

中印对话

New Opportunities for  
Cooperation

# CHINA-INDIA DIALOGUE

Taking the India-China  
Relationship Further

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## Beautiful China Beautiful India



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# 塞罕坝

牢记使命 艰苦创业 绿色发展

半个多世纪，三代人耕耘。

沙地变林海，荒原成绿洲。

寒来暑往，

塞罕坝机械林场的森林覆盖率

已达80%。

栽种树木按二米株距排开，

可绕地球赤道二圈。

Saihanba is a cold alpine area in northern Hebei Province bordering the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. It was once a barren land but is now home to 75,000 hectares of forest, thanks to the efforts made by generations of forestry workers in the past 55 years. Every year the forest purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and absorbs 747,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The forest produces 12 billion yuan (around US\$1.8 billion) of ecological value annually, according to the Chinese Academy of Forestry.



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### Chinese, Indian FM's hold full, in-depth discussion on the situation in border areas

On September 10, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a full, in-depth discussion with his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar on the situation in the border areas as well as bilateral ties on the sidelines of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow, Russia.

Wang stressed that as two large developing countries rapidly emerging, what China and India need right now is cooperation, not confrontation; mutual trust, not suspicion. Whenever the situation gets difficult, it is all the more important to ensure the stability of the overall relationship and preserve mutual trust.

Jaishankar noted that the Indian side does not want tensions to escalate in the border areas. India's policy toward China has not changed. The Indian side believes that China's policy toward India has not changed either.

### China, India held the seventh round of corps commander-level talks

China and India held the seventh round of corps commander-level talks in Chushul on October 12.

Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement as early as possible. Both sides also agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, not to turn differences into disputes, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

### Xu Fancheng Culture Study Center established in India

On October 26, the opening ceremony of the Xu Fancheng Culture Study Center was held in Pondicherry, India. Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong and Shri V. Narayanasamy, Honorable Chief Minister of Pondicherry, attended the event online.

Sun hoped that the center can inherit and carry forward the spirit of Prof. Xu Fancheng's rigorous scholarship, introduce his life and research results to the two peoples, and enhance the cultural and academic exchanges between China and India. Shri V. Narayanasamy said that Pondicherry is currently attracting foreign investment, actively building smart cities, and focusing on the development of tourism. He believes that with the establishment of the Xu Fancheng Culture Study Center, there will be more Chinese companies and tourists coming to Pondicherry, which will add new impetus to Pondicherry's economic development and India-China relations.

### The Fourth India-China Technology Transfer, Collaborative Innovation and Investment Conference held

On November 20, the Fourth India-China Technology Transfer, Collaborative Innovation and Investment Conference, hosted by Yunnan Academy of Scientific and Technical Information (YASTI), China-South Asia Technology Transfer Center (CSTTC), India China Trade Center (ICTC), and India-China Technology Transfer Center (ICTTC), was held online. Nearly 100 representatives from Chinese and Indian companies and research institutions attended the

conference. Cooperation in agricultural products and food processing, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, infrastructure, information technology, new energy and renewable energy was discussed.

### **“Beautiful India Beautiful China” online photo exhibition launched in Beijing**

The “Beautiful India Beautiful China” online photo exhibition, themed “Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-win Outcomes,” was launched in Beijing on December 8. It was held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-India diplomatic ties. The launching ceremony was joined by guests including Du Zhanyuan, president of China International Publishing Group (CIPG), Lin Songtian, president of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Yu Tao, vice president of CIPG, Li Xia, editor-in-chief of *China Pictorial*, Wang Bangwei, director of the Centre for India Studies of Peking University, and Atul Dalakoti, executive director of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Other guests attending the ceremony online included Sun Weidong, Chinese Ambassador to India, Sudheendra Kulkarni, founder of the Forum for New South Asia, B. R. Deepak, professor at the Center for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Srikanth Kondapalli, professor and chairman of the Centre for East Asian Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University.


The exhibition focuses on topics including natural scenery, bilateral friendship, people-to-people exchanges and economic cooperation between

the two countries. Over 120 photos are displayed. The online photo exhibition will last till March 2021.

### **China-India Think Tank Online Forum held in Beijing**

Hosted by China International Publishing Group (CIPG) and organized by China Pictorial Publications and the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies, the China-India Think Tank Online Forum, themed “promoting economic cooperation and cultural exchange,” was held in Beijing on December 29.

Lu Cairong, vice president of CIPG, Tang Guocai, consul general of the People’s Republic of China in Mumbai, and Sudheendra Kulkarni, founder of the Forum for New South Asia, addressed the forum. B. R. Deepak, sinologist and professor at the Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chen Lijun, vice president of the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Academy of South and Southeast Asian Studies (Kunming), Prasoon Sharma, director of the think tank India Global Centre for China Studies, Ma Jiali, director and senior researcher with the Center for Strategic Studies of China Reform Forum, R. N. Bhaskar, consulting editor with *Free Press Journal*, and Sun Shihai, former director of the Chinese Association for South Asian Studies and chief expert at the China Center for South Asian Studies at Sichuan University, exchanged their views on China-India relations at the event.

The experts from think tanks in China and India had a wide and in-depth discussion on how to promote bilateral economic cooperation and deepen cultural and people-to-people exchanges. 

# Cultural Exchange and Mutual Learning: A Crucial Avenue of Friendship

By Du Zhanyuan



As two emerging major countries, China and India can embark on a path of good-neighbornliness on the basis of extensive and in-depth cultural exchange and mutual learning.

**A**t the important moment of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India and at a critical period when China-India relations have reached a crossroads, it was a great honor for me to attend the “Beautiful India Beautiful

China” online photo exhibition, themed “Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-Win Outcomes,” an event hosted by China International Publishing Group (CIPG) aiming to promote cultural exchange between China and India.

As we all know, China and India are the only two

emerging countries in the world with populations of more than 1 billion each. Both countries boast splendid civilizations and cultural heritage and are “immovable neighbors.” Over the past 70 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China-India ties have endured an extraordinary



Bharatanatyam, indigenous to the state of Tamil Nadu in southern India, is one of the four main classical dance styles of India. VCG

journey of ups and downs. When meeting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the first time in 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that it was a common interest to join hands to achieve peaceful, cooperative, and inclusive development, empower the 2.5 billion people of the two countries to live better lives, and strengthen peace and development in the region and the world at large. The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, which concluded at the end of October 2020, proposed

implementation of “high-level opening to the outside world and exploration of new prospects for win-win cooperation,” unfolding a new page for sound development of China-India relations.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still spreading around the world, so the need to strengthen cooperation on public health is urgent and will help us jointly cope with other global challenges. At the same time, we should also face up to some practical problems and difficulties we have encountered in the development of China-India relations. The way we look at

the differences and disagreements between the two countries and the thinking we adopt to resolve problems and disputes will influence the long-term development of our two countries. I think that the answers can be found in the history of interaction and mutual learning between the two civilizations and friendly exchange between the two peoples.

Interactions between China and India date back more than 2,000 years, and exchange and dialogue between the two ancient civilizations have been profound. China’s papermaking,





Tea-drinking culture and tea cultivation were introduced to India from China in the 18th century. The tea industry has an important place in the Indian economy, with an annual output of more than one million tons, ranking second only to that of China. VCG

porcelain, silk-making, and tea were introduced into India, while India's sugar-making techniques, spices, astronomy, and architecture were introduced into China. Xuanzang, an eminent monk of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), traveled west to ancient India to bring back Buddhist sutras, which spread seeds of friendship between the Chinese and Indian peoples that have sprouted for thousands of years. During his seven voyages, great Chinese navigator Zheng He visited India six times and brought there the neighborly friendship of China. Indian poet Tagore once noted that China and India share a border of thousands of miles with countless passageways between the

two countries which were not blazed by warriors and guns, but by messengers of peace making endless exchange visits. Thanks to continuous cultural exchange and mutual learning, China and India have coexisted peacefully and actively influenced each other, forming a profound friendship that spans thousands of years.

Both Chinese and Indian civilizations advocate the concepts of inclusiveness and openness. For instance, Chinese civilization upholds the concept of "universal harmony" and adheres to the principle of "appreciating the beauty of one's own culture as well as the beauty of other cultures to bring out the best of every culture." India's Vedanta philosophy

advocates "unity in diversity," emphasizes the interdependence of human society, and regards the pursuit of "harmony" between man and nature and between people as the ultimate goal. All of these traits are highly consistent with the concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity that we advocate today, and they provide inspiration and reference for the two countries to enhance mutual trust and move forward hand in hand.

Looking ahead, the two countries should be aware of the many common challenges they face such as the pandemic, economic downturn, climate change, ecological destruction, terrorism, and more. These common challenges can become the starting point for China and India to seek common ground while reserving differences, diffusing disagreements to work hand in hand. The two countries should meet each other halfway and jointly shoulder the historic responsibility and mission of the times to maintain peace and stability in Asia and realize its prosperity and rejuvenation.

We are pleased to see cultural exchange and mutual learning between Chinese and Indian civilizations brimming with vitality in the new era. The two countries have established 14 pairs of sister provinces and cities, and annual personnel exchange exceeds one million. Tai Chi, yoga, traditional Chinese medicine, Indian Ayurveda,





*Buddies in India*, a China-India co-production directed by and starring Chinese comedy star Wang Baoqiang, was released during Spring Festival in 2017. The picture shows the crew filming the movie in India. courtesy of Douban Movie

and Chinese kung fu films and Bollywood movies have become important avenues for the people of the two countries to understand each other's cultures. The integrated media platform of "China-India Dialogue" built by CIPG is also playing a more and more important role.

The "Beautiful India Beautiful China" online photo exhibition integrated images, text, and videos with the internet. It showcases the natural scenery, traditional friendship, cultural exchange, and economic and trade cooperation between China and India, revisits the first intentions of the two countries when they established diplomatic relations 70 years ago, and traces

the history of exchange between the two nations. It is expected to promote cultural exchange between the two countries and inject positive energy into the development of China-India relations.

CIPG is the longest-running comprehensive international communication organization since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. For more than seven decades, it has remained committed to promoting exchange and mutual learning between Chinese and foreign civilizations. CIPG stands ready to strengthen communication and cooperation with relevant institutions in India to jointly build a bridge of friendship for dialogue, exchange, and mutual learning between

the two civilizations. As two emerging major countries, China and India have the ability to embark on a path of good-neighborliness on the basis of extensive and in-depth cultural exchange and mutual learning. The two countries will certainly dance a dragon-elephant tango and work together to pen a new chapter on building a community with a shared future for humanity and contributing robustly to the prosperity and development of the world. 📷

The author is president of CIPG. This article is an excerpt from President Du Zhanyuan's speech at the opening ceremony of the "Beautiful India Beautiful China" online photo exhibition.

# Carry Forward Traditional Friendship and Promote Common Development

By Lin Songtian



The friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and India will be conducive to the unity and cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries to jointly defeat the epidemic of COVID-19 at an early date, and revitalize our economies. It can also serve as a stabilizer and inject positive energy into the world full of uncertainty.

**T**his year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India. As ancient world civilizations, both China and India have made historic

contributions to the progress of human civilization. As Chinese President Xi Jinping said, diversity spurs interaction among civilizations, which in turn promotes mutual learning and their further development. The

peoples of our two countries love peace and advocate the ideology of harmony. We both have similar cultural genes of seeking common ground while reserving differences. In the long history of interactions between the two



The Temple of Heaven is located in southern Beijing. Its construction began in 1420, the 18th year of the Yongle reign of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It is the world's largest existing complex of ancient sacrificial buildings and was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998. CFB

civilizations, peace and friendship have always been the mainstream. We should tolerate differences with a mind broader than the sky, seek wisdom and draw upon each other's strong points so as to jointly construct a colorful world, in which everyone respects his own culture and also appreciates the culture of others.

The 21st century is the century of Asia. Both China

and India are important Asian countries and neighbors that cannot be moved away from each other. We are both major developing countries each with a population of more than one billion. Our two countries have the same historical experiences, shoulder the arduous task of development and improvement of the people's livelihoods, and undertake the important mission of

safeguarding peace in Asia and promoting common prosperity.

At present, the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. The friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and India will be conducive to the unity of and cooperation between emerging markets and developing countries to jointly defeat COVID-19 at an early





*Taijiquan*, a kind of traditional Chinese shadowboxing originating from China's martial arts, features the Chinese philosophy of the combination of hardness and softness. Many Chinese people practice *Taijiquan* for health and fitness. The picture shows an Indian girl named Ambika (right) learning *Taijiquan* in Wudang Mountain, central China's Hubei Province. VCG

date and revitalize our economies. It can also serve as a stabilizer and inject positive energy into a world full of uncertainty.

We firmly believe that both the governments and peoples of China and India will advance the long-term interests of their respective countries and the common good of Asian countries, work together to provide our 2.7 billion people with a secure, peaceful and happy life, and furthermore, make new and greater contributions to the progress of human civilization.

In retrospect of the history of mutual learning and friendship between China and India, the two great ancient civilizations should call on the peoples of both countries to carry forward their traditional friendship, safeguard world peace and promote common development. The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) is willing to take this opportunity to make concerted efforts with friends from all walks of life in both countries to set up more platforms for

exchanges and cooperation in economic, cultural, social and local spheres. We will contribute more wisdom and strength to enhance mutual understanding and trust and promote mutually beneficial cooperation to constantly expand mutual interests and consolidate public support for China-India friendship. 🇮🇳

—  
*The author is the CPAFFC President. This article is excerpted from his speech at the launching ceremony of the "Beautiful India Beautiful China" online photo exhibition.*

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# A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

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By Sun Weidong



Civilizations are colorful because of diversity, enriched by exchanges, and they make progress through mutual learning.

**B**oth China and India have vast lands and diverse landscapes. The Yellow River, the Yangtze River, the Ganges and the Yamuna River run ahead tirelessly. The North China Plain and the Indus-Ganga Plain are both fertile and prolific. Waterfront towns in the south of the Yangtze River of China and the Kerala Backwaters in India attract tourists far beyond with their scenic beauties. The vast and magnificent Taklimakan Desert and the Thar Desert are very impressive sights. China and India have a

long history with profound civilizations. We have world cultural heritages such as the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, Taj Mahal, and Hill Forts of Rajasthan. Classic works such as *The Book of Songs*, *The Analects of Confucius*, *Vedas*, and *Bhagavad Gita* are well known worldwide. China's Lantern Festival and Indian Diwali embody people's yearning for light and hope. Both the Chinese Qipao and the Indian Sari show the beauty of the East. Peking Opera and Indian Classical Dance bring people the enjoyment of beauty.

China and India are culturally close to each other and have a tradition of mutual learning. The spread of Buddhism has promoted exchanges and mutual learning between China and India in the fields of literature, painting, sculpture, and dance. The Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang and the White Horse Temple in Luoyang have witnessed the interaction and integration of the two civilizations. The two countries have also influenced each other in areas such as astronomy, arithmetic, iron smelting, sugar and paper



The Western Ghats are located on the western side of India's Deccan Plateau. The mountains are home to at least 325 species of globally endangered animals and plants. In 2012, the Western Ghats were added to the World Heritage List as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity. VCG

making, and the benefits are still enjoyed by the peoples today.

Civilizations are colorful because of diversity, enriched by exchanges, and they make progress through mutual learning. Pictures are the carrier of civilization. A picture is worth a thousand words. The "Beautiful India Beautiful China—Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-Win Outcomes" online photo exhibition presents us with a beautiful landscape of the splendid symbiosis of the two civilizations. It also allows us to look at

China-India relations from a broader historical perspective, and draw inspirations from it.

First, friendly cooperation is the mainstream. In the history of exchanges lasting more than 2,000 years between China and India, friendly cooperation has dominated most of the time. The two leaders reached an important consensus that China and India pose no threat but offer development opportunities to each other. We should grasp the general trend of historical development, fully implement the

leaders' consensus and take China-India relations in the right direction.

Second, cultural and people-to-people exchanges are the foundation. Deepening cultural and people-to-people exchanges is an effective way to remove barriers and suspicions, and promote dialogue and understanding. The cultural exchanges between China and India have enhanced mutual understanding between the two peoples and promoted the development and progress of the two countries. We need to inherit and carry forward the spirit



of openness, inclusiveness, mutual respect, and equality, promote local exchanges, and foster closer people-to-people ties to strengthen popular support for the long-term development of China-India relations.

Third, mutual learning is the driving force. President Xi Jinping pointed out that exchanges and mutual learning will sustain the development of civilization. A civilization can flourish only through exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations. We should promote civilizational exchanges with an inclusive mindset, draw wisdom through mutual learning and seek nourishment through

**COVID-19 has made countries and peoples in the world deeply feel that mankind is a community with a shared future. The pandemic cannot change our peoples' aspirations for better lives, nor can it interrupt the general trend of exchanges and mutual learning between us.**

exchanges and integration. Together, we can achieve continuous development and progress of the two civilizations and make the garden of world civilizations more colorful and vibrant.

Fourth, beautiful ecology is the wealth. Traditional Chinese culture emphasizes the harmony between man

and nature, and respects the rules of nature. Indian traditional culture also pursues the harmony between man and nature and regards nature as its mother. Clear waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets. We should work together to protect the rich ecological environment. The Fifth



Peking Opera, a traditional style of Chinese theater performance enjoying a history of more than 200 years, is regarded as a quintessential representative of Chinese culture. Peking Opera was included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010. CFB



The Dunhuang murals, inspired by philosophical elements from Buddhism, which was introduced from ancient India, and from indigenous Confucianism and Taoism, are a treasure house containing extremely valuable information about international exchanges in ancient China. CFB

Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee which was concluded not long ago proposed that China will advance green development and seek a kind of modernization that promotes harmonious coexistence of man and nature. China and India can strengthen cooperation in climate change, environmental protection and sustainable development. We can play a bigger role in building a peaceful, prosperous, clean and beautiful world.

COVID-19 has made countries and peoples in the world deeply feel that mankind is a community with a shared future. The pandemic cannot change our peoples' aspirations for better lives, nor can it interrupt the general trend of exchanges and mutual learning between us. As we are faced with difficulties and challenges, we should free our minds to enhance communication, mutual understanding and trust.

This year marks the

“China-India Year of Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges.” We should follow the guidance of the leaders of both countries, redouble our efforts to meet each other halfway, strengthen dialogue and exchanges, and overcome difficulties and challenges, in order to put China-India relations on the track of healthy and stable development. 📸

—  
The author is Chinese Ambassador to India. This article is an excerpt from his speech at the opening ceremony of “Beautiful India Beautiful China” online photo exhibition.

# Preserve and Strengthen India-China Friendship Under All Circumstances

By Sudheendra Kulkarni



We need constant dialogue between India and China at multiple levels, not only between government leaders and diplomats, but also among the common people of India and of China.

**F**riendship knows no distance. The India-China friendship is not an ordinary relationship. In the famous words of the legendary Chinese Indologist, Professor Ji Xianlin: India-China friendship is created by heaven and constructed on earth.

We must not forget that Mother Earth herself has put

India and China in perpetual friendly proximity. When the majestic Himalayan Mountains were formed long ago, it nurtured two great world civilizations. From the womb of the Himalayas originated two mighty rivers on the Indian side, Ganges and Indus, and two mighty rivers on the Chinese side, Yangtze and Yellow River.

Indian and Chinese civilizations are distinct in many ways. Yet, there's an unmistakable common tune in the music of these two civilizations. That tune is the Indian spiritual goal of "the whole world is one single family" and the Chinese spiritual goal of "天下大同"—grand harmony of all under heaven. From the Buddha to Confucius,





Cotton is an important cash crop in China, one of the world's largest cotton producers. The picture shows a farmer harvesting cotton in the fields in Hami, northwestern China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. IC

from Rabindranath Tagore to Professor Tan Yunshan, all have taught us that the priceless treasure of human unity, fraternity and solidarity must be preserved under all circumstances.

Implicitly, this message comes with another commandment. That is to preserve and strengthen India-China friendship and cooperation under all circumstances. If we remember this commandment, we will know how to overcome any and every difference that

may arise between India and China through the golden link of dialogue. We need constant dialogue between India and China at multiple levels, not only between government leaders and diplomats, but also among the common people of India and of China. Through dialogue comes understanding; through understanding comes win-win cooperation. Win-win cooperation bears mutual trust, and mutual trust bears stronger bonds of peace and friendship.

Both India and China are

blessed with unimaginable beauty. As someone who has had the pleasure of visiting China several times, I'm struck by China's natural beauty, cultural beauty, artistic beauty, architectural beauty, the beauty of people's hearts, and also the modern beauty of science and technology.

Indian friends of China especially admire the two most beautiful goals that contemporary China has set up to achieve. One is complete elimination of poverty at the



The Mogao Grottoes are located in Dunhuang at the western end of the Hexi Corridor. Its 735 caves contain 45,000 square meters of murals and 2,415 colored clay sculptures. It is the largest and richest extant treasure house of Buddhist art in the world. It was listed as a World Cultural Heritage site in 1987. by Sun Zhijiang

end of this year. The second is protection of environment and moving from an industrial civilization to an ecological civilization.

I was very happy to read the inspiring words of Chinese President Xi Jinping, describing the Chinese Dream: “Every day, people should be able to see blue sky, green mountains and clear rivers all across China, so that our children could live in an enjoyable environment.” President Xi Jinping reinforced the message when he

said in his address to the G20 summit in November 2020: “China is ready to work with other countries to build a beautiful world that is free of poverty and enjoys common development.”

There is immense need and immeasurable scope for India and China to work together, for mutual development and for the peace and progress in the world.

Therefore, I would like to conclude, by invoking the wise words of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation. This

is the wish he expressed way back in 1942. He said, “As a friend of China, I long for the day when a free India and free China will cooperate together in friendship and brotherhood for their own good, for the good of Asia, and for the good of the world.”

Let’s make this wish and this dream come true. 🇮🇳

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*The author is the founder of the Forum for New South Asia. This article is an excerpt from his speech at the opening ceremony of “Beautiful India Beautiful China” online photo exhibition.*



# New Opportunities for Cooperation

By Wang Haixia

Against the impact of the pandemic, China has risen to face the challenges and deepened its domestic reforms. For India, this is also an opportunity to promote economic reforms and remove obstacles to its development.

Recently, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China reviewed and approved the proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035. The proposals emphasize that China needs to push forward high-level opening up and achieve win-win cooperation while advancing supply-side reforms and boosting domestic demand. Although China has the sincerity to achieve development together with India through economic and trade cooperation, there are still many obstacles in the way. Faced with the huge impact of the pandemic, China and India should strengthen cooperation and

overcome difficulties together, rather than impose restrictions on economic and trade development.

## REFORM, OPENING UP AND INNOVATION

The period covered by China's 14th Five-Year Plan is not only a critical time for China to deepen its economic system reform, but also an period with immense opportunity for promoting high-level opening up. In the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic and major changes unfolding in our world, something unseen in a century, the 14th Five-Year Plan emphasizes reform, opening up and innovation as the focus of work to promote economic development and meet the needs of the people for a

better life.

Domestically, China focuses on high-quality development. China is committed to deepening supply-side structural reform fueled by innovation. The goal is to meet the people's growing needs for a better life. First, China will continue to promote reforms and innovations. It aims at transforming from rapid development to high-quality development through supply-side structural reforms and strategies to expand domestic demand. The second is to establish a new development pattern of "dual circulation," in which domestic and overseas markets reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

Internationally, China strives for a high-level opening up and works for win-win





September 7, 2018: In the Guangxi Pavilion during the China (Guangdong) International Tourism Industry Expo, Ye Ziwen (center) of the Miao ethnic group from Rongshui Miao Autonomous County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, shows two Indians the tourism brochure of her hometown. VCG

cooperation with other countries. China is an important part of the world's consumer market, and it needs to promote "dual circulation" through economic ties with other countries and to share the development dividend. The 14th Five-Year Plan proposes to continue larger, broader and deeper opening up. It also vows to promote win-win cooperation with other countries based on the advantages of China's large market. China cannot develop without the world, and the prosperity of the world also needs China. At present, China's industrial chain and

supply chain have been deeply integrated with the world. China hopes not only to promote domestic economic development through global economic and trade cooperation, but also to share the benefit of development with other developing countries.

#### **CHALLENGES FACING CHINA-INDIA ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION**

In recent years, the scale of China-India economic and trade cooperation has expanded rapidly, and China has become India's third largest importer and the

largest exporter. The two countries have established relatively close economic ties in the fields of pharmaceuticals, automobiles, electronics, chemicals, telecommunications, textiles and clothing. Since 2020, China-India economic and trade relations have experienced ups and downs due to the influence of multiple factors. The Indian government has taken many measures to suppress Chinese products and investment, restricting economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

First, India restricts investment from China. In April

2020, the Indian government required foreign direct investment from countries having land borders with India to be reviewed by the government with the excuse to curb investment acquisitions during the pandemic. In June, Maharashtra State suspended Chinese investments from Great Wall Motors, Beiqi Foton and a hydraulic equipment manufacturer. In July, Indian Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari unveiled a prohibition of Chinese companies in Indian highway projects. India's Ministry of Finance requires registration and review of government procurement tenders involving the participation of countries sharing a land border with India. The second is to block Chinese mobile phone apps. The Indian government banned more than 260 Chinese apps on the grounds of "national security." The third is to set up trade barriers. In June, customs at the port of Chennai detained Chinese cargo ships for additional inspections; India's Ministry of Power requires governmental permission of importing electrical equipment and components from China; the Ministry of Commerce and Industry requires permission for importing color TV sets. The Indian government also plans to formulate compulsory certification standards for 371 kinds of imported goods in sectors including steel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, household appliances and toys. India is also trying to reduce its dependence on

China through industrial chain cooperation with other countries. On the one hand, India eyes to profit from the China-U.S. trade friction. On the other hand, India has strengthened its supply chain cooperation to the exclusion of China. In September 2020, Japan, Australia and India launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI), emphasizing strengthening supply chain cooperation and enhancing overall competitiveness.

In fact, India's current emphasis on self-reliance is similar to China's endeavor to promote domestic circulation. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi once stated that self-reliance is to reduce India's dependence on the world economy and enable India to add new supplies to the world economy. But autonomy and openness are not contradictory. Currently, India is facing difficulties in economic governance, high fiscal deficits, and historically low interest rates, and the epidemic has not yet been effectively controlled, making it difficult for the government to act effectively. Under such circumstances, one-sided rejection of Chinese companies and products outweighs the gains.

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the slowdown of the Indian economy. A large number of small and medium-sized enterprises are struggling on the verge of bankruptcy, and it is becoming difficult to guarantee provision of the basic needs of the poor. Instead of imposing

restrictions on economic and trade cooperation between China and India due to political considerations, India's most primary task now is to control the epidemic as soon as possible, so that people's lives can be saved and economic recovery becomes possible. The blind "de-Chineseization" in its economy will not only destroy the vision of manufacturing development, but also makes the lives of people and operation of enterprises more difficult. For example, India's restrictions on investment from countries sharing land borders with India not only shut out Chinese investors, but also cut off the source of key funding for Indian technology start-ups. In the past few years, Chinese venture capital and technology investors have promoted fast development of India's technology. At present, investors are showing increasing interest in countries such as Indonesia as alternatives. According to statistics from the Chinese Embassy in Indonesia, China's investment in Indonesia increased by 79 percent in the first nine months of 2020.

### **WIN-WIN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS COOPERATION**

China and India are both major developing countries. They have common aspirations and visions for boosting the economy and improving people's lives. At present, China has completed its initiative on poverty alleviation and put forward the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025)



September 12, 2019: Indian furniture is displayed at the 8th Chongqing International Cultural Industry Expo. On this very day, the expo kicked off at the Chongqing International Expo Center. VCG

and Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035. India also put forward a 15-year vision for development in 2017, and strives to basically eliminate poverty by 2022, double the income of farmers, fuel the manufacturing and service industries and at the same time create more high-yield and high-income jobs. In 2019, Prime Minister Modi even vowed to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy in the next five years. With the global economic recession caused by the pandemic, all countries should cooperate to overcome difficulties, achieve win-win results, and meet people's expectations for a

better life.

China and India are rich in different resources and have different comparative advantages, and thus have great potential for cooperation. China is one of the major global manufacturers, an important consumer market, and a major country making overseas investments. India's economy is mainly driven by its domestic consumption. It relies heavily on its own market and service industry. China imports raw materials and primary products from India, which are then exported to other countries as finished products. India imports a large amount of

intermediate products and manufactured products from China, and its industries including pharmaceuticals, automotive, and electronics rely on China's raw materials and components. The two countries have great potential for cooperation in sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, medicine, electronics, automobiles, telecommunications, internet, and the digital economy. "Make in India," which focuses on labor-intensive industries, does not conflict with China's vision of development.

China and India have experience to share on improving the business environment. The two countries can also cooperate extensively on epidemic prevention and control, production of medical supplies, and vaccine research and development. China's epidemic prevention and control achievements and the "dual circulation" plan can bring strong impetus to rapid economic recovery and the long-term development of India and the region's economy as a whole. Against the impact of the pandemic, China has risen to face the challenge and deepened its domestic reforms. For India, this is also an opportunity to promote economic reforms and remove obstacles to its development. 📷

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# 14th Five-Year Plan: New Opportunities for China-India Cooperation

By Wang Shida

The 14th Five-Year Plan not only relates to the future well-being of the 1.4 billion Chinese people, but also will bring more “China opportunities” to the development of the world, especially to provide new impetus and opportunities for the development of China-India relations.

In October 2020, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) adopted the CPC Central Committee’s proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has personally led the formulation of the CPC Central Committee’s proposals for the 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP). The document guides the start of China’s new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way and its march

towards the second centenary goal, and directs the country’s social and economic development for the next five years and beyond.

What is particularly noteworthy is that the 14th FYP proposes to build open economy at a higher level and open up a new situation of win-win cooperation, emphasizing the implementation of opening up in a wider scope, in a broader field and at a deeper level, and relying on China’s large market advantages to promote international cooperation and achieve mutual benefit and win-win results. This not only relates to the future well-being of the 1.4 billion Chinese people, but also will bring more “China opportunities” to the development of the

world, especially to provide new impetus and opportunities for the development of China-India relations.

## PROMOTE A MORE BALANCED ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONSHIP

Entering the 21st century, economic and trade exchanges between China and India have continued to rise, and bilateral trade volume reached US\$100 billion. Yet long-term trade imbalance between China and India cannot be ignored. In 2019, the trade volume between China and India reached US\$92.81 billion, of which China’s exports to India reached US\$74.83 billion, while China’s imports from India



November 4, 2019: The Third Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit is held in Bangkok, Thailand. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (7th left) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (6th left) attend the summit. China News Service

amounted to only US\$17.98 billion. China's trade surplus with India reached US\$56.85 billion. This is mainly due to the fact that the two countries are at different stages of economic development and their industrial structures are highly complementary. India mainly exports agricultural products, raw materials and primary products, such as pearls, gemstones and metals, metal ores, cotton, yarn, etc. China exports manufactured goods such as motors and equipment, computers, servers, printers, machinery and parts, organic chemicals, etc. The value of primary products exported by India to China is far less than that of manufactured products exported by China to India.

Yet India believes that most of its agricultural products and competitive industries (such as pharmaceuticals, IT, etc.) are facing obstacles accessing China's market. The Indian authorities have repeatedly mentioned this issue during high-level leaders' meetings, ministerial visits, strategic economic dialogues and other exchanges, requesting that China expand market access for India's IT sector, medicine, crops and other products, and adjust regulatory procedures. The 14th FYP aims at enhancing the level of opening up, promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and strengthening the comprehensive competitiveness of foreign trade.

The country will improve the "pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list" management system for foreign investment, expand the opening up of the service sector and protect foreign companies' legitimate rights and interests. This obviously provides greater convenience for India to increase its exports to China, including service sector offerings such as in the IT industry, and for more Indian enterprises to invest in China.

In addition, the 14th FYP proposes to further improve the laws, policies and service systems for promoting and protecting overseas investment, firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese



March 2, 2020: Workers are busy producing solar modules in a company in Xinyu City, Jiangxi Province. Solar modules worth 260 million yuan (US\$40 million) will be sent to India via rail-sea intermodal transport. China News Service

enterprises overseas and realize high-quality imports and high-level exports. Since 2020, the Indian authorities have adopted discriminatory policies toward Chinese enterprises by unilateral cancellation of contracts, setting up trade barriers, imposing restrictions on investment by Chinese enterprises and bidding for Indian government-initiated projects, and banning apps such as TikTok. This is obviously against the rules of international trade and investment and seriously affects the confidence of international capital, including Chinese capital, in India. In the future, the Indian government needs to strictly implement the *India-China Bilateral Investment Treaty*, take practical

measures to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises investing in India, and provide a safe, fair and predictable business environment for foreign enterprises, including those from China. Only in this way can we strengthen the confidence of Chinese enterprises to invest in India and further promote the balanced and sustainable development of China-India economic and trade relations.

#### **NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR CHINA-INDIA COOPERATION**

India has been passive in recent years concerning participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. It has not only been absent twice from the Belt and Road Forum for

International Cooperation, but also opposed mentioning the Initiative while attending other international and regional conferences. It also made public its reasons for opposing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): “The CPEC passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir challenges Indian sovereignty.”

The 14th FYP drafts the layout of the Belt and Road Initiative on the basis of extensive consultation, joint efforts, shared benefits and equal opportunities for all. No country will be forced to join, nor does it necessarily place the cooperation of China and other countries in the framework. This should provide enough comfort and flexibility for India. The 14th



FYP outlines the promotion of infrastructure interconnectivity, expansion of third-party market cooperation, and the aim to establish a system in which enterprises play the leading role and the market points the way in line with international practices and the principle of debt sustainability. This also provides a greater possibility for China and India to connect their respective initiatives in the region.

For example, India has adopted the “Look East” policy, promoting connectivity and regional economic integration between India and Southeast Asian countries through the Mekong-Ganges Cooperation (MGC) Initiative and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). India has also launched the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Initiative to promote cross-border economic cooperation in the South Asian sub-region. These actions share common ground with the Belt and Road Initiative. China, India and other countries in the region can by all means cooperate on specific projects without having to assign projects to a particular initiative.

### JOINT PARTICIPATION IN THE REFORM OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

At present, the global economic and trade situation is obviously unfavorable to developing countries. As two large developing countries,

China and India share the same or similar positions on most global economic issues. In particular, they support expanding the voice of developing countries in international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and safeguarding and consolidating a free and open global multilateral trading system. Therefore, China and India have the impetus to join hands to safeguard the interests and demands of developing countries in the field of global economic governance.

The 14th FYP calls for adhering to equal consultation, mutual benefit and win-win results. It calls on the G20 and various countries to participate in international economic cooperation. It aims to safeguard the multilateral trading system, actively participate in the reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and create a fairer and more just global economic governance system. This statement clearly points out that China and other developing countries, including India, should safeguard the world economic order and the global multilateral trading system based on common rules, and China and India should enhance cooperation during the reform of the global economic governance system. For example, China and India can jointly voice and take actions to support and maintain a “free and open trading and financial system” and promote sustainable economic growth. They could oppose unilateral sanctions

without authorization of the UN Security Council and publicly condemn unilateral sanctions for damaging free trade between countries.

On November 15, 2020, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was officially signed. This marks the formation of a free trade zone with the largest population, the largest economic and trade scale and the most development potential in the world. For the first time, East Asia will stand as a unified big market with the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the European Union (EU) and thus change the global pattern. However, for fear that the opening of the market will aggravate its trade deficit, impact domestic industries and increase the number of unemployed, India lost a precious opportunity to integrate into the regional industrial chain and value chain. The 14th FYP proposes to actively participate in multilateral and bilateral regional investment and trade cooperation mechanisms, implement the promotion strategy of free trade areas, and build a global high-standard free trade area network. This positive statement is obviously consistent with that of some RCEP members, that is, RCEP is still open to India and India is welcome to join at any time in the future. 🇮🇳

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# What is Important for the Two Asian Giants?

By Akhil Parashar

China and India have enough foresight and ability to join hands to realize the “Dragon-Elephant Tango,” and create a brilliant future for the next 70 years.

China and India are two of the major regional powers in Asia, and the two most populous countries and among the fastest-growing major economies in the world. Looking back at the past 70 years, China-India relations have gone through an extraordinary development path. In the 21st century, the two countries established strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity, and achieved all-round development of bilateral relations.

But this time the relationship between China and India is in its most difficult phase. The recent border clash between both countries

is a “turning point” in their relationship. There has been tension between China and India since May 2020. Today, China-India relations stand at a new crossroads.

On the night of June 15, 2020, there were violent clashes between soldiers from China and India in the Galwan Valley, and tensions between the two countries have escalated since then. Following the clash, anti-China sentiment in India has grown, with calls to boycott Chinese products sold in India. Moreover, a total of 267 widely used Chinese apps and desktop applications, including PUBG, TikTok, Weibo, UC Browser, WeChat,

SHAREit, and CamScanner, were banned by the Indian government.

Many people are comparing this incident to the Dong Lang (Doklam) standoff in 2017, where the armies of China and India faced off for 73 days. Then, the two big Asian countries ended this confrontation and tension by showing understanding and acumen.

This time, China and India are also trying to reduce the tension by way of diplomatic and military dialogue. The commander-level talks are going on between both sides. This military-level dialogue is considered important to resolve the deadlock through negotiation between the



December 18, 2020: A social worker dressed as Santa Claus distributes face masks as part of an awareness campaign against the spread of COVID-19 at a traffic junction in Ahmedabad, India. Visual People

forces on the border of the two countries.

In April 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a two-day informal meeting in Wuhan, that reenergized China-India relations, leaving behind the Dong Lang dispute. That informal dialogue was called a “heart-to-heart initiative.” Then in 2019, when President Xi Jinping visited India, Prime Minister Modi, dressed in traditional Tamil attire, welcomed him to Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu under South Indian traditions, and met informally with him.

In fact, the purpose of these

meetings was to find a way to agree on the controversial issues between the two countries. Both countries know that only through cooperation and coordination can they move forward on the development path, and negotiation is a means by which the boundary question can be resolved. For the last 40 years, both China and India have tried to maintain peace and stability along the border.

China and India are counted among ancient civilizations of the world. Throughout history, the two countries have learned a lot from each other. Both countries have not only contributed to world culture but have also played

major roles in each other’s cultural development. Had there not been a cultural exchange between China and India, the cultural development of the two countries would not have happened at all. The cultural relationship between China and India is so close and deep that no comparable example is found in the world.

It is clear that cultural exchange is helpful in reducing the estrangement of the two countries and enhancing mutual understanding between their peoples. At present, both countries can play an important role in world peace. About 40 percent of the world’s population lives



in these two countries. If the two countries go together, the whole world will follow them. It is necessary that both countries understand and respect each other's interests. Cooperating with each other is the foundation for improving the relationship between the two countries.

To address the challenge faced by the economy in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the Modi government has started an effort to make India self-reliant. India needs to have five things: intent, inclusion, investment,

infrastructure, and innovation to go on the path of rapid growth. But to reach the goal, India will have to follow the path of China. The way China followed allowed it to become self-sufficient in the last 40 years and emerge as the second-largest economy in the world; all those steps teach and inspire India to become self-reliant.

From 2021 on, China will enter the period of its 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP). China's development in the 14th FYP period will continue to provide more market

opportunities for the international community. China will open up to the outside world at a higher level and create a new phase in mutually beneficial cooperation. This includes promoting opening up across more sectors and in a more thorough fashion and relying on the advantages of China's large market to promote international cooperation and realize mutual benefits. China will comprehensively advance its opening up. It will promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and advance trade innovation and



February 4, 2018: A 14-year-old competitor from Mumbai of India debugs his self-designed, assembled, and programmed robot during the Roborave Asia 2018 held in Beijing. The competition is one of the most influential robotic education events for primary and secondary school students around the world. China News Service



September 7, 2018: A jewelry store owner is using UC Browser, an app developed by a Chinese company, on his mobile phone in New Delhi. The shop owner says that the app is convenient to use and gives quick access to abundant useful market information. China News Service

development.

If India gradually increases its industry, businesses, investment, infrastructure, and innovation by collaborating with China, its dream of becoming self-reliant will not be far away. I understand that the efforts of India's "New India" and China's "New Era" are in the world's best interest because China and India have been working as engines in global economic development for 1,600 years out of the last 2,000 years. There is no doubt that both India and China have different social and political systems, yet both are ancient Eastern countries. The whole world is hopeful about the development of two of the world's largest developing countries. At the same time, they also face the strategic hurdles of

the Western world.

However, the 21st century is the century of Asia. Many countries in Asia are making rapid economic progress. Along with the rapid development of the economy, culture is also becoming very rich. This will boost the political and economic development of many Asian countries. China and India can play an important role in this development. They can be the main partners of Asian countries and facilitate their political and economic development. Many people in the world have started to understand this development trend. In such a situation, it is most important to learn from each other to build their own countries well.

In the era of globalization, all countries are deeply

connected with each other with determined efforts to exploit resources and economic opportunities. Currently, India needs infrastructure, technology, and raw materials to strengthen its "Make in India" campaign, which relies upon China and other countries around the world. India can reach its destination by way of cooperation.

I believe that China and India have enough foresight and ability to join hands to realize the "Dragon-Elephant Tango," create a brilliant future in the next 70 years and together write a new chapter in building a community with a shared future for humanity. To enhance cooperation and exchange between China and India and to further develop the traditional friendship of the two countries, it is important that they understand each other and take care of each other's interests. In the midst of conflict, no country can grow and develop.

The relationship and fate of China and India are related. The relationship shouldn't be ruined so that it couldn't be later mended. It has to be understood that the future development of China and India is bright, and taking care of each other's interests is inevitable. 🇮🇳

The author is an Indian correspondent working with China Media Group (CMG), Beijing. He has been living in China for the last 10 years.

# New Opportunities and Impetus for China-India Economic Cooperation

By Lan Jianxue

China and India face similar development tasks and goals, and their common interests far outweigh their differences. The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee has provided a policy framework for positive interaction between the two sides for the next decade to come.

On October 29, 2020, the communiqué of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was released. The session also adopted the CPC Central Committee's proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

The 14th Five-Year Plan, a top-level policy blueprint which will comprehensively

guide China's development in economic and social sectors for the five years to come and beyond, is expected to be deliberated and approved at the Fourth Session of the 13th National People's Congress. The 14th Five-Year Plan and 2035 targets, which reflect China's long-term and big-picture views, focus on boosting the domestic market, improving China's ability to ward off international economic fluctuations, and avoiding geopolitical risks and uncertainties. The blueprint will definitely bring new opportunities and

impetus to economic, trade and investment cooperation between China and India.

## INJECTING STRONG IMPETUS INTO CHINA-INDIA COOPERATION

In the future, China will focus on five areas. These areas present great opportunities and are expected to inject strong impetus into China-India cooperation.

First, managing China's own affairs well. Faced with profound international changes unseen in a century, China needs to foster a deep





December 20, 2020: People have fun in an outdoor playground of a shopping mall in Beijing. Faced with multiple pressures such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and global economic recession, China's economy achieved positive growth in 2020. VCG

understanding of the major contradictions and changes in its own society, as well as the new contradictions and challenges brought about by the complex international environment. It should enhance its awareness of opportunities and risks, have a firm foothold in its domestic market, maintain strategic determination, and uphold the bottom-line thinking, in order to seek new opportunities and break new ground. Not long ago, the Indian government proposed to build a “self-reliant India”

(Atamnirbhar Bharat). According to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, “Atamnirbhar Bharat” will enable India to offer more to the world economy. While China emphasizes that “it takes a good blacksmith to make good tools,” the country attaches even greater importance to fostering an open and inclusive domestic market, in order to drive its new round of reform and opening up to a deeper level. It is expected that China will focus on improving its technological autonomy and

fueling domestic demand. However, despite of its efforts to reinforce self-dependence, strengthen original R&D, and expand internal demands, China has also pledged to keep its door open to foreign capital and investments.

Second, establishing a dual-circulation development paradigm. China will seek to build a strong domestic market and establish a new development paradigm. The country will emphasize the strategic importance of expanding domestic demand, accelerate the cultivation of

a complete domestic demand system, combine the boosting of domestic demand with the deepening of supply-side structural reforms, as well as lead and create new demand through innovation and high-quality supply. China should boost the domestic economy while driving the global economy, promote consumption, and expand the scope for investment. China will further increase imports and welcome more foreign direct investments. Thus, India's goods and services will have opportunities to gain a bigger share in the Chinese market, which will help rebalance the China-India economic, trade and investment relationship.

Third, being committed to independent innovation in science and technology and innovation-driven development. The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee defined innovation as a core element in China's modernization drive, and took the commitment to independent innovation in science and technology as strategic support to national development. Facing the frontiers of world science and technology, major economic struggles, the needs of China and those of its people for healthcare, China should implement a strategy of invigorating itself through science and education, a strategy to make China a talent-strong country, and an innovation-driven development strategy. In this way, China will improve its national innovation system,

and build itself into a science and technology giant. It is of great importance to strengthen the national strategic scientific and technological strength, enhance capabilities of enterprises for technological innovation, fuel the creativity of professionals, as well as improve the scientific and technological innovation system and mechanism. At present, China is embracing innovation-driven development, which provides unprecedented opportunities for China-India cooperation in broader fields such as scientific and technological collaboration, smart city building, manufacturing industry, and green and sustainable development.

Fourth, ensuring the safety of its real economy and supply chains. The plenary session pointed out that China should speed up the building of the modern industrial system and accelerate the economic system upgrading. The country should make the real economy the focus of its economic development, and unswervingly build itself into a manufacturing power, a great power of quality, a cyber power and a digital economy. China should develop the industrial base to a more advanced level and modernize the industrial chain, in order to improve its economic quality, benefits, and core competitiveness.

China needs to facilitate modernization of industrial and supply chains, develop strategic emerging industries, accelerate the development of modern service industry,

develop infrastructure construction in a coordinated manner, accelerate the building of a transportation power, advance the energy revolution, and fuel digital development. China's practice has proved that its resilient manufacturing industry has survived the trade war and tariff war unilaterally launched by the United States. It has begun to take precautions and make full preparations to take the lead in the manufacturing of various products. After the pandemic, China's role in shaping and leading the regional industrial chain, supply chain, and value chain will become even more prominent. China and India have huge common interests in maintaining the stability of the industrial chain, supply chain, and value chain in the Asia-Pacific region.

Fifth, developing an open economy at a higher level. In the future, China will open to the outside world on a larger scale, in a wider scope, and at a deeper level. It will make full use of its advantages as a big market to promote international cooperation and achieve mutual benefits and win-win results. China will develop an open economy at a higher level, drive the opening up to a deeper level, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, advance trade innovation and development, further promote high-quality development under the Belt and Road Initiative, and actively participate in the reform of the global



September 15, 2020: Workers are busy transporting cargo in New Delhi, India. On that day, the Asian Development Bank released the report *Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020 Update*, which says that about three-quarters of the economies in developing Asia are expected to post negative growth in 2020. Visual People

economic governance system. As China builds a more open economy, Indian companies and individuals will find new business opportunities.

### **FORCED DECOUPLING OF THE CHINESE AND INDIAN ECONOMIES HURTS INDIAN CUSTOMERS**

Although bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade and investment fields cannot yet serve as an anchor for China-India relations, these areas are definitely where the most practical and the largest number of cooperation take place between the two countries. After the standoff in Galwan Valley in June 2020, India unilaterally decoupled economic and trade relations with

China, banned mobile apps with a Chinese background, boycotted Chinese goods, and sought a decoupling of industrial chains in its ties with China. These moves have severely undermined the confidence of Chinese capital and the Chinese business community in India, and increased the international community's worries about the geopolitical risks of the Indian market. Kunal Kundu, an economist with Societe Generale, believes that India has restricted Chinese investment capital due to the tensions between the two sides. India's changed attitude towards China has showed the investment under uncertainty in India, making it hard for the emerging market to become a major

attraction for multinational companies. It is estimated that the global ranking of India's business environment rated by the World Bank may be downgraded significantly.

Incited by nationalism, some Indians support the idea of decoupling of the Chinese and Indian economies. But they need to understand that New Delhi's move to "boycott China" cannot achieve its purpose, but probably increases India's industrial costs and hurts the interests of Indian consumers. China mainly imports raw materials from India which can also be purchased from other channels. Meanwhile, India's imports from China include electronics, solar panels, active pharmaceutical ingredients, batteries and electromobile parts. It is almost impossible to find alternative suppliers of these imports which are comparable with China in terms of speed, scale, and price.

China's active pharmaceutical ingredients have served as a crucial pillar for India's pharmaceutical industry. China's high-quality and inexpensive solar panels have accelerated India's use of renewable energy and helped the country address climate change. India needs electronic products from China to support its digital economy, which is one of the few industries in the country that creates high-paying jobs. In 2019, Chinese video-sharing app TikTok's parent company ByteDance planned a US\$1-billion investment in India over the next three years, a



move which is expected to greatly influence its 2,000 local employees and the livelihoods of over 2,000 Indian households. According to Ritesh Kumar Singh, chief economist of Indonomics Consulting, depriving Indian manufacturers of cheaper Chinese supplies and materials will hurt Indian retail, real estate, hotel and catering sectors and increase their input costs. In turn, the prices of products and services in India will soar, and come back to bite the same group of Indian consumers who are the strongest supporters of the “boycott China” movement.

In fact, since India launched the “boycott China” campaign in May 2020, India’s imports from China have even increased. Statistics show that China is still India’s largest trading partner and source of imports. From April to September 2020, China’s share in India’s imports has increased from 13.7 percent in the previous fiscal year to 18.3 percent. This is largely because of the nature of Indian imports, more than half of which are used to produce finished products. In terms of India’s exports to China, China was the largest foreign buyer of India’s steel from April to September 2020. Nearly 30 percent of India’s steel products have been exported to China, which partly offset the sharp decline in India’s domestic demand in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, India exported a total of 6.5 million tons of finished steel,

of which 1.9 million tons went to China, accounting for 29 percent of its total. China, as the world’s largest steel consumer, has benefited from its huge infrastructure investment. Against the backdrop of a weak international steel demand, China has seen a rise in steel demand. Thus, Indian producers have turned to the Chinese market to sell their products. Although India has introduced a series of economic and trade restrictions against China, these measures have not affected the country’s steel exports to China.

In a market economy, consumers always seek to get the best commodities at the most favorable price. Producers must turn out high-quality and cost-effective commodities to meet the demands of consumers in order to keep its operation going. That’s the fundamental reason why political intervention cannot change India’s foreign trade structure.

### **SHARING COMMON INTERESTS**

Relations between New Delhi and Beijing have important and far-reaching strategic significance and are at the crossroads at the moment. The two sides should firmly grasp the general direction of the relationship, stick to the right path of mutual trust, cooperation and win-win results, never take the wrong path of suspicion and frictions, and avoid the path of retrogression. The two sides should

take a long-term perspective, have a correct view of each other’s strategic intentions, adhere to the basic judgments of the leaders of the two countries that China and India do not pose threat to each other but serve as opportunities for each other’s development, and explore a new path for the two neighbors to achieve common prosperity.

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee has provided a policy framework for the positive interaction between China and the world for the next decade to come. At present, China and India face similar development tasks and goals, and their common interests far outweigh their differences. The two countries should strengthen cooperation in areas such as fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic, economic recovery, multilateralism, and global governance. They should seize every opportunity to improve their bilateral ties, create a favorable peripheral and international environment for the realization of their respective national rejuvenation, and make due contributions to maintain world peace and stability and to promote common development. ■

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# Taking the India-China Relationship Further

By B. R. Deepak

The India-China relationship is unlike any other relationship in the world. It is extremely important because we have had an uninterrupted flow of communication for almost two millennia.

**A**s far as my connection to China is concerned, it began during my high school days. I got hooked on a book about Chinese culture and civilization, and I fell in love with that. It was on that basis I thought that it was necessary to understand the Chinese language, and I enrolled for the Jawaharlal Nehru University entrance examination and I was lucky enough to be admitted.

That's how I ended up doing bachelor's and master's degrees in Chinese language and literature. Later on, I went to Peking University for advanced studies in Chinese history. It was under the influence of some of the foremost

India-China experts in China that I pursued my research in India-China relations.

The people who influenced me are many. For example, Professor Ji Xianlin, Professor Huang Baosheng and my wife Wang Yao. As far as my academic pursuit is concerned, it was Professor Lin Chengjie who did tremendous academic research on India-China relations in

modern times. There is also Professor Ji Xianlin. I used to visit his home in the campus of Peking University when I was a student there. It was under the inspiration of these people that I ventured into the study of India-China relations. Of course, my wife has been of great support for me, and we are still doing our best to promote India-China friendship in India and

**In India, if we had to write a history of Indian-foreign cultural exchanges, most of it would be our exchanges with China. The same would be true for China, not only in ancient times but also in modern history.**



September 15, 2005: A total of 180 Indian high school graduates are admitted to the School of Medicine, Wuhan University. This was the first time that undergraduate programs in Wuhan University were open to international students. VCG

elsewhere.

My own research starts with the colonial period and ends with contemporary India-China relations. I discovered that both India and China are civilizational states. There is no doubt that both of them had an uninterrupted flow of cross-cultural connections for two millennia. When I was in China, I discovered the footprints of these interactions wherever I went. It was breathtaking to discover those things. I went deeply into it and gradually also started to translate some of relevant Chinese writings into Hindi and English so that

a wider audience in India and elsewhere can learn about these relationships.

As far as ancient India-China relations are concerned, the interaction was always through the traffic of travelers going to and from both countries, including Indian and Chinese scholar monks who created the entire depository of Buddhist literature that influenced or had its intangible imprints on East Asia. As far as colonial connection is concerned, Indian and Chinese nationalists, whether in Japan, inside China or elsewhere, gave each other support and sympathy during

the anti-imperialist struggle. Also, during the contemporary period, especially during the 1950s and later after the restoration of the relationship between the two countries, India and China have forged an understanding that the relationship is vital and is capable of deciding the future of global order. I believe this relationship is unlike any other relationship in the world. It is extremely important because we have had an uninterrupted flow of communication for almost two millennia. It is in this context that we should cherish the India-China relationship and



The Huanglong Scenic Area is located in Songpan County, Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province. It covers an area of 700 square kilometers and is noted for massive, oddly-shaped and colorful surface travertine landscapes. It was added to the World Heritage List in 1992. VCG

take it further.

If we look at the history of mankind, of all the four old civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China, the latter two are in Asia and are living civilizations. Along with the Greek and Roman civilizations, these formed four distinct cultures—the Islamic, Indian, Chinese and Western cultures. Contrary to the “clash of cultures” theory, these systems engaged in inter-civilizational dialogue through the free flow of commodities, capital, technology and people. The birth of Chinese Buddhism came through the dissemination of

ancient Indian or central Asian astronomy, literature, music, and languages into China. Archaeologists suggest that sugar making, paper manufacturing, steel smelting, silk, porcelain, and tea traveling from China to other countries enriched the knowledge systems across the world.

In India, if we had to write a history of Indian-foreign cultural exchanges, most of it would be our exchanges with China. The same would be true for China, not only in ancient times but also in modern history. We would see our nationalists joining hands. Tagore and Doctor

Kotnis, among others, built bridges between the people of the two. There have been a few bumps in the road, including the 1962 border conflict, but that is not a reason to cut off engagement with each other. 🇮🇳

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# China's Green Growth Path Outlined in the 14th Five-Year Plan

By Chang Jiwen

Transforming clear waters and lush mountains into invaluable assets not only protects the ecological environment but also promotes employment, which is conducive to the coordinated development of socioeconomic progress and ecological protection.

**T**he 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for ecological conservation has been outlined at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. According to the proposals for formulating the plan, China will strive to promote new ecological progress in the five years to come by practicing the idea that “clear waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.” To transform clear waters and lush mountains into invaluable assets, China will steadfastly and scientifically strengthen environmental protection and ecological restoration, and develop a green and low-carbon economy.

## GREEN AND LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT

The per capita GDP for the world's medium-developed countries is US\$20,000 to US\$30,000, and this number will continue to increase as these countries advance in development. Though China's per capita GDP now surpasses US\$10,000, given its large population, China will need to increase its GDP by at least 5-7 percent per year as it is projected to achieve its 2050 economic and social development goals and catch up with the moderately developed countries by 2050. It will thus be an arduous task for China to fulfill its pledge to peak carbon emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality

before 2060. Committed to building a community with a shared future for humanity and realizing green and sustainable development, China must adopt measures such as technological advancement, governance progress, and all-round transformation to combine the pledge with the efforts toward the completion of the “Beautiful China” initiative from 2035 to 2050. The 14th Five-Year Plan for ecological conservation can consider the following measures to implement the concept that “clear waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets” and to promote low-carbon and green development.

Green production and green



October 17, 2020: Shuikou Village in Changxing County of Zhejiang Province is surrounded by golden paddy fields, presenting the beautiful scenery of a bumper harvest. VCG

lifestyles should be encouraged in all of society to reduce resource consumption and pollutant discharge and realize low-carbon development. The weak links in ecological protection should be strengthened by building garbage sorting and wastewater treatment facilities in urban and rural areas, improving the residential environment, reducing non-point source pollution, and increasing the capacity of the environment.

The energy mix needs to be upgraded by stepping up hydrogen, solar, and wind energy exploration and

steadily developing nuclear energy, reducing dependency on fossil fuels, and cutting emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. The management and control of fossil energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as ecological restoration and pollution control, can be incorporated into what is covered by inspections to enforce ecological protection and the index system for the evaluation of ecological progress.

Measures should be taken to coordinate ecological progress with pollution prevention

and control, the control of traditional air pollutant emissions with the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, and PM2.5 reduction with the control of ozone emissions. The management and control of emissions of multiple air pollutants should be planned as a whole to protect people's health and improve overall performance of ecological endeavors.

A coordinated system should be established to integrate and optimize separate measures, consolidate and develop strengths, fill in the gaps, and strengthen weak links in



September 17, 2020: Volunteers participate in a cycling event for environmental protection purpose at a cultural park in Tangshan City, Hebei Province. IC

ecological work. The rights to use the land, underground and surface water, water bodies, riverbeds, seabeds, and subsoil of water bodies should be clarified to achieve targeted protection. The reform of the environmental credit system should be deepened and the links between the environmental liability insurance and chemical products liability insurance should be strengthened to remove the bottleneck in building coordinated, smoothly operating and efficient cultural, economic, institutional, liability and safety systems benefiting the overall ecological reform.

A problem-oriented approach should be taken in the integrated institutional innovation for ecological progress. For example, guided by the requirements

for protecting the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, and the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, innovative policies and regulations that reflect the needs of green development of different regions or river basins should be introduced to integrate and upgrade the older ones.

The environmental departments should improve the evaluation mechanism of ecological progress, establish an ecosystem services accounting mechanism, and explore putting in place an energy industry innovation system, a green industry certification system, and a climate change financing system.

## EFFICIENT USE OF ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China is expected to transform clear waters and lush mountains into invaluable assets by adopting the above-mentioned measures. That will not only protect the ecological environment but also promote employment, which is conducive to the coordinated development of socioeconomic progress and ecological protection.

Different cities in China should formulate their own industrial development strategies according to their respective positions in the regions or river basins. They need to achieve economic and environmental benefits by carrying out industrial cooperation and complementation, upgrading the industrial mix, promoting the development of industrial clusters, and reducing pollutant emissions and energy and resource consumption. The co-opetition, existing extensively in the regions or river basins and even across China and the world, forces cities to abandon small competition, small cooperation, and small circulation in a closed manner. Globalization is a long-term trend. Though anti-globalization may emerge when the world suffers economic hardship, competitive green industries should not retreat from the arena of international co-opetition.

Meanwhile, China cannot afford to ignore the manufacturing sector's supporting role in the national economy and for the upgrading of green industries. The part


that green agriculture, green tourism, and green rehabilitation play in national and regional economies shouldn't be exaggerated. Despite their well-protected ecological environment, many rural areas in central and western China, with poor transportation and industrial bases and lacking high-caliber human resources, are recipients of national financial support or "paired assistance" from developed and industrialized regions. Therefore, it is necessary to implement high-quality industrialization and urbanization to achieve coordinated development between urban and rural areas and between industry and agriculture, according to the proposals for the 14th Five-Year Plan. Ecological value cannot be transformed into economic value if these rural areas are not supported by competitive industries, specialized green products or services, demand and investment from medium-sized and large cities, and state-financed eco-compensation payments. It is also difficult to create an ecological landscape featuring coordinated development, prosperous living and good ecological environments for urban and rural areas.

Local governments must strive for progress while maintaining stability in developing ecological industries. The industrial scale should not exceed demand and should conform to local realities rather than blindly copying models. To cite an example, investors and local governments went all out to

purchase the rights to develop ancient villages and relocate villagers when they saw the B&B economy had gained momentum in some areas in the past few years, but due to inadequate consumption and high prices, in many places it did not turn out well. Low visitor numbers made little difference to the sales of local specialties or the development of local green industries. As a result, the reconstruction of these ancient villages was not completed. In fact, with nationwide ecological improvement as the pollution prevention and control campaign has yielded remarkable results in the past few years, the ecological advantages of some areas lost their former attraction to visitors and the economic value of these areas was unsustainable. To avoid falling into such traps, local governments should stay firm in the work of ecological protection and pollution prevention and control, in improving the quality and stability of the ecosystem, and in preserving their local features and advantages in green industries.

The transformation must be a gradual process based on local resources, characteristics and advantages. Local governments need to consider ecological, industrial, and social realities before working on transportation construction, the building of information and pollution treatment facilities, and professional personnel training. This must be combined with the overall advantages in green manufacturing, green

tourism, green agriculture, and green service industries so that ecological value can be transformed into economic value and attract investment. With the improvement of green development, green industries will develop from local supplementary industries to regional and even global competitive industries. This is the necessary path for high-quality development.

In addition, the environmental enforcement departments must strictly implement ecological space management and control plans, follow the "three lines and one checklist" (ecological conservation red line, environmental quality bottom line, resource utilization upper limit, and environmental access checklist), formulate effective plans for environmental impact assessments, scientifically manage and control ecological protection, agricultural production, eco-tourism and green industrial space, and carry out the overall planning of land-sea and water-land environmental protection, which will not only guarantee the ecological safety of regions and river basins across the country, but also promote sustainable socioeconomic development. 

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# Empowering the Economy

By Prasad Khake

It's only a matter of time before China and India lead the global economy.

**I**t was fascinating to see China release its proposals for mapping out the *14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035* as the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its fifth plenary session. This plan is of particular importance in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic which has had drastic and long-lasting effects.

The 14th Five-Year Plan dictates that China will strive to make new strides in economic development. Taking new steps in reform and opening up, China will further improve its socialist market economy and continue building a high-standard market system.

It is worth noting that the CPC has set the Two Centenary Goals: to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2021 when the CPC celebrates its centenary,

and to build a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious by 2049, the centenary of the People's Republic of China.

There are 60 key points in the proposals, each one focusing on a particular area and theme ranging from improving the quality of life for citizens to prioritizing rural revitalization and promoting high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

China has seen rapid growth over the past decades, essentially becoming the world's manufacturing powerhouse. The megacities, which were carefully selected, specialized and developed over a long time, have reaped huge dividends as they have become the *de facto* choice of global manufacturing and supply chains. The modularization of factories has enabled customization for Chinese suppliers which makes it essentially effortless to take on any request and serve global markets.

One key point underlined

in the proposals is the facilitation of domestic circulation and the opening of a dual circulation strategy involving both foreign and domestic markets. This provides a glimpse into how China seeks to boost its domestic market while simultaneously serving global needs. For an outsider, observing the steps China takes always leads to considering whether they can be applied in your own country's case. Let's take a brief dive into that and see what India has done up to now.

India and China have always been compared with each other as both countries started off as developing economies in the late 1940s. Though China is vaster than India in terms of territory, both countries have similar population sizes and large working-age sectors of their respective populations.

After independence, India started on an economic ideology of socialism, and faced a famine-like situation (1965-1968) and a crippling foreign exchange crisis (1990-1991).

It was only after economic liberalization (1991) in India that the doors of the Indian economy were open to foreign players, investors and service providers, thus ending the socialist model while adopting a mixed economy. And it wasn't all peaceful all these years as India went through multiple wars as well as internal turmoil, political instability, regional disputes and natural disasters, amongst others.

India has one of the youngest populations with one of the largest pools of talented graduates. India lifted millions of people out of poverty while safeguarding the elementary education of its children. It became self-sufficient in feeding its people and even more so as to become the largest exporter of some kinds of food grains. The rapid expansion in the post-liberalization era catapulted the Indian middle class into greater spending as it had now more purchasing options along with increased disposable income. Along came the IT revolution which transformed the service sector of the country. Outsourcing made India the global back office while providing crucial foreign currency. More recently, India has been seeing the births of global companies and start-ups being operated from India but serving global markets, which has strengthened the belief that India can make and provide world-class products and services.

Similar to China, India also has its megacities, though not as carefully planned or built.



May 25, 2017: The first Urumqi-Lianyungang-New Delhi road-rail-sea multimodal express, transporting polyvinyl chloride products, arrives in Lianyungang, eastern China's Jiangsu Province. Starting from Urumqi, capital city of northwestern China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the cargo first arrived at Lianyungang Port and was then transported to India's Nhava Sheva Port by sea before finally reaching New Delhi by road. China News Service

Its metropolises house most of the nation's aspirants who come to fulfill their dreams. While a large part of the population is still dependent on agriculture, the smart-phone and cheap accessible data have put technology adoption on the fast track.

As we see India and China side by side, there are a couple of similarities as well as disparities in their development. China has the authority to enforce and run programs and initiatives efficiently, while India has a decentralized and more collaborative nature for work involving the central and state governments. China has built powerhouse manufacturing abilities with its skilled labor force and dedicated geographical specializations in a conducive ecosystem, and India has become the global services powerhouse in outsourcing as it stands on the forefront of providing

world-class IT services, IT products, and many others thanks to its talent pool.

Both India and China have huge consumer bases and populations with lifestyles ready to be upgraded to improve standards of living. China and India both have the potential to be the biggest economies in the world, surpassing the U.S. Although the numbers do say China is far ahead of India, I believe there is a lot both countries can learn from each other, especially given the similarities and proximity, geographically and socioeconomically. It's only a matter of time before China and India lead the global economy. 🇮🇳

*The author is an entrepreneur in Pune, India, who has dealt with Chinese manufacturing professionals in Shenzhen, China. He is a keen learner of globalization trends, supply chains, manufacturing and trade.*

# The Story of Peaches and Pears Told by Xuanzang

## Another Angle on China-India Cultural Exchange

By Wang Bangwei

Cultural exchange between China and India has always involved both spiritual and material realms.

**T**he fourth fascicle of *The Great Tang Dynasty Record on the Western Regions*, a well-known book written by Xuanzang, an eminent monk of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), according to his pilgrim travel to India, mentions a country called “Cīnabhukti” in India:

The country of Cīnabhukti is more than two thousand *li* in area, and its capital city is fourteen or fifteen *li* in area. It is abundant in grains, but fruit trees are scarce. The inhabitants are enrolled in household registration and live in peace and contentment. The state treasury has rich and profuse resources. The climate is temperate and warm, and the

people are timid and mild by custom. They study the theories of both the transcendental and the conventional truth in a comprehensive way and believe in heterodoxy as well as orthodoxy. There are ten (Buddhist) monasteries and eight *deva* temples.

The exact location of Cīnabhukti is not very clear today. According to *The Great Tang Dynasty Record on the Western Regions* and Xuanzang’s biography, *The Life of Tripitaka Master Xuanzang of the Great Cī’en Temple*, very possibly, Cīnabhukti might be in today’s Punjab in north-western India. However, here what we concern is not its geographical location, but its

name. The front part of the name “Cīnabhukti” is Cīna, which is a Sanskrit word referring to China since very early time in India.

It is striking that the name of a small country in ancient India contained the word “Cīna,” meaning “China.” Did it have anything to do with China? In his book, Xuanzang provided an explanation:

When King Kaniṣka occupied the throne, his fame reached neighboring countries, and his prestige radiated to distant lands with dissimilar customs. Fearing his influence, a vassal state west of the Yellow River sent him a prince as hostage. King Kaniṣka received the prince with munificent hospitality, provided him three residences



January 25, 2019: The Chinese musical drama *Xuanzang's Pilgrimage* is staged at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the United States. China News Service

for the three seasons of the year and appointed four divisions of soldiers to serve as his guards. The winter residence provided for the Chinese prince was in this district and called Cīnabhukti (known as *Hanfeng*, "Han's or Chinese Fief", in Chinese), so it also became the name of the land he was apportioned.

Xuanzang mentioned this story previously in the second fascicle of *The Great Tang Dynasty Record on the Western Regions*: "Upon receiving the hostage prince, King Kaniṣka treated him with special kindness and courtesy, providing him with different lodgings according to the seasons. In the winter, he stayed in

various states in India, in the summer he returned to the country of Kāpiśī, and in the spring and autumn he stayed in the country of Gandhāra." Cīnabhukti was likely the primary place the hostage lived in India during winter.

Xuanzang explained that "Cīnabhukti" means "*Hanfeng*" (Han's or Chinese fief) in Chinese. The word "Cīnabhukti" is comprised of "Cīna," "China" in Sanskrit, and "bhukti," meaning "fief." Together, "Cīnabhukti" means "China's fief" in Sanskrit.

Despite the name, it is unlikely that the hostage prince came from the Han ethnic group, possibly from somewhere in today's Xinjiang area of China. It seems that

the local people that time thought that was part of Cīna, or part of Mahācīna i.e. Great China, so they called him a Chinese prince.

However, not only was the name of Cīnabhukti derived from China, but some other things in the land were related. Xuanzang continued:

This district, and beyond it in other parts of India, previously no pear and peach were planted. The hostage first planted them. Thus, peaches are called *cīnanī* ("being brought from China"), and pears are called *cīnarājaputra* ("Chinese prince"). Therefore, the people of this country have a deep respect for the person from East Land, i.e. China, they said to one another: "This



is a man from the land of our former king.”

The Sanskrit word “*cīnanī*” consists of two parts: *cīna* (meaning “China”) and *nī* (meaning “brought from” or “coming from”). When the two parts are put together, the word means “being brought from China.” The Sanskrit word “*cīnarājaputra*” consists of three segments: *cīna* (meaning “China”), *rāja* (meaning “king”) and *putra* (meaning “son”), so the entire word means “Chinese prince,” just the same as Xuanzang translated.

Modern botanists agree that peaches and pears are endemic to China. Although the tale that the hostage prince from China was the first person to plant peaches

and pears in India may require further discussion, the two species of fruit are indeed considered to have been introduced to India from China. Xuanzang was the only person to record this story throughout history, and he had little reason to fabricate information in this regard.

In fact, not only peaches and pears, a number of other things in India are related to China. Silk is the most prominent example.

Sericulture and silk were great inventions by Chinese people thousands of years ago. In ancient times, China had already become a renowned producer of silk. In ancient Rome, silk was even considered synonymous with China. The Sanskrit word “*cīnapaṭṭa*”

refers to silk from China.

A paragraph in *Arthaśāstra*, a Sanskrit book on statecraft in ancient India, reads: “*kaūṣeyaṃ cīnapaṭṭaś ca cīnabhumijāḥ*” (“*kaūṣeya* and bunches of silk from China”). As Xuanzang explained in the second fascicle of *The Great Tang Dynasty Record on the Western Regions*, *kaūṣeya* refers to silk spun by wild silkworms. Apparently, *cīnapaṭṭa* is a different kind of silk from *kaūṣeya*. What is it different? In Sanskrit, *cīnapaṭṭa* means silk spun by homegrown silkworms. The line in *Arthaśāstra* clearly states that this kind of silk came from China (“*cīnabhumijā*” in Sanskrit).

It is debatable when *Arthaśāstra* was written. Nevertheless, no one disputes the book’s long history. The mainstream consensus among scholars is that the book dates to the 4th century B.C., equivalent to the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) and the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) in China. This indicates that Chinese silk was introduced to India before ancient Rome. The description of “bunches of silk” implies that Chinese silk was exported to India through international trade by the Silk Road called today.

Another related Sanskrit word, *cīnasicaya*, means “silk clothes.”

With the word *cīna*, we can see some other examples.

Sanskrit word *cīnajā* refers to “steel.” Basically, *cīnajā* means “things from China,” including steel. Why did ancient Indians call steel *cīnajā*? Did India import steel



Peaches sold in a market in Uttarakhand, India. IC



June 24, 2019: The statue of Chinese Buddhist monk Xuanzang (602-664) under the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an, northwestern China's Shaanxi Province. In 652, Xuanzang presided over the construction of the pagoda as a place to collect Buddhist sutras he brought from India via the Silk Road. China News Service

from China or introduce China's steel-making technology in ancient times? The word *cīnajā* implies that such conjectures are possible, at least at the first thought.

Another Sanskrit word "*cīnakaṭikā*" refers to a kind of gourd melon, but if literally translated, the word means "Chinese melon." As its name implies, this species of plant was likely introduced to India from China. Camphor and the camphor tree are called *cīnakarpūra* in Sanskrit. This means their origin in India might also be related to China.

Those Sanskrit words indicate the foreign origins of those things, just like some foreign loanwords in Chinese, such as "胡萝卜" (carrot), "番茄" (tomato) and "番石榴" (guava).

Miniumite, also called "red lead," is a mineral that has been long used as a common medicinal ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine, especially in surgical medicine, since ancient times. In Sanskrit, it is called *cīnapiṣṭa* or *cīnavaṅga*. It isn't clear how this mineral was introduced to India from China. Some scholars suggest it may

be related to the practice of alchemy of Chinese Taoism. However, it remains debatable whether Taoism had much of an influence in India historically, because little evidence shows that it did. But it is undisputed that the Sanskrit word for miniumite contains the prefix "*cīna*."

All of these are examples of Sanskrit words beginning with the prefix "*cīna*." That means they had something to do with China or were at least popularly believed to be related.

Sanskrit is an ancient



Silk was introduced to India from China in history. Now, India is the world's second-largest silk producer only after China, and the world's largest raw silk importer. VCG

language in India. Today, Indians don't speak Sanskrit any more in daily life, but a variety of regional languages. However, the regional languages still preserve many Sanskrit words. Presently, Hindi and Bengali are among the most widely used languages in India. Some words in those two languages also have connections to China. The most notable example is "*Cīnī*." From the etymological perspective, *Cīnī* and the Sanskrit word *Cīna* both refer to China despite a different ending sound.

In Hindi and Bengali, *Cīnī* means "sugar" as well. It

understandable how *Cīnī* could refer to China. But sugar originated in India, not China. Historically, ancient Indians were the first to plant sugarcane and invent the technique of making sugar through boiling it in water. The technique eventually spread to other countries around the world. This is evidenced by the words for "sugar" in languages of various countries. In Sanskrit, sugar is called *śarkarā*, which was converted into "sugar" in English, "sucre" in French, "zucker" in German, "azúcar" in Spanish, "zuccherò" in Italian, and "caxap" in

Russian. In ancient China, *śarkarā* was transliterated into "熬割令" (pronounced "shageling").

Before the Tang Dynasty, Chinese people did not plant sugarcane, let alone making sugar from sugarcane. The change happened while the technique of making sugar was introduced into China in the early years of the Tang period. According to Chinese historical records, Emperor Taizong of the Tang sent people to Magadha, an ancient kingdom of India, to learn how to press, boil and dry sugar from sugarcane. After returning to China,

they began to use sugarcane from Yangzhou to produce sugar. The sugar produced in China even had better quality than that in India. From then on, China had its own granulated sugar.

This event was clearly associated with Xuanzang. Buddhist monk Daoxuan, a contemporary of Xuanzang's, wrote in his *Biography of Xuanzang* in the fourth fascicle of *Sequel to Biographies of Eminent Monks*: "Xuanzang earned fame across the five parts in India. He talked and praised much of the prominent people and things of China. For a long time King Śīlāditya and monks of Mahābodhi Temple wanted to know more about China, but the kingdom had no diplomatic relations with China, so they lacked access to any hard evidence to support what they heard."

Śīlāditya was the most powerful king in India when Xuanzang visited, and he once called himself the King of Magadha. After meeting with Xuanzang, "King Śīlāditya sent envoys carrying precious gifts to China, as well as the people of Mahābodhi Temple carrying the Buddhist texts. So after Xuanzang's arrival, the diplomatic relations was established between ancient India and ancient China."

The earliest diplomatic delegation sent by King Śīlāditya to the Tang Empire arrived in Chang'an, then the capital, in 641, the 15th year of the Zhenguan reign. The event was recorded in *The New Tang History*, *The Old Tang History* and *The Cefu Yuangu*

(*"The Original Archives Kept in the Bureau"*). Afterwards, Emperor Taizong of the Tang dispatched envoys to India, and King Śīlāditya sent envoys for a return visit. From then on, China and India frequently sent reciprocal envoys, as Monk Daoxuan described:

After the Indian envoy returned, (the emperor) sent a delegation of more than 20, headed by Wang Xuance, on a diplomatic mission to *Daxia* (here means India) with more than 1,000 rolls of silk as gifts for the King and monks, in different numbers accordingly. The delegates selected artisans of sugar making at the Mahābodhi Temple, then sent two artisans and eight monks to China. After they arrived in China, under the order of the Tang emperor, they went to Yuezhou to make sugar with sugarcane, all with successful results.

Mahābodhi Temple, known as the venue where Buddha Śākyamuni attained enlightenment, has been one of the holiest sites of Buddhism since ancient times. The temple was located in the kingdom of Magadha in India. Wang Xuance was the most famous Chinese envoy to India during the early Tang Dynasty. From the reign of Emperor Taizong to Emperor Gaozong, he visited India three times. What Monk Daoxuan described in his book roughly matches the relevant records in *The New Tang History*. According to historical records, India sent sugar artisans to China, and those

artisans and Indian monks then went to Yuezhou (today's Shaoxing and neighboring areas in Zhejiang Province) to make high-quality granulated sugar with local sugarcane.

Many records clearly indicate that China's boiled sugar-making technique was imported from India. So how could the word for sugar in ancient India, where the boiled sugar-making technique was invented, be associated with China? This question continues perplexing, and still lacks any convincing answers. The question drew attention from Ji Xianlin, a renowned scholar at Peking University. After lengthy and painstaking research, Ji concluded that India—at least some certain regions or in some certain periods—once imported granulated sugar and its production techniques from China. For this reason, Indian people could have started calling sugar "*cīnī*."

To sum up, though these names of things I mentioned above look not unusual, it reflects some subtle but important angles of historical China-India cultural exchange. In fact, the cultural exchange between the two nations has always involved both spiritual and material realms. The story of peaches and pears told by Xuanzang in *The Great Tang Dynasty Record on the Western Regions* is just one example. 📖

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# A Poor County Becomes the Face of China's Rural Education Drive

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By Sudeshna Sarkar

It is in Laiyuan that an experiment in education started, an initiative that is probably to rural education in China what the reform and opening up was to the Chinese economy in 1978.

**F**or museum enthusiasts who love to learn more about China's history and culture through, well, museums, a hidden gem awaits their discovery in a rather unexpected place. In September 2020, we went to a picturesque mountain county that, despite being only three hours away from Beijing by car, it is almost on no general tourist's radar.

I came to know about Laiyuan, located in the city of Baoding in Hebei, the province adjoining Beijing, only at the fag-end of my decade-long stay in China. It is there that an experiment in education started, an initiative that is

probably to rural education in China what the reform and opening up was to the Chinese economy in 1978.

The school we visited in Laiyuan, previously known as Taomugeda Primary School, back in the 1980s was nothing more than a tumbledown stone and mud shack; a sheep pen by night and the only school for children in the village by day. In winter, the wind whistled in through the windows that had several panes missing and were curtained with tattered

plastic sheets. The cold made the children, dressed in scraps and mostly barefoot, shiver. When it rained, the rainwater came down through the rickety roof, at times erasing the writing on the blackboard.

But when we went there, we were greeted by a modern whitewashed building with well-organized wings that besides the classrooms, included a music room, a computer room, a library and dormitories for students. There were decent football and basketball courts. It was the

**Education remains paramount in the struggle to attain a reasonable livelihood.**



Sudeshna Sarkar teaches children at the Dongtuanpu Central Primary School in Laiyuan County, northern China's Hebei Province. by Shi Gang

new avatar of the Taomugeda Primary School, renovated and renamed the Dongtuanpu Central Primary School. Up from the original 13 students, the school now boasts 328 students, as we were told by the deputy principal of the school, Zhang Shangli.

Zhang's face looked familiar, though I had never met him before. Then it dawned on me where I had seen him. His was among the arresting faces we saw in the photographs in an annex we had to cross before reaching the main building. The annex

was a small but compact museum that told the story of the school. The rural educational experiment behind it is known as Project Hope today. It also told the stories of the students who have done the school and country proud, as well as the state leaders associated with the project.

#### FROM POSTER BOY TO PRINCIPAL

In 1988, Zhang was 12 years old, and deeply unhappy. His father, a struggling farmer, had fallen ill and asked Zhang

to quit school to help feed the family, including his several younger siblings. Zhang would go up into the mountains, collecting tree branches to cook the food. One photo in the museum shows the young boy carrying a large load of sticks on his back.

But Zhang wanted to study. The previous year, he and several other boys in the school had seen the first car in their lives. The man in the car had a kind face and spoke to the raggedy children in a kind way. Learning that they all attended school, he told them



Students in a classroom at Dongtuanpu Central Primary School. The school has 328 students, according to its deputy principal Zhang Shengli. by Shi Gang

to study hard and he would help them go to college. Later they learned the visitor's name was Che Zhizong.

Che was the deputy chairman of the Laiyuan County Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the political advisory body to the local government, and had come to assess how the village could be promoted as a tourist destination to end the rampant poverty there. For Zhang, that fateful meeting had left a deep mark on his mind and on an impulse he scribbled a letter to the official.

"Dear Uncle Che," he wrote, "We badly want to go to school. But our family is poor, and our father can't afford our tuition fees. We

want to be learned and be someone like you, who makes the country proud."

Besides Zhang, Che's daughter Xiaoqiao also pieced together the story for us, a story which has since become well chronicled by both the media and individuals writing about education in China.

Che is now 82. A fall about two years ago left him severely disabled, practically unable to speak. Yet he closely followed his daughter recounting the story, sometimes nodding in agreement.

When Che got the letter, as luck would have it, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China and China Youth Development Foundation had been asked to help school dropouts in

rural impoverished areas to continue their education. Che suggested the two organizations start a project, later known as Project Hope, by sponsoring the education of the 13 children, and the proposal was accepted. That is how in 1989, the group of 13 got a new lease of life.

"If I had not received the help that I did, I would have been either a beggar or a low-skilled migrant worker," Zhang told us. "Education and technology are the two most important things that can change the fate of those who would otherwise remain in poverty forever. If a family had just one college graduate, that single graduate's earnings could pull the entire family out of poverty."

His words were almost an echo of a statement by U.S. economist Jeffrey Sachs. At a webinar on how to end poverty in China as well as in the U.S. on October 13, 2020, Sachs, director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, said technological changes today, leading to the digitalization of society and the economy, have left at least half of American households without college education falling further and further behind. Education remains paramount in the struggle to attain a reasonable livelihood.

### **A WELCOME GENERATION GAP**

The converse is that lack of education or in the worst case, illiteracy, breeds poverty. Across rural, remote and inaccessible areas, illiteracy is

**The story of education in China has been carried forward by people like Zhang who, grateful for the chance life gave them, decided to pay it forward.**

handed down from generation to generation, and along with it, poverty.

Chinese leaders have been well aware of this. In 2015, on the eve of National Teachers' Day, September 10, in a message to teachers, President Xi Jinping said, "Reducing poverty must begin with reducing ignorance. Therefore, giving rural children a good education is an important task in poverty relief, and also a crucial means to stop poverty from being passed on between generations."

That is why Project Hope was started in the 1980s to ensure basic education across China's impoverished areas. During the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War, mountainous Laiyuan was a revolutionary base of the Communist Party of China due to its inaccessibility. But when the war was over and Japan had surrendered, the mountains stood in the way of progress and prosperity. Therefore, Project Hope decided to fund poor students there to halt the inter-generational transmission of illiteracy and poverty. By September 2019, the project built over 20,000 primary schools in poverty-stricken

areas and helped 6 million students across the country.

According to the school museum, in 1992, the education of one of these students, identified only by the surname Zhou, was sponsored by an anonymous donor. It was only years later that Zhou came to know the good Samaritan was none other than late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping.

Zhang's story is a classic example of how one generation with education can break the chain of illiteracy and poverty. Zhang now has two children. While the younger one is too young to go to school, the older is in college.

The story of education in China has been carried forward by people like Zhang who, grateful for the chance life gave them, decided to pay it forward. Zhang could have worked and lived in big cities, but he decided to return to Laiyuan, which was one of the 10 most impoverished counties in Hebei.


Zhang explained his decision. China's poverty, he said, stemmed not from big cities like Beijing and Guangzhou, but from rural areas lacking education. "It made me decide to be a teacher in my hometown and teach those who cannot go to school due to poverty," he told us.

Today, Laiyuan has 26

Project Hope schools.

In 2013, the county began to follow a 15-year free education policy, covering pre-school to high school in rural areas, with special attention given to controlling the number of dropouts. In 2019, the pre-school gross enrollment rate was 99.78 percent while primary and junior high school enrollment rate was 100 percent, according to the local government.

Che continues to contribute to children's education. His daughter continues his work by providing books, clothes and medical care for youngsters from impoverished families. When we visited him, we were introduced to a seventh grader who calls him "grandfather." The teen comes from a poor family and her father is mentally ill. While her education is publicly-funded, she gets much-needed family support and nurturing from the Che family.

The teenager, Dong Haiyan, wants to be a doctor, influenced by the heroism medical workers showed during the peak of the novel coronavirus epidemic in China. Time will tell if her wish comes true. Even if she doesn't become a doctor but continues her education to eventually stand on her own feet, it will be another case where one generation finally puts an end to the transmission of poverty. 

*The author is an Indian editorial consultant working with Beijing Review.*



# Shenzhen: From Fishing Village to Tech Hub

By Cecile Zehnacker

Now China's number one technology hub, 40 years ago Shenzhen was a mere rural stretch dotted with fishing villages.

Forty years ago, the land on which the city of Shenzhen now sits was just a rural stretch dotted with fishing villages. Late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, considered the architect of China's reform and opening up, recognized the value of the strategic location adjacent to Hong Kong and positioned it at the heart of the reform, so the city of Shenzhen was officially born in 1979. The city grew fast and eyed becoming an economic and financial center and a strategic hub for exchange between the mainland and Hong Kong. Shenzhen was established as China's first Special Economic Zone (SEZ), and offered benefits including lower tax rates. Public and private companies quickly flocked into the SEZ, making Shenzhen one of the fastest-growing cities in China.

As Shenzhen emerged as one of China's main financial

centers (Shenzhen introduced its own stock market in 1990), a stream of tech companies started setting up shop there, all attracted by the great openness of the city. The limited city space soon became carpeted with impressive skyscrapers housing many tech companies. Some of China's biggest tech giants, such as Tencent, Huawei (the world's biggest producer of telecommunication devices), and DJI (the world leader in civilian drone production), placed massive chunks of their operations in Shenzhen. Although most developed as pure tech companies, others such as Chinese insurance and financial behemoth Ping An also placed offices in Shenzhen to develop technology to support existing businesses.

Ping An settled in Shenzhen's Shekou District in 1988. Starting with insurance and financial services, Ping An gradually integrated

technological innovation into its strategy to offer comprehensive services using technology to support value creation. The insurance giant has developed many tech-related service ecosystems linked to healthcare, smart cities, traffic regulation, facial recognition, car services, and more. For instance, its car services include consultation, lending, post-sale services, insurance, and quick damage assessment. Ping An Good Doctor, a one-stop online healthcare portal, provides access to medical support to people from remote and poorer areas. While most tech companies focus on a certain sector, Ping An has succeeded in combining technology with other services to optimally serve government departments, companies, and individual consumers. Ping An is also known for its impressive 599-meter-tall Ping An Finance Center, which is Shenzhen's

tallest building, China's second tallest (after Shanghai Tower), and the fourth tallest in the world.

Many Shenzhen-based tech companies have enjoyed meteoric rises. DJI (Da Jiang Innovations) was founded in 2006 by Frank Wang, a Zhejiang native and tech guru who developed his first prototypes in his university dorm. Thanks to an innovative and consumer-oriented strategy, DJI has become the world's leader in civilian drones. It holds 70 percent of the global market share while its nearest competitor barely surpasses 5 percent. Over the years, DJI has expanded its offerings to meet consumer needs with new B2C products such as small, easy-to-use drones equipped with tiny cameras for live streaming, and B2B products such as drones for agriculture. The company's products are also used for other applications such as cinema and TV, and DJI sponsors university robotics competitions to stay true to its roots.

Shenzhen now hosts the annual China Hi-Tech Fair, an event that attracts cutting-edge industry-oriented technologies from big companies as well as startups. This year, some of the most noticeable technologies addressed major contemporary issues such as emergency response, locally sourced technology and hardware, and information privacy. China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. (CSCEC) developed the most advanced prefabricated building engineering technology to drastically cut construction



An overview of Shenzhen City from Lianhuashan Park. On the right is Ping An Finance Center, the tallest building of Shenzhen and fourth tallest in the world.

time in emergency situations. During the coronavirus outbreak this year, CSCEC used the technology to build emergency treatment facilities at Shenzhen Third Hospital. IntelliFusion, a company that develops chips for smart cities, made a noticeable breakthrough by developing advanced AI hardware using only Chinese technology and hardware. ArcSoft developed facial recognition technologies for smartphones that respect privacy by only storing data offline on the user's phone, an innovative technical advancement to address privacy concerns surrounding fast-developing facial recognition and AI technologies and growing risk of identity theft. Shenzhen's impressive growth has attracted people from across China to settle in the city, which has further enhanced its dynamics. By its 40th birthday, Shenzhen had become a young and multicultural melting pot of ideas and people from all over China, not to mention a large foreign community, attracted by the opportunities offered by China's youngest megacity.

As a result, Shenzhen has also gradually improved the city planning to offer an improved quality of life to its citizens. There are more than 1,000 free public parks all over the city, an advanced network of public transportation as well as measures to control and limit traffic. The city now enjoys a burgeoning cultural sector with many music festivals and art events all year round as well as amazing exhibitions such as the recent "Values of Design: China in the Making" at the Sea World Culture and Arts Center, which showcases innovations for a sustainable future in China.

In only a handful of decades, Shenzhen has evolved from a rural tract into a key Chinese megalopolis brimming with both business opportunities and high living standards. Many left larger Chinese cities to settle in the young and dynamic newborn, attracted not only by business-centric local governance focused on offering China's best working and business development conditions, but also by the unique living environment the city affords. 📍

# Lord Ram in China

By B. R. Deepak

It presents an opportune moment to talk about Ram and *Ramayana* in China as the people of India revisit the whole sequence of events of the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement amidst the 'bhoomi puja' for building the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

**T**he *History of Oriental Literature*, compiled by professors Yu Longyu and Meng Zhaoyi while introducing *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*, posits that the epics are the “eternal fountains of the Indian literary creation” and they “are not only valuable collections of the great literature of the Indian people, but at the same time, are priceless treasures of the world.” The epics are not just literary works but also religious, political and ethical texts, having invariable and immeasurable impact on the thought, philosophy, culture, art, customs and social life of the Indian people. When and

how did China get to know about them? What was the reception and in what shape and form the Indian epics exist in China? Here, I will specifically delve into the question of *Ramayana*.

The dissemination of the epic occurred at the same time as Hinduism and Buddhism spread eastward. Three Jataka

stories – *King Dasharatha*, *Monkey King*, and *Shambuka* – are the earliest and most conclusive texts of the dissemination of *Ramayana* to China. All the stories narrate *Ramayana* but in a Buddhist setting, tweaking the characters, and the time and place has certain digressions. The first story is exactly the same

**The dissemination of the epic occurred at the same time as Hinduism and Buddhism spread eastward. Three Jataka stories – *King Dasharatha*, *Monkey King*, and *Shambuka* – are the earliest and most conclusive texts of the dissemination of *Ramayana* to China.**



September 30, 2017: Citizens in Chandigarh, India celebrate the Hindu festival Dussehra. The Dussehra festival, derived from the epic *Ramayana*, dates back thousands of years. VCG

except for the 12-year exile of Ram. The second story has more variations: Ram is a Bodhisattva who, upon losing his kingdom to his evil uncle, retreats to forests with his queen; Ravan is replaced by a sea dragon who abducts the queen; Sugrib is depicted as a doleful monkey who is also robbed of his kingdom by his uncle; Ashok Vatika is replaced by the Dragon's cave, etc. The translation goes back to the 3rd, 5th and 6th

centuries. One of the most prestigious Indologists of China, Professor Ji Xianlin did an in-depth study on the digressions from the original *Ramayana* in Buddhist translations.

The earliest Chinese scholar who carried out the most systematic exploration of the relationship between the Chinese translation of Buddhist texts and *Ramayana* is Jin Kemu. According to him, *Collection of Writings*

about the Six Paramitas (volume 5), translated in the 3rd century during the Three Kingdoms Period (220-265), tells the story of *Monkey King*. The same text contains another story titled Shambuka Jataka, which talks about the antecedent reason for Ram's father punishing his son (who killed Shambuka). However, it does not reveal the result, and the name of the kingdom is not correct either. During the 6th century, *Biography of*





September 30, 2017: Local people burn the likeness of the 10-headed demon king Ravana to celebrate the Dussehra festival in New Delhi, India. VCG

*Vasubandhu*, translated into Chinese by Indian monk Paramartha, refers to how a person mistakenly recites the *Legend of Ram* instead of the sutra. *Buddhacarita* translated in the 5th century and *Mahavibhasa Sutra* (volume 46) translated by Xuanzang in the 7th century also have references to *Ramayana*.

Xuanzang's *The Great Tang Dynasty Record of the Western Regions* mentions stories from *Ramayana* in the *Kingdom of Peshawar* and *Kingdom of Pushkarvati* sections. *The Lankavatara Sutra* also deals with Ram and his enemies. These translations obviously traveled through the Central Asian route.

In regards to the dissemination of the epics to Southeast Asian countries, Chinese sources often refer to a 6th century stone tablet found in Cambodia with mention of *Mahabharata*. After the 9th century, countries like Thailand, Myanmar, Java, and Malaysia began translating *Ramayana* into their native languages one after another. From Thailand and Myanmar, it quickly reached southern and southwestern China. It could have also travelled through the Assam-Myanmar-Yunnan route, which was one of the most important routes between India and China, even older than the Central Asian route. Perhaps the Dai ethnic group of China was the first to assimilate *Ramayana* in its folk traditions with almost a similar line of characters.

According to Ji Xianlin, the 22-section Dai epic *Lang Ka Sip Ho* can be divided into five parts. The main plot of the first four parts is basically similar to that of *Ramayana*; the fifth part narrates how Tsau Lamma (Dashratha) chose a queen for his son and fought with Mangkosol. Finally, the two polities forged an alliance and Tsau Lamma gave up the throne for his son Loma (Ram). This episode is mostly a creation of the Dai with stark variation. In *Lang Ka Sip Ho*, Nangsida (Sita) is said to be the daughter of Dasaratha, and is thrown into a river by him. Tsau Lamma left home secretly, not because of court intrigues and exile. In the Xishuangbanna version of *Lang Ka Sip Ho*, the aunt of Ravana, not Mareech,



October 10, 2013: Indian artist Chaturvedi plays Prince Hanuman in *Ramayana* during a traditional performance in Mumbai, India. Composed probably 2,000 years ago, *Ramayana* consists of some 24,000 couplets and is considered one of the greatest Indian epics. Xinhua

changes into a golden deer to lure Tsau Lamma. Another digression is that the mother of the ten-headed king is a widow. After harming Nangsida, the ten-headed king put her and his wife together on a raft and let it drift away in the ocean. The waves turned the raft over and pushed it to the shore; the wife came ashore and cursed the ten-headed king every day. Later the wife married a monkey and gave birth to two sons, one of whom was Anuman, who avenged his mother by killing her enemies. Names of the places have been localized. For example, Anuman threw the Fairy

Grass Mountain from heaven into the Dai region of Yunnan, and the war between Tsau Lamma and Mangkosol is also fought there.

Direct translation of the two epics into Chinese is something that only happened in recent years. Ji Xianlin became the first Chinese scholar to translate *Ramayana* from Sanskrit into Chinese. It took him almost a decade to render this gargantuan epic with 200,000 odes and nearly 90,000 lines in eight volumes published in 1984. Since then, many Chinese scholars have ventured into *Ramayana* studies. Recognizing Professor Ji's contribution to Indology, the

Indian government awarded him "Padma Bhushan" in 2008.

Since Buddhism and Hinduism are born of the same roots, their influence on each other is inevitable. No wonder contents related to the two epics, especially *Ramayana*, have been discovered in a wide range of Chinese translations of Buddhist texts. 📖

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# Insights into China's Development Prospects

By Jia Jinjing

The 14th Five-Year Plan doesn't aim for specific targets but sketches the contours of the coming five years. Understanding the general trend of current economic reform will provide insights on the blueprint for China's future innovation-driven development.

**F**ollowing roadmaps designed around a five-year cycle, China will kick off its 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025). In contrast with previous quantitative goals achieved step by step, the 14th Five-Year Plan seeks leapfrog development in the wake of its shift from high-speed growth to high-quality development. The new plan doesn't aim for specific targets but sketches the contours of the coming five years. Understanding the general trend of current economic reform will provide insights on the blueprint for China's future innovation-driven development.

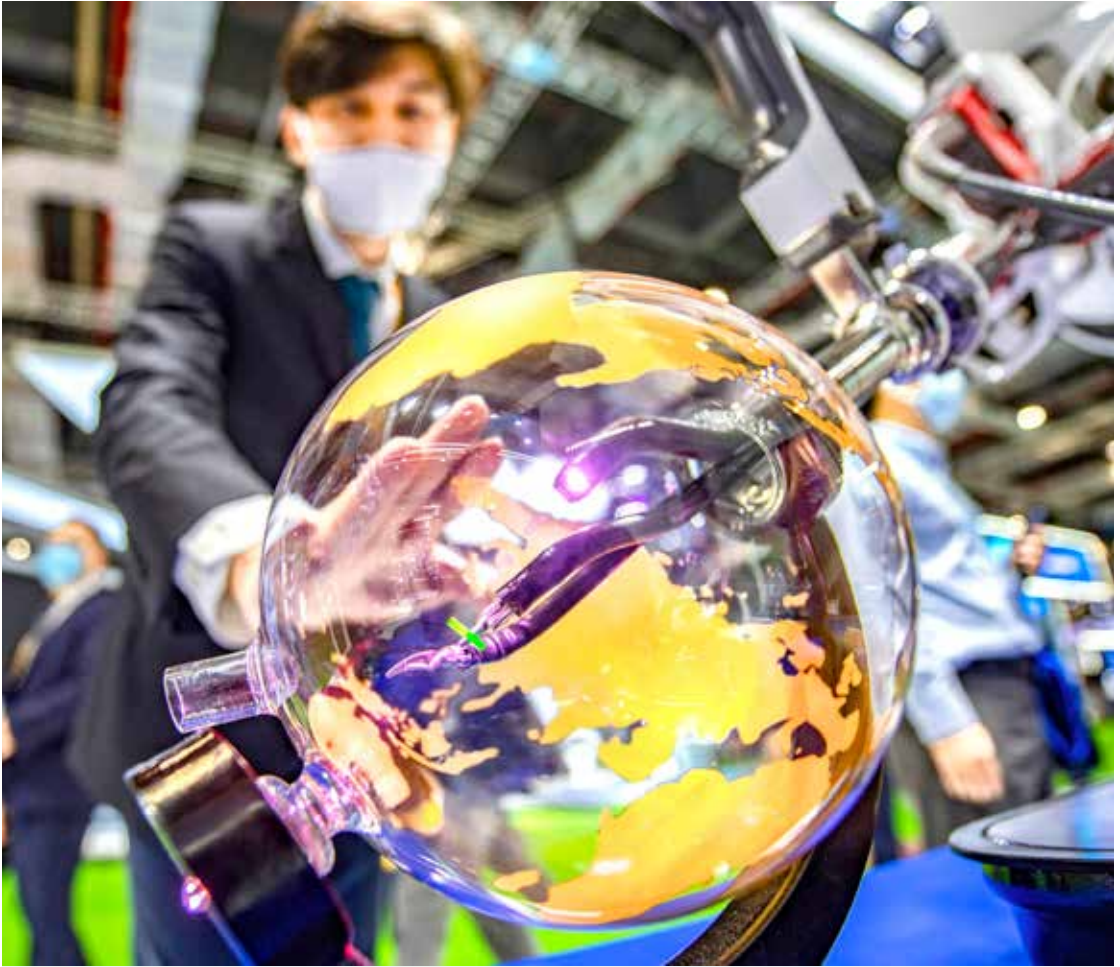
## DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The COVID-19 pandemic, a new and long-term global challenge that emerged in 2020, has not only changed the international landscape but also accelerated changes unseen in a century. Against such a background, the proposals for the 14th Five-Year Plan was released. The background can be analyzed in terms of international context, domestic situation, and technological development.

From the perspective of international context, the world economy fundamentally changed in the dozen years between the financial

crisis of 2008 and the COVID-19 outbreak. For instance, in terms of purchasing power parity, the economic aggregates of emerging markets and developing countries had just surpassed that of developed countries in 2008, and in 2019 they accounted for more than 60 percent of the world's total economy. The pandemic brought global trade to a halt, which led to a shrinking real economy with negative interest rates in Western countries. The "flooding" stimulus policy represented by the U.S. Federal Reserve's "unlimited quantitative easing" has caused a soaring fiscal deficit while causing the total social





November 5, 2020: The latest product of the fourth generation da Vinci robot system is exhibited at the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. The digital economy served as a powerful engine for the recovery of China's economy in 2020 when the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. VCG

debt to skyrocket. All these factors represent long-term changes in the international context. Even if the impact of the pandemic and trade protectionism faded in 2021, the global economic situation would still need five to ten years to recover to the 2019 level. China already took the global changes into full consideration when devising its 14th Five-Year Plan.

In terms of the domestic situation, China is seeing a

boom in the digital economy which is serving as a backdrop of current high-quality development. Statistics from the first three quarters of 2020 showed that some sectors of China's economy saw high-speed growth while others slowed down. Sectors with faster growth included online retailing of physical commodities, high-tech manufacturing, investment in strategic emerging industries, digital information consumption,

new infrastructure construction, and modern services. Low-growth sectors included textile and commercial real estate. The varying growth rates didn't indicate whether relevant industries are "hot or cold," but the shift of spaces for economic activities.

In today's China, economic growth mainly comes from the digital economy, which has urged many previously offline economic activities to move online such as livestreamed





A young man in Atulie'er Village introduces the changes that have taken place in his hometown on a live broadcast platform. Known as the "Cliff Village" for its dangerous and steep road, Atulie'er in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwestern China's Sichuan Province, eventually had access to stable communication signals on June 23, 2017 thanks to the nation's poverty alleviation campaign. VCG

sales. Such economic activities require support from infrastructure such as high-density networking, roads, and rails alongside the development of financial technology and powerful database capabilities. Livestreaming e-commerce alone can shine light on the comprehensive quality upgrade of China's economy. Economic growth is increasingly found in the digital economy, which demonstrates that digitalization will become key to the "qualitative change" in the development of every sector.

In terms of technological development, a new wave of technological and industrial revolution is rolling

out worldwide with nations competing for the cutting edge of innovation. China is no exception. For instance, China's successful fight against COVID-19 strongly evidenced the extensiveness and efficacy of the country's digital infrastructure construction. 5G technology will serve as important infrastructure for a new wave of technological and industrial revolution. China is deploying 5G networks nationwide, and products of the recent wave of technological and industrial revolution are also being rolled out across the country.

Given the current international environment, domestic situation, and technological

development, new industries brought about by the digital economy will create new space and generate great power for China's economic development over the next five years, while the old model of development and outdated international political and economic order will be phased out. China's layout in new infrastructure such as digital infrastructure will bring the country to the gate of the next-generation model of economic development.

#### **HIGH-DEFINITION ROADMAP**

As a complete roadmap promoting China's high-quality development, the 14th

Five-Year Plan will bring three major changes to the country's economy: change in quality, change in efficiency, and change in growth drivers.

For a long time in the past, China's economy experienced mostly quantitative expansion, but it is now shifting to a quality orientation. That means Chinese consumers' demand for the quality of products and services has been upgraded. The principal contradiction facing Chinese society has shifted to the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life. High-quality development can solve this problem. For a long time, China was a follower in terms of economic development. During that period, the quality standard was set up by industrial forerunners according to quality demands based on their local markets and key consumer groups. As China rises from a follower to a leader, the country should consider production and marketing of commodities in terms of their overall quality and consider formulating a set of quality standards suitable for its own market.

Efficiency reform indicates a change in the appraisal system focusing on quality rather than quantity. For example, job creation cannot be the only indicator of employment efficiency. Employment quality should be enhanced by improving the working environment and earnings. Efficiency reform should see benefits as

a priority and motivate efficient integration of the real economy, technological innovation, modern finance, and human resources.

As China faces a dwindling labor supply and cost advantage, growth drivers need to be adjusted to adapt to a modern economic system featuring high-quality and high-efficiency operation to accelerate the transition from a demographic dividend to a quality dividend. During the period of expanding economic quantity, the essence of growth drivers was asset-based. But during the period of focusing on economic quality, the essence will be to raise the quality of capital including human capital. High-quality development refers not only to high-quality development of the economy but also involves humans acquiring greater abilities. Compared to asset growth, individual ability enhancement will create more space for growth.

### VISIONS OF NEW DEVELOPMENT

On a macro level, the 14th Five-Year Plan will depict how China will construct a new "dual circulation" development pattern in which domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay. This development pattern aims to promote innovation by constructing new infrastructure and improve anti-risk capabilities by furthering high-level opening up.

China's development needs domestic circulation to form

a complete industrial chain and value chain. In the old industrial pattern, markets, enterprises, and multinational companies based in Western countries or their technologies and commodities dominated. Now, Chinese enterprises need to be competitive in these sectors to compete with large multinational companies and their flagship products while at the same time developing and expanding new industries. The purpose of China's focus on innovation is to open new market space, and construction of new infrastructure is the basis and prerequisite for enhancing innovation.

Systemic risks such as financial crises and the COVID-19 pandemic can affect the operation of the entire economic system. So high-quality development is not only about high-standard opening up but also about high anti-risk capabilities. Opening up has become one essential characteristic of China's economy. By enhancing opening up, the country can improve its anti-risk capabilities through high-standard dialogue, competition, and cooperation with the world. China's economy can be understood as an enormous, open, and complicated system, which welcomes global business entities and factors of production to enter to stimulate more vitality. 

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# A Creative Vision for Post-pandemic India-China Ties

By Santosh Pai

Examining deficiencies in past economic engagement can serve as a good starting point for India and China to detect possible synergies for the post-pandemic era.

**T**he year 2020 was replete with unprecedented challenges around the world. In parallel, the India-China bilateral relationship also went through difficulties. The combined effect caused both India and China to shift the focus of their economic policymaking inwards. Demographic attributes of these two Asian giants might serve as a larger boost to their economic recoveries relative to other major economies. Notwithstanding political tensions, one cannot help but wonder – are there prospects for a new model of economic engagement between India and China that will benefit their respective societies in the post-pandemic era? A closer examination of major policy announcements

in both countries during 2020 reveals some synergies that can be leveraged.

## MAPPING OUT BLUEPRINTS

The Indian government launched the “Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” through a series of announcements focused on: a) small businesses (including MSMEs, that is, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises); b) the poor (including migrants and farmers); c) agriculture; d) new horizons of growth (including industrial infrastructure, mining, defence, aviation, energy and space); and e) government reforms and enablers (including employment, health, ease of business and support to state governments), respectively. The vision for a self-reliant

India comprises of five key pillars – economy, infrastructure, systems, demography and demand.

India also announced a special comprehensive economic package of INR20 lakh crores which is equivalent to 10 percent of India’s GDP to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. On the regulatory front, reforms were launched, which impacted agricultural supply chains, regularized tax laws, simplified legal compliance demands, increased productivity of labor, and strengthened the financial sector.

Expansion of the manufacturing sector has been made a priority. Consequent benefits such as employment generation, increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) flows, reduced dependency



Medical workers take pictures with a mask sculpture in Chennai, India. Some states in India introduced strict measures to prevent crowding for New Year celebrations to curb the spread of COVID-19. Xinhua

on imports and rise in global exports are expected to strengthen India's status in the global economy. The production-linked incentives (PLI) schemes unveiled by India cover the ten sectors of advanced batteries, electronic/technology products (including semiconductor fab, display fab, laptops, servers, IoT devices and specified computer hardware), automobiles and auto components, pharmaceutical drugs,

telecom products (including core transmission equipment), textile products, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, white goods such as air-conditioners and LEDs, and specialty steel products (such as coated steel, high strength steel, steel rails and alloy steel bars and rods). These schemes will have an outlay of INR145,980 crores over a five-year period. These are in addition to sectors where PLI schemes were

already operational such as mobile device manufacturing and specified electronic components, critical key starting materials/drug intermediaries and active pharmaceutical ingredients, and medical device manufacturing.

China unveiled proposals for formulating its 14th Five-Year Plan and a blueprint for the country's development over the next 15 years. The proposals outlined 60 key points in 15 parts. Four significant areas of change are autonomous technologies, new ways of urbanization, balanced provision of public services, and greener production. The emphasis on autonomous technologies will help in reducing its dependency on the U.S. in the technology sector. With the urbanization rate expected to reach 75 to 80 percent by 2035, China will implement substantial reforms to change the distribution of economic activities across the country. China's aim to advance modernization over the next 15 years will also entail enhancement of universal social security and health coverage. The country's energy mix will also transform even as overall demand continues to increase. All these trends will unquestionably lead to an increased demand for goods and services which domestic providers in China alone might not be able to sustain. Foreign players with a deep understanding of China and perseverance to pivot towards tastes of Chinese consumers will benefit.

**India's quest to expand domestic manufacturing and a simultaneous expansion in China's domestic consumption might offer an unprecedented opportunity to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries.**





December 31, 2020: A shop owner sorts New Year ornaments in New Delhi, India. Xinhua

China has identified several key areas for its next stage of development including technological innovation, industrial development, domestic market, deepening reform, rural revitalization, regional development, cultural construction, green development, opening up, social construction, security development, and national defense building. A new development paradigm has been adopted with domestic circulation as the mainstay. This marks a change from China's greater focus on the global economy and international circulation over the last 30 years. It is now hoped that domestic and international circulation will reinforce each other. In view of this, India and other countries will need to adapt their economic engagement with China to maximize gains.

### SEEKING SYNERGIES

Examining deficiencies in past economic engagement can serve as a good starting point for India and China to detect possible synergies for the post-pandemic era. Composition of the bilateral trade basket is one such thread. The annual bilateral trading volume of US\$93 billion in 2019 comprised of US\$75 billion worth of Chinese exports to India and US\$18 billion worth of Indian exports to China. Uncontrolled growth of India's trade deficit has been a sticking point in the bilateral relations for more than a decade. Starting in 2020, India's quest to reduce dependency on imports by expanding domestic manufacturing and a simultaneous expansion in China's domestic consumption might offer an

unprecedented opportunity to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries. Expansion of domestic consumption in China will translate into market opportunities for Indian companies in IT services, pharmaceuticals, machinery, agricultural products and raw materials. Similarly, a renewed focus on domestic manufacturing in India will encourage Chinese exporters to further localize their manufacturing in India instead of exporting finished products from China. Readjustment of global value chains by multinationals will also generate opportunities for cooperation between Indian and Chinese companies as supply chains in both countries adapt to their global customers' needs.

Realigning investment flows is another thread that

can be pursued for mutual gains. Investments from Chinese companies in India have grown significantly since 2014 across a wide variety of sectors. However, much to India's disappointment, the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors have been underrepresented in this period. The post-pandemic era presents an opportunity to rectify this imbalance. Chinese companies looking to establish manufacturing units in areas where India lacks domestic capacity can generate much-needed jobs that will aid in economic recovery while at the same time reducing India's dependency on imports. Chinese capital routed through multilateral institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB) in infrastructure projects will also help India bridge its infrastructure deficit and support its long-term economic growth.

Enhanced cooperation in science and technology areas such as healthcare, mobility, renewables, logistics, and high-tech electronics will augment India's efforts to strengthen its manufacturing sector. Indian companies looking to take advantage of self-reliance initiatives will need access to China's technology in many areas to reduce their dependency on imports and plug gaps in domestic supply chains.

Leveraging India's geographical proximity to China is another untapped thread. China's position as

the second-largest economy and its endeavors to increase domestic consumption will offer opportunities for Indian companies with global ambitions. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is an additional sweetener that might make overseas investments by Indian companies in any of the member countries more attractive if they seek to tap China's domestic market or embed themselves in the supply chains that extend across Southeast Asia. There is nothing preventing Indian companies from reaping benefits of the RCEP despite India not being a member country.

There have also been developments in relation to permitting overseas listings of Indian companies. This could result in Indian startups (at least half of India's unicorns received investments from the Chinese mainland) heading to Singapore, Hong Kong or Shanghai for IPOs. Retail investors in these jurisdictions might offer higher valuations to Indian internet companies due to their better appreciation of the prospects for digital consumption trends in developing countries such as India and China. This will also allow Indian companies to address concerns that arise from foreign ownership or control of private unlisted entities in India.

There are many areas where bilateral cooperation can be enhanced alongside economic ties. For instance, improved cooperation in media and tourism can help establish stronger cultural

links between Indians and Chinese, which is essential to realizing the synergies described above. An increased demand for online content in China can be leveraged through a more liberal licensing regime for Indian OTT (Over the Top) content in addition to Bollywood releases in movie theaters. As COVID-19 vaccines become prevalent, travel restrictions can be relaxed to tap pent-up demand for travel between the two countries.

Both governments can continue collaborating on global issues such as climate change and terrorism. China's experience in managing urbanization can be useful to India and India's experience in nurturing globally competitive human talent can help China. Apart from this obvious and low-hanging fruit, there will be plenty of opportunities for bilateral cooperation as both countries adapt to the new normal. Regardless of which ideas are developed further, a healthy dose of optimism will be a necessary ingredient to shape India-China ties in the post-pandemic era. If the COVID-19 pandemic marks an acceleration of the shift in global power towards Asia, then it is imperative for the sake of humanity that India and China both benefit from such a shift in equal measure. 

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# Traveling to the Wonderland of Hunan

By Vivek Kumar

Photographs courtesy of Vivek Kumar

As I took 999 steps down the hill to reach the bus parking area, it seemed that, out of nowhere, a door in the heavens opened.

Traveling is always the perfect combination of exploring the unknown and challenging your own limitations. China as my second home has always been my hunting ground for quenching this thirst. From the beautiful old city of Lijiang to the “city of squares” Dalian, from the wonder of Taishan Mountain to the steepest slope of Huashan Mountain, I have already traveled more than 40 cities in China, and my journey goes on.

This time, I took a trip to the eye-catching and picturesque places in Hunan Province. On October 10, 2020, I took a night train from Guangzhou to Zhangjiajie, and arrived by the next early morning. I booked a hotel near the southern entry point of the Avatar Mountains in the Wulingyuan National

Forest Park and a convenient bus took me directly there. The hotel owner was quite nice. She taught me how to tour around the Avatar Mountains, which were part of the national forest park designated a World Heritage site in 1992.

The area stretches around 26,400 hectares, so even to cover all the scenic spots, you need at least two to three days. On the first day, I went to the Ten-Mile Gallery and the Golden Whip Stream. This place is worth visiting with all the small bridges, and you will have a chance to take pictures of the lurking macaque monkeys. The next day, I visited the Yuanjiajie scenic area to view the peaks used to shoot the movie *Avatar* and the famous natural stone bridge. Then I took the Bailong Elevator, the world’s highest outdoor elevator in the

*Guinness Book of World Records* to go down the mountain.

The second place in my itinerary was the Tianmen Mountain. The bus ride from Wulingyuan to the Tianmen Mountain was just 40 minutes. The bus will drop you off at the entry point for the cableway. This is the world’s longest cableway and it takes almost 28 minutes to reach the top of the mountain. But that day, I seemed to run out of luck—it was raining heavily, so when I reached the top, nothing was really visible. The whole mountain was covered in a mystical fog. But as I took 999 steps down the hill to reach the bus parking area, it seemed that, out of nowhere, a door in the heavens opened. It was really mystical. Every other tourist around me was awestruck. We took tons of pictures of that particular moment. After photographing

the opening “heavenly door,” I took a bus ride of 99 twists and turns which felt like sliding down a dragon back. This mountain indeed has a mysterious spirit.

The next destination was the ancient town of Fenghuang. This beautiful town with a history of more than 400 years is settled around the Tuojiang River. Almost all the wooden houses there are so well preserved that you will find yourself lost in scenes from dynastic period films. I spent two nights in Fenghuang and booked an inn near the riverside, so I could enjoy the night view and hear the sound of the flowing river.

Beautiful places in the town to take pictures are the Snow Bridge, the Rainbow Bridge, the Wind Bridge, the Cloud Bridge, the Wanming Tower, and stilted buildings. The names of the bridges are colorful, but the really colorful aura appears at night.

The twinkling lights and the music coming out from the bars along the riverside filled the atmosphere around with joy. At night, the 400-year-old Fenghuang became a lively town with a touch of modern colorful twinkling lights and party crawlers filling up the bar area. In the daytime, I found some people fishing around the Tuojiang River and some people from the Miao ethnic group dressed in traditional costumes selling their handmade crafts. I also spent some time in a coffee house reading and writing poetry. I was surprised to find that the coffee place had a copy of Rabindranath Tagore’s collection of poems.



The opening “heavenly door” in the Tianmen Mountain on a foggy and rainy day.

In this town, you can not only see its magnificence but also feel the exuberance of its poetic imprint.

I moved on to Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province. I can never forget this city and will definitely come back. The reason is mostly the food. This city’s culinary items just took me back to India for a while because of the mixtures of sweets and spicy snacks. Here the must-try foods include: *tangyoubaba* (a famous snack made of glutinous rice powder, oil and sugar), stinky tofu, sweet dumplings and *shaomai* (steamed meat dumpling).

Heading to my last stop in Hunan, I took a bullet train from Changsha to Shaoshan. Why Shaoshan? Shaoshan holds an important status in the modern history of China. Chairman Mao Zedong, the main founder of the People’s Republic of China, was born and brought up there. I toured around the school where he studied and the houses where he lived. In the Mao Zedong

Memorial Hall, you will find lots of items and anecdotes related to him.

This 10-day trip left a huge mark in my memory: the dazzling lights of the ancient town of Fenghuang, the iconic mountain views in Zhangjiajie, the historical significance of Shaoshan... I would like to end this travel story with a few lines from the song I heard in a bar of Fenghuang:

那里湖面总是澄清，  
那里空气充满宁静，  
雪白明月照在大地，  
藏着无法忘记的回忆。

There the lake is clean and clear.

Peace forever fills the air.

Moonlight falls across the ground,

where your buried memories can be found. 📷

The author is a travel enthusiast and poet who works in Guangzhou. He holds a master’s degree in Chinese Language and Culture from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



# Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-win Outcomes



The Forbidden City in Beijing was the imperial palace of China's Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. It is located in the center of the central axis of Beijing and covers an area of 720,000 square meters, with architectural areas totaling about 150,000 square meters. It is one of the largest and best-preserved ancient wooden building complexes in the world. In 1987, the Forbidden City was included in the World Cultural Heritage List. CFB





The Taj Mahal is a huge mausoleum mosque made of white marble, built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to commemorate his beloved concubine. Having a reputation as the “Pearl of India,” it is one of India’s most famous landmarks. VCG

The “Beautiful India Beautiful China” online photo exhibition, themed “Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-win Outcomes,” was launched in Beijing on December 8, 2020. It was held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-India diplomatic ties.

The exhibition focuses on topics including natural scenery, the bilateral friendship, people-to-people exchanges and economic cooperation between the two countries. It is divided into four parts: “Historical Wonders of Two Ancient Civilizations,” “Ancient Civilizations, Diverse Beauty,” “Extensive Exchanges, Shared Future,” and “Sharing Development Opportunities, Creating the Asian Century.” Over 120 photos are displayed. The

online photo exhibition will last till March 2021.

China and India are both ancient civilizations with splendid history and culture as well as friendly neighbors connected by mountains and rivers. The people of the two countries have, across many years and long distances, become a historic model of cultural exchanges for the world. At present, facing the new historic opportunities, the two peoples are expected to seek common development and work together to build a community of shared future, opening a new era of China-India friendship. The images in the part of “Historical Wonders of Two Ancient Civilizations” emphasize that both China and India are gifted with plenty of natural wonders and historical sites, and are home to magnificent natural and cultural heritages.

The “Ancient Civilizations, Diverse Beauty” part highlights that the two countries have added to the diversity of world cultures with their distinctive characteristics and promoted the development and prosperity of human civilization. The “Extensive Exchanges, Shared Future” part underlines that during the past 70 years, economic globalization, social informatization, and cultural diversification have become consistent trends, and building a “community with a shared future for humanity” has become the common aspiration of the two peoples. The last part, “Sharing Development Opportunities, Creating the Asian Century,” underscores that China-India relations transcend the bilateral scope and have great significance to the region and the world. 📷





Spring Festival is the grandest festival in China that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. The picture shows Shanghai residents visiting the City God Temple for the lantern show during Spring Festival. IC



The Great Wall is an ancient Chinese military defense project with the longest construction time and the largest amount of labor in the world. Its construction started in the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 B.C.) and continued for more than 2,000 years. Spanning over 20,000 kilometers, the Great Wall traverses a number of provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions in northern and central China. It was inscribed on the World Cultural Heritage List in 1987. CFB



The construction history of the Hill Forts of Rajasthan can be traced back to the 7th century. The forts use the natural defenses offered by local landforms: hills, deserts, rivers, and dense forests. They are vivid examples of the development of military defense architecture in the state of Rajasthan. The site was inscribed on the World Cultural Heritage List in 2013. IC





One of the most popular Indian festivals, Holi is celebrated in February or March. On the day of Holi, people throw colored powder and water at each other to welcome the spring season. VCG



Named in 1915, Wangfujing Street is a commercial thoroughfare with a history of hundreds of years. It enjoys the reputation of "Golden Street" in Beijing. Many famous time-honored Chinese brands were founded there, and various world-renowned brands have now set up shops there. VCG



The streets of Old Delhi are crisscrossed with shops and markets on both sides. Chandni Chowk is a bustling commercial street in Delhi and represents the essence of Old Delhi. From morning to night, it is always crowded with people. VCG





Cricket is one of the most popular sports in India. No other sport in India can beat cricket. VCG



November 4, 2003: Artists in the Mei Lanfang Peking Opera troupe from Beijing Peking Opera Theater sign autographs for the audience after the performance of *The Legend of the White Snake* at the Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi, India. Xinhua



Table tennis, or Ping Pong called by the Chinese as a national ball sport, is one of the most popular sports in China. The picture shows students in southwestern China's Chongqing learning to play table tennis. VCG



The saree is one of the most distinctive traditional garments in India. The history of Indian saree dates back to 5,000 years ago and India's epic *Mahabharata* mentions a kind of pear-embroidered saree. by Palani Mohan





■ In October 1955, Chang Shuhong (right), the director of the Dunhuang Institute of Cultural Relics, accompanied the principal (middle) of Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, to visit the Dunhuang Grottoes. CFB



In September 1990, Professor Wu Xiaoling, a Chinese Indologist and Sanskrit expert, was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Letters by Visva-Bharati University for his contribution to spreading Indian culture and promoting China-India friendship. CFB



Launched by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the China-India Friendship Association, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in January 2008, the China-India Joint Medical Mission offers free medical services in China and India, by carrying forward the humanitarian spirit of the Indian National Congress Medical Mission to China that assisted Chinese people's resistance against Japanese aggression, which has promoted the mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. Six medical teams have been dispatched so far. The picture shows doctors from one medical team treating patients in India in 2010. courtesy of China-India Friendship Association





In New Delhi, “Mi fans” line up to buy the latest Xiaomi products. In April 2015, Chinese phone maker Xiaomi launched its first mobile phone aimed at overseas consumers in India. According to an Indian smartphone market survey report of the third quarter of 2020, Xiaomi has led the Indian market in mobile phone shipments for two consecutive years. VCG



As of March 31, 2020, Shanghai-based Fosun Group had dispatched medical supplies including 2.52 million masks, protective clothes, and nucleic acid testing kits to countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including Italy, the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Japan, South Korea, and India. The packages of relief supplies to Mumbai carried inscriptions reading “Through Thick and Thin, Through Defeat and Win.” courtesy of the Chinese Embassy in India



June 13, 2019: The South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair is held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The picture shows visitors buying handicrafts at the Indian booth. VCG



November 10, 2017: A craftswoman from India dyes fabric in an exhibition hall at the 2017 China (Guizhou) International Folk Culture and Tourism Products Expo. That day, the expo opened in Gui'an New District, in southwestern China's Guizhou Province, with an aim to build a high-end platform for inheritance and innovation of ethnic and folk cultures as well as for international exhibitions and trade. VCG



September 18, 2018: An exhibitor makes a presentation to guests at the India Tourism Mart held in New Delhi on the closing day of the first edition of the event. The three-day event was organized to help Indian tourism departments showcase India's high-quality tourism resources to countries around the world with an aim to attract more Chinese tourists. Xinhua



The China International Sino-Indian Science and Technology Innovation Cluster in the Economic and Technological Development Zone of Linyi City, Shandong Province, recruited high-caliber talent from India, Ukraine, Russia, the Czech Republic, and other countries to carry out research on cloud computing, big data, software technology, intelligent robots, sensors, and other fields. Thanks to such projects, many foreign experts have become acquainted with Linyi and integrated into the local community to embrace new life in the Chinese city. Xinhua

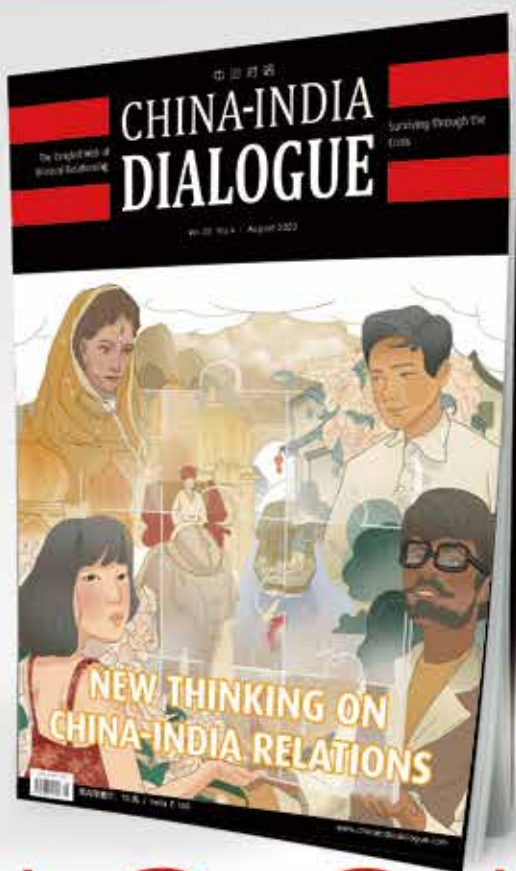




Chinese smartphone manufacturer Vivo announced in 2015 that it had become an official sponsor of India's most popular sports league, the Indian Premier League (IPL), for the 2016 and 2017 seasons, becoming one of the league's most important partners. IC



June 27, 2018: Staff members from China and India work on Mumbai Metro Line 1 in Mumbai, India. The subway line officially opened on June 8, 2014. Xinhua



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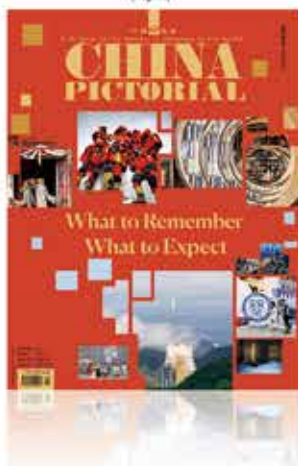
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