured civilizations, coexisting side-by-side, both in geography and in the realm of ideas, in peace and harmony, almost uninterrupted for millennia. Prime Minister Wen Jiabao put it succinctly and if I may so, with the great empirical precision that China is noted for, and I quote - "during the past 2200 years, for about 99 per cent of the time we have devoted to friendly cooperation between our two countries.'... That is indeed so."

But, as Ms. Gandhi said, the two countries, in the new century, needed to do more than dwell on the past. She said the question the two neighbours had to answer together was how to address the many important issues that faced them: "How can we build on our long tradi-

two countries ties - trade. When Mr. Vajpayee visited China in 2002, trade between Asia's two largest countries was only a few million dollars. But a renewed effort by both governments breathed new life into economic relations. The target of \$ 20 billion for 2008, once considered unachievable, was reached two years ahead of schedule. A target of \$ 40 billion set for 2010 was met three years ahead of time. Noting the speed at which trade was growing, Dr. Singh remarked: "This makes me wonder whether our two governments have been underestimating the capabilities of our respective industries and their strong urge to do business with each other. We therefore propose to set more ambitious targets."

True to Dr. Singh's word, the two countries have set more ambitious targets to further enhance this revitalised trade relationship. A re-



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee with Indian National Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi.

relations between the two countries, the future looks promising for the world's two fastest-growing major economies. What has also become clearly evident in the new century is an increasing convergence of interests on the global scale. An increasing complementarity of interests on the global scale, from trade to climate change, has underlined the potential for collaboration between the two rising nations.

This new convergence of interests was most evident in the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen in December, when India and China worked together to represent the interests of the developing world in a fast-changing world order. In the coming year, the two countries will further their co-operation on climate change and the environment, which, while emerging as the most pressing challenge the world is facing in our times, has also emerged as an unprecedented opportunity for the world's two biggest countries to collaborate. Co-operation, and not competition, has become the new mantra as bilateral relations enter the 21st century.

## Cultural exchanges

However, despite the long history of contact between the two civilisations over millennia, and substantial goodwill between the people of the two countries, there remains a significant gap in understanding between the peoples of India and China, and little knowledge of each other's culture. The coming year will give both countries the opportunity to address this gap. On April 1, as the two countries mark 60 years of diplomatic relations, the neighbours will also affirm to expand and diversify their co-opera-

created by more than three-fold between 2007 and 2008, from \$ 16 million to \$ 49 million.

Indian companies have also begun to expand their business presence in China in a range of sectors, most notably manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, Information Technology and banking, with more than 100 companies setting up representative offices and branches in China. Many of China's biggest State-owned enterprises in manufacturing, machinery and infrastructure have increasingly begun to seek out projects in India, while telecommunication companies, including giants Huawei and ZTE, have also set up a substantial presence in India.

## Growing global convergence

Backed by this growing trade partnership, which has now become an important driving force to bilateral

tion to a range of new fields, from culture and education to science and technology. The two governments have signed an agreement to organize a "Festival of India in China" and a "Festival of China in India" during the year.

On April 7, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna will kick-off the celebrations in China. Events will be held in various Chinese cities to showcase the best of Indian culture, with tourism roadshows, dance performances and a range of other events. This week, a Festival of China in India will also be inaugurated, bringing Chinese culture closer to an Indian audience. Both governments have also pledged to do more to expand tourism between both countries, which, despite considerable interest between both populations, remains vastly untapped. Expanding cultural contact, as well as greater people-to-people exchanges, will be the focus, underpinning plans to take bilateral engagement to the next level.

## The path ahead

As both countries carry forward on the path of their remarkable economic development, there is a growing consensus that continued engagement and more enhanced co-operation is mutually beneficial to both India and China, as their rise continues to change the political and economic landscape of not just Asia, but of the world. On the 60th anniversary of the establishment of relations, the Asian giants are hardly recognisable from the newly-formed, young States that met in 1950 in uncertain times. The last two decades, in particular, have seen the two nations begin to take steps towards fulfilling the promise and poten-

tial that both Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Premier Zhou Enlai envisioned when they first met - a vision of two powerful Asian neighbours reshaping Asia's place in the world. For more than three decades, that promise remained unfulfilled, but starting with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 visit, both India and China have begun the long march towards a future of collaboration and co-operation. On the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, being marked at a time of optimism and confidence in the world's two fastest-growing major economies, it is instructive to recall Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's words to a rapt Chinese audience in a speech given at Tsinghua University in 1988: "I see optimism in both India and China today; optimism about the progress our countries can make, optimism about realising our goals of development, optimism about the levels of co-operation we can reach, optimism about the work we can do together to restore our countries to their traditional position in the vanguard of human civilization, optimism about the contribution we can make to rebuilding the world order nearer our hearts' desire." The young Indian Prime Minister concluded: "We are summoned by our past to the tasks which the future holds. We have a mutual obligation to a common humanity. India and China can together give the world new perspectives on a new world order, which will ensure peace among nations and justice among peoples, equality for each and prosperity for all, freedom from want, a world where we live together in happiness and harmony."

# Cultural extravaganza

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, a Festival of China in India and a Festival of India in China will be launched in April this year.

The inauguration of the Festival of China will be held on April 20 at Purana Qila in Delhi, with the presentation of a grand symphony developed from Buddhist tunes while the Indian Festival will be inaugurated on April 7 at the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, with a play telling the story of King Ashoka

enlightened by Buddhism. The coincidence that both inaugurating performances share the theme of Buddhism highlights the time-honoured cultural bond between the two countries.

Apart from the symphonic music for the inauguration, the Festival of China will showcase some of the fine examples of Chinese culture and arts. It includes performances, such as On the Silk Road, a dance drama based on stories of the Silk Road and the Dunhuang Grottoes, and a special music and dance presentation by the world-renowned

China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe, and exhibitions of photography, (Charm of Beijing) archaeology (Treasures of Ancient China) and the famous Jingdezhen porcelain. In addition, a Chinese film festival will be held in major Indian cities.

The Indian Festival will feature a spectrum of Indian performing arts including classical and contemporary music and dances and Indian cinema, to be presented in a number of Chinese cities across the country and at venues of the Shanghai World Expo.