

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

Outlook 2025

7 L E T M R K x E x 7 L E V



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CONGRATULATIONS!

China's Spring Festival inscribed as
UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

From Global Solidarity to Better China-India Relations

As we end 2024 and usher in a new year, there is a lot to look back at with satisfaction and much to look forward to. While conflicts and crises simmered in different parts of the world, there were also uplifting stories of human solidarity and creative diplomacy to heal divisions and chart new avenues of cooperation.

Multilateralism was revived and reinvigorated as the BRICS summit in Russia and the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro culminated in new initiatives for resurgence of the Global South and eradicating poverty and hunger. The enlargement of BRICS with the addition of new members and a new category of partner countries at the summit in Kazan will make this grouping more representative of aspirations of the developing world. In his remarks at the summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping underlined that BRICS countries must work together to build BRICS into a primary channel for strengthening solidarity and cooperation among Global South nations and a vanguard for advancing global governance reform.

Similarly, in his remarks at the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, President Xi lauded the creation of the Global Alliance Against Poverty and stressed that China will always be a member of the Global South, a reliable long-term partner of fellow developing countries, and a doer and go-getter working for the cause of global development.

On the domestic front, China scaled new frontiers in development, technology and innovation. Giving the lie to the propaganda about China's economy in free fall, the quarter-on-quarter GDP growth rate has been up for eight consecutive quarters. The Chinese economy continues to remain the primary engine of global growth, contributing more than 30% to the world economy. Decoupling from China would mean decoupling from opportunities and from the future.

Looking back, 2024 has turned out to be a positive year for China-India relations, opening new possibilities for engagement and dialogue. The meeting between President Xi Jinping and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the margins of the BRICS Summit held in Kazan, Russia on October 23 forged important common understandings on improving and developing China-India relations. In this meeting, President Xi stressed that the two sides should strengthen communication and cooperation, enhance strategic mutual trust, and facilitate each other's pursuit of development aspirations. The meeting between the leaders was followed by talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Rio de Janeiro in November and the first meeting between Special Representatives in five years in Beijing, which focused on maintaining peace and tranquillity in border areas and sustaining the momentum in bilateral relations.

Looking ahead, China and India should intensify their collaboration across the spectrum. Development is now the biggest shared goal of China and India. China's quest for building a great modern socialist country aligns with India's vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047". As Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong points out in an article: "The contribution to each other's success between China and India will create huge development dividends and strategic opportunities." Let 2025 be the year of the Dragon-Elephant tango!

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China Holds Central Economic Work Conference to Make Plans for 2025

The annual Central Economic Work Conference lauded policies of the CPC leadership for remarkable economic rebound and outlined ambitious plans for boosting the Chinese economy in 2025.



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at the annual Central Economic Work Conference in Beijing, capital of China.

The annual Central Economic Work Conference was held in Beijing from December 11 to 12 as Chinese leaders decided priorities for the economic work in 2025.

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivered an important speech at the conference. In his speech, Xi reviewed the country's economic work in 2024, analyzed the current economic situation and arranged next year's economic work. It was noted at the meeting that the Chinese economy has posted generally stable performance while making progress in 2024, with solid advances made in high-quality development and major annual goals and tasks of economic and social development to be successfully accomplished.

The development journey over the past year has been extraordinary and the achievements have been encouraging, according to the meeting. It noted that a raft of incremental policies deployed by the CPC leadership in late September have effectively boosted social confidence and driven a remarkable rebound in the economy.

While acknowledging the deepened adverse impact brought about by changes in the external environment and many difficulties and challenges still facing the domestic economic operation at present, the meeting pointed out that the supporting conditions and fundamental trend for the Chinese economy's long-term sound development remain unchanged. "We must face up to the difficulties, strengthen our confidence, and strive to transform all positive factors into actual achievements in development," the meeting said.

More proactive and impactful macro policies should be implemented to sustain the upward trend of the economy, so as to fulfill the goals and tasks in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) with high quality and lay a solid

foundation for a good start to the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), the meeting said.

Outlook 2025

For 2025, the meeting emphasized the need to maintain steady economic growth, keep employment and prices generally stable, ensure a basic equilibrium in the balance of payments, and increase residents' income in step with economic growth.

The country should adopt a more proactive fiscal policy and set a higher deficit-to-GDP ratio, and it should ensure that its fiscal policy is continuously forceful and more impactful, according to the meeting. It pledged to increase the issuance of ultra-long special treasury bonds and local government special-purpose bonds, and optimize the structure of fiscal expenditure.

A moderately loose monetary policy should be implemented, with reductions in the reserve requirement ratio and interest rates at an appropriate timing to ensure ample liquidity, according to the meeting.

The meeting called for better coordination between fiscal, monetary, employment, industrial, regional, trade, environmental and regulatory policies and the country's reform and opening up measures.

Outlining a number of key tasks for 2025, the meeting urged efforts to vigorously boost consumption, improve investment efficiency, and expand domestic demand on all fronts.

Boosting Consumption

A special campaign dedicated to stimulating consumption should be implemented, and efforts should be made to increase the incomes and alleviate the burdens of low- and middle-income groups, the meeting noted. The large-scale equipment upgrades and consumer goods trade-in programs should be promoted with greater intensity and scope, and active efforts should be made to develop debut economy, ice and snow economy and silver economy, according to the meeting. It called for stronger

support for implementing major national strategies and building security capacity in key areas, and appropriately increased investment from the central government budget.

China should take steps to make scientific and technological innovation drive the development of new quality productive forces and build a modernized industrial system, the meeting said.

Efforts should be made to adopt forward-thinking arrangements for major technological projects, conduct large-scale demonstration for the application of new technologies, products, and scenarios, launch an AI Plus initiative, nurture industries of the future and boost China's strategic scientific and technological strength, according to the meeting.

China should nurture patient capital and attract greater social capital participation in venture capital, the meeting said, while urging addressing rat-race irrational competition and regulating behaviors of local governments and enterprises. It called for giving full play to the leading role of economic system reform and ensuring that landmark reform measures are effectively implemented.

High-standard Opening-up

The government should enhance regulation and promote the healthy development of the platform economy, and improve the capital market system's inclusiveness and

adaptability, the meeting noted. It said China should expand its high-standard opening up and keep foreign trade and foreign investment stable.

Efforts should also be made to expand the pilot programs in opening up such fields as telecom, healthcare and education, according to the meeting. It demanded effectively preventing and mitigating risks in key areas to ensure that no systemic risks occur.

Efforts should be continuously ratcheted up to further reverse the downturn of and stabilize the real estate market, the meeting said, calling for reasonably controlling the supply of newly added real estate land, and promoting the establishment of a new model for real estate development. Risks in local small and medium-sized financial institutions should be addressed in a prudent manner, the meeting noted.

The meeting also called for efforts to pursue coordinated progress in new urbanization and all-around rural revitalization and promote integrated urban-rural development.

Stable production and supply of grain and other key farm produce should be ensured, while the governance of super-large and mega cities should be more modernized, according to the meeting.

Implementation of regional strategies must be strengthened to boost regional development vitality, the meeting said, calling



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at the annual Central Economic Work Conference in Beijing.



Li Qiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, speaks during the annual Central Economic Work Conference.

for actively fostering new growth poles, as well as enhancing the innovation capabilities of areas with economic development advantages and giving better play to their role of leading development.

Efforts should be made to ramp up the green transition in all areas of economic and social development, with faster construction of new energy bases in sandy areas, rocky areas and deserts and the establishment of a group of zero-carbon parks, according to the meeting.

It urged intensified efforts to secure and improve people's wellbeing, demanding implementation of employment support plans for key sectors and industries, urban and rural communities, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The country should formulate pro-childbirth policies, develop community-supported at-home elderly care, and expand universally beneficial elderly care services, according to the meeting.

Stable Growth

For next year's economic work, an optimized mix of stable growth, stable employment and reasonable price rebounds should be achieved,

it said, urging all work to be done in a prompt and effective manner with sufficient intensity.

More endeavors should be focused on the accomplishment of major tasks for next year in key links, the meeting noted, stressing boosting domestic demand, especially consumer demand. It also called for improving management of expectations and coordinating policy implementation with expectation guidance to strengthen the guidance and influence of policies.

The meeting also demanded making sound proposals for the 15th Five-Year Plan. Work should be done to ensure people's wellbeing and security at the turn of the year and maintain overall social stability, according to the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi, who are all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Li Qiang made a concluding speech, putting forward requirements for implementing the guiding principles of Xi's important speech and doing a good job in the economic work next year.

A Record-Breaking Showcase of Global Innovation and Cooperation

Over the past seven years, the CIIE has not only continued to improve but has also showcased an increasing number of “firsts,” making it a recognized global launch pad for new products, a preferred venue for leading technologies, and a hub for innovative services.



The 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) was held from Nov. 5 to Nov. 10, 2024, in Shanghai.

The seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) saw \$80.01 billion in tentative deals reached for one-year purchases of goods and services, an increase of 2 percent over last year.

Running from November 5 to 10, 2024, the CIIE attracted 3,496 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. Among the participants, 186 enterprises and institutions have attended all seven editions of the expo, while many others are exhibiting for the first time.

For these participants, especially multinational corporations that aim to maintain a strong presence in China, the country remains an essential destination for trade and investment. Li Jingcheng, vice president of Asia Strategy and Business Development for the global automotive company FORVIA, said that revenue from the new energy vehicle (NEV) sector makes up 45 percent of FORVIA's total earnings in China. "In FORVIA's global strategy, China has consistently been one of the most important markets," he said. He noted that China has been the world's largest automotive market for 14 consecutive years and that China has been setting global trends, particularly in the NEV sector. "We hope to channel global innovation resources into China and plan to establish a global R&D center here within the next two to three years," Li said.

According to a research report issued by one of the CIIE's official forums, the CIIE's spillover effect index has increased by 169 percent from the first CIIE in 2018 to the sixth in 2023. "The impact of the CIIE goes far beyond the expo itself; its spillover effect has deeply influenced international procurement, consumption upgrades, investment promotion, cultural exchange, and open cooperation," noted Li Qingjuan, director of the Think Tank Center at Fanghai International School of Finance of Fudan University. "It has become a crucial driver in China's efforts to accelerate the creation of a new development pattern and pursue high-quality development."

Recruitment for CIIE 2025 started in July, according to the CIIE Bureau. Eighty enterprises



A view of the venue of the seventh China International Import Expo in Shanghai, China, November 9, 2024.

and organizations, including Mercedes-Benz, Zeiss, Estée Lauder, Bayer, and the Singapore Business Federation, have already signed up for the eighth CIIE next year, reserving nearly 50,000 square meters of total exhibition space, showcasing the firm confidence that global businesses have in the event.

New Forces in Focus

In 2024, the term "new quality productive forces" has become a buzzword at the CIIE. As a major platform for shared global innovation and collaboration, the past six editions of the CIIE have featured nearly 2,500 innovative products, technologies, and services debuting globally.

In 2024, CIIE continues to serve as a collaborative platform where global companies can debut new products, showcase cutting-edge technologies, and introduce innovative services. Across the 420,000 square meters of exhibition space, multinational companies presented over 400 new products, technologies, and services for the very first time.

Over the past seven years, the CIIE has not only continued to improve but has also showcased an increasing number of "firsts,"

making it a recognized global launch pad for new products, a preferred venue for leading technologies, and a hub for innovative services.

A Launchpad for Global Market Expansion

From the perspective of its global positioning, the CIIE is the world's first national-level expo dedicated to imports, providing a premier stage for global products to enter China. For numerous new products and technologies, it serves as a "direct path" to commercial success. Tang Xiaodong, president of Kärcher Greater China, explained that as a company that has participated in every CIIE since the beginning, Kärcher selects the CIIE as the launchpad for its new global products each year. "The brand has grown and thrived through the empowering platform of the CIIE, and the returns from a short six-day exhibition are long-lasting," he explained.

The term "new quality productive forces" has become a buzzword at the CIIE. As a major platform for shared global innovation and collaboration, the past six editions of the CIIE have featured nearly 2,500 innovative products, technologies, and services debuting globally.

On the consumption side, the vast Chinese market, with its 1.4 billion people and over 400 million middle-income earners, offers an ideal testing ground and launchpad for new global products and technologies.

In terms of innovation, the Chinese population has always embraced creativity. Particularly over the past decade, China has seized the opportunities presented by a new wave of technological advancement and industrial transformation, implementing an innovation-driven development strategy that provides fertile ground for foreign companies.

Toshinobu Umetsu, president and CEO of Shiseido China, noted that the importance



A GE Aerospace booth at the 2024 CIIE showcases a RISE technology demonstration program model, November 8, 2024.

of the Chinese market is reflected not only in its business but also in its innovation. "Understanding China's innovation trends means capturing opportunities for future growth," he said.

As China accelerates the development of new quality productive forces, it is becoming a more attractive part of the global economic landscape. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization's preliminary report on the "Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024," China is home to 26 of the world's top 100 science and technology innovation clusters, maintaining its position as the global leader for two consecutive years. The organization's report highlights China as one of the fastest-rising economies in terms of innovation over the past decade.

Each new product at the CIIE represents people's aspirations for a better life and exemplifies the mutual advancement of openness and innovation. It is foreseeable that, in the annual CIIE, foreign companies will not only secure orders, markets, and ideas but also gain unlimited opportunities through China's path toward modernization."

2nd China Intl Supply Chain Expo Fosters Global Supply Chain Collaboration

Themed “Connecting the World for a Shared Future,” this year’s event emphasizes the interconnected nature of the supply chain through its booth layout and exhibition zones, offering a comprehensive showcase of key processes across the entire supply chain, from upstream to downstream.

The second China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), the world’s first national-level exhibition focused on supply chains, opened on November 26, 2024 in Beijing. The expo provided a comprehensive platform for business matchmaking and investment opportunities, fostering collaboration across a diverse range of industries.

Themed “Connecting the World for a Shared Future,” this year’s event emphasized the interconnected nature of the supply chain through its booth layout and exhibition zones, offering a comprehensive showcase of key



The second China International Supply Chain Expo opens in Beijing, China, November 26, 2024.

processes across the entire supply chain, from upstream to downstream.

Many exhibitors displayed their products alongside upstream and downstream partners, highlighting their collaborative efforts at the event.

Expanding Global Participation

The 2024 CISCE brought together over 620 companies and institutions, promoting innovation, trade and investment within global supply chain ecosystems. Over 60 percent of the exhibitors are Fortune 500 companies and industry leaders.

This focus on global cooperation was echoed by Apple CEO Tim Cook, who visited the CISCE site. He emphasized China's importance as a key market and supply chain partner, noting Apple's commitment to continued investment in research and development to support long-term growth in the country.

The event saw a 20 percent increase in participants compared to 2023, with strong representation from the U.S., Europe, Japan and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partners. The percentage of overseas exhibitors rose from 26 percent to 32 percent, with nearly equal participation from Europe and the U.S., along with over 40 BRI partner countries.

“This reflects the international community’s strong demand for cooperation in industrial and supply chains, as well as the trust that companies from around the world place in China’s development and the CISCE,” said Zhang Shaogang, deputy director of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

This focus on global cooperation was echoed by Apple CEO Tim Cook, who visited the CISCE site. He emphasized China’s importance as a key market and supply chain partner, noting Apple’s commitment to continued investment in research and development to support long-



term growth in the country. “With China’s growth, Apple has grown as well. It’s a great example of win-win cooperation,” he said.

Additionally, delegates from more than 100 countries and organizations attended the expo. China has extended special support to enterprises from less-developed regions by offering free exhibition booths to facilitate their participation.

Technological Innovations and Industrial Collaboration

One of the highlights of 2024 CISCE is the introduction of a new exhibition area dedicated to advanced manufacturing, complementing existing zones focused on clean energy, smart vehicles, digital technology, healthy living, green agriculture and supply chain services.

This new section showcased cutting-edge technologies, spanning R&D, design, intelligent manufacturing and high-end equipment. It emphasized the development of high-quality production capabilities and provides a platform for nearly 80 leading global companies to present their latest technological innovations.

In addition to the new exhibition area, the event featured specialized displays from major industry players. For example, Bosch, in collaboration with Rio Tinto and XPeng, will highlight advancements in the smart vehicle supply chain. Siemens will present

its industrial automation technologies, while other prominent exhibitors, such as Maersk, Sumitomo Electric and Honeywell, will unveil new products focused on logistics, environmental protection and carbon reduction.

One of the highlights of this year's CISCE is the introduction of a new exhibition area dedicated to advanced manufacturing, complementing existing zones focused on clean energy, smart vehicles, digital technology, healthy living, green agriculture and supply chain services.

This year's expo will strengthen efforts to promote an open and inclusive global economy, encouraging collaboration between Chinese and international companies. Rio Tinto, Bosch, Baowu and XPeng will showcase a comprehensive upgrade of the smart and green automotive industry. Fonterra, together with its Chinese supply chain partners, will demonstrate the sustainable development of the "farm-to-table" ecological chain, while Lenovo and SAP will present innovations in private cloud solutions and commercial AI.



Apple CEO Tim Cook visits the CISCE site in Beijing, China, November 25, 2024.

The Elephant-Dragon Tango



In an article published in The Indian Express on October 30, 2024, China's Ambassador Xu Feihong dismissed the notion of China's economy being in "free fall," and highlighted its steady growth, high-tech advancements, and unprecedented stimulus measures. Alluding to the recent Xi-Modi meeting at the BRICS Summit in Kazan, he underlined shared modernization goals of India and China and called for enhancing development cooperation between the two countries.

Recently, China reported third-quarter GDP growth of 4.6% year on year. Some Indian media ran a headline "China's economy in free fall", while others questioned whether China could achieve its annual growth target of 5%. Some media even advocated "decoupling and de-risking" from China. How to view the Chinese economy in a comprehensive, objective and rational manner? I would like to share my personal observations and reflections with Indian friends.

Free Fall? Chinese Economy Strong

First, China's economy is NOT in free fall, and will not be in free fall. Volatile external environment, coupled with internal economic restructuring and short-term natural disasters, have led to a slowdown in China's GDP growth in the third quarter. Nevertheless, from a longer perspective, the quarter-on-quarter GDP growth rate has been up for eight consecutive quarters. In the first nine months of 2024, China's GDP grew by 4.8% year-on-year, out pacing many other major economies. Furthermore, the development of high-tech manufacturing industry is demonstrating the strong endogenous power of China's high-quality economy. In the first three quarters of this year, the added value of high-tech manufacturing above designated size and investment in high-tech industries increased by 9.1% and 10% respectively year-on-year.

The output of green industries, represented by the "new three" items like electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and photovoltaic products maintained double-digit growth. These indicate that the quality of China's economy has been steadily improved.

Unprecedented Stimulus

Secondly, China is confident of realizing 2024 targets. Recently, the Chinese government has launched a new stimulus package whose breadth, depth and intensity are unprecedented in its history. On the one hand, concrete



measures are introduced to boost stock market, real estate market, and support small and medium-sized enterprises. It will be helpful to stimulate consumption, improve people's livelihood and promote residents' asset status. On the other hand, market barriers are to be reduced. The burdens on enterprises and local governments will also be relaxed. As a result, data of retail sales, industrial production and fixed asset investment has achieved moderate improvement in September. During the National holiday, China recorded 765 million domestic tourist trips, and new home transactions doubled year-on-year. Brokerages such as JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and Nomura have raised China GDP growth estimates for 2024.

Last but not least, China is by no means a "risk". Instead, the Chinese economy is still the primary engine of global growth, contributing more than 30% to the world economy. Decoupling from China would mean decoupling from opportunities, from the future and in a sense, even from the world. In fact, international investors have already voted with their feet. In first half of this year, 26,870 new foreign-invested companies were set up in China, up by 14.2%.

Foreign investment in actual use reached nearly 500 billion yuan (\$69.8 billion), a relatively high level over the past decade. Tesla is building another factory in Shanghai, and it took only a month to negotiate and conclude the deal. Apple has established R&D centers in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Suzhou, and doubled the number of its R&D staff in China over the past five years. China's visa-free policies have attracted a good number of foreign travelers. I am glad to see some Indian vloggers tasting Chinese delicacies, visiting night market and riding the high-speed rail. They have presented an open, safe, vibrant and friendly China through their lenses.

Last week, President Xi Jinping met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the margins of the BRICS Summit held in Kazan Russia, reached important common understandings on improving and developing

China-India relations, and set the course to steer bilateral relations back on the path of steady development. President Xi pointed out that as time-honored civilizations, large developing countries and important members of the Global South, China and India both stand at a crucial phase of their respective modernization endeavors. The two sides should strengthen communication and cooperation, enhance strategic mutual trust, and facilitate each other's pursuit of development aspirations. Prime Minister Modi noted that maintaining the steady growth of India-China relations not only concerns the well-being and future of 2.8 billion people, but also carries great significance for peace and stability of the region and even the world at large.

Development is now the biggest shared goal of China and India. China has put forward the goal to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects through the middle of this century. India also has the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047". The contribution to each other's success between China and India will create huge development dividends and strategic opportunities! I firmly believe that under the guidance of our leaders, China and India have enough wisdom and



Chinese Embassy Celebrates 75th Anniversary of Founding of People's Republic of China

Speaking at a reception organised by the Chinese embassy to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic of China on September 24, 2024, China's Ambassador to India Xu Feihong highlighted China's modernization achievements and stressed on strengthening China-India relations, based on principles of "Five Mutuals."

On September 24, 2024, the Chinese Embassy in India held a reception to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Mr. Gourangal Das, Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of Ministry of External Affairs of India together with representatives from Indian

government, political parties, enterprises, think tanks, media, diplomatic missions as well as Chinese enterprises, overseas Chinese and Chinese students attended the reception.

Ambassador Xu Feihong pointed out that, over the past 75 years, the Chinese people have been pursuing progress, forging ahead with determination on reforms, and striving





for modernization. Facts have proven that the Chinese path to modernization is correct. It not only works and works well, but also has an even broader and brighter prospect. Though China has made remarkable development achievements, it will always be a member of the Global South and the developing world. China will adhere to the path of peaceful development, make important contributions to world peace, security, prosperity and progress.

Ambassador Xu Feihong said: "I was honored to be appointed as the Chinese Ambassador to India on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China." Listening to the insightful views of Indian friends on the development of China-India relations over the past four months, I was deeply impressed by the solid foundation of China-India friendship. Since the beginning of this year, China-India relations have enjoyed the momentum of improvement and development. China is willing to work with the Indian side to advance bilateral relations on a healthy and stable track, in accordance with the principle of mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual trust, mutual accommodation and mutual accomplishment.

Listening to the insightful views of Indian friends on the development of China-India relations over the past four months, I was deeply impressed by the solid foundation of China-India friendship.

A video celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China was displayed at the reception. A tea culture booth themed "Tea for Harmony Yaji Cultural Salon" was held, and the embassy's journal "China-India Review" was presented to the guests.

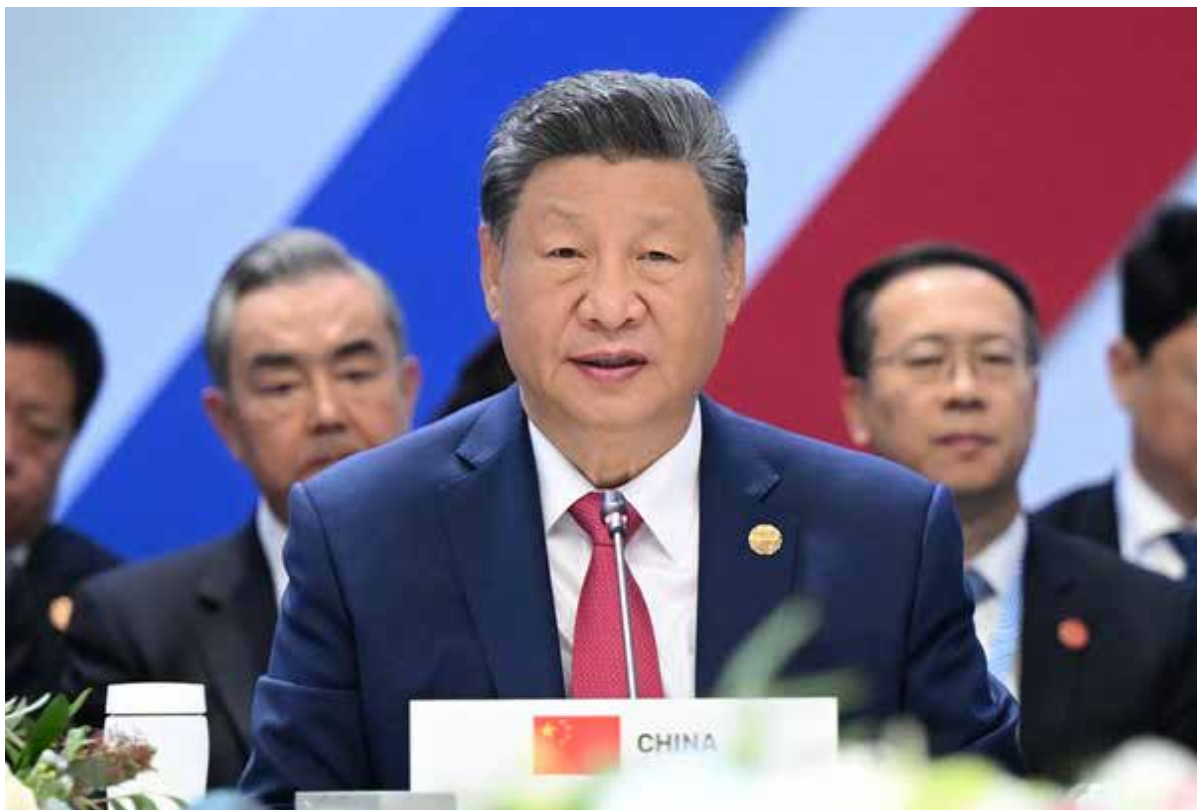
The reception was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The guests spoke highly of China's achievements over the past 75 years and expressed willingness to contribute to sound and stable development of India-China relations.

**QR code of full text of Remarks
by Ambassador Xu Feihong at the
Reception to Celebrate the 75th
Anniversary of the Founding of the
People's Republic of China**



Xi Jinping Attends the 16th BRICS Summit and Delivers an Important Speech

Termining the enlargement of BRICS as “a major milestone in its history,” Chinese President Xi Jinping, in his address at the 16th BRICS summit in Kazan on October 23, 2024, underlined the role of the organization in promoting peace, innovation and green development.



On the morning of October 23, 2024, the 16th BRICS Summit was held at the Kazan Expo International Exhibition Centre. Russian President Vladimir Putin chaired the event. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

(online), Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and President of the United Arab Emirates

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, among others, were present. Xi Jinping welcomed new members to join the BRICS family and invited several countries to be BRICS partner countries. Xi Jinping pointed out that the enlargement of BRICS is a major milestone in its history, and a landmark event in the evolution of the international situation. He said, "It is for our shared pursuit and for the overarching trend of peace and development that we BRICS countries have come together." Currently, the world is experiencing an accelerated evolution of changes unseen in a century, featuring both a new multipolar landscape and the risks of a "new Cold War". BRICS countries should seize the historical opportunity, demonstrate historical initiative, and remain committed to the original aspiration and mission of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation. BRICS countries should conform to the general trend of the rise of the Global South, seek common ground while reserving differences, and work with one heart and one mind to further consolidate the shared values, safeguard common interests, and strengthen BRICS through unity. BRICS countries must work together to build BRICS into a primary channel for strengthening solidarity and cooperation among Global South nations and a vanguard for advancing global governance reform.

Xi Jinping stressed that as the world becomes more turbulent, it is even more important to uphold the banner of peace, development, cooperation and win-win outcomes, refine the essence of BRICS and demonstrate its strength. BRICS countries should voice their commitment to peace, advocate a new type of security that features dialogue over confrontation and partnerships over alliances. They should seek a shared path to development, promote inclusive economic diversification and adhere to the principle of common development. They should consolidate the foundation of cooperation, deepen collaboration in traditional fields such as agriculture, energy, minerals, economy and trade, expand cooperation in emerging areas like green low-carbon technologies and artificial intelligence, and ensure the safety of

trade, investment, and finance. Subsequently, Xi Jinping attended a large-group meeting where he expressed important views on the future development of BRICS and put forward five suggestions.

Xi Jinping stressed that as the world enters a new period defined by turbulence and transformation, we are confronted with pivotal choices that will shape our future. Should we allow the world to descend into the abyss of disorder and chaos, or should we strive to steer it back on the path of peace and development? The more tumultuous our times become, the more we must stand firm at the forefront, exhibiting tenacity, demonstrating the audacity to pioneer and displaying the wisdom to adapt, as we jointly compose a new chapter in the high-quality development for greater BRICS cooperation.

Xi Jinping pointed out that the enlargement of BRICS is a major milestone in its history, and a landmark event in the evolution of the international situation. He said, "It is for our shared pursuit and for the overarching trend of peace and development that we BRICS countries have come together."

- We should build a BRICS committed to peace, and we must all act as defenders of common security. Only by embracing the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security can we pave the way for universal security. We must uphold the three key principles: no expansion of the battlefields, no escalation of hostilities, and no fanning flames, and strive for swift deescalation of the Ukraine crisis. We must promote an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and make unremitting efforts toward a comprehensive, just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian question.

- We should build a BRICS committed to innovation, and we must all act as pioneers of high-quality development. We should keep pace with the times in the latest round



of technological revolution and industrial transformation and foster new quality productive forces. China has recently launched a China-BRICS Artificial Intelligence Development and Cooperation Center, and will establish a BRICS Deep-Sea Resources International Research Center, a China Center for Cooperation on Development of Special Economic Zones in BRICS Countries, a China Center for BRICS Industrial Competencies, and a BRICS Digital Ecosystem Cooperation Network. China welcomes active participation from all interested parties.

- We should build a BRICS committed to green development, and we must all act as promoters of sustainable development. China's high-quality production capacity, as exemplified by its manufacturing of electric vehicles, lithium batteries and photovoltaic products, provides a significant boost to global green development. China is willing to expand cooperation with BRICS countries in green industries, clean energy and green mining, and promote green development through the entire industrial chain, so as to increase the "green quotient" of our cooperation and upgrade the quality of our development.

- We should build a BRICS committed to justice, and we must all act as forerunners in reforming global governance. The

international power dynamics are undergoing profound changes, but global governance reform has lagged behind for a long time. We should champion true multilateralism and adhere to the vision of global governance characterized by extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. We must ensure that global governance reform is guided by the principles of fairness, justice, openness and inclusiveness, and enhance the representation and voice of developing nations in global governance. We should promote the connectivity of financial infrastructure, and apply high standards of financial security. The New Development Bank should be expanded and strengthened. We must ensure that the international financial system more effectively reflects the changes in the global economic landscape.

- We should build a BRICS committed to closer people-to-people exchanges, and we must all act as advocates for harmonious coexistence among all civilizations. We should enhance the exchange of governance experiences among BRICS countries, and promote the spirit of inclusiveness and harmonious coexistence among civilizations. The initiative for BRICS digital education cooperation proposed by China has become a reality. China will implement a capacity-

building program for BRICS digital education. We will open 10 learning centers in BRICS countries in the next five years, and provide training opportunities for 1,000 local education administrators, teachers and students. Xi Jinping finally stressed that China is willing to work with all BRICS countries to open a new horizon in the high-quality development of greater BRICS cooperation, and join hands in building a community with a shared future for mankind. Under the theme of “Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security”, the participating leaders had an in-depth exchange of views on BRICS cooperation and major international issues of common interest.

The leaders expressed positive views on the development of BRICS mechanism and its important role in addressing global challenges. They noted that BRICS countries, with their large population, abundant resources, huge development potential, and increasing appeal and international influence, have become a model of multilateralism. BRICS countries should uphold the BRICS spirit, strengthen solidarity and coordination, deepen the greater BRICS strategic partnership, and enhance cooperation in the three main drivers, i.e. politics and security, economy, trade and finance and cultural and people-to-people exchanges. They should promote an equal and orderly multipolar world, a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and sustainable development of the world, further enhance the voice and representation of the Global South in international affairs, and work towards the building of a more just and equitable international order. BRICS countries should firmly safeguard multilateralism, uphold the core role of the United Nations in the international system, and support the United Nations in playing an important role in global governance, such as artificial intelligence. BRICS countries are committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and consultation, support all efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of crisis,



and respect the legitimate security concerns of all nations. BRICS countries should promote reform of the existing international economic and financial architecture and build the New Development Bank into a new type of multilateral development bank in the 21st century. They commended the UN General Assembly for adopting relevant resolutions on the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations proposed by China, calling for respect for the diversity of world civilizations and strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations. The Kazan Declaration of the 16th BRICS Summit was issued and the establishment of BRICS partner countries was announced at the summit.

**QR code of full text of Statement
by President Xi Jinping at the XVI
BRICS Summit**



**QR code of full text of Remarks by
President Xi Jinping at the “BRICS
Plus” Dialogue**



Xi Jinping at APEC Meeting: Shouldering Responsibility to Our Times and Jointly Development

Addressing the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima on November 16, 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping outlined three proposals for building “an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future, and starting a new era in Asia-Pacific development”.



On the morning of November 16, 2024, the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting was held at the Lima Convention Center in Peru. President Xi Jinping attended the meeting and delivered important remarks entitled "Shouldering Responsibility to Our Times And Jointly Promoting Asia-Pacific Development".

In his remarks, Xi Jinping pointed out that over the decades, APEC has been instrumental in leading Asia and the Pacific to great success in development, prosperity and connectivity, making the region the most dynamic economy and primary engine of global economic growth. The world today is gripped by accelerating transformation unseen in a century, and Asia-Pacific cooperation is confronted with challenges such as rising tendencies of geopolitics, unilateralism and protectionism. At this historic crossroads, Asia-Pacific countries must act in solidarity and cooperation to meet the challenges, build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future, and start a new era in Asia-Pacific development.

Xi Jinping put forward three proposals.

First, Asia-Pacific countries need to build an open and interconnected paradigm for Asia-Pacific cooperation. Countries of the Asia-Pacific region should stay committed to committed to multilateralism and an open economy, firmly uphold the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, advance regional economic integration and connectivity, and uphold stable and smooth industrial and supply chains. "Today, we will adopt a new document to guide this process. I believe that this will give new impetus to our efforts toward an open Asia-Pacific economy." China always promotes reform through opening up, voluntarily subscribes to high-standard international economic and trade rules, and adopts proactive measures for further opening up. Together with the relevant parties, China will seek to discuss trade agreements in digital and green areas, and steadily expand the globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas.



Second, the Asia-Pacific countries need to make green innovation a catalyst for the Asia-Pacific. Asia-Pacific countries need to seize the opportunities presented by the new round of sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in artificial intelligence, quantum information, life and health, and other frontier areas. Asia-Pacific countries need to foster an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory ecosystem for innovation, and promote a leapfrog development of productive forces across the region. Asia-Pacific countries should prioritize ecological protection, promote resources conservation and their efficient use as well as green and low-carbon development, and push forward coordinated digital and green transformation and development to create new momentum and new drivers for Asia-Pacific development. China is developing new quality productive forces in light of actual conditions and deepening cooperation with interested parties on green innovation. China will launch a Global Cross-Border Data Flow Cooperation Initiative, and work with other parties to promote efficient, convenient and secure cross-border data flows, with a view



to contributing to high-quality development of the Asia-Pacific.

China will host APEC 2026. China looks forward to working with all parties to deepen Asia-Pacific cooperation to the benefit of the peoples in the region.

Third, Asia-Pacific countries need to uphold a universally beneficial and inclusive vision for Asia-Pacific development. Asia-Pacific countries should strengthen economic and technical cooperation, increase support for developing economies and disadvantaged groups, and work together to grow the pie and distribute it equitably to allow more economies and people to benefit from development. China will advance initiatives through the APEC platform on increasing residents' income and promoting the industrial cluster development of small-and-medium-sized enterprises, for the purpose of bringing about universally beneficial and inclusive development of Asia-Pacific economies. China will host APEC 2026. China looks forward to working with all parties to deepen Asia-Pacific cooperation to the benefit of the peoples in the region.

Xi Jinping emphasized that reform and opening up is a historic process in which China and the world achieve development and progress together. At the third plenum of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party

of China, more than 300 consequential reform measures were unveiled, laying out systematic plans pertaining to building a high-standard socialist market economy, advancing high-quality economic development, promoting high-standard opening up, improving the people's quality of life, and building a beautiful country. China's further development will provide new opportunities for the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large. China welcomes all parties to continue riding the "express train" of its development to contribute to the modernization of all countries featuring peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity.

Themed "Empower, Include, Grow", the meeting was chaired by Peruvian President Dina Boluarte. The meeting issued three outcome documents, namely, 2024 APEC Leaders' Machu Picchu Declaration, Ichma Statement on A New Look at the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific Agenda, and Lima Roadmap to Promote the Transition to the Formal and Global Economies.

QR code of full text of Remarks by President Xi Jinping at the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

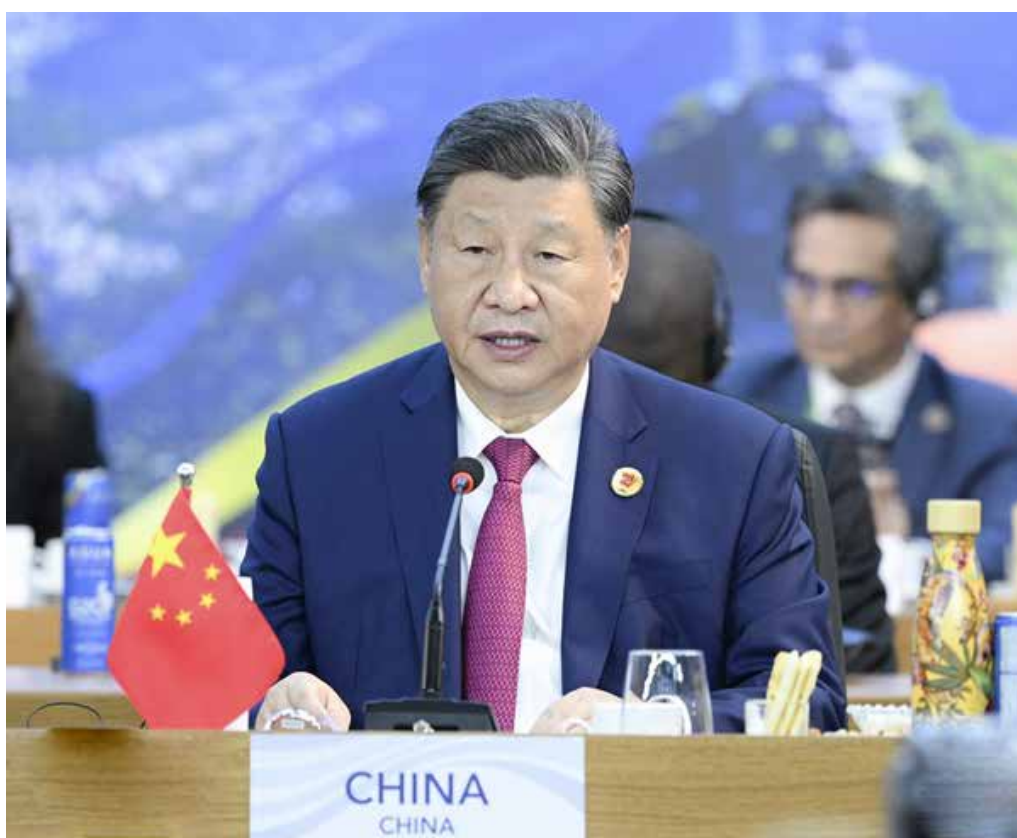


QR code of full text of Written Speech by President Xi Jinping at the APEC CEO Summit



Xi at G20 Summit: Building a Just World of Common Development

In his remarks at the first session of the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 19, 2024, President Xi Jinping highlighted China's success in poverty eradication and stressed that China will be a reliable long-term partner of countries of the Global South.



During discussions on “fight against hunger and poverty” at the first session of the summit, President Xi Jinping delivered important remarks entitled “Building a Just World of Common Development.” President Xi Jinping pointed out that transformation of a scale not seen in a century

is accelerating across the world today, and humanity faces unprecedented opportunities and challenges. As leaders of major countries, G20 leaders should not let their vision be blocked by fleeting clouds. Rather, they must see the world as one community with a shared future, and shoulder their responsibility for



history, take historical initiative and move history forward. At the Hangzhou Summit, China placed development at the center of the G20's macroeconomic policy coordination for the first time. The Rio Summit this year has chosen the theme "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet," and decides to establish a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. From Hangzhou to Rio, G20 leaders have been working for one and the same goal, that is, to build a just world of common development.

To build such a world, it is important to channel more resources to such fields as trade, investment and development cooperation, and strengthen development institutions. There should be more bridges of cooperation, and less "small yard, high fences," so that more and more developing countries will be better off and achieve modernization. It is important to support developing countries in adopting sustainable production and lifestyle, properly responding to challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution, enhancing ecological conservation, and achieving harmony between man and nature. It is important to foster an

open, inclusive and nondiscriminatory environment for international economic cooperation, promote a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, energize sustainable development with new technologies, new industries and new business forms, and support developing countries in better integrating in digital, smart and green development to bridge the North-South gap. It is important to stay committed to multilateralism, and uphold the U.N.-centered international system, the international order underpinned by international law and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter.

President Xi Jinping underscored that China's development is an important part of the common development of the world. China has lifted 800 million people out of poverty, and met the poverty reduction target of the U.N.'s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ahead of schedule. These achievements are the fruit of the strenuous, unified efforts of the Chinese government and people. China always places the people front and center,

and solemnly declares that “not a single poor region or person should be left behind.” China tackles poverty by making targeted policies, facilitating growth, fostering industries with distinctive features in various localities, and promoting common prosperity. China’s story is proof that developing countries can eliminate poverty, that a weaker bird can start early and fly high, when there is the endurance, perseverance, and striving spirit that enables water drops to penetrate rocks over time and turns blueprints into reality. If China can make it, other developing countries can make it too. This is what China’s battle against poverty says to the world. President Xi Jinping stressed that China will always be a member of the Global South, a reliable long-term partner of fellow developing countries, and a doer and go-getter working for the cause of global development. China will go hand in hand with fellow developing countries toward modernization. President Xi Jinping presented eight actions by China to support global development.

First, pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. China is moving ahead with the development of the multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network, one that is led by the building of a green Silk Road and will empower a digital Silk Road.

Second, implementing Global Development Initiative. China will make sure the Global South research center that is being built is fit for purpose, continue to support developing countries, and deepen practical cooperation in areas such as poverty reduction, food security and the digital economy.

Third, supporting development in Africa. At the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing, China unveiled ten partnership actions on joining hands with Africa to advance modernization over the next three years and committed financial support in this connection.

Fourth, supporting global cooperation on poverty reduction and food security. China has decided to join the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. China supports the G20 in continuing to convene the Development

Ministerial Meeting, and will stay a committed host of the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste.

Fifth, China, alongside Brazil, South Africa and the African Union, is proposing an Initiative on International Cooperation in Open Science to help the Global South gain better access to global advances in science, technology and innovation.

Sixth, supporting the G20 in carrying out practical cooperation for the benefit of the Global South. China supports the work of the Entrepreneurship Research Center on G20 Economies based in Beijing, and supports cooperation on digital education and the digitization of museums and ancient archives.

Seventh, implementing the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan. China is strengthening cooperation with fellow developing countries in fugitive repatriation and asset recovery, denial of safe haven, and anti-corruption capacity building.

Eighth, China is pursuing high-standard opening up, and unilaterally opening its doors wider to the least developed countries (LDCs). China has announced the decision to give all LDCs having diplomatic relations with China zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines.

In conclusion, President Xi Jinping stated that a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. China is ready to take steps together with all parties to build a just world of common development, leave poverty in the past, and turn vision into reality.

QR code of full text of Remarks by President Xi Jinping on Fight Against Hunger and Poverty. At Session I of the 19th G20 Summit



QR code of full text of Remarks by President Xi Jinping on Reform of the Institutions of Global Governance at Session II of the 19th G20 Summit



Xi Meets Leaders of Major International Economic Organizations

In a meeting with the leaders of major international economic organizations in Beijing on December 10, 2024, President Xi Jinping called for urgent reform of global economic governance system to make it more just and equitable, with greater representation and voice of Global South countries.

On the morning of December 10, President Xi Jinping had a collective meeting with the leaders of major international economic organizations at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

President Xi posed for a group photo with the participating leaders at the beginning of the meeting, and thanked the leaders for their long-time support for China's modernization.

President Xi pointed out that with the acceleration of unprecedented global transformation, the world has entered a new period of turbulence and change, and once again come to a critical crossroads. Humanity is a closely entwined community with a shared future. Countries are not riding separately in some 190 small boats, but are rather all in a giant ship on which their shared destiny hinges. As



such, they should see each other's development as opportunities rather than challenges, and treat each other as partners rather than rivals. Global solidarity, cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win should become the defining theme of the times. China is ready to work with the major international economic organizations to practice multilateralism, promote international cooperation, and support the development of Global South countries, so as to advance an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and build a just world of common development.

President of the New Development Bank Dilma Rousseff, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, President of the World Bank Group Ajay Banga, and Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala gave remarks on behalf of the participating international economic organizations. They applauded China's achievements in economic development, expressed optimism about China's development prospect, and thanked China for its long-standing support for the work of international economic organizations. They noted that China's development achievements are recognized by the world. In particular, it has created a human miracle in poverty reduction, and become a global leader in new quality productive forces. This fully proves that the people-centered development philosophy adopted by the Chinese government is both successful and viable, and provides important inspirations for the rest of the world. China has been a crucial engine and anchor of global growth and a staunch defender of multilateralism.

China's endeavor to further deepen reform comprehensively, expand opening up and pursue high-quality development brings enormous opportunities to the world, especially Global South countries. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the three global initiatives put forth by President Xi Jinping speak volumes about China's sense of responsibility as a major country, and provide important platforms for

Global South countries to get on board the fast train of China's development in pursuit of their own development. The world economy is facing many difficulties and challenges, and unilateralism and protectionism are clearly on the rise. Countries across the world are looking to China, with the hope and confidence that China will continue to function as the most important engine of global growth. The major international economic organizations are ready to work closely with China to uphold multilateralism, protect free trade and economic globalization, and make greater contributions to the common development and prosperity of the world, so as to create a brighter shared future for humanity.

President Xi listened attentively to the remarks of participating leaders, and responded on subjects of their interest, including the world economy, the Chinese economy, and global economic governance.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the three global initiatives put forth by President Xi Jinping speak volumes about China's sense of responsibility as a major country, and provide important platforms for Global South countries to get on board the fast train of China's development in pursuit of their own development.

President Xi underscored that how to bring the world economy onto a path of strong and sustainable growth is a major question for the international community. As each economy faces its own set of challenges, it is imperative to build an open world economy through cooperation, drive development through innovation, seize the important opportunities of the digital economy, artificial intelligence and low-carbon technology, foster new sources of economic growth, and support the cross-border flow of knowledge, technology and talent. Building "small yard with high fences," decoupling and disrupting supply chains bring harm to others without benefiting oneself.

China always believes that the world does well when China does well; and when the world does well, China will do even better. For countries, economic interdependence should be seen as a good thing that enables all to draw on each other's strengths for mutual benefit and win-win results. It should not be taken as a risk.

President Xi briefed the leaders on the Third Plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee, in particular the host of important measures recently introduced by China. He noted that after more than four decades of rapid growth, the Chinese economy has entered a stage of high-quality development and its contribution to global growth remains above 30 percent. China has full confidence in meeting this year's growth target and continuing to serve as the biggest engine of world economic growth. China's development is open and inclusive. China will continue to expand opening up, take the initiative to align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, foster a first-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based and internationalized, put in place new systems for a higher-standard open economy, provide more opportunities for the development of other countries, and share more development benefits with the world.

President Xi presented the good progress of the BRI since its inception more than 10 years ago, and stressed that as a doer and go-getter, China has been hammering away at advancing Belt and Road cooperation and building bridges for common development of China and the world. China welcomes international economic organizations to continue their active participation in BRI cooperation, and jointly promote the modernization of all countries featuring peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity.

On global economic governance, President Xi stressed that it would be impossible to promote global growth without effective and proactive global economic governance. International economic organizations need to

On global economic governance, President Xi stressed that it would be impossible to promote global growth without effective and proactive global economic governance. International economic organizations need to keep abreast with the changing circumstances, and respond to the call of the times and the aspirations of the world's people.

keep abreast with the changing circumstances, and respond to the call of the times and the aspirations of the world's people. They need to actively engage in and push for reforms of the global economic governance system to make it more just and equitable and reflective of the changing world economic landscape, with greater representation and voice of Global South countries. Some consensus has been reached in this regard between various parties, and what is key now is to turn vision into reality. No matter how the reform of global economic governance is carried forward, it must adhere to the principle of extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit, uphold true multilateralism, and ensure equal rights, equal opportunities and equal rules for all countries.

President Xi elaborated on China's consistent, principled position on China-U.S. relations. He underscored that China is willing to maintain dialogue, expand cooperation and manage differences with the U.S. government and work for steady, sound and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations, and hopes that the U.S. will work with China in the same direction. Tariff war, trade war and tech war are against the trend of history and laws of economics, and they produce no winners. China will stay focused on managing its own affairs well, and resolutely safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests. At the same time, China's determination to advance high-level opening up will not change.

Wang Yi Addresses the Symposium on the International Situation and China's Foreign Relations in 2024



On December 17, 2024, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the opening ceremony of the Symposium on the International Situation and China's Foreign Relations in 2024 in Beijing and delivered a keynote speech entitled "Riding the Trend of the Times with a Strong Sense of Responsibility".

Wang Yi said, In 2024, the world witnessed further transformation and instability, marked by protracted and intensified geopolitical

conflicts, repeated attempts to decouple and sever supply chains, and the rapid rise of the Global South. It has become all the more clear where the once-in-a-century transformations are heading.

In 2024, China acted on the blueprint drawn up at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and made big strides in deepening reform comprehensively. Marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of New China, China carried forward its great cause of national development and pressed ahead with Chinese modernization with vigor and determination.

In 2024, facing a critical juncture in history, we upheld fundamental principles while breaking new ground in diplomacy; and we responded to a fast-changing landscape with composure and confidence. Our diplomatic efforts have helped foster a favorable external environment for China's high-quality development and provided much-needed stability to a turbulent world.

**QR code of full text of Address by
H.E. Wang Yi at the Symposium
on the International Situation and
China's Foreign Relations**



President Xi, PM Modi meet in Kazan, Focus on Enhancing Strategic Trust

In their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan on October 23, 2024, China's President Xi Jinping and India's Prime Minister Narendra discussed ways to improve bilateral relations and strengthen trust and communication between the two countries.

On October 23, 2024, President Xi Jinping met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the margins of the BRICS Summit held in Kazan, Russia. President Xi pointed out that as time-honored civilizations, large developing countries and important members of the Global South, China and India both stand at a crucial phase of their respective modernization endeavors. It is in the fundamental interest of our two countries and two peoples to keep to the trend of history and the right direction of bilateral relations. The two sides should strengthen communication and cooperation, enhance strategic mutual trust, and facilitate each other's pursuit of development aspirations. The two countries must also shoulder their international responsibility, set an example in boosting the strength and unity of developing countries, and contribute to promoting a multipolar world and greater democracy in international relations.

President Xi stressed that China-India relations are essentially a question of how the two large developing countries and neighbors, each with a 1.4-billion-strong population, treat each other. Development is now the biggest shared goal of China and India. The two sides should continue



to uphold their important understandings, including that China and India are each other's development opportunity rather than threat, and cooperation partner rather than competitor. They should maintain a sound strategic perception of each other, and work together to find the right and bright path for big, neighboring countries to live in harmony and develop side by side.

Prime Minister Modi noted that maintaining the steady growth of India-China relations is critical to the two countries and peoples. It not only concerns the well-being and future of 2.8 billion people, but also carries great significance for peace and stability of the region and even the world at large. Against a complex international landscape, cooperation between India and China, two ancient civilizations and engines of economic growth, can help drive economic recovery and

promote multipolarity in the world. India is willing to strengthen strategic communication, enhance strategic mutual trust, and expand mutually beneficial cooperation with China. It will give every support for China's Shanghai Cooperation Organization presidency and strengthen communication and cooperation with China in BRICS and other multilateral frameworks.

India is willing to strengthen strategic communication, enhance strategic mutual trust, and expand mutually beneficial cooperation with China. It will give every support for China's Shanghai Cooperation Organization presidency and strengthen communication and cooperation with China in BRICS and other multilateral frameworks.



The two leaders commended the important progress the two sides had recently made through intensive communication on resolving the relevant issues in the border areas. Prime Minister Modi made suggestions on improving and developing the relationship, which President Xi agreed to in principle.

The two sides agreed to make good use of the Special Representatives mechanism on the China-India boundary question, ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas, and find a fair and reasonable settlement. The two sides agreed on holding talks between their foreign ministers and officials at various levels to bring the relationship back to sound and steady development at an early date. The two sides agreed to strengthen communication and cooperation in multilateral fora to safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

The two sides were of the view that this meeting is constructive and carries great significance. They agreed to view and handle China-India relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, prevent specific disagreements from affecting the overall relationship, and contribute to maintaining regional and global peace and prosperity and to advancing multipolarity in the world.

Chinese, Indian FMs Meet in Rio, Agree on Practical Steps to Boost Ties

The meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Rio de Janeiro on November 18, 2024 focused on implementing the Kazan consensus and taking concrete steps such as resuming direct flights to normalise relations between the two neighbouring countries.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar held talks on improving bilateral relations in Rio de Janeiro on November 18, 2024. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that the successful meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kazan not long ago and the restart of China-India relations are

in line with the fundamental interests of the two peoples, the expectations of Global South countries and the right direction of history.

The two sides should implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, respect each other's core interests, enhance mutual trust through dialogue and communication, handle differences properly with sincerity and integrity, and bring the bilateral relationship back on the track of stable and sound development at an early date, Wang said.

The two sides should send more positive signals and engage in actions that facilitate bilateral exchanges, enhance mutual trust and reduce suspicion, and carry out more cooperation and reduce attrition, Wang said. The two sides should strive to make practical progress in such issues as resuming direct flights, exchanging journalists and easing visa procedures as soon as possible, he said.

China-India@75

Noting that 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and India, Wang said the two sides should plan commemorative activities, and encourage exchanges and visits in various fields and at different levels to enhance understanding and mutual trust.



Wang said China and India, as two neighboring major developing countries, have more common interests than differences, and they should view each other's development as an opportunity and work together to achieve common development and rejuvenation, which will help safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries and contribute to global multipolarity.

Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation

Both China and India adhere to a non-aligned foreign policy and multilateralism, and support the democratization of international relations, Wang said, adding that the two countries should continue to strengthen coordination and cooperation in international affairs and further develop mechanisms such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

For his part, Jaishankar said during the BRICS Summit in Kazan, leaders of both countries reached a consensus on promoting the stable development of India-China relations, and expressed satisfaction with the progress made to implement the leaders' consensus.

India hopes to restart relevant dialogue mechanisms swiftly and maintain the

The Indian side is willing to take the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries next year as an opportunity to push forward India-China relations, he noted.

momentum for improving and developing bilateral relations through strengthened communication, Jaishankar said.

The consensus between India and China far outweighs the differences. Both sides should view bilateral relations from a strategic perspective, properly handle relevant issues with a more positive attitude, and not let specific disagreement dominate bilateral ties, he added.

The Indian side is willing to take the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries next year as an opportunity to push forward India-China relations, he noted.

As key players in international affairs, both countries demonstrate the potential for cooperation, Jaishankar said, adding India opposes unilateralism, rejects military alliances, supports the democratization of international relations and is ready to strengthen coordination and cooperation with China within multilateral platforms like the G20 and BRICS.

23rd SR Meeting Reaches Six Points of Consensus for Border Peace and Tranquility

The 23rd meeting of Special Representatives for the China-India Boundary Question, held in Beijing on December 18, 2024, agreed on a six-point consensus to find a mutually acceptable solution and take confidence-building measures to maintain peace in border areas. Both sides agreed that the border issue should be handled appropriately to ensure that it does not affect the development of bilateral ties.

The 23rd meeting of Special Representatives for China-India Boundary Question was held on December 18, 2024 in Beijing where six points of consensus were reached. China's Special Representative on the China-India boundary question, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi held in-depth and constructive talks with India's Special Representative and National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval.

Both sides positively evaluated the resolution reached on border-related issues between the two countries and reaffirmed the need to continue implementing the agreement. They agreed that border issues should be handled appropriately in the context of the overall bilateral relationship to ensure they do not affect the development of bilateral ties. Both sides also agreed to continue taking measures to maintain peace and tranquility in

the border areas and to promote the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continuing to seek a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable package solution to the border issue in accordance with the political guiding principles agreed upon by the two countries' special representatives in 2005, and to taking active measures to advance this process. The two sides assessed the border situation and agreed to further refine the management rules for the border areas, strengthen confidence-building measures, and achieve sustainable peace and stability along the border.

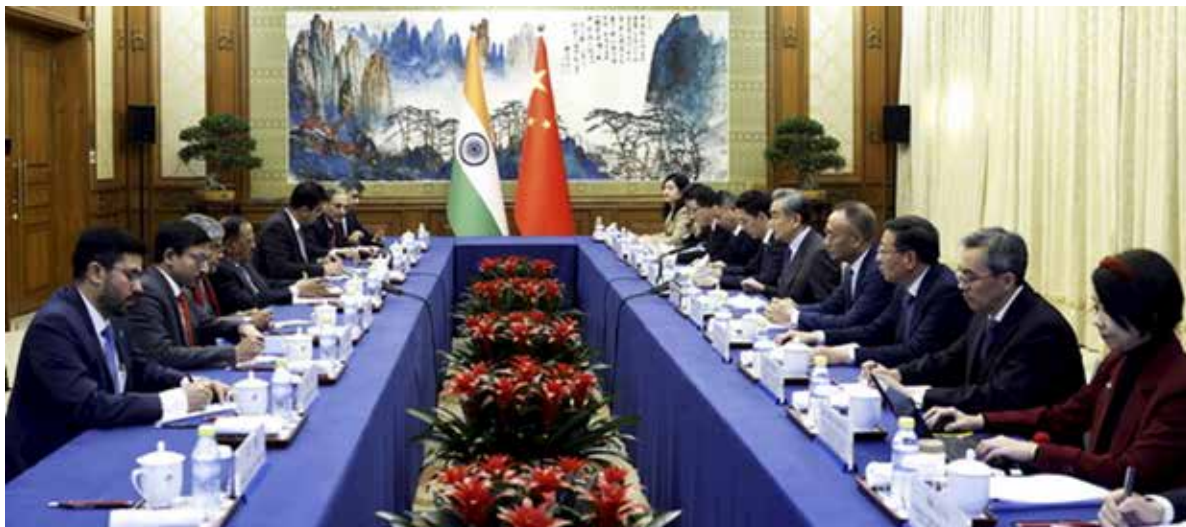
Both sides agreed to continue enhancing cross-border communication and cooperation, promoting the resumption of pilgrimages by Indian pilgrims to Xizang, cooperation on cross-border rivers, and trade at the Nathu La Pass.

Both sides agreed to further strengthen the Special Representatives meeting mechanism,

enhance coordination and cooperation in diplomatic and military negotiations, and tasked the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs (WMCC) with ensuring the follow-up implementation of this Special Representatives meeting. Both sides agreed to hold a new round of Special Representatives meeting in India next year, with the specific date to be determined through diplomatic channels.

As two major developing countries, representatives of emerging economies, and important members of the Global South, the healthy and stable development of China-India relations aligns with the fundamental interests of over 2.8 billion people in both countries and is in accordance with the historical trend of the Global South's remarkable growth, Wang Yi said in the meeting. He told Doval that the special meeting is a timely and powerful measure to implement the consensus reached



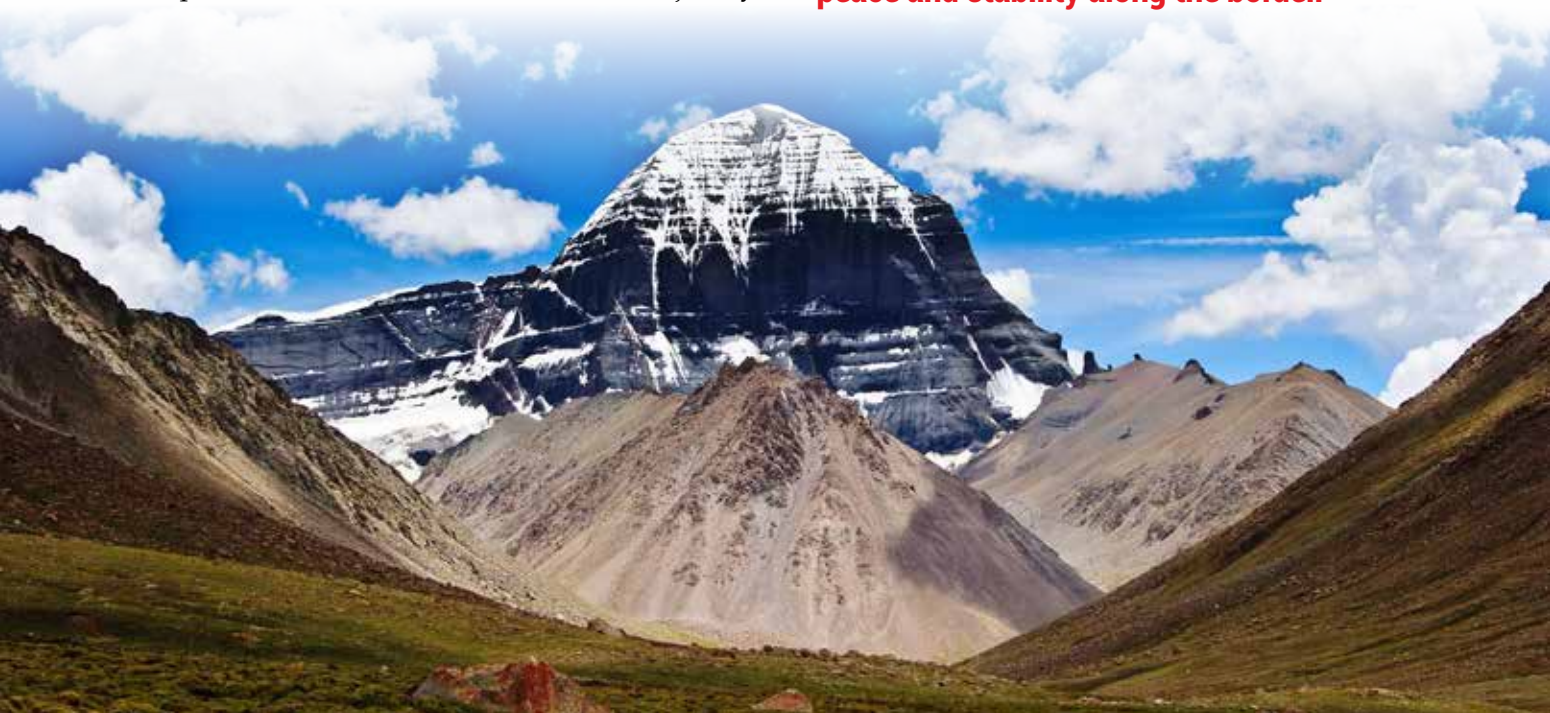


by the leaders of the two countries. It is also the first formal special meeting in five years, which is hard-won and should be cherished.

Both sides should adopt a spirit of summarizing experiences, looking to the future, and pursuing win-win cooperation, communicate openly, enhance mutual trust, build consensus, and promote cooperation, investing their valuable resources into development and revitalization. The border issue should be placed in an appropriate position within bilateral relations, jointly

maintaining peace and stability in border areas, and pushing for the early return of China-India relations to a healthy and stable development track, Wang said.

The two sides assessed the border situation and agreed to further refine the management rules for the border areas, strengthen confidence-building measures, and achieve sustainable peace and stability along the border.



Hand in Hand for a Shared Future



Ambassador Xu Feihong highlighted shared goals in modernization and called for closer economic cooperation and cultural exchanges. He exhorted both nations to view each other as partners in development as they gear up to celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and India in 2025.

BY XU FEIHONG

As President Xi emphasized in his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, China and India both stand at a crucial phase of their respective modernization endeavors, and development is now the biggest shared goal of China and India. China is advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. India has also put forward the vision of “Viksit Bharat 2047”. The two countries have broad prospects for cooperation, should contribute to each other’s success.

Closer Economic Ties

We should promote closer economic and trade ties. In the first three quarters of 2024, China’s GDP grew by 4.8%, ranking as the second-largest economy in the world. We are confident of achieving annual growth target of 5%. China is not only the world’s “big factory” but also the world’s “big market” with 400 million middle-class people. China’s overall tariff level has dropped to about 7%, close to the level of WTO developed members. In the first 11 months of 2024, China’s import volume has reached 2.3 trillion. China is India’s largest

trading partner, the bilateral trade volume reached 136.2 billion USD in 2023. Recognizing the significance of China’s enormous market, India’s high-quality products will have broad business opportunities in China. In Fiscal Year 2024, Indian chili, iron ore and cotton yarn have achieved an increase of more than 17%, 160%, and 240% in exports to China. China welcomes more Indian companies to make full use of platforms such as the China International Import Expo to export more Indian high-quality products to China.

Enhancing Business Cooperation

We should promote closer business cooperation. Chinese companies in India have invested in agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors, making important contributions to local development and exports. Many Indian companies have also invested in China. The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee proposed that all restrictions on foreign investment in the manufacturing industry be removed comprehensively, and foreign companies be encouraged to participate in Chinese upstream and downstream supply



chains. Indian companies can enhance “Make in India” by “investing in China”. At the same time, the industrial structures of China and India are highly complementary. India has a competitive edge in IT, software and biomedicine, while China is seeing rapid expansion in electronic manufacturing and emerging industries. India is in a major drive to improve infrastructure, where China has rich experience. Both companies, if connected, will produce an effect of “1+1=11”. It is hoped that India will lift its restrictions on investment and government procurement against neighboring countries to promote common development of industries and benefit the people of the two nations.

Cultural Exchanges

We should promote closer cultural exchange. Amity between the people holds the key to state-to-state relations. Relaxing visa restrictions and resuming direct flights will enhance people-to-people exchanges and bring the relationship between the two nations back to sound and steady development at an early date. In 2024, the number of Chinese outbound tourists is expected to

reach 130 million. India should not miss this opportunity. Meanwhile, Indian movies have sparked several waves of fever in China. Dangal tops Chinese box office, earning nearly 1.3 billion yuan. Recently, Tamil film Maharaja has made a record-breaking debut in China. Indian movies appeal to Chinese audiences because of similar cultural values. Humanistic care and profound feelings transcend borders. China and India can strengthen cooperation in the movie sector and promote mutual understanding between the two peoples.

2025 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India. Standing at a new starting point, we should uphold important understandings, such as China and India are each other’s development opportunity rather than threat, and cooperation partner rather than competitor, adhering to the principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual trust, mutual accommodation and mutual accomplishment. I firmly believe that we have enough wisdom and capabilities to forge a right path for two neighbouring countries to live in harmony and develop together!

An India-China Reset Needs Bold and New Thinking

Taking a long-term strategic view of China-India relations, Sudheendra Kulkarni urges the leaders of the two countries to make the right choice that will make 2025 a breakthrough year for mutually beneficial cooperation. He advocates a series of trust-building steps such as easing visas and resuming flights that will help usher in a new period of positivity in relations between Asia's two leading economies.

BY SUDHEENDRA KULKARNI

The hallmark of mature leaders is to resolve disputes peacefully and not let them escalate into conflicts. Even when a historically inherited dispute triggers a conflict, they make every effort to ensure that it is defused through dialogue and does not balloon into a bigger conflict. On this test of maturity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping have fared admirably. The military standoff between the two countries, triggered by the violent confrontation in the Galwan Valley in June 2020, has ended because of the political authority they lent to a disengagement agreement that was reached after a series of patient talks between the military and diplomatic teams of the two countries.

Shun Hostility, Pursue Cooperation

Now, the two leaders are called upon to show the same wisdom and responsibility to address a bigger challenge. Will they make a strategic determination to move India-China relations uninterrupted in the direction of comprehensive and mutually beneficial cooperation? Or will they allow the accumulated deposit of mutual distrust to drag the ties in the opposite direction of minimal cooperation and increased rivalry?

Pursuit of the second option surely has the danger of sparking future military clashes, especially since the inherited boundary dispute is still not settled. Any new clash, small or big, will wreck peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control, which is a precondition for bilateral cooperation to flourish. At a time when the world has entered an era of growing geopolitical turbulence and uncertainty, India-China hostility will add to the load of global woes. On the other hand, cooperation will not only bring immense mutual gains but also make the world a better and safer place. This is the strategic choice Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi will have to make.

Making the right choice requires bold new thinking in New Delhi and Beijing. But this is not possible unless both make an honest effort to remove mutual apprehension that one is acting against the other's core interests. Specifically, China must do three things. One, it must demonstrably convince India that it poses no threat to its national security, now or in the future – on its own or in alliance with its "all-weather friend" Pakistan. Beijing's equivocation to condemn Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir and elsewhere in India has made common Indians view China as an unfriendly nation. Second, China must not act in

a manner that makes India suspect that it seeks to contain India's rise in Asia and on the global scene. As evidence, it should forcefully advocate the inclusion of India, now the world's most populous nation, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Third, Beijing must respect India as an equal pole in a multipolar Asia and a multipolar world, knowing that India will never accept a subordinate position vis-à-vis any country in the world, including China.

On its part, India too must do three things. First, India must not be guided by the misleading notion of "power asymmetry" between the two countries, and, hence, join hands with the United States to augment its own strength (through confrontational initiatives such as the Quad) in dealing with the "China threat". The Quad (India, Japan, Australia and the U.S.) has made China think that New Delhi has joined Washington's "Contain China" strategy. Second, India must not deviate from its "One China" policy by appearing to support Taiwan's independence or to play the "Tibet" card. Third, it does not behove a great and independent nation such as India to allow the West's anti-China narratives to shape the Indian media's and academia's – hence our people's – thinking about its neighbour. In this writer's frequent visits to China, he has seen far less anti-India feelings among Chinese people than is the case vice versa. This is because Indian TV channels and newspapers (with some exceptions) indulge in constant anti-China propaganda. India's ruling party and the government do nothing to stop this. The Chinese media, even though it is controlled by the Communist Party of China, rarely does so.

There is nothing in the millennia-old history of the two civilisations that predestines India and China to become adversaries and rivals, much less enemies. Rather, the profound wisdom of their civilisations requires the world's two most populous nations in the world to serve certain higher ideals of humanity – peace, inclusive global development that prioritises eradication of poverty everywhere, democratic global governance, saving the planet from the climate

crisis, and cultural-spiritual rejuvenation of the entire human race. We should not allow cynical practitioners of "realpolitik" on both sides, who argue that idealism has no place in the conduct of diplomacy, to hijack the India-China discourse.

India-China hostility will add to the load of global woes. On the other hand, cooperation will not only bring immense mutual gains but also make the world a better and safer place. This is the strategic choice Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi will have to make.

Trust-building Ideas

Now is the time for the world's second- largest economy and soon-to-be third largest economy to become partners in domestic development. With the US under Trump 2.0 threatening to hike tariffs on Chinese imports, India's large and fast-expanding market offers a growth opportunity to China's slowing economy. Similarly, China with its formidable strengths in infrastructure modernisation, green energy, electric vehicles



and several other breakthrough technologies provides greater opportunities than any other country for the realisation of India's aspiration to become a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed nation).

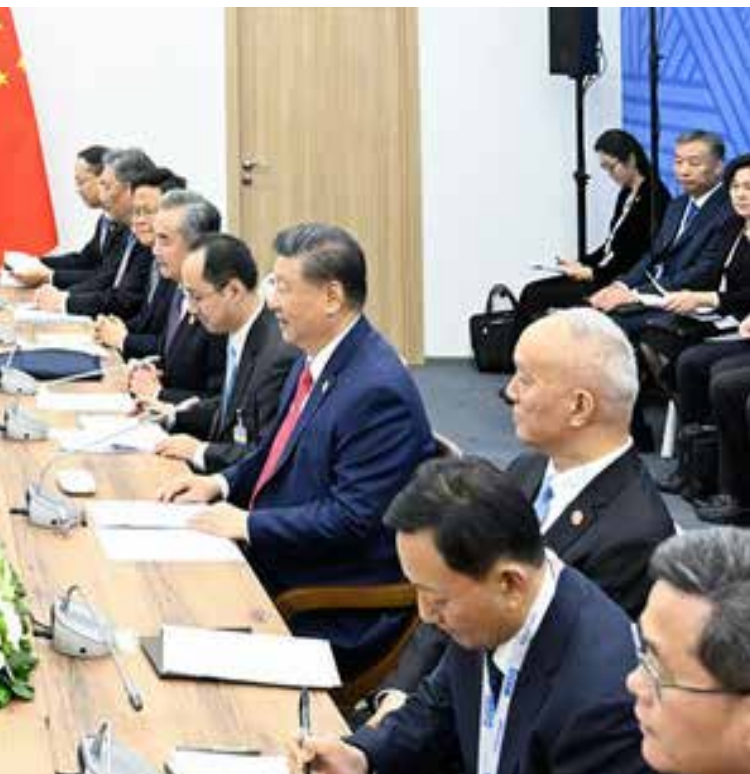
India and China are Global South countries. As such, their cooperation can greatly help other developing countries and, especially, underdeveloped countries, in Asia, Africa and Latin America. If India and China enhance convergence in their foreign policies, they can bring greater stability, predictability and fairness to global governance, which is now becoming increasingly ineffectual. For example, should not the two countries work together to end the Russia-Ukraine war and for peace in West Asia? And why not, closer home, in strife-torn areas of Myanmar? Be it Myanmar or India's own disturbed State of Manipur, a common problem is the lack of opportunities for employment and upward mobility for the youth. Hence, the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Corridor, languishing on paper for nearly two decades, can bring prosperity to India's north-eastern States, besides adding strength to India's Act East policy.

Five Low-Hanging Fruits

All these trust-building ideas are what can be called high-hanging fruits. A lot of time, hard work and careful nurturing is needed before they can be harvested. There are, however, five low-hanging fruits ready for picking. First, direct flights, suspended after the outbreak of COVID-19, must be restarted. Second, the Indian government should begin issuing visas to Chinese businesspeople, engineers, technicians, and also to scholars and tourists eager to visit India. Last year, China issued visas to over 2,00,000 Indians; in contrast, India issued less than 10,000 visas to Chinese nationals. Three, New Delhi and Beijing should reverse their decisions that led to the exit of Chinese journalists from India and Indian journalists from China. Fourth, the Indian government had banned dozens of Chinese apps, including WeChat, in the wake of the Galwan Valley clash. The ban should be lifted. Fifth, the two countries should quickly make big moves on trade and investment. China can easily reduce the huge deficit in the bilateral trade by importing more from India. As rightly suggested by India's Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, another way to manage this trade imbalance is by getting more foreign direct investment from China. Today, almost every big Indian business house is hungry for joint ventures, technology tie-ups and third-country export collaborations with Chinese companies.

Let 2025 be a breakthrough year for India-China cooperation. A telling demonstration of this could be an official visit by Mr. Xi to India or Mr. Modi's visit to China early next year.

—The author is served as a close aide to the late Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in the Prime Minister's Office. The article originally published in "The Hindu". The views expressed are personal.





Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Tagore's Visit to China

On December 13, 2024 Ambassador Xu Feihong addressed the 60th Anniversary celebration of Tagore International School (East of Kailash) in New Delhi and delivered a speech.

Ambassador Xu expressed warm congratulations to Tagore International School and all the teachers and students. He said that China and India both have a long history and splendid culture, and their exchanges and mutual understanding started from the ancient times. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Tagore's visit to

China. His visit to China and the founding of Cheena-Bhavana of Visva-Bharati University have had a profound impact on promoting cultural exchanges between China and India and enhancing the friendship between the two peoples.

Tagore International School inherited Tagore's spirit and actively participated in



educational and cultural exchanges between China and India, achieving fruitful results.

Professor Peng Liyuan, wife of President Xi Jinping, ever visited Vasant Vihar campus of the school and interacted with teachers and students, leaving behind precious memories. Tagore International School and Chinese school have continued friendly exchanges and collaboration for nearly two decades and become a “business card” for educational and cultural exchanges between China and India.

He emphasized that China has always attached great importance to educational and people-to-people exchanges with India, and is willing to create more platforms to communicate for young students of the two countries. It is hoped that Tagore International School will actively carry out China-India educational cooperation and people-people exchanges joining hands with other schools in India and make greater contributions to the promotion of friendly exchanges between the people of the two countries.

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Ms.Madhulika Sen, director of Tagore International School, Ms. Mallika Preman, principal of East of Kailash campus, Counselor Yang Xiuhua and representatives of the young diplomats from the Chinese Embassy, school principals from National Capital Region, and more than 800 teachers and students as well as their parents of the school, and people from all walks of life attended the event. More than 300 teachers and students of the school performed the large-scale musical drama “ MONARCH”, and the school anniversary celebration was grand and splendid.

Delegation of Indian Primary and Secondary School Principals Visits China

In order to promote educational and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between China and India, the delegation of Indian primary and secondary school principals successfully visited China with the assistance of China Center for International People-to-People Exchange from September 19 to 27.

The delegation toured Beijing, Chongqing and Shanghai, visiting primary and secondary schools such as Xishan School Affiliated

to Renmin University of China, Beijing Yucai School, Hongfan School Affiliated to Chongqing No. 8 Secondary School, Chongqing Tiandi Renhejie Primary School, Shanghai Jinyuan Senior High School and its Affiliated Primary School. “China-India Principals Symposium” and “Teaching Seminar” were held focusing on the themes of “Cultivating Innovative Talents”, “Scientific Education” and “Digital Education”.



Principals also observed and experienced the characteristic courses in each visiting school, and signed 11 pairs of sister-school cooperation agreements on sites all together. This trip got great support from the Education Committees of the three cities (districts) of Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing which organized 29 Chinese primary and secondary schools to participate in the exchanges.

“China-India Principals Symposium” and “Teaching Seminar” were held focusing on the themes of “Cultivating Innovative Talents”, “Scientific Education” and “Digital Education”.

The delegation also visited local cultural attractions and gained an in-depth understanding of China’s economic and social development achievements.





Delegation of Indian Scholars Meets Ambassador Xu, Share Experiences

On September 30, Chinese Ambassador to India H.E. Xu Feihong met with Indian scholars who visited China and listened to their experiences as well as thoughts. Scholars from Vivekananda International Foundation, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Jawaharlal Nehru University and other institutions visited Beijing and Yunnan upon invitation.

The scholars reviewed the fruitful trip and emphasized that the hospitality of the Chinese people and Chinese modernization are impressive. Scholars from the two countries had frank and in-depth exchanges on China-Indian relations and multilateral cooperation, which further enhanced mutual

understandings. It is hoped that the two sides could enhance exchanges and cooperation between think tanks and scholars in the future.

Ambassador Xu Feihong pointed out that China-India relations have enjoyed the momentum of improvement and development recently. A sound and stable China-India relationship will not only benefit two peoples, but also promote the development and prosperity of the region and the world. China welcomes more Indian scholars to visit China and strengthen engagement with Chinese think tanks to play a positive role in advancing the bilateral relations on a healthy and stable track.

Ambassador's Diary

On October 30, 2024
Ambassador Xu Feihong made
a speech at the Merchants'
Chamber of Commerce &
Industry (MCCI) Event.

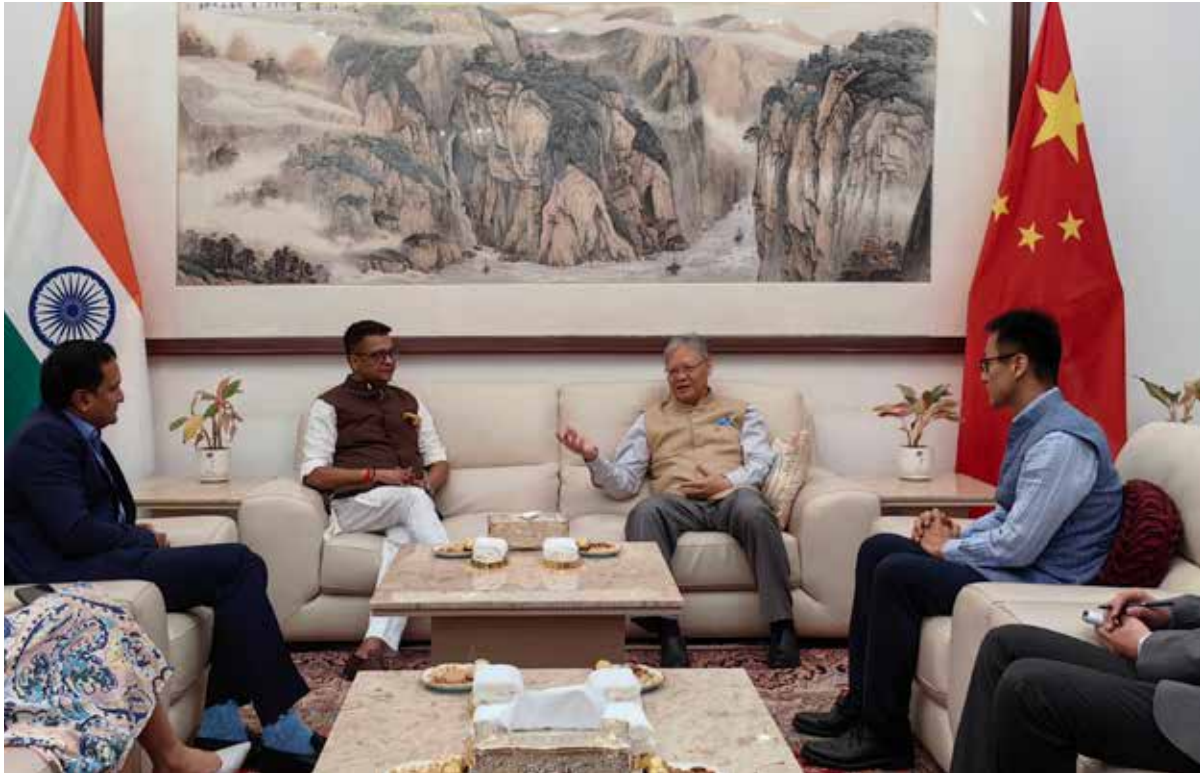




On October 8, 2024, Ambassador Xu Feihong met with Ms. Maya Tissafi, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to India.



On October 16, 2024, Ambassador Xu Feihong and his wife, Madam Tan Yuxiu, met with former Governor of Chhattisgarh Shekhar Dutt and his wife.



On 22 October 2024, Ambassador Xu Feihong met with Mr. Sameep Shastri, Vice Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



On November 5, 2024, Ambassador Xu Feihong met with Mr. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner-designate of South Africa to India.



On November 26, 2024, Ambassador Xu Feihong met with Mr. Lee Seong-ho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to India.



On December 10, 2024, Ambassador Xu Feihong met with Mr. Sanjaya Baru, former newspaper editor and chief spokesperson of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

A Glimpse of Indian Friends' Trip to China



A group photo in Shanghai, a famous historical and cultural city, as well as the largest economic and trade centre in China.



Indian journalists exchange views with experts of Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University, a leading think tank in China.



Explore an exhibition in Shen Zhen Press Group



Visit *Global Times*, China's most informative English-language newspaper

UNESCO Inscribes Spring Festival on Intangible Cultural Heritage List

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on December 4, 2024 inscribed Spring Festival, social practices of the Chinese people in celebration of the traditional new year, on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The decision was made during the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, taking place in Paraguay from Dec. 2 to 7. The committee recognized the festival for its wide array of rituals and unique cultural elements that engage all of Chinese society.

UNESCO highlighted that the Spring Festival, marking the start of the traditional Chinese Lunar New Year, involves various social practices, including prayers for good fortune and family reunions. It also features activities planned by elders and festive public events organized by communities.

According to UNESCO's documentation, the traditional knowledge and customs associated with the Spring Festival are passed down informally within families and communities, as well as formally through the education system. Craftsmanship and artistic skills related to the festival are transmitted through



apprenticeships, promoting family values, social cohesion, and peace, while providing a sense of cultural identity.

The committee also emphasized that the festival embodies the harmony between humans and nature and contributes to sustainable development in areas such as food security and education. It also plays a key role in raising environmental awareness.

China's vice minister of Culture and Tourism, Rao Quan, who led the Chinese delegation at the UNESCO session, expressed gratitude for the recognition. He stressed that the Spring Festival is China's most important traditional holiday, symbolizing the Chinese people's hopes for a better life, strong ties to family and country, and the values of harmony between humans and nature.

Rao further explained that the festival, passed down through generations, has provided lasting spiritual strength to the Chinese people. It has played a significant role in promoting family and social harmony, driving economic development, protecting the environment, and fostering global cultural exchange.



He added that the inclusion of the Spring Festival on the UNESCO list will help promote universal values of peace and harmony and highlight the important role of intangible cultural heritage in sustainable development.

With this addition, China now has 44 cultural elements or practices recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Over 80 Countries, Regions Participate in Int'l Travel Fair in Shanghai

The China International Travel Mart 2024, organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, kicked off on November 22, 2024 in Shanghai, bringing together exhibitors from over 80 countries and regions.

The three-day fair has attracted more than 1,000 international exhibitors and nearly 600 travel agencies, along with over 600 offline buyer-seller meetings, according to the organizers.

Covering an exhibition area of 53,000 square meters, the fair features diverse fields, including Chinese and international cultures and tourism, tourism-related technologies, cultural creative products, as well as tourism services.

Some overseas travel agencies are expected to take this opportunity to conduct market research on tourism routes across various Chinese provinces and cities, the organizers said.



visitor tries to blow a sugar figure at the booth of east China's Anhui Province during the China International Travel Mart 2024 in east China's Shanghai, Nov. 22, 2024.

China Visa-Free Transit Policy Boosts Tourism & Business: Experts



China introduced an update to its visa-free transit policy on December 17, 2024, extending the allowed stay for eligible foreign travelers to 240 hours, or 10 days, up from the previous 72 to 144 hours. The move, aimed at attracting more international visitors, took effect immediately, according to an announcement by the National Immigration Administration (NIA) on its official website.

The policy applies to travelers from 54 countries, including Russia, Brazil, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, who transit through China en route to a third country or region. Eligible individuals can now enter China without a visa via any of the 60 open ports across 24 provincial-level regions, provided their stay does not exceed 240 hours within the specified areas.

China has been continuously optimizing its transit visa exemption policies since July

2023. To date, the country has established comprehensive visa-free agreements with 26 nations, unilaterally exempted visas for travelers from 38 countries, including France and Germany, and implemented transit visa exemptions for 54 countries. Additionally, China has mutual visa-free agreements with 157 countries and regions worldwide.

According to NIA, from January to November 2024, 29.2 million foreign visits to China were recorded, an 86.2 percent year-on-year increase. Of these, 17.4 million benefited from visa-free entry, marking a 123.3 percent rise. Notably, the 72/144-hour visa-free transit policy has gained immense popularity domestically and internationally, with a 132.9 percent year-on-year increase in such visits.

Experts have underscored the broader impact of these measures. Chen Zhanming, vice dean of the School of Applied Economics at Renmin University of China, highlighted that the enhanced visa-free transit policy will improve ease of access for foreigners visiting China for tourism, business, or family purposes. He said, “the growing influx of international tourists will create more opportunities for China’s tourism and other industries, injecting new momentum into its economic growth.”

Ester Baiget, global president of Danish biotechnology firm Novonesis, emphasized the practical significance of the visa-free policy. “Although it may seem like a small detail, it will greatly facilitate travel to China. With smoother mobility, our connections will strengthen, fostering closer relationships,” she said.

Traditional Games Meet Modern Culture

The 12th National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities took place from November 22 to 30 in Sanya, Hainan Province in China

What began as a small gathering to celebrate the sports and traditions of China's minority communities in 1953 has blossomed into one of the country's most significant events celebrating the cultural diversity of the country.

The longest-running national multi-sport event in China, the National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities turn 71 this year. Since the event's inception, it has embodied far more than the spirit of athletic competition.

Chinese ethnic cultures blossom with diversity, especially as most have their own

language and different customs and traditions. The Games play a vital role in fostering national unity, preserving and promoting the unique cultures of China's ethnic groups, and adapting those cultural expressions to the modern world.

It provides an unparalleled platform for these groups to strengthen mutual appreciation and understanding, share their culture, build lasting friendships and celebrate their common identity as part of the Chinese nation.

The very act of competing side by side - whether in a relay race or in a tug-of-war - promotes harmony. When athletes join forces, their shared love for sports supersedes their differences.

In this way, the Games cultivate a sense of solidarity, nurturing the seeds of unity as diversity here is not just a fact of life, but a core feature of its identity.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the Games is how they have helped preserve and modernize ethnic sports that were once on the brink of obscurity.

Many of these sports have been passed down from generation to generation, often practiced in remote, rural areas with little exposure to the wider public.

Over time, some sports became endangered as the younger generation gravitated toward more globally popular activities like basketball and football.

The Games have revived these cultural gems, not only by showcasing them to a national audience but also by adapting them to the changing tastes of modern sports enthusiasts.





For example, zhenzhu qiu, or pearl ball, is a traditional game originating from the Manchu people in Northern China. The game was once a casual activity played by fishing communities but has evolved over time into a competitive sport with significant similarities to modern basketball. Today, teams compete to pass a “pearl” - a small, round ball, often white - through a hoop. It requires precision, teamwork, and strategic movement.

The transformation of pearl ball from a folk pastime to a formal sport is a perfect example of how traditional ethnic games have modernized, keeping their cultural roots while adapting to modern sporting standards.

Similarly, the sport jianqiu blends the acrobatic flair of football with the team dynamics of volleyball, and it has captured the imagination of younger audiences.

The sport combines the elements of volleyball’s team coordination and football’s use of footwork to control a small shuttlecock.

With its roots in the southern ethnic communities, jianqiu has been redefined through the Games to appeal to a broader demographic. Each team requires at least one ethnic athlete to be included, becoming an exciting and innovative addition to the global sporting landscape.

Even the huapao event, a traditional game from Southern China with a history of over 500 years, has undergone a modern makeover. Once a village custom that involved throwing clay pots filled with fireworks, it has now evolved into a high-intensity, team-based competition that bears striking similarities to rugby.

Athletes fiercely compete to capture the symbolic “flower bomb,” with some tactical plays and physical endurance playing central roles in the event. It serves as an example of how ethnic sports can maintain their cultural significance while incorporating the dynamics of contemporary sports.

Some may argue that the modernized version of the tradition undermines the originality of the sport, but it also shines a spotlight on traditional physical activities, as participants and the fans will also learn about the traditions of the sport and thus expand awareness of the ancient sport.

In the age of globalization and digital technology, the Games have increasingly embraced new methods to amplify the reach of traditional ethnic sports.

The incorporation of technology into the training and analysis of ethnic sports has allowed athletes to hone their skills in ways that were not possible in previous generations.

The use of sports science, including biomechanics and performance analytics, is helping athletes adapt traditional sports to more competitive standards, ensuring they can hold their own in future competitions. Some sports have even gone international already like dragon boat racing.

The best way to honor tradition is not by preserving it in amber, but by allowing it to evolve and flourish, adapting to the changing tides of time while remaining firmly rooted in cultural origins.

By providing a stage for these unique ethnic sporting events, the Games serve as a bridge between the past and the future, linking the rich traditions of China’s ethnic groups with the dynamism of modern sports.

7 Chinese Villages Recognized as Best Tourism Villages by UN Tourism

Seven villages in China have been honored as Best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) in its 2024 selection, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Announced at a UN Tourism meeting held in Cartagena, Colombia on November 15, 2024 the seven new additions bring the total number of Chinese villages recognized as Best Tourism Villages to 15, making China the country with the highest number of villages holding this title.

The seven Chinese villages picked by UN Tourism this year are Azheke Village in Yunnan, Guanyang Village in Fujian, Shibadong Village in Hunan, Taoping Village in Sichuan, Xiaogang Village in Anhui, Xitou

Village in Zhejiang and Yandunjiao Village in Shandong.

Spanning eastern, central and western regions of the country, these villages are highly representative in terms of geography, culture and development models -- highlighting the remarkable achievements of rural tourism development across China.

For example, Yunnan's Azheke Village, nestled in the heart of the Honghe Hani Rice Terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has embraced a unique approach to tourism development. Villagers have contributed resources such as terraces, houses and traditional ways of life, creating a model of collective participation and shared prosperity.

Shibadong Village in Hunan, meanwhile,



Azheke Village in Yuanyang County of Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province

serves as a landmark in China's poverty reduction efforts. It is the birthplace of the concept of "targeted poverty alleviation" -- a key strategy that enabled China to lift nearly 100 million people out of poverty. By integrating culture and tourism to drive new momentum for rural development, the once-impooverished village now showcases China's rural revitalization success to the world.

Anhui's Xiaogang, a village where China's rural reform began over four decades ago, is

another location making strides on its new journey toward achieving rural revitalization. Today, visitors from across the globe can witness the profound changes China has undergone by exploring this village.

To promote rural tourism, UN Tourism launched the Best Tourism Villages project in 2021 to recognize villages across the world that are leading the way in nurturing rural areas and preserving landscapes, cultural diversity, local values and culinary traditions.



Guanyang Village of Nanjing County, southeast China's Fujian Province



Xiaogang Village in Fengyang County of Chuzhou, east China's Anhui Province



Shibadong Village of Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, central China's Hunan Province



Taoping Village in Lixian County of Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Sichuan Province



Xitou Village of Longquan City in Lishui, east China's Zhejiang Province



Yandunjiao Village of Rongcheng, east China's Shandong Province



A view of the Ice-Snow World in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

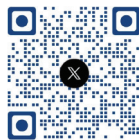
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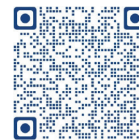
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