

中印对话

Literary Dialogue and
Mutual Understanding

CHINA-INDIA DIALOGUE

In the Esteem of Future
Generations

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China-India Cooperation in the Post-Pandemic Era

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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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Sun Weidong Holds Webinar with Indian Youth

On May 27, 2020, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong held a webinar with Indian youth. Sun delivered remarks on China's experiences and China-India cooperation in fighting against COVID-19, and interacted with Indian youth online. Chairman of the Confederation of Young Leaders (CYL) Himadrih Suwan chaired the webinar. More than 70 people including youth representatives from across India and journalists from Chinese and Indian media organizations such as Xinhua News Agency and *The Times of India* joined in the online exchanges.

Sun said that since the outbreak, China and India have maintained close communication and cooperation on epidemic prevention and control. President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Modi and the foreign ministers of both countries sent letters and talked online to exchange views on strengthening cooperation in the fight against the epidemic.

Sun discussed with Indian youth representatives. CYL Chairman Suwan said that this event embodies the spirit of the meetings between Indian and Chinese leaders and is significant for celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. It is also conducive to strengthening joint efforts by the two countries in the fight against the epidemic.

Chinese and Indian Diplomats Hold Video Conference

On June 5, 2020, Wu Jianghao, director-general of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a video conference with Shri Naveen Srivastava, joint secretary (East Asia) of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations, anti-epidemic cooperation, celebratory activities for the 70th anniversary

of the establishment of their diplomatic ties, and multilateral cooperation.

The two sides agreed that under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, both sides should implement the policies of not posing a threat to each other and of sharing opportunities for development. The two sides should implement the concept of not allowing differences to become disputes, so as to enhance strategic mutual trust, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and properly manage differences. The two sides should push forward the activities celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries to ensure that the giant ship of China-India relations will always move in the right direction.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi Holds Phone Talk with His Indian Counterpart Jaishankar

On June 17, 2020, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a phone conversation talk with Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Wang stressed that China and India are both emerging powers with populations of more than one billion people each, and both have the historic mission to accelerate the realization of their own development and revitalization. Therefore, mutual respect and support is a sure way and meets the long-term interests of both countries; suspicion and friction is a wrong path and goes against the fundamental aspiration of the two peoples. Both sides should act on the important consensus reached by the two state leaders, strengthen communication and coordination to properly address the border situation through existing channels, including the China-India Special Representatives' Meeting and border personnel meeting mechanisms, so as to

jointly preserve peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Jaishankar shared India's position and expressed India's readiness to act in the interest of the bilateral relationship, cooperate with China to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, peacefully resolve disputes in the border areas through dialogue, and reduce tensions in the border areas.

The two sides agreed to fairly address the serious situation caused by the conflict in the Galwan Valley, jointly observe the consensus reached at the commander-level meeting between the two sides, cool down the situation on the ground as soon as possible, and maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas in accordance with the agreements already reached between the two countries.

Wang Yi Holds Video Conference with Russian and Indian Foreign Ministers

On June 23, 2020, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a video conference with Russian and Indian foreign ministers.

Wang Yi said that the COVID-19 pandemic is bringing a series of complex changes to the world. On the one hand, unilateralism, protectionism, and bullying are on the rise. Some countries and groups are eager to "shirk," "decouple" and "withdraw from international organizations," disturb international anti-epidemic cooperation, and try to provoke confrontations with regard to ideologies and social systems, leaving the world in a dangerous situation. However, peace and development are still the mainstream. The trend of the development and revitalization of emerging economies will not change, and the road to multi-polarization will not change, and globalization, even with its twists and

turns, will not reverse. Building a peaceful, stable, open, diversified, and win-win "post-epidemic" world is in line with the common interests of all countries and the development trend of the times.

China and India Hold a Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Border Affairs

On June 24, 2020, Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of China's Foreign Ministry Hong Liang and Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of India's Ministry of External Affairs Naveen Srivastava co-chaired the Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs. Representatives from both countries' departments related to diplomacy, national defense and immigration attended the meeting.

Both sides had candid and in-depth exchanges of views on the recent developments in the China-India border areas, and expressed the hope that the two sides will earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two foreign ministers during their telephone talk on June 17, and actively promote cooperation between the militaries of the two countries to implement the outcomes of the two rounds of commander-level talks on June 6 and June 22, and step up communication and coordination through military and diplomatic channels in a bid to peacefully solve related issues in the border areas through bilateral dialogue and consultation. Both sides agreed to strictly abide by the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries and a series of agreements signed by the two sides. They also agreed to further strengthen confidence-building measures in military affairs so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

China-India Ties: Moving Forward Despite Headwind

By Ma Jiali



During the development of China-India ties, although there were always twists and turns, the prospects remain bright. That's a fact that any wise politician will understand and any reasonable people will believe.

Soon after India gained its independence and the People's Republic of China was founded in the late 1940s, the two countries established diplomatic relations. Over the past 70 years, China-India relations have experienced many ups and downs. But on the whole, the relationship

between the two countries, guided by wise leaders and fuelled on both sides by people with vision, has overcome all kinds of obstacles and challenges. Despite twists and turns, China-India ties are going in the right direction with both sides looking at the big picture of their bilateral relations.

In the past seven decades, China-India relations have gone through several stages. The period from the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1950 to 1960 was a honeymoon period for the China-India relationship. The landmark events included the signing of the *Agreement on Trade and Intercourse*



June 9, 2017: Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Astana (now Nur-Sultan), Kazakhstan. Xinhua

between the Tibet Region of China and India in 1954, and the meetings between Chinese leaders such as Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai and Indian leaders such as Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was founded. At that time, Kavalam Madhava Panikkar, former Indian ambassador to the Republic of China (1912-1949), strongly urged his government to recognize New China as soon as possible. Then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru

believed that recognition of the People's Republic of China was the recognition of a major historical event and nothing in the Far East could be settled without recognizing the status of New China. On April 1, 1950, the two sides formally established diplomatic ties. It is worth mentioning that India was the first non-socialist country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

On January 26, 1951, Chairman Mao Zedong attended the Indian National Day reception hosted by the

Embassy of India in Beijing and made warm remarks, against a backdrop of a complex domestic and international situation. At that time, domestically, China had just been reborn from ashes. Internationally, China was in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea. During that period, China and India also carried out tacit cooperation in the international arena. In response to the United States using the United Nations (UN) Security Council as a tool for hegemony, India spoke out from a sense of justice,

supporting China's restoration of its lawful seat in the UN and openly criticizing the United States' exclusion of China from the international community. For example, after the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea broke out in 1950, then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson, suggesting that they consent to China's restoration of its lawful seat in the UN. Likewise, China showed its strong support for India's international standing.

On April 29, 1954, China and India signed the *Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet Region of China and India*, which settled the unresolved historical issues between the two countries in Tibet and ushered in a new era of China-India relations. In June 1954, then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai visited India. He was warmly welcomed by then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Indian people. In October of the same year, Nehru visited China and held four meetings with Chairman Mao Zedong during his stay in China. From November 28 to December 10, 1956, Premier Zhou Enlai visited India for the second time and received an enthusiastic welcome. The good days were evidenced by Indian people's catchphrase "Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai," meaning "Indians and Chinese are brothers" in Hindi. During the Bandung Conference, also known as the first Asian-African

Conference, held in April 1955, with the help of Jawaharlal Nehru, China turned the tide and its move won widespread acclaim. China and India, together with a number of Asian and African countries, made great contributions to the unity and anti-imperialist cause of Asian and African countries.

The period from 1960 to 1980 was the period for tensions and intensified conflicts. The landmark event was the China-India border conflict in 1962, which resulted in a long-term tension in bilateral relations.

Beginning from the late 1950s, the differences of China and India on the boundary question and on Tibet became more evident. In 1959, after a failed armed rebellion in Tibet, the Dalai Lama, a political figure who undertook anti-China separatist activities in the name of religion, fled to India where he was taken in by the government and created the self-declared "Tibetan government in exile." This led to a rapid and considerable deterioration of China-India ties. Almost at the same time, the two sides' greatly different views on the boundary question surfaced, which eventually led to a border war in 1962. After the war, bilateral relations deteriorated significantly.

In 1976, the two countries resumed ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations. From February 12 to 18, 1979, Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Beijing as India's foreign minister after a long period of chill in the bilateral relationship. This

was the first attempt to break the ice between the two sides in nearly two decades. During the groundbreaking visit, then Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua held long-time talks with Vajpayee for three consecutive mornings. When meeting with Vajpayee, Deng Xiaoping, then vice premier of China, said that the two sides should seek common ground while shelving differences. He also remarked that the boundary question could be resolved through a fair and reasonable package of solutions achieved through friendly consultations and mutual understanding. Vajpayee expressed his wishes to settle China-India boundary question. However, there remained a significant gap in understanding between the two sides on the boundary question.

The period from 1980 to 2000 was a period of détente. During this period, their strained relations relaxed and improved, which was marked by Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China and Chinese leaders' visits to India.

In the late 1980s, the bipolar structure characterized by confrontation and tension was over. Changes in the world's strategic situation, especially changes in relations between major powers, created favorable external conditions for China-India relations to improve. From June 25 to 29, 1981, then Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua led a delegation to visit India. This marked the first visit by the Chinese leadership to India after the 1962 China-India border conflict. Huang

held wide-ranging discussions with his Indian counterpart Narasimha Rao, including the international situation, the bilateral relationship and the boundary question. The two sides agreed to hold talks on the boundary question and take measures to improve bilateral ties. Huang Hua also met with then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and extended an invitation to the prime minister to visit China, on behalf of the Chinese

behind and move towards the future. This visit was of great historical significance.

In December 1991, at the invitation of then Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, then Chinese Premier Li Peng paid a goodwill visit to India. During this visit, the two countries agreed to continue mutual visits of top leaders, push for in-depth development of bilateral ties, and drive cooperation in various fields such as politics,

boundary question shall be resolved through peaceful and friendly consultations. Neither side shall use or threaten to use force against the other by any means. Pending an ultimate solution to the boundary question between the countries, the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the line of actual control between the two sides. Each side will keep its military forces in the areas along the line of actual control to a minimum level compatible with the friendly and good neighborly relations between the two countries.

From November to December 1996, then Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited India at the invitation of then Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma. The leaders of the two countries reached broad consensus on a wide range of bilateral and global issues, and inked four important agreements. The agreements, especially the *Agreement between the Government of China and the Government of India on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas*, were a great step forward for bilateral ties.

Unfortunately, India conducted several nuclear tests in May 1998. This move undermined China-India ties, failed to conform to the fundamental interests of both peoples, and resulted in a drastic deterioration in the relationship.

The two decades since the beginning of the 21st century

For the two neighboring countries, each with a population of about 1.4 billion, cooperation will benefit both while conflict will hurt both.

government. According to the understanding reached by the two sides, the vice-ministerial-level officials from both sides started negotiations on the boundary question from December of that year. As of November 1987, eight rounds of negotiations had been carried out.

From December 19 to 23, 1988, then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made a groundbreaking visit to China despite strong domestic opposition. This was the first visit to China by an Indian prime minister in 34 years since Jawaharlal Nehru's 1954 visit. During the meeting between Deng Xiaoping and Rajiv Gandhi, the two sides conducted candid exchanges on a number of issues, and decided that they should put the past

economy and trade, science and technology, and culture to a deeper level. The two sides also agreed that the boundary question should not be an obstacle to the development of normal bilateral relations, and expressed the hope to reach a mutually acceptable solution at an early date through friendly consultation.

In September 1993, then Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao made a return visit to China at the invitation of then Chinese Premier Li Peng. During his stay in China, the two sides signed four documents, including the *Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Area*. According to this particular agreement, the China-India



May 26, 2016: Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee delivers a speech at Peking University, Beijing. China News Service

have been a period for China-India ties returning to normal development. Landmark events of this period included the signing of the *Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question* and frequent mutual visits by the leaders of the two countries, especially those between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Entering the 21st century, China and India began to handle bilateral relations more rationally and peacefully. Then Indian President K.R. Narayanan visited China during May-June in 2000. The two sides reiterated that neither side should pose threats to the other, setting the positioning of China-India ties. In 2001, then Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji visited India, which

further fuelled the development of bilateral relations. In 2003, then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a fruitful visit to China and the two sides signed the *Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China*, a framework document for developing the bilateral relationship.

In April 2005, then Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited India. The two sides announced the establishment of their strategic partnership for peace and prosperity in a joint statement. They set high trade goals, and signed the *Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question*. In November 2006, then Chinese President Hu Jintao paid a visit to India.

The two sides agreed to continue promoting the comprehensive and in-depth development of their strategic partnership, and announced a ten-pronged action-oriented strategy for this purpose in a joint declaration. In January 2008, then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited China. The two sides signed the *Shared Vision for the 21st Century of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India*, an important cooperation document. In May 2010, then Indian President Pratibha Patil visited Beijing. In the same year, the two sides held a number of large-scale celebrations and activities commemorating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in their respective capitals and other major cities. On May 19, 2013, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrived in New Delhi, his first foreign visit since taking office, indicating that the Chinese government placed great importance on the China-India relationship. In October 2013, then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Beijing.

In September 2014, at the invitation of then Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India. At the Indian Council of World Affairs, Xi delivered an important speech entitled "In Joint Pursuit of a Dream of National Rejuvenation." He also bestowed several Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence Friendship Awards to friendly people

and groups in India for their contributions to China-India ties. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi adopted the non-traditional “hometown diplomacy” and received Xi in his home state of Gujarat, instead of India’s capital of New Delhi. During Xi’s visit, more than 10 documents were signed, with the aim to establish a closer development partnership.

In May 2015, President Xi repaid the hospitality he received in India in 2014 by receiving the visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his home province of Shaanxi. During his trip, Modi also visited Beijing where he held talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, and Shanghai where he met with Chinese business leaders. The visit significantly enhanced bilateral relations in the political, economic, and cultural spheres. In November 2015, when meeting with visiting senior Chinese officials, Modi said that he cherished the personal friendship he had established with President Xi. He remarked that the India-China friendship and the strengthening of cooperation would enhance the well-being of the two peoples, and make great contributions to the prosperity of Asia and developing countries at large and even to the growth of the world economy. The two sides agreed to further enhance the strategic and cooperative partnership and push forward their relations to a new level.

Besides, it is worth mentioning that in recent years, Chinese and Indian leaders

have also met on the sidelines of a great number of international meetings and summits. These meetings illustrate that the leaders from both sides place great importance on bilateral relations and reflect closer ties and enhanced cooperation.

From June to August 2017, the Chinese and Indian border troops fell into a standoff in the Dong Lang (Doklam) area in southwestern China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. At the critical moment, top leaders of both countries kept their strategic focuses, and resolved the conflict peacefully. From April 27 to 28, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping held an informal meeting with visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province. The two sides conducted strategic communication on the situation of the world which was undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. They discussed the comprehensive, long-term and strategic development of bilateral relations in the future, putting their damaged relationship back on the right track. Both sides agreed that China-India relations have gone way beyond the bilateral scope and assumed broad regional and global significance. Based on the above-mentioned consensuses, China-India relations have maintained a momentum of sound development. In October 2019, President Xi Jinping arrived in India for the second informal summit with Modi.

In retrospect of the development of diplomatic relations over the past 70 years between China and

India, the lessons we learned from past successes and failures carry both great practical importance and historical significance. These lessons are conducive to healthy China-India ties and the future development and prosperity of the two countries.

The recent border clashes in the Galwan Valley struck a heavy blow to the bilateral relationship, and also gave rise to nationalistic sentiment. Now, the tensions have been de-escalated after negotiations and consultations through diplomatic and military channels. People from both sides do hope that China-India ties resume healthy development. Both China and India are committed to developing their own economies. Their ambitious national strategies both call for a good neighborly environment and enhanced bilateral cooperation on economy, trade, science and technology. During the development of China-India ties, although there were always twists and turns, the prospects remain bright. For the two neighboring countries, each with a population of about 1.4 billion, cooperation will benefit both while conflict will hurt both. That’s a fact that any wise politician will understand and any reasonable people will believe. 📌

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The author is a researcher with China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, as well as the director and a senior researcher of China Reform Forum.

Literary Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

By B. R. Deepak



People may question why this sample is so small if we browse through the mass of literature produced in India and China. However, I do believe that though it is a small step, it will enable us to better understand Chinese society.

India and China are two of the most ancient yet living civilizations, having extremely rich literary traditions. There has been an uninterrupted civilizational dialogue between the two for two millennia. The dialogue sprawls into various fields but could be broadly classified into two categories: the material and the spiritual.

The literary dialogue, which could be categorized under the latter, was an important part of the civilizational dialogue. The Chinese historical records give testimony to the mammoth translation projects and the cultural transmission therein. During the past two millennia both literary and visual transmission processes were brought

into play, albeit there were issues pertaining to translatability that remain even today. Distinguished scholar monks and translators like Kumarajiva of the 4-5th century and Xuanzang of the 7th century and many more along with thousands of their peers rendered and recreated hundreds of original Buddhist scriptures and



January 9, 2016: Locals take a close look at traditional Chinese woodblock printing at the New Delhi World Book Fair, India. That day, the 24th New Delhi World Book Fair opened at the Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. As the Guest of Honor at the event, China set up a 1,200-square-meter exhibition zone for its 5,000-plus paper books and e-books. Demonstrations to show traditional Chinese culture such as woodblock printing and tea ceremony were organized. Xinhua

achieved the goal of transmission and construction of cultures, thus enabling the Indian and Chinese cultures to interact. Needless to say, it was the “cultural capital” of Buddhism that received a tremendous response from China, whether it was its circulation, transmission, or distribution. It is for these reasons that Bassnett and Lefevere argue that the study of translation is the study of cultural interaction.

The concept of cultural capital was first introduced by Pierre Bourdieu, which includes non-financial resources that enable social mobility. Bourdieu further

classifies cultural capital in three categories – “in the embodied state, i.e., in the form of long-lasting dispositions of the mind and body; in the objectified state, namely, in the form of cultural goods (pictures, books, dictionaries, instruments, machines, etc.), which are the trace or realization of theories or critiques of these theories, problematics, etc.; and in the institutionalized state, a form of objectification which must be set apart because, as will be seen in the case of educational qualifications, it confers entirely original properties on the cultural capital which it is presumed to guarantee.”

Going by Bourdieu’s classification, the entire civilizational dialogue between India and China was the product of the cultural capital of India and China. Strong textual traditions of China as well as the *shrutis* (oral tradition) of India that itself fell in the ambit of cultural capital preserved this capital for the benefit of posterity.

Nevertheless, if we look at the net transmission of concrete Indian cultural capital in China, it matches the transmission of concrete Chinese cultural capital in India. That is to say, India’s spiritual wealth has been balanced by the transmission

of material wealth from China. The fine tradition of sutra translation in China has continued, and the translation and publication of Kalidasa's *Abhijñānashākuntala* and *Meghadāta* in the 1950s and 1960s, the *Rāmāyana* from Sanskrit in the 1980s, Rabindranath Tagore's works in 24 volumes in 2000, and the complete *Mahābhārata* from Sanskrit in 2005 testifies to this. Conversely, it is very bewildering that despite having an enormous and unrivalled time line, a miniscule portion of Chinese cultural capital was translated and transmitted into India. China's collection of verse, *The Book of Songs*, is at least 2,700 years old, even Tang and Song poetry is also 1,000-1,400 years old and nothing has been preserved in translations in India is quite intriguing.

China had already produced the Four Books and Five Classics (canonical works of the Confucian culture) by the time Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.), unified China in 221 B.C. The Taoist classic, *Tao Te Ching*, was even older. However, if we go by the translation of this classic by Xuanzang, it was rendered into Sanskrit almost 1,300 years later. It is believed that Xuanzang translated *Tao Te Ching* at the request of the Kamarupa king Bhaskara Varman, whom Xuanzang mentioned as "Kumara Raja." His translation of *Tao Te Ching* was a very thoughtful endeavour to introduce Chinese philosophy and

Chinese Confucian Classic	《四书》The Four Books, consisting of The Analects, Mencius, The Mean, and Great Learning		
Xuanzang	《大唐西域记》 Records of the Western Regions During the Great Tang	Xu Zhimo	《徐志摩作品选》 Selected Works of Xu Zhimo
Tang and Song Poetry	《唐诗宋词》 Collection of Tang and Song Poetry	Ji Xianlin	《中印文化交流史》 The History of Sino-Indian Cultural Exchange
Yuan Drama	《窦娥冤》《西厢记》 Guan Hanqing's The Injustice to Dou E & Wang Shifu's The Romance of West Chamber	Lin Yutang	《京华烟云》 Moment in Beijing
Cao Xueqin	《红楼梦》 Dream of the Red Chamber	Wang Meng	《青春万岁》 Long Live the Youth
Luo Guanzhong	《三国演义》 Romance of the Three Kingdoms	Liu Zhenyun	《一句顶一万句》 One Sentence Worth Ten Thousand
Wu Jingzi	《儒林外史》 The Scholars	Wang Shuo	《看上去很美》 Little Red Flowers
Pu Songling	《聊斋志异》 Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio	Shu Ting	《致橡树》 To the Oak Tree
Lao She	《骆驼祥子》 Rickshaw Boy	A Lai	《尘埃落定》 Red Poppies
Mao Dun	《子夜》 Midnight	Yu Hua	《活着》 To Live
Ba Jin	《家》 Family	Mo Yan	《生死疲劳》 Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out
Guo Moruo	《郭沫若作品选》 Selected Works of Guo Moruo	Chen Zhongshi	《白鹿原》 White Deer Plain
Bing Xin	《冰心作品选》 Selected Works of Bing Xin	Jia Pingwa	《秦腔》 Shaanxi Opera

culture to the Indians. But alas, this translated text in Sanskrit is lost to us.

The West that had no civilizational dialogue with China in the remote past, nonetheless, translated and transmitted the Four Books and Five Classics into Western languages mostly during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties with the arrival of missionaries. It was around the same time that *The Analects*, a collection of the teachings and thoughts

of Confucius, was transmitted to the Sinosphere world, primarily East and Southeast Asia. In 1594, the Italian missionary Matteo Ricci (1552-1610) translated extensive parts of the Four Books into Latin and developed the first system for romanizing Chinese. He dispatched the translation back to Europe but it was not published. Almost a century later, in 1687, Prosper Intorcetta, Christian Herdtrich, François Rougemont, and Philippe

Couplet published the first Latin version titled *Confucius Sinarum Philosophus* that was rendered into English by Thierry Meynard and published by Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu in 2011. The first English translation of *The Analects* was by Randal Taylor in 1691 from a French edition titled *Confucius' Virtue and Chinese Philosophy* translated from Chinese by Philippe Couplet and Pierre Savouet. The Russian edition by Yakov Volkov of the Four Books appeared in 1729. Following this, during the 19th century there were various editions in English and other European languages. The most notable is James Legge's translation of the Four Books titled as *The Chinese Classics* (1861), and the translation of *The Analects of Confucius* by L. Giles (1875-1958) and Arthur Waley (1889-1966) into English in 1938. In order to do away the anomalies of cultural misunderstandings, since the late 19th century Chinese scholars started to produce their own versions of English translations. Ku Hungming was the first Chinese who published *The Analects* in English in 1898.

As far as the Indian scenario is concerned, it was again a missionary named Joshua Marshman (1768-1837), who not only translated and printed the Bible in Chinese in the small Indian town of Serampore, West Bengal, but also brought out the first English translation of *The Analects* from the original Chinese in 1809, albeit Marshman never

visited China. However, it was the translation of only the first nine chapters, and the remaining were never translated. He dedicated this first-ever English translation to English readers, for quoting Sir W. Jones, he said that whatsoever knowledge pertaining to Chinese language and literature is being disseminated in the West it is through their French neighbors. He also said that the book would "facilitate the acquisition of the most curious and difficult language, to which circumstances are daily giving importance and interest." Not only this, it appears that Minto was also promoting the learning of Chinese in India, as Marshman thanked Minto for his "generous condescension in fostering and encouraging the study of Chinese language in Bengal."

After this we do not hear of translation of Chinese classics in India until the 1960s when Max Muller's monumental 50-volume *The Sacred Books of the East* was printed six times between 1960 and the 1990s in India with inspiration from Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, then president of India, and was endorsed by the Indian National Academy of Letters as Indian translation series of the UNESCO collection of representative works. We do not have any information as to which native Indian language these were rendered into; neither do we have the editions of the same being circulated in the market.

The scenario is no different when we talk about the

translation and transmission of non-philosophical classics from Chinese literature, e.g. novels, dramas and poetry. *Journey to the West* by Wu Cheng'en (1500-1583) is a novel full of Buddhist content, and many stories have found their origin in India. The classical Chinese novel was only translated into Hindi in 2009, whereas in Japan the Ming vintage novel was translated into Japanese in 1831. Another work that has no participation from the Indian scholarship is the translation of Xuanzang's *Records of the Western Regions During the Great Tang*. The first edition of this monumental work was brought out in 1991 by the FLP, in 2015 the second edition was published by the same publishing house. The translators are Chen Zhongrong, Chen Lixing, and Sun Baogang, and the translation was coedited by Li Zhongyi and Li Longchang. Recently, with the rise of China and increased interaction between India and China, there is an increased interest in Chinese classics and contemporary works. For example, National Book Trust of India (NBT), the largest government-owned press, published selected plays of Guan Hanqing in 2013. They were translated by Ashok Lal from Gladys Yang's English translation. The translator may have done justice to the translation, but basic names have been incorrectly spelt owing to language issues.

Amongst the modern and contemporary Chinese literary giants, besides Lu Xun, Lao She perhaps remains


the only writer to be translated in India. His *Rickshaw Boy* has been translated into Hindi from an English edition in 1996. Other stalwarts of Chinese literature like Mao Dun, Ba Jin, Guo Moruo, and Bing Xin are still in oblivion. In 2012, after Mo Yan won the Nobel Prize for literature, there was a new zeal in India to translate his novels into local languages. Though most of his works in India are known through Howard Goldblatt, however, there is an attempt to make these available in local languages. For example, Professor Pushpesh Pant of Jawaharlal Nehru University has just finished rendering *Change* into Hindi. The novel is also being translated into Malayalam by Sreelatha Nellooli from its English version named *Maattam* and is brought out as a joint venture of two relatively new publishing houses—Raspberry Books and Book Port. Scores of other Chinese contemporary writers such as Wang Shuo, Wang Meng, Shu Ting, Zhang Wei, Chen Zhongshi, Yu Hua, Jia Pingwa, A Lai and many others are unheard of in India. Even if there are some translations, these are from the English language. Some efforts have been made by this author to translate some of the Chinese works into Hindi and English. Some of the books already published are *The Four Books* (2018), *Core Values of Chinese Civilization* (2018), *Ji Xianlin: A Critical Biography* (2018 and 2019); books that are in the press include *China and India:*

Civilizational Dialogue and Ancient Ship.

Four decades of economic reforms have changed the entire socio-economic landscape of China. Now, China is the second-largest economy in the world and one of the most important engines of global economic growth. China's ever increasing economic and political clout has inspired people across the globe to build capacities in the Chinese language and related studies. China is India's largest trading partner, and bilateral trade and investment in recent years have shown an upward trend. It is extremely important to understand China as the two countries had a troubled relationship in the 1950s and 1960s, and the boundary question that triggered the conflict and recent standoffs at Dong Lang (Doklam) and Galwan is yet to be resolved even though both have been partners in mechanisms such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

It was in the backdrop of such a scenario that the Indian Ministry of External Affairs signed an MoU with China's State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television on cooperation in mutual translation and publication of classic and contemporary works during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to India in May 2013. As per Article 2 of the MoU, each country would translate 25 books over a five-year period. Each would be responsible to acquire the copyrights of the

titles being handed over to the other side for translation and publication. I have been honored to be part of the project from the very beginning. The lists of the books on both sides are the most representative works spanning through ancient, modern and contemporary times.

People may question why this sample is so small if we browse through the mass of literature produced in India and China. However, I do believe that though it is a small step, it will enable us to better understand the Chinese psyche as well as Chinese society. I also believe that through this initiative, there would be a better connection between the government institutions, academics and publishing industry of the two countries, which is conducive for building capacities in the Chinese language and related studies in India. Since the target language is Hindi, it will certainly create a demand for Chinese books in the Indian market on the one hand, and promote the cause of Hindi in both countries on the other. Above all, the project is an important part of the people-to-people exchanges between India and China, and I hope it will live up to its expectations of forging closer bonds between our two peoples. Finally, I hope Indian readers will find these works interesting and enrich their knowledge of China. 

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The author is a professor of China studies at the Centre of Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



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India's Fight Against COVID-19

By Rohidas Mundhe

India and China have a great chance to cooperate on the COVID-19 pandemic. China's experience of containing the pandemic will help India deal with the menace in the long run.

In recent history, most nations have deviated from basic needs and priorities. Everyone wants to be a global player but no one wants to be a global leader.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an eye-opener for all nations. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a novel coronavirus. This virus really brought almost all countries around the world to the ground. Birds are flying freely, animals are walking freely, but billions of people are locked in homes worldwide. Since its outbreak in Wuhan in December 2019, millions of people have been affected globally. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness spread through contact with infected people or an object that has the virus.

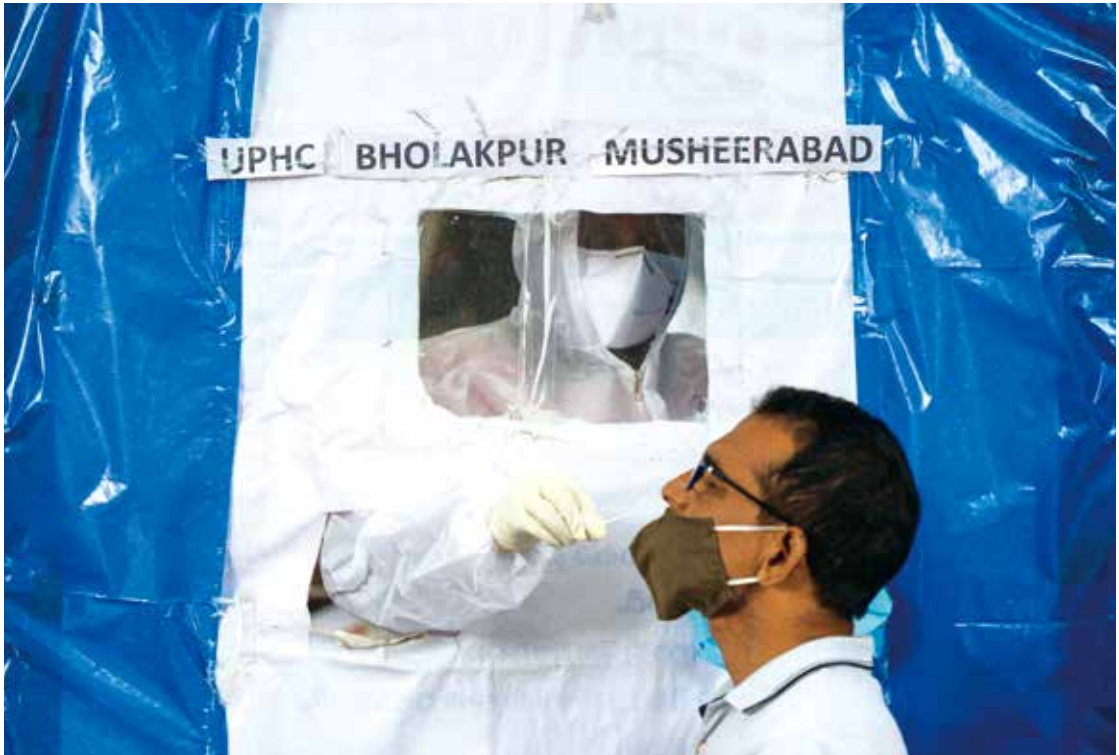
The Indian government,

without waiting for any announcement from the World Health Organization (WHO) or any other international agency, announced a countrywide lockdown on March 24, 2020. The nationwide lockdown has enormous effect on the Indian economy. Agriculture, the rural economy, small traders and daily wage earners are the worst affected by the lockdown. The lockdown is from top to bottom – from state, city, district, taluka to village level.

The complete lockdown is a bitter pill but it is needed in this situation to save each and every life, irrespective of economic loss. It is a critical question between life and livelihood. The Indian government has taken a series of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. It quickly

closed down all educational institutions, and suspended all public programs, academic events like seminars, public talks, and conferences. It suspended all religious gatherings, functions, including marriage ceremonies, and all kinds of celebrations. It also closed all markets, suspended local, national and international transport to break the contagious chain of COVID-19, and asked all concerned authorities to make sure that everything is observed. India had never experienced this kind of lockdown in the past century.

In the process of breaking the COVID-19 infection chain, the Indian government has tried hard to keep the essential commodity supply chain intact. Since the lockdown, till this date, the



August 10, 2020: A health worker collects swab samples from a local for COVID-19 tests at a temporary testing facility in Hyderabad, India. Visual People

government has been able to prevent the pandemic from going from stage two to stage three; that is, community spreading. But there is a slow increase of confirmed cases as compared to other countries. The government has also created dedicated hospitals for COVID-19 patients, quarantined infected people, promoted sealing off of certain hot spots, conducted screening and testing of people coming from abroad, and spread awareness about social distancing. State governments have taken steps according to the guidelines of

the central government, and built temporary hospitals on open ground if the number of the infected went high.

There is a continuous increase in the number of positive cases, though it is through addition, not multiplication. According to the government of India, as of April 15 this year, there were 9,756 active cases, 1,305 cured/discharged cases and 377 deaths. To fight against the pandemic, the Indian Health Ministry has increased testing labs from only one in the initial stage to 146 state-run labs and 67 private ones. These labs have capacity to do 16,000

tests daily. The total number of tests done stood at 150,000 as of April 10. Yet, there is no vaccine available for COVID-19, so at the beginning some treatments for diseases like HIV are said to have been tested on critical patients. But these treatments did not give the expected results. To some extent, hydroxychloroquine which is used to treat malaria, is working effectively on COVID-19. Therefore, its demand is increasing worldwide. At a press conference held on April 10 by the Indian Health Ministry along with the Indian Council of Medical



July 24, 2020: Medical workers and patients practice yoga at a COVID-19 treatment center in New Delhi, the capital of India. Xinhua

Research (ICMR), Lav Agrawal, joint secretary of the Indian Health Ministry, said that the total requirement of hydroxychloroquine tablets for the next one week was 10 million, and at the time India had 30.5 million tablets.

Despite all these efforts by the Indian government, there is a lot more to do on public health. Apart from the progress in medical science, communicable diseases continue to remain a major public health challenge to the world in general and India in particular. Dissemination of public health awareness to maintain social distancing, particularly in such situations,

has become a big challenge to the government. It is because of poor functional literacy and low educational status in the country. In India, many public hospitals lack infrastructure, funds and political will. Community and primary health centers across the country, too, face the same problems. According to the WHO, India spends 3.5 percent of its GDP on health-care, and currently the size of India's GDP is US\$2.8 trillion with over 1.3 billion population. It means that India spends only US\$241 every year per individual. In 2017, there were 156,231 sub-centers, 25,650 primary health

centers and 5,624 community health centers functioning in India. The physician to population ratio in India is 0.8 doctors per 1,000 people, falling below the WHO standard of one doctor per 1,000 people. Hence, doctors and nurses are under huge pressure in this situation. The frontline health workers dealing with COVID-19 patients are unable to see their small children due to the possible transmission of COVID-19. India is fighting COVID-19 on its own with available resources.

Therefore, policymakers in India need to pay more attention to public health. A healthy nation should be

recognized on the basis of the health of its people. It seems that the government is always thinking of gradual withdrawal from all public sectors. But in the long run this approach is very dangerous. A welfare state should not withdraw from any public sector. To strike a balance between private and public sectors, the presence of government is necessary. Otherwise, the day will not be far off when the government will be elected by corporations for the sake of corporations instead of by the people for the people. After all, for whom has the state come into existence? If the government always thinks in terms of profit and loss, then it also has to think of the loss caused due to the current pandemic. Had the government spent only five percent of its money, that we lost due to lockdown, on health and education, both the systems would have been the finest in the world. On the one hand the government talks about medical tourism in India to give good facilities to foreign people, at the same time we are depriving our own people by giving poor health facilities and education.


Moreover, India and China can work together to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. China has already discovered the genetic sequence of the virus, so it is a good opportunity for scientists in both countries to work on vaccines. This situation reminded me of Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis, who was a member of an Indian medical team to assist Chinese people in 1939, in

Yan'an and later in northern China. He earned high respect from the Chinese government and people. In order to cherish his memories, the Chinese government, in 1976, built the Memorial Hall of Dr. Kotnis in Shijiazhuang City, Hebei Province. The present situation is also a kind of war against COVID-19 and both countries can fight together to save humanity.

After the outbreak of COVID-19 in China, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote a letter in February 2020 and expressed his condolences to the people of China who lost their lives due to the pandemic and offered India's assistance to China to tackle the challenge. Soon after, the Chinese Foreign Ministry thanked New Delhi's goodwill gesture. "We thank and appreciate India's support for China's fight against the novel coronavirus pneumonia. India's acts of goodwill fully demonstrate its friendship with China," said Geng Shuang, then spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

In India, Tang Guocai, Consul General of China in Mumbai, said that Indian businessmen like Mukesh Ambani and others wrote a letter to China and expressed solidarity. Similarly, Chinese business leaders like Fosun and the Jack Ma Foundation have donated medical materials to the Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Further, he said, Shanghai is the sister city of Mumbai and eager to contribute to Mumbai and Maharashtra through the

exchange of videos among experts and donation of medical equipment. Such interaction between the local governments and people-to-people exchange will boost China-India cooperation in this difficult time, added Tang.

Both countries need to learn a lesson from European countries and the way they are suffering, though they have world-class health systems. The existing health system of India needs to be upgraded with adequate equipment, staff and funds. The government expenditure on health must be scaled up from the existing 3.5 percent to at least 5 percent of the country's GDP. There is always a high risk of spreading the virus in overcrowded areas. So, India needs to be ready in the future for such crisis management. Who knows in the future what sort of virus will emerge and in which part of the world, maybe even in India. Since all countries are integrated in one way or another, we cannot prevent such a virus from coming to our country. Are we going to lock down again and again? It's only a good healthcare system and education that will save us. Money can be earned again but once a life is lost it can never be brought back. And so, it is said that "health is wealth." 

The author is an assistant professor in the Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai, India.

India-China Collaboration in the Post-COVID-19 World

By Mukul Sanwal

India and China, and all of Asia, can and must work together for shared prosperity.

The policy issue for countries is how globalization is perceived and what that means for international cooperation, particularly in the post-COVID-19 world.

The big recent success in the relationship between India and China is the informal summit at Wuhan in 2018. However, recent events on the border, with different perceptions of the boundary lines, will reset their relations. A former Foreign Secretary and National Security Adviser of India has pointed out that “things haven’t been this adversarial since the 1960s, but India and China also have a chance to reassess and reshape their fraught relationship.”

COOPERATION ON COVID-19

Currently, international cooperation in dealing with the pandemic is lacking as geostrategic and economic interests are prioritized by most major powers above human life. For example, in 2019, official development assistance amounted to less than one-tenth of global defence spending. There are at least five factors relevant in shaping cooperation on COVID-19 where India and China have a role.

First, the United Nations (UN) has been unsuccessfully striving to organize international cooperation to address what is considered the biggest global challenge since World War II. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres criticised the lack

of international coordination in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and pointed out that going it alone will not defeat the coronavirus. By acting in isolation, countries “are creating the situation that is getting out of control.” The UN Secretary-General stressed that wide-ranging political, economic and social responses will be needed.

Second, the G20, “the premier forum for international economic cooperation” with a combined GDP of the member countries making up about 80 percent of the global total and having the stability of the global economy as a common concern, has also been inactive. The G20 successfully coordinated a policy response to the global financial crisis.



March 27, 2020: Cai Xiujun (center, front row), head of Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital affiliated with the Zhejiang University School of Medicine, introduces a new system for COVID-19 containment developed by his hospital. China News Service

However, this time the G20 has failed to produce results and only agreed on April 15 to defer low-income countries' debt repayments for the time being. COVID-19 is expected to spread in these countries and the funds available from the deferred payment can be deployed against the virus. Even this measure will only last until the end of the year.

Third, the nature and extent of the pandemic has accelerated global trends and modified global systems. The United States has withdrawn from the World Health Organization (WHO). Instead of ensuring trade openness and preservation of supply chains to ensure countries'

access to vital medical goods, the United States is buying up medicines essential for COVID-19 treatment. Similarly, vaccine development and deployment remains a national activity, without benefiting from any multilateral action.

Fourth, countries are approaching the problem differently as the response to the pandemic has varied widely. However, commonalities can be seen between the response of China and India and the very different common responses of the West. The United States and Europe have not instituted a complete lockdown as that "would disrupt many, many lives." Their

focus is on the few who need hospitalization. China relied extensively on a lockdown, and established technology frames to enforce the lockdown. India has also relied on a lockdown, mobilizing society and changing behaviour from panic and anxiety to acceptance and new precautions as part of daily routine. Public trust has been a key differentiator between these responses, reflecting the different civilizational values in Asia and the West.

Fifth, India is currently chairing the Executive Board of the WHO. It is in a position to push multilateral action for an international commitment to an allocation system to ensure that a vaccine will be

widely available, and that the countries that need it most are not deprived. Such a system could rely on existing global purchasing agents, advance purchase commitments and concessional loans, and prioritise delivery of vaccines to healthcare workers and high-risk populations. This provides an opportunity for India and China to work together to develop, mass-produce and distribute the vaccine.

THE WUHAN GUIDANCE

At Wuhan in 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared the view that peaceful, stable and balanced relations between India and China will be a positive factor for stability amidst current global uncertainties. They also agreed that proper management of the bilateral relationship will be conducive to the development and prosperity of the region, and will create the conditions for the Asian Century.

The two leaders shared views on their respective foreign policy visions of achieving global prosperity and security. They agreed to jointly contribute in a positive and constructive way to facilitating sustainable solutions for global challenges including climate change, sustainable development, and food security. They underscored the importance of reform of multilateral financial and political institutions to make them representative of and responsive to the needs of developing countries.

The two leaders agreed that as two major countries and emerging economies, India and China, given their vast developmental experiences and national capacities, should join hands to take the lead in offering innovative and sustainable solutions to challenges faced by humankind in the 21st century. These include combating diseases, coordinating action for disaster risk reduction and mitigation, addressing climate change and facilitating digital empowerment. They agreed to pool their expertise and resources in these areas and create a global network dedicated to these challenges for the larger benefit of humanity.

Public trust has been a key differentiator between these responses, reflecting the different civilizational values in Asia and the West.

Chinese President Xi Jinping recognized India not just as a market but as a global power in his opening remarks, observing that China and India are both important engines for global growth and that “we are central pillars” for promoting a multi-polar and globalized world. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid emphasis on the global leadership role for both nations that he described as “two major powers.” He rightly reminded his hosts that “the two countries together constituted about 50 percent of the world economy

and another 50 percent was shared by the rest of the world for 1,600 years.”

India and China, and all of Asia, can and must work together for shared prosperity. In India, public-sector-led systems to automate and analyse data are complemented by private sector innovation for collaboration and productivity increase, extending the benefits to new areas like public health and agriculture. Between 2013 and 2019, in India, around US\$11 billion were saved in subsidy leakages, 300 million accounts opened, new administrative-business models developed, a central welfare database was planned while

energy use remained below the global average. India's vision of the future digital economy, shared sustainable prosperity and not just economic value provides a third compelling global vision. India is already shaping the direction of global trends with the unique 1.2-billion-people Aadhar personal identification system, enabling broadened financial inclusion, digital payments and targeting of social security systems, and building on the rapid uptake of mobile phones.

As technology, economy and security come together,



August 3, 2020: A woman ties rakhis, or sacred threads, on the wrist of a medical worker during celebrations for the Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan, meaning the tie or knot of protection, in Mumbai, India. On this day, Indian women tie colored threads to their brothers' wrists to express their love, also a symbol that they are under their siblings' protection. Xinhua

the strategic community is shifting its analysis from regional challenges to global opportunities focusing on economic and technological growth. Digital regime types with telecom technology and control of data are taking the place of balance of power, trade and exchange, effectively dividing the world into spheres of economic growth, competition and world orders. By 2030, Asia will have two-thirds of the world's middle class, generating large volumes of data essential for the development of artificial intelligence and other technologies forming the backbones of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

ASIAN CENTURY

Asian governments, economies and societies are looking to one another, instead of

the West, for new ideas and arrangements as they reshape the region themselves. India's call for redefining climate change as "climate justice" and China's "ecological civilization" are examples.

The people of Asia, where a greater share of natural resource use is now taking place, espouse values recognizing interdependencies, different narratives of socially desirable change, associated lifestyles and alternative socio-economic, technological and political systems as well as a different view of dominance of the natural and social environment compared with the West. Asian civilizations, which go back more than five millennia, have a different attitude to viewing matter, life and society to that of the West because of different values, origins, characteristics and evolution.

World civilization is not the product of a unitary process.

Industrial civilization and the world capitalist system developed in the West in the colonial era are based on material abundance and an urban culture where societies were integrated in an economically unequal relationship, cheap natural resources, low labour costs and an imbalance with nature. That worldview has undergone a paradigm shift with global change and the social and economic development path adopted by an urbanizing China and India in terms of growth and well-being of the entire population.

As two ancient civilizations, India and China, have a lot in common. Their economic growth and societal organization are serving the endogenous hinterland, rather than being focused solely on export. Being successful is having a happy family rather than being rich. With rising household incomes, this view of a balanced life in harmony with nature is again becoming the world system. Their different pathway of well-being from that of the West is driving stabilization of global resource use, social development and sustainability, showing that it is possible for humankind to live in harmony with nature. This is reflected in their long-standing close multilateral cooperation on climate change. 📌

The author is a former UN diplomat and the former director in the Climate Change Secretariat.

China-India Economic and Trade Cooperation: Greater Significance amidst COVID-19

By Lou Chunhao

In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic and trade cooperation between China and India carries even more significance.

Since March 2020, the novel coronavirus has been making its way in India. Although the Indian government adopted stringent lockdowns across the whole country beginning on March 25, its number of infections has been climbing, due to its limited testing ability and unsatisfactory medical and healthcare conditions. Especially after the country began to reopen from June 1, its COVID-19 cases skyrocketed. On July 5, India became the country with the third-largest number of infections globally. Before the outbreak of the pandemic, the Indian economy already

started to see a downturn from the third quarter of 2018, and the situation got even worse with the development of the pandemic. What are the difficulties and risks facing India's economy? Is India's economic stimulus package working? How will the stimulus package affect China-India economic and trade ties?

INDIA'S ECONOMY GETTING WORSE

Before the coronavirus outbreak, India's economy had already been going into a recession. Its GDP growth rate had slowed to 4.2 percent

in the 2019-20 fiscal year, the lowest in 11 years, and the figure further contracted to 3.1 percent in the first quarter of the 2020-21 fiscal year. Since this March, the impact of COVID-19 on India's economy has increasingly materialized.

The World Bank expects India's economy to contract by 3.2 percent in the 2020-21 fiscal year. According to the International Monetary Fund, India's economy will see a contraction of 4.5 percent this year. Three major international rating agencies, Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings, were all

lined up to downgrade India's credit rating. Moody's has cut India's rating to Baa3, the lowest investment grade with negative outlook.

Among India's three major industries, the agricultural sector is relatively less affected by the pandemic. The output of some agricultural products has even increased. The industrial and service sectors are more heavily affected. According to a report released by Credit Analysis & Research Ltd. (CARE Ratings) in June, India's industrial sector, marked by manufacturing, mining, and power generation, will contract by 9.5 percent. It is expected that by the end of the third quarter of the 2020-21 fiscal year, only two thirds of India's industries can restore 50 to 70 percent of their production capacities.

The growth rate of the Index of India's Eight Core Industries for April 2020 declined by 38 percent, with production of cement and electricity contracting by 86 percent and 84 percent, respectively. The crisis shattered consumer confidence. Sectors such as tourism, hotels, aviation, and automobile consumption have been hit hard. Take automobile consumption as an example: As people's incomes have decreased, automobile sales in India have taken a dive. In terms of foreign trade, statistics from India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that from April to May this year, the volume of India's exports of goods and services



August 2, 2020: A health worker collects swab samples from a resident for COVID-19 tests in New Delhi, India. As of August 2, 2020, India's total COVID-19 tally rose to 1,750,723, according to the country's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Xinhua

stood at US\$61.57 billion, a year-on-year decrease of 34 percent. The volume of its imports of goods and services for the same period stood at US\$57.19 billion, which fell 48 percent year-on-year.

The pandemic has severely impacted India's economy. And the reasons behind are obvious. First, the prolonged nationwide lockdown greatly restricted economic activities. The Indian government imposed a nationwide lockdown from March 25 to May 31. Although the lockdown measures were partially lifted according to the developments of the pandemic during this period, it has undermined India's economy. The Confederation of Indian Industry reported on June 21 that since most plants in India were closed in April, India's industrial output dropped by about 56 percent, of which the manufacturing, mining and power sectors contracted by

about 64 percent, 27 percent, and 23 percent, respectively.

Second, India greatly relies on the external market. Shortly after the COVID-19 outbreak in China, many Chinese plants were shut down for epidemic prevention and control. Thus, some industries of India which rely heavily on China's industrial chain faced serious supply shortages. Beginning from March 2020, the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic moved to Europe and the United States, further affecting India's exports. From April to May, India's commodity export fell by more than 47 percent year-on-year.

Third, regions which were hit hardest by the pandemic happen to be economically active areas in India. Statistics show that more developed areas such as Delhi, Maharashtra where Mumbai is located, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat are more severely affected by the pandemic.

INDIA'S DILEMMA

The Indian government now needs to carry out the task of coordinating COVID-19 prevention and control efforts and economic development. Curbing the coronavirus requires the implementation of a stringent lockdown, which will hold back economic growth and cause serious employment problems. However, loose prevention and control measures may lead to a worse and more complicated situation and shatter India's already over-stretched healthcare system. Thus, with the developments of the COVID-19 epidemiological situation, India now takes steps to gradually reboot its economy, adopt calibrated and phased unlocking measures, and launch multiple measures to stimulate the economy. On May 12, 2020, India unveiled a 20-trillion-rupee stimulus package. Soon, India's Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced follow-up policies for implementation. In general, the Indian government has adopted the following measures to stabilize and stimulate its economy.

First, safeguarding people's livelihoods. The Indian government announced a spending package of 1.7 trillion rupees on March 26, which was designed to help the vulnerable to cope with the country's lockdown in response to the coronavirus. India's Ministry of Labor and Employment called on all employers, in both the public and private sectors, not to lay off employees during this difficult time. The railway



March 1, 2020: A cargo aircraft carrying 12.8 tons of anti-epidemic materials such as protective suits and masks arrives in Nantong City of Jiangsu Province, all the way from Mumbai. 80,000 masks were donated to the Red Cross Society of Wuhan. China News Service

authority provided food for migrant workers from across the country going back to their hometowns due to job losses.

Second, stabilizing employment. The Indian government attaches great importance to supporting medium, small and micro businesses by deferring their loan payments and providing them with additional loans.

Third, stabilizing finance. Measures such as cutting required reserves, injecting liquidity to non-bank financial institutions and small and micro financial institutions, and trading foreign exchange have been taken to stabilize the stock and foreign exchange markets.

Fourth, promoting economic growth. Policies such as export credit, tax reduction and reimbursement have been adopted to reduce pressure on enterprises. Various measures have been taken to improve the business environment and promote production.

Fifth, emphasizing “a self-reliant India.” In his recent speeches, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched his vision of a self-reliant India. The vision is designed to reduce the adverse impact of the pandemic, ensure the stability of the industrial chain, stabilize domestic employment in the short run, and contribute towards the “Make in India” initiative in the long run.

However, India's rescue package so far has only produced modest accomplishments and has faced many impediments. Several questions need to be answered. First, where does all the money that India needs come from? India's slowed-down economy already cut into government fiscal revenue, while the stimulus package required financial support. As a result, the government's widening fiscal deficit will be inevitable. Second, where will all the money go? India's

stimulus package to economic recovery mapped out by the Modi administration seems to be huge. But it includes the previously announced fiscal stimulus policy and the RBI-formulated monetary policy, and the newly-added fiscal expenditure only accounted for one percent of India's GDP. The stimulus package is not big enough, compared with that of some other major economies. Besides, extensive financial resources are expected to flow to non-production areas. Third, where to find the resolve to make the in-depth reforms that India needs? On July 9, in his speech at the India Global Week 2020, Prime Minister Modi said that India remains one of the most open economies in the world, and a self-reliant India is not about being self-contained or being closed to the world. He invited international investors to come and invest in India. However, plagued by poor infrastructure and stagnant reforms on market-based allocation of factors amidst the pandemic, India's attraction to international capital is greatly reduced.

INDIA NEEDS CHINA FOR ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION

During its response to COVID-19, some weak links have been exposed in India's economy. Areas with development potential and areas in dire need of reform also emerged, which presented opportunities for China-India economic and trade cooperation. For

example, in recent years, India has become an increasingly important overseas market for Chinese internet companies, and the development of the online economy during the pandemic has provided opportunities for China and India to strengthen cooperation in the internet field. In addition, the joint fight against COVID-19 pushes the two countries to strengthen cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals in order to consolidate international prevention and control efforts. However, due to India's lack of strategic trust in China and geopolitical conflict with China, against the backdrop of the pandemic, India is not enthusiastic toward economic and trade cooperation with China.

India shows negative trends in several aspects. First, it advocates the industrial decoupling with China. India believes that in the process of combating COVID-19, the country has exhibited an excessive reliance on China's industrial chain, which increased the risk to its own industrial chain. The industrial chain of India should reduce its dependence on China through the promotion of "self-reliance" and "multiple substitutes." Second, it restricted Chinese investments. India believes that the pandemic has devalued its domestic corporate assets, which may create opportunities for Chinese investors to go bargain-hunting and further jeopardize India's economic security. On April 17, India announced new constraints on foreign direct investment (FDI), making FDI from an entity located in a country sharing a

land border with India subject to prior governmental approval. These constraints make it harder for Chinese enterprises to invest in India. Third, it politicizes economic issues. After the recent border tensions between China and India, the Indian government has adopted measures such as banning apps developed by Chinese companies, and delaying clearance processes for Chinese imports, in an attempt to play the economy card against China.

At present, COVID-19 is still rampant in India. External funds are direly needed to reboot the economy. China, as one of the first major economies in the world to largely have the coronavirus under control, has a stable industrial chain and abundant capital. The two sides should promote economic cooperation. The Indian government should adjust some policies towards the long-term development of its economy. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic and trade cooperation between China and India carries even more significance. As Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong stressed, "Any protectionist policies, non-tariff barriers and restrictive measures against China are unfair to Chinese enterprises, unfair to Indian employees who lost their jobs as a result, and unfair to Indian consumers who cannot get access to the products and services they deserve." 

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Building Partnerships for the Future

By Moyna Manku

In the post-pandemic world, China and India can benefit mutually and build a more resilient economic environment for decades to come if they work together and strengthen their economic ties.

As the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is evident the economic ramifications of the same are going to last for a long time. Halfway through 2020, while most countries remain insular with their borders sealed, governments need to reboot the global economy. In the globalized world, the best bet will likely be strong partnerships.

Put together, India and China constitute a third of the world's total population and any solutions or economic trends emerging in this region are likely to influence the global market. With such strength in our backyard, considering the sheer size and population of both countries, it is obvious that both

governments need to work towards closer and more sustainable economic ties.

The world economic outlook report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June 2020 forecasts that global growth will be negative and suggests that the ongoing stress of the pandemic will contract economic activity like never before. It projects global growth at -4.9 percent in 2020, which is 1.9 percent below the estimates made earlier this year in April.

While this does not bode well for the short term, it has created an opportunity for countries like China and India for long-term economic development. The last two decades have shown that emerging markets and developing economies, particularly

China and India, are among the top contributors to global economic growth. The IMF report projects sharp contraction of 4.5 percent in the Indian economy in 2020, as opposed to 4.2 percent of growth in 2019. For 2021, the annual percentage change in GDP is expected to be 6 percent. The projections for China are similar, with the annual percentage change in GDP placed at 6.1 percent in 2019, at 1 percent in 2020 and at 8.2 percent in 2021. The two countries will contribute the largest chunk of the projected economic recovery of 2021 as per the IMF report. If China and India could establish sustainable trading partnerships, there would be little or no hurdle for Asia to become the world's strongest economic power.



May 28, 2019: Indian guests present their brochures at the India Pavilion of the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing. The CIFTIS attracted exhibitors from 21 international organizations and 137 countries and regions. VCG

Both countries have historical as well as recent examples to help build on partnerships. As per information provided by China's General Administration of Customs, Indian exports to China include organic chemicals, ores, slag and ash; natural pearls, precious stones and precious metals; cotton, including yarns and woven fabrics thereof; fish and crustaceans, mollusks and other aquatic invertebrates. Indian imports from China include electric machinery, sound equipment, television equipment and parts thereof; boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts; organic chemicals; plastics and articles thereof; and iron and steel.

The items listed above include only the traditional trade commodities and do not account for investments and the virtual economy that has flourished in both

countries over the past decade and a half. *The China Global Investment Tracker* compiled by the U.S. public policy think tank American Enterprise Institute shows that China's FDI (foreign direct investment) in India rose from US\$1.85 billion in 2010 to US\$4.14 billion in 2019, based only on data of deals above US\$100 million.

Partnerships in trading commodities already exist but need further support. For instance, China is the global leader in electronic hardware manufacturing and India has proven its expertise in

developing software. This is an obvious link that the two countries could work towards developing together. Small steps have been taken in this direction like the partnership established between India's National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and three municipal governments in China for developing the IT sector. The third and latest such initiative took place in March 2019 where NASSCOM set up in Xuzhou City of Jiangsu Province. The previous two are located in the cities of Dalian and Guiyang.

At the launch of the Xuzhou IT corridor, Gagan Sabharwal, senior director of global trade development at NASSCOM, said, "This corridor will help strengthen China-India digital cooperation, leveraging our respective strengths in hardware and software to build innovative products and solutions in the co-creating mode." Similar sentiments were also expressed by the Indian Consul General in Shanghai, Anil Kumar Rai, at the inauguration of this corridor. He said that China as a dominant manufacturing country requires software, IT and IT-enabled services to transform towards smart

Over the last few decades, ties between the two largest economies of Asia have been cordial but often chequered with the boundary question. Both sides must not let political rhetoric overshadow the economic relations between China and India.

manufacturing.

NASSCOM claims that at the newest IT corridor, more than 10 Indian SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) have signed deals worth 31 million yuan (US\$4.5 million) while the previous IT corridors in Dalian and Guiyang have created opportunities to the tune of 24 million yuan (US\$3.4 million) and 62 million yuan (US\$8.9 million), respectively. These corridors are a big step in the co-creating mode towards establishing the expertise of China and India in emerging technologies such as AI (artificial intelligence), IoT (Internet of Things) and analytics. Although these are not very large numbers given the scale and scope of the sector, with more government support, it is essential that such partnerships should be scaled up.

While China has expanded its manufacturing capacity in all industries, especially pharmaceutical ingredients, India's generic medicines find favor in numerous emerging markets across the globe. In the age of global supply chains, natural linkages are formed. For instance, in the global pharmaceutical industry, India is considered the world's third-largest producer of finished drugs and it relies on China for supplies of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). China supplies 40 percent of the world's APIs. India imports close to 70 percent of its demand from China.

The first working group on pharmaceuticals under the

Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) met in Beijing in May 2019. The SED, established in December 2010, aims at discussing macro-economic cooperation between the two countries. The SED consists of six working groups – infrastructure, environment, energy, high technology, policy coordination and pharmaceuticals – and has held six meetings. Regretfully, there has been little progress in developing bilateral ties in the pharmaceutical sector. Though the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA) and the China Pharmaceutical Industry Association (CPIA) signed a memorandum of understanding in 2011 to enhance pharmaceutical trade between the two countries, large-scale tangible results have not yet been achieved.

Over the last few decades, ties between the two largest economies of Asia have been cordial but often chequered with the boundary question. The most recent incident in June has set back bilateral ties, and the impact of this incident will be felt in the months to come. Both sides must not let political rhetoric overshadow the economic relations between China and India.

In the last three decades, trade between the two countries has seen a steady growth. As per data from India's Ministry of Commerce, India's exports to China stood at Rs 138,264.43 crores (1 crore = 10 million) in 2015-2016, and in 2019-2020 it was expected to be at Rs 179,766.72 crores.

Imports from China to India in the same period stood at Rs 443,686.75 crores and Rs 550,784.66 crores, respectively. There is an obvious trade deficit between India and China, but this can be addressed by furthering bilateral agreements. A promise for the same has been made by both sides repeatedly and a few steps to this effect have also been taken by both governments. Earlier this year in January, then Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang, while updating media outlets on the trading data between China and India, said, "China always attaches great importance to India's concerns about trade imbalance... Over the past five years, China's imports from India have grown by 15 percent, with more and more Indian goods finding their way to Chinese households."

China and India share not only physical geography with rivers and mountains running across our territories, but also the political ambition of establishing a more equitably distributed global economy that is not dominated by the West. Therefore, the two countries need to work together and build on old partnerships while developing new fields for cooperation. ■

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The author is a freelance writer and researcher, with 15 years of experience reporting for India's national political newspapers and business magazines on subjects spanning environmental protection, rural development and corporate social responsibility.

In the Esteem of Future Generations

By Prasoon Sharma

Post COVID-19, the *pari passu* usage of both the narratives, “India vs China” or “China with India,” may be myopically unsustainable. It is the most appropriate time to redefine the narrative of bilateral relations.

On March 31, 2020, the United Nations stated that India and China would be an exception while the world economy will go into a recession due to the coronavirus pandemic. The next day, on April 1, the two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic ties. Thus, India and China should follow the motto “*Postera crescam laude*” (grow in the esteem of future generations).

GROWING ECONOMIES

India’s history starts with the rise of the Indus Valley Civilization which flourished between 3500 B.C. and 1800 B.C. The economic system of the Indus Valley was based predominately on trade which

developed in sophistication with the improved marine route. India was the largest economy of the ancient and medieval world, respectively

possessing over time one-third and one-fourth of the world’s wealth. From 1526 to 1858, India experienced affluence. Britishers systematically



June 3, 2020: Workers at a temporary quarantine station transformed from an exhibition center in Agartala, India. According to the country’s Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India registered a record-high single-day spike of 8,909 confirmed COVID-19 cases that day, with the total number surpassing 200,000. Xinhua

sucked the wealth of India by importing raw materials at a cheaper rate and exporting expensive finished goods back to India. Research shows that by 1950 India's contribution to the world GDP was a mere 3 percent as compared to 27 percent in 1700 A.D.

It was only after 1947 that the process of rebuilding started. In the last 70 years, India's GDP grew to about US\$3 trillion. The nation's foreign exchange reserves are US\$481 billion compared to just US\$2 billion at the time of independence. Against all odds, economists still show great faith in India's economic growth, projecting a 20.8 percent contribution to the

world's GDP by 2040.

China in the past four decades showed exemplary economic growth by demonstrating its outwards approach. According to World Bank data, China's GDP increased from US\$150 billion in 1978 to US\$13.6 trillion in 2018. China's openness to the world helped it accumulate foreign exchange reserves of US\$3.1 trillion. No doubt, economists are also confident in China's economic growth in coming years and speculated that by 2040 it would possess 37.4 percent of the world's GDP in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), followed by India in the second place.

The impressive and sustained

economic growth of China is not a miracle but the fruit of a sustainable development path. By its fiscal, financial and exchange rate reforms put forth since 1992, the Chinese economy has experienced positive marketization. China's entry to the World Trade Organization in 2001 served as a milestone where China and the rest of the world benefitted from one another. Two other keystones improving China's economic structure are industrialization and urbanization.

THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 assessment,



January 14, 2008: A signing ceremony for documents on economic, cultural and medical cooperation between China and India is held with the presence of then Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Xinhua

China has successfully restricted the damage to its economy to a moderate level. To mitigate the pandemic's negative impact, China has announced strings of measures. China's State Council also declared measures to facilitate the employment of college graduates and rural migrant workers, offer financial

As per the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019, India performs higher on human capital and research, market and business sophistication, and knowledge and technology output when compared to the upper middle-income group average. India ranks 4th among the economies in the lower-middle-income group.

If India and China continue the *pari passu* usage of “India vs China” and “China with India,” then both may have restricted growth as it harbors the risk of external manipulations and also threats such as terrorism and trade barriers.

support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. These measures have translated into signs of economic revival. In March 2020, the purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's non-manufacturing sector surged to 52.3 from 29.6 in February.

As per the current scenario, India will be able to contain the coronavirus pandemic with a moderate level of damage to its economy. By the end of Q2, India should start rebuilding its economy.

As per Brookings, COVID-19 can cause 3.6 million deaths in just eight weeks at the current pace of deaths doubling each week. More than 80 percent of deaths are in G20 nations, causing a huge loss of knowledge economy workers. The world will also look towards India and China to fill this vacuum.

It has been an innovation achiever for nine consecutive years. China remains the top middle-income economy in quality of innovation for the seventh consecutive year. Positioned 14th, China is the only middle-income economy that is closing the gap with the high-income group in all three indicators.

The political economy of the human resource supply chain can be another area for cooperation between India and China post COVID-19.

NARRATIVE FOR NEXT 70 YEARS

Both China and India have very strong and popular leaders – President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Post COVID-19, the *pari passu* usage of both the

narratives, “India vs China” or “China with India,” may be myopically unsustainable. Thus, it is the most appropriate time for both nations and leaders to redefine the narrative of the bilateral relations. In the 70th year of the diplomatic ties and the third year for the leaders' informal summit, India and China should start resolving the impinging issues such as boundary question and global diplomacy tussles, to help build a more dynamic and sustainable world.

With the world economy falling into recession, if India and China continue the *pari passu* usage of “India vs China” and “China with India,” then both may have restricted growth as it harbors the risk of external manipulations and also threats such as terrorism and trade barriers.

COVID-19 will subvert the paradigm of the world order. The third informal summit should happen as soon as possible as it can shape this significant re-adjustment of world order for the furtherance of India and China, and subsequently of the world.

In conclusion, I would say “远亲不如近邻”, that is “a relative afar is less useful than a close neighbor.” 🇮🇳

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The author is the Pentland-Churchill fellow for Global Public Policy leadership at New York University (NYU) and University College London (UCL). Since 2016, he represented India at China-India Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) as a member of the policy coordination group (PCG).

Shifting to Online Learning: Passion for Chinese Language Continues

By Nishith Shah

Our motivation comes from an idiom from *The Analects*—“*Xué ér bù yàn, huì rén bù juàn* (学而不厌, 诲人不倦),” which translates to “study tirelessly, teach with endless enthusiasm.”

I started teaching back in 2013 and got a formal license for the India China Academy (ICA) in 2018. The ICA is an organization established with a vision to build a bridge between India and China through educational and cultural exchanges, mainly offering Chinese language courses and many short-term culture training programs including Chinese painting and philosophy. Currently, we have four faculty members on the payroll and three visiting faculty members. More than 300 students have studied with us and 25 students are

enrolled in ongoing classes.

On March 21, 2020, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide Janta curfew followed by a lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the ICA we quickly went into action: we had no choice but to move from our regular classroom sessions to online teaching. As an academy, we have always believed in the bond between teachers and students. Now we must not let any situation hinder our students' ongoing learning process and ensure the safety of all those associated with the academy.

Normally a classroom

session would consist of a larger group of students ranging from 10 to 40 years old all sitting together in the same class. For an online session, it is difficult to hold a large group together. We reduce the number of students per class so that we are able to give each student enough attention. Besides, long online sessions can be physically tiring so we took certain measures like cutting the number of hours for each session. With the lockdown, several questions emerged, such as how to continue the lectures, how to ensure the same amount of fun learning,

how to maintain the teacher-student bond, and other challenges regarding academy management, organizing activities, checking homework and conducting exams.

To overcome these challenges put forth by the pandemic, we turned to digitization. Re-strategizing teaching methods and tools, the ICA conducted online interactive sessions to create a learning environment with the same level of fun as in previous classroom sessions, despite the physical distance. We also designed exercises, activities and learning materials to suit online teaching.

Last year we celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival by visiting the historical Kanheri Caves in Mumbai along with some Chinese friends who shared their childhood experiences of the festival and the legend of Chang'e. Our students had a reunion lunch and enjoyed traditional Chinese moon cakes. Later they shared their thoughts in small groups. Given the current situation, we are unable to meet students personally, but that has not dampened our spirits. To ensure fun learning and keep everyone connected, we have conducted online games related to the Chinese language such as "guessing the character" and "choosing the right word." We have also produced and shared videos about cultural experiences. Through our YouTube cultural platform Chinichashma, our students understand the Dragon Boat Festival much better.



Last year, the faculty and students of the India China Academy celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival by visiting the historical Kanheri Caves in Mumbai along with some Chinese friends. courtesy of the author

Various digital platforms are put to use. Zoom is used for conducting online lectures; WeChat and WhatsApp are used to maintain contact with students; DingTalk maintains attendance records. These digital platforms had already existed before the pandemic, but the epidemic situation has accelerated the adoption of digital technology.

We have also been committed to preserving the ICA's traditions in every possible way. One of them is the naming ceremony. We believe that it earnestly connects the students to a language if they have a name in the language they learn. As soon as the students finish their first semester in the ICA, the teacher bestows upon them a name that signifies their individual qualities and attributes. We had a graduation

ceremony for some students a few days ago, and also their Chinese name-giving ceremony.

In normal times, we call students together and write their names on red paper in Chinese calligraphy, which signifies good luck and a new identity for them. This year we had an online conference making a beautiful presentation with their Chinese names and their meanings. Student Kalpit, also a researcher, was named Shūwěi (which literally means "mighty book"). He found that the naming ceremony is a very unique concept and felt "more connected to the academy and China." Similarly, Karan Gala and Aksha Dedhia described the ceremony as a very emotional moment and they were grateful to their teachers for spending time and energy to

find an appropriate Chinese name for them. I am proud to see that the online ceremony was equally effective as my students have enthusiastically embraced their Chinese names.

Our main goal of conducting activities as such is to connect the students not only to the Chinese language but also to Chinese culture. We have conducted various webinars in the last three months on topics including Confucius, Chinese characters and an introduction to Mandarin, which ranged from one to two hours per session. Apart from the teaching faculty, we also invited experts and researchers from respective fields to participate such as Mr. Robin Betch from the University of Tübingen in Germany, and Mr. Kalpit Mankikar, a former *Times of India* reporter, among others. The webinars always have an open question and answer time. We encourage participants to share feedback, considering it an opportunity to keep learning

and improving. The positive response and encouraging feedback from students and Chinese language enthusiasts, not only in Mumbai but also

new challenges, though, like the preparation of educational materials. Teachers have to spend more time preparing to ensure that an online session

Going online, we have seen certain advantages such as time saved in communication between students and teachers, and students can study in the convenience of their own homes. There are also certain new challenges, though.

from other parts of India, have motivated us to keep these webinars going.

Previously, only students from Mumbai could take advantage of ICA educational programs, but now a wider range of students have access. Going online, we have seen certain advantages such as time saved in communication between students and teachers, and students can study in the convenience of their own homes. There are also certain

is productive and has the desired results. They make image-heavy presentations because visual aids help students learn better. We also use quizzes, role-playing, and group presentations to keep online sessions as interactive as classroom sessions. Thanks to the young teachers in our team, who adapt their knowledge well to new technological implementations, the transition to online teaching has been smooth.

We do miss meeting our students in person, but we are adapting to the new scenario very quickly. Our motivation comes from an idiom from *The Analects*, which is also the cherished motto of our school—“*Xué ér bù yàn, huì rén bù juàn* (学而不厌，诲人不倦),” which translates to “study tirelessly, teach with endless enthusiasm.” 📖



The India China Academy held an online graduation ceremony for its students on June 21, 2020, which was also their Chinese name-giving ceremony. courtesy of the author

The author is the founder of the India China Academy.



Keeping Up Exchanges Despite the Pandemic



By Zhang Yang

Globally, many potential risks and uncertainties are in play due to the pandemic. Only by shaking off excessive caution, enhancing bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and acting prudently can a better future be created for both countries.

2020 is the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India, as well as the Year of China-India Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges. The two sides have agreed to host a number of celebratory activities. However, the rampant spread of the coronavirus worldwide has held back these celebrations. In spite of the situation, people from both sides are still enthusiastic about participating in bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Various academic

activities and cultural activities went online. With rich and in-depth contents, these activities drew massive attention. The accumulated experience of organizing activities during the COVID-19 pandemic has built a new arena and explored new possibilities for cultural and people-to-people exchanges between China and India.

In early May, I was invited by a senior Chinese researcher on Indian culture at Sichuan University in southwestern China to join an online event to commemorate the 159th birthday of Rabindranath

Tagore (1861-1941). This event to remember the Indian iconic luminary was organized by an Indian cultural organization and attended by participants from both China and India. Although it was an online activity, participants made full preparations and were formally dressed to show their respect. “Even after 79 years since he breathed his last breath, Tagore has been standing tall as the most prominent and pioneering cultural ambassador between the current Sino-Indian interaction and has still been playing a



People from both China and India go up on the “cloud stage” and give fantastic performances during the online event to commemorate the 159th birthday of Rabindranath Tagore. courtesy of Knowledge Nomads

pivotal role in consolidating the timeless bridge of friendship,” remarked the Indian organizers.

Former Chinese and Indian diplomats, scholars, and artists from 15 cities in 10 countries, all admirers of Tagore and his works, attended the online event. It was evident that they all made elaborate preparations. For example, on-site simultaneous interpretation service by Indian professors who know the Chinese language was available, providing Chinese participants who didn’t know Hindi or Bengali or weren’t proficient in English with an opportunity to better understand the great poet.

After the event started, Indian participants gave wonderful performances. Among them were sister dancers performing in full costume and singers sitting on a balcony while singing a lighthearted song with accompanying guitar. There was also a family performing an Indian dance in their simple living room, and a scholar explaining the philosophy of Tagore to his online audience in front of a portrait of Swami Vivekananda, a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. Students from Visva-Bharati University, which was founded by Tagore in 1921 in

Santiniketan, West Bengal, India, sang with great passion songs written by Tagore. Former diplomats from both China and India delivered speeches full of good wishes, bringing the activity to a climax. Then, Chinese performers went up to the “stage” one after another, and artfully presented the audience with classical Chinese music performances with traditional Chinese instruments. *Pipa*, a four-stringed and pear-shaped Chinese musical instrument, tabla, and sitar together produced pure and naturally harmonious tones, resonating well with each other. By the internet, the music was sent to

audiences across the globe.

I loved Tagore's poems and admired his literary achievements as well as his wealth of mind. I even produced a ballad, using one poem from his *Stray Birds* as the lyrics. Out of my respect for the great poet, I contacted the Indian organizers over the internet, and asked them if I could give a performance. I received a warm response and the news about me performing an original song was immediately announced in the virtual "meeting room." After my show, I saw many positive online comments made by the Indian participants. The performance was a spontaneous decision. Thus, I was quite proud and secretly rejoicing because of the smooth performance and the good feedback I received. An Indian university student from Santiniketan asked me for my contact information. He told me that he admired Tagore so much that he wanted to grow into a man like the multi-faceted polymath in the future. He also told me he was a big fan of music, and hoped to engage in more dialogues with me in the future in the form of music and art creation.


This online activity reawakened the memory of my days in India as an international student. I made new friends during the event, and even got in touch again with a few old Indian friends who I hadn't heard from for quite some time. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges are communication between peoples and dialogues

It is expected that the cultural and people-to-people exchanges between China and India will be more diversified and carry more features of the times in the future, regardless of the current state of the bilateral relationship.

between cultures. The contents of the exchanges are the best parts of the best things among the two nations and peoples. And the process of the exchanges has invisibly planted many seeds of friendship which will sprout and bear abundant fruit for the two sides in the future.

If it weren't for the COVID-19 pandemic, there should have been a great deal of cultural celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-India diplomatic ties. The outbreak of the coronavirus forced many events to be cancelled. Moreover, the recent border tensions between China and India have put a stop to some cultural and people-to-people exchange activities. Nationalistic sentiments were on the rise in both countries, with radical and aggressive stories and voices becoming common on the internet and

in media coverage. But even under such circumstances, many people from both sides still called for peaceful settlement of disputes in the border areas, and at the same time, continued to conduct bilateral cultural and artistic exchanges.

When we are not blessed with the right time and right place, the right people are vital to promote the development of important bilateral activities. The experiences for online communication accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic have provided more possibilities and reference points for future China-India cultural and people-to-people exchanges. The border clashes between the two countries posed new challenges for bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Globally, many potential risks and uncertainties are in play due to the pandemic. Only by shaking off excessive caution, enhancing bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and acting prudently can a better future be created for both countries. It is expected that the cultural and people-to-people exchanges between China and India will be more diversified and carry more features of the times in the future, regardless of the current state of the bilateral relationship. 

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Enterprise Transformation and Upgrading under Regular COVID-19 Prevention and Control

By Zhang Peili

The situation both at home and abroad requires regular COVID-19 control and prevention, which means control and prevention efforts will become an important variable affecting future economic and social life and have a sustained impact on enterprises.

It has been more than half a year since the outbreak of the coronavirus in early 2020. Up to now, the number of new infections is still spiking globally. As of 9 a.m., July 19, 2020, the number of cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases had exceeded 14.3 million worldwide, an increase of 60,000-plus cases from the previous day. In China, although the pandemic has been largely under control up to now, the small-scale outbreaks in Beijing in June and in Urumqi in July indicate the

possible long-term existence and complexity of the virus. The situation both at home and abroad requires regular COVID-19 control and prevention, which means control and prevention efforts will become an important variable affecting future economic and social life and have a sustained impact on enterprises.

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Regular COVID-19 prevention and control efforts will

be closely related to the future development of enterprises, having a comprehensive impact on them.

The highly transmissible and tricky coronavirus makes regular prevention and control efforts now an indispensable part of enterprise operations. During their daily production and operation processes, enterprises should always keep the importance of epidemic prevention and control in mind and make full material and personnel preparations, so as to avoid major losses caused



June 16, 2020: Workers produce computer chips in Huai'an City, Jiangsu Province. VCG

by the coronavirus.

Due to the adverse impact of COVID-19, many enterprises suffered from impeded supply chains, which held back their resumption of work and production. With COVID-19 largely under control, China's economy gradually got back on track, with its GDP growth rate hitting 3.2 percent in the second quarter of 2020. However, many uncertainties still exist. New small clusters of COVID-19 infections may emerge in some areas from time to time, causing restrictions on certain industrial chains. At the same time, in

the light of COVID-19, the global industrial chain and supply chain are in disorder and call for restructuring. Government intervention has increased significantly, and the security of global industrial chains has been affected.

Take the semiconductor chip industry as an example: the United States has imposed restrictions and sanctions on a number of Chinese enterprises using products containing U.S. technologies, as evidenced by the tough sanctions being imposed on telecommunications equipment giant Huawei.

In a ban, it requested that non-U.S. companies which use U.S. chip manufacturing equipment and technology obtain a U.S. license before they can supply chips to Huawei. Affected by this ban, many Huawei partners may be forced to stop sales to Huawei. Therefore, coping with uncertainties in the supply chain has become an issue that must be addressed during the development of enterprises.

The COVID-19 pandemic crippled consumer demand, affected people's consumption habits and accelerated

consumption upgrading. In June, Alibaba's Tmall, the leading online B2C marketplace in China, released *The Eight Changes That COVID-19 Brought to Chinese Society*. The report pointed out the profound impact that the pandemic has had on people's lifestyles and ways of thinking. Human society is now undergoing a comprehensive remodelling in the light of the pandemic. Several evident changes have emerged in the sector of consumption.

First, people began to attach greater importance to their health. The coronavirus has made people more health-conscious and immunity-aware, which has increased the consumption of healthcare products. According to statistics from AliHealth, a health enterprise controlled by Alibaba Group, and statistics for this year's June 18 (also known as 618), another online shopping gala like the Double 11 launched by Tmall, sales of multiple categories have seen significant growth, including fitness, nutrition and healthcare, epidemic prevention, culture and education, and online medical consultation, as well as disinfectants and sterilizers. Among them, sales volume of health products related to traditional Chinese medicine increased by 134 percent year-on-year, nutritional supplements increased by 144 percent year-on-year, and sports equipment such as rowing machine, elliptical trainers and treadmills increased by more than 100 percent. Moreover, the volume of transaction of vaccine



March 24, 2020: Workers are busy in a Wuhan factory after the city reopens its economy. Visual People

services increased by nearly 10 times year-on-year.

Second, people have become more careful and rational in their spending. The coronavirus has hurt the world economy and has shut down many businesses and enterprises. People were quite uncertain and unconfident about their future incomes, which also affected household consumption. As the main force of consumption at present, millennials have strong desires to consume. However, according to media interviews with a great number of Chinese millennials, they have showed great restraint in terms of consumption attitudes and behaviours after

the coronavirus outbreak. According to the *Report on Young People's Consumption Trends in the Post-COVID-19 Era* published by Lexin Research Institute, the sense of crisis rising from the coronavirus has made many Chinese young people think twice before they spend. They became more cautious, and the appeal of enjoyment needs has been declining. About 80 percent of the interviewees keep their debt ratios below 30 percent. Due to the increased uncertainty in work and life after the coronavirus outbreak, 22 percent of interviewees said that they would repay loans ahead of time to avoid possible debt accumulation and

credit damage.

Third, online shopping has become a trend. In the first half of 2020, China's total retail sales of consumer goods fell by 11.4 percent year-on-year. However, its online retail sales increased by 7.3 percent year-on-year. The huge contrast shows that people's consumption habits have altered in the light of the pandemic.

EMBRACING TRANSFORMATION AND UPGRADING

Under regular COVID-19 prevention and control, the transformation and upgrading of enterprises is more than a requirement to improve quality and efficiency; it is necessary for business survival. The reasons behind include:

First, the impact of the coronavirus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can only be made up for through enterprise transformation and upgrading. The adverse impact of COVID-19 has shut down many businesses in the service sector and made some still unable to reopen today. This situation forced enterprises to cover their annual costs within a short period of time. The losses they have already incurred can only be offset with more vigorous growth. Moreover, considering the current global developments of COVID-19, its impact on enterprises will probably last long into the future and will profoundly affect their development. This situation

requires enterprises to accelerate their transformation and upgrading.

Second, the supportive policies to help enterprises pull through the pandemic will come to an end one day. Enterprises must rely on themselves to survive and develop. In response to the impact of the coronavirus on SMEs, China has introduced a number of supportive policies to help these enterprises through the difficulties. However, most of these policies are only designated for this special period of time. Once the policies run their course, enterprises will have to face the regular fierce market competition. Thus, SMEs must make good use of these supportive policies to accelerate their transformation and upgrading, improve their operations and abilities, and enhance their competitiveness.

Third, SMEs are actively seeking change under the impact of the pandemic. They can only survive on the market through accelerated transformation and upgrading. At present, many SMEs are adjusting their development strategies. Through various measures such as flexible employment, promoting internet applications, and exploring new markets, some SMEs have adapted to a changing market. Those enterprises, which refuse to leave their comfort zones, refuse to make any changes, or change too slowly, will soon be weeded out.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION AND PRIORITY

The transformation and upgrading of enterprises under regular COVID-19 prevention and control is more than technological application and innovation, but a comprehensive transformation of modes of thought, ways of operation and methods of implementation.

Under regular prevention and control efforts, enterprises must speed up the transformation of their modes of thought. First, they should be prepared for possible crises in times of peace. At the beginning of the 21st century, thanks to the dividends and low-cost advantages from China's reform and opening up, Chinese enterprises have seen a rapid development for more than a decade. Even those featuring extensive growth could establish themselves in market. However, as China's economy ushered in a new phase of high-quality development, the internal and external environment faced by Chinese enterprises has undergone drastic changes. With competition intensified, weaker players were driven out of the market. This situation requires enterprises to always operate in crisis mode, which enables them to respond to challenges quickly, and to be fully prepared for fierce competition and all kinds of emergencies.

Second, enterprises should aim at high-quality development instead of blind and rapid expansion. Many Chinese enterprises have long been focusing on high-speed

development and growth. They were hooked on expansion, resulting in a weak development foundation. Thus, a number of enterprises went bankrupt due to the rupture of capital supply chains. For SMEs, being bigger should not be their only goal. Successful SMEs should be able to deliver professional goods or services and maintain sustainable development. In this regard, many Japanese companies are doing quite well. For example, Kongā Gumi Co., Ltd., a Japanese construction company, boasts a continuous operation of more than 1,400 years. With full dedication to its main business, the small company became the oldest continuously ongoing independent enterprise in the world.

Third, enterprises should be more down-to-earth. Against a backdrop of current complex environment, entrepreneurs need to keep a peaceful mind, and not rush to pursue overly ambitious goals. Survival is the greatest success and self-breakthrough during this difficult time.

Under regular COVID-19 prevention and control, enterprises must quicken their transformation of production modes. First, they need to change over to systematic production. Affected by the pandemic, difficulties and problems that emerged during enterprises' reopening process highlight the importance of the industrial chain and supply chains. Companies shouldn't only attach importance to their own production links in the

future. They should possess a systematic vision, build a healthy industrial ecology, and consolidate cooperation in the whole industrial chain through improving their own credibility.

Second, enterprises should transform from extensive production to fine production. The pressure from rising costs and the demand of consumption upgrading have made simple mass production even more incompatible with present needs. Chinese SMEs should focus on their respective products and fields, emphasize craftsmanship, and professionally seek product perfection while reducing costs and increasing efficiency with fine management.

Third, enterprises should shift from rigid production to flexible production. Consumption upgrading has already posed challenges to rigid and mass production. The pandemic has further proven that rigid production can no longer adapt to a changing market environment. Enterprises must seize the opportunity to upgrade and transform, and switch to flexible production, in order to enhance their flexibility and adaptability.

Besides, enterprises should accelerate the transformation of market operation methods. First, they should shift their focus from offline operation to integrated online and offline operation. The pandemic has further promoted the wider application of the "internet plus" model for traditional enterprises. Enterprises should march toward

digitalization, networking and smart operation to adapt to changes in consumption patterns. Second, enterprises should be more market-oriented, and gear production to demand. In a shortage economy in which demand exceeds supply, enterprises only need to pay attention to production. Without worrying about the market, they can make big profits. However, today we are in a society with material abundance. The principal contradiction facing China today is the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life. Thus, enterprises must seek to better understand the changing consumer needs, and make timely adjustments to their industrial structures, products, and outputs based on diverse consumer needs in multiple aspects. Third, enterprises should change from quick returns and small margins to high quality and competitive pricing. Against the backdrop of consumers' rising demands for better product quality and less information asymmetry brought about by the information era, consumers are becoming increasingly rational. They ask for high-quality and high-performance products at reasonable prices. ■

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Re-Calibrating to Change: The COVID-19 Lockdown and Unlocking in India

By Charmaine Mirza & Nazia Vasi

Fighting the virus is a mammoth, comprehensive task, which requires the Indian government to work as an integrated whole with multiple stakeholders and decision makers from both the public and private fields at many levels.

The start of the new decade has been the harbinger of change. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact across the planet, and India is no exception. When the pandemic went global in March 2020, India immediately sprang into action.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to all Indian citizens to go into a voluntary lockdown on March 23 to curtail the spread of the virus. The central government went into

rapid action mode with the various state governments, administrative bodies, the Public Health Service and national emergency forces to enforce one of the most stringent lockdowns that the world has ever seen, across the country.

Fighting the virus is a mammoth, comprehensive task, which requires the Indian government to work as an integrated whole with multiple stakeholders and decision makers from both the public and private fields at many levels. Local districts

and state governments need to work with police, medical and emergency staff as well as essential commodity suppliers to keep the nation going. Their coordinated decision-making to operate and enforce comprehensive stringent measures across all civilian activities to curtail the spread of the virus ensured that the COVID-19 situation, although extremely precarious, did not overwhelm the nation.

While India is currently in a well calibrated, phased unlocking mode, the states



June 29, 2020: A medical worker measures the body temperature of a Mumbai slum resident. Xinhua

have been empowered to independently take decisions to open up their economies and allow the freer movement of people both within and between states, while keeping a close ear to the ground. We realize that life might not return to B.C. (before COVID-19) times, but the unlocking process is positive and the Indian government is confident that

India will be able to emerge stronger in the A.D. (after disease) period.

LOCKDOWN AND CURFEW

From home quarantines to night curfews, severely restricted movement, social distancing mandates, public service messages for hygiene in all regional Indian languages, and a contact

tracing app called “Arogya Setu,” the Indian government has taken several steps to prevent the rampant spread of the virus. Different regions were quickly coded into zones based on the severity of the situation. Containment zones, where a large number of cases were prevalent, continue to undergo stricter norms than non-containment zones.

However, certain essential goods and services remained functional throughout the lockdown period across all regions and zones, in order to ensure that the proceedings were largely peaceful, to facilitate supplies of vital commodities and public utilities, and to keep the core functions of the nation operational.

National services such as defense, police corps, and fire and emergency personnel remained fully operational in order to maintain social stability and order throughout the lockdown period. All public utilities (power, fuel, electricity, gas, etc.), disaster management and public health facilities such as hospitals were fully functional. The treasury, and financial administration and services at both the public and private levels, continued with minimum staff strength (30 percent or less) to keep the economy afloat, and rolled out a series of important financial aid measures to support those most affected by the lockdown.

In India, those who are most impacted are migrant daily wagers and lower-income groups. To support them, India's Ministry of Finance has launched a slew of schemes to provide financial aid, such as the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan Scheme.

A variety of initiatives include financial aid to help migrant laborers find work close to their homes and villages and access to free rations of essential grains

and free cooking gas, as well as monetary income supplements. The government has also mandated that public and private companies must continue to pay their work forces even during the lockdown period, and cannot penalize them for not coming to work.

Furthermore, the Reserve Bank of India and the Tax Authority have also put several interim relief measures into place to ease the burden on industries and enterprises, and facilitate liquidity in the economy. Repo rates have been amended, the cash reserve ratio has been reduced, marginal standing facilities have been increased, and an injection of fresh liquidity into the economy from the Reserve Bank of India has all gone towards maintaining economic equilibrium in this time of need.

The option to defer tax payment deadlines, as well as loan moratoriums, has also gone a long way towards keeping corporate cash flows on an even keel. The government has also announced financial assistance for companies and enterprises for the payout of mandated employee benefits such as provident fund and gratuity.

Agricultural commodities and food supply chains were critical, and key logistic routes and services remained open to ensure that there was no shortage of food supplies, particularly in densely populated cities. Since the pre-monsoon period is also an important sowing season,

seeds, fertilizers and farming supplies were also made readily available. All shops selling food or agricultural goods and services, including fishing and marine supplies, were allowed to remain functional on a limited level. E-commerce grocery sales and home deliveries of essential supplies were scaled up, in order to keep feet off the streets. The Forest Department also remained fully functional during this time to preempt natural disasters such as forest fires, floods, and human-animal conflict.

Pharmaceuticals and medical supplies constituted another critical area of operation. Imports of vital raw materials were allowed to pass through customs and the government appealed to the entire pharmaceutical industry to scale up the development of drugs and vaccines to help combat COVID-19, not only for use in India, but also to share with the rest of the world.

One of the most urgent requirements and fastest responses was to develop a COVID-19 diagnostic test. Pharmaceutical companies and laboratories across the country worked together to set up a number of testing facilities in record time. The Prime Minister personally appealed to all doctors, nurses and medical practitioners to volunteer in the public health effort across the country. He also appealed to other sectors, such as the automotive industry, to help manufacture urgently

required equipment such as ventilators to make up for a shortfall.

Under the lockdown, telecom and information technology (IT) have become the need of the hour. Companies had to shut down office operations overnight, and thousands of employees were suddenly working from home, which required tremendous IT support. From grocery shopping to banking to telemedicine – literally everything had to go online. There was an instant and dramatic surge in online payments, video conferencing, e-commerce and electronic communication channels.

While the majority of vehicles were urged to stay off the roads, transport for essential goods and cargo had to continue. Logistics at airports, sea ports, rail and roads functioned on core strength in order to keep supply chains alive, as well as repatriate domestic migrants back to their homes, and international passengers back to their countries. While the hospitality industry went into a complete shutdown from a guest services perspective, some hotels and social spaces are serving as quarantine facilities and hospitals or housing medical staff working at healthcare centers in the vicinity. Some hotels remained partially open to cater to stranded passengers who were unable to leave the premises due to the lockdown. All non-essential travellers had to have authorization from the police for traveling.

The Social Welfare Department functioned throughout the lockdown and played a vital role in maintaining social equilibrium. One of the key initiatives of the lockdown was to repatriate millions of migrant workers from concentrated urban areas back to rural India. The government created special Shramik trains and state buses to transport domestic migrant workers from urban areas to their home states and rural areas. Several domestic air carriers such as SpiceJet and Indigo also ran special flights to get migrants back to their homes.

The National Migrant Information System is an electronic database set up under the aegis of the National Disaster Management Authority, to facilitate the smooth repatriation of migrant workers. Migrant workers, who were found walking to their home states or taking ad hoc transportation, were counselled and taken to the nearest possible shelter where they were provided with essential facilities and food, before being put on a Shramik train to the station nearest to their destination.

UNLOCKING AND REBOOTING

The lockdown only started easing up from mid-June onwards, state by state. Badly affected states such as Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra continue to have several restrictions in place, while other states that have managed to beat the curve are slowly returning to normal.

Indians realize that they have to learn to cope and live with this virus, like they do with many other diseases. As of June 2020, India had started to “unlock” in various parts of the country, in different phases, depending on the severity of the situation in the region. While this is an ongoing and continuously fluid situation, which changes based on the number of cases in a zone, India’s Ministry of Home Affairs released its most recent statement on July 29 outlining Phase 3 of India’s unlocking.

One of the first things to start functioning again was the e-commerce delivery of non-essential goods and services. Stand-alone shops were also allowed to open up for limited hours and with a bare minimum of staff (30 percent or less). Malls have been allowed to partially open, but foot traffic remains abysmally low.

Generally speaking, Indians are social people. Festive gatherings and events are a big part of Indian culture. While night curfews are now being lifted, festivities, religious gatherings and celebrations including weddings and social events continue to remain a question. In the most recent Unlock 3.0 phase, a scaled back version of the Independence Day celebrations with stringent social distancing protocols will take place on August 15, 2020. Bollywood, which is a huge crowd puller, has stayed off cinema halls. While the making of films has completely stalled, Indians

continue watching new and old favourite movies at home on OTT platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime. Bookstores also remain shut, while the sales of online books and media have skyrocketed as more Indians consume digital content. The performing arts such as music, dance and drama are currently only available in limited online forums.

Unlike several other regions of the world, restaurants, cafés and bars remain closed in India. Restaurants are able to deliver food to homes while dine-in experiences might still take some time to return. Educational institutions including all schools and colleges will remain closed at least until August 31, with many saying they might continue to teach students online until the end of this year. With a majority of urban households managing the work themselves, the sale of white goods has risen astronomically, with TV sets and air conditioners flying off shelves.

Offices and factories have gradually been allowed to reopen, but work-from-home measures are still advised and preferred. In fact, several large companies have decided to institute work from home as a permanent measure and are putting processes in place to make sure that teams and meetings take place at staggered times. Factories are allowed to function but with minimum staff strength of 30 to 50 percent depending on the zone in which they are located, and a member of the hygiene and safety team must

be present. Meanwhile the real estate market remains subdued, with rents for most tenants being discounted or deferred as payments are problematic as unemployment rises.

Some hotspots, such as Mumbai, still have restrictions imposed on movement outside of their metropolitan regions, but in green zones, one can move around easily. Healthcare facilities such as gyms, yoga studios, opticians, dentistry, physiotherapy, dermatology and related services are slowly opening up again, but for limited hours, and only under strict health and hygiene guidelines.

Commercial travel, transport and hospitality services are still taking baby steps, and as a result, inter-state traffic is permitted, yet limited. The summer season which would normally see travel rush during the school holidays has come to a full stop. Even as destinations like Rajasthan, Kerala, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh's national parks start to reopen, the traction is still slow.


REVIVAL OF DOMESTIC ECONOMY

To help with an economic resurgence and bring the economy and daily life back on track, the government is encouraging large corporations and industries to "Make in India," as well as reconfigure operations to support work from home and set up facilities in rural areas where large working populations

originate, in order to ease congestion in urban areas.

COVID-19 continues to be a major concern, but certain sectors of the economy have already seen a revival, while others are rebooting. Mergers and acquisitions have seen a lot of activity, and some entities have leveraged the opportunities emerging out of this crisis. Several organizations have used the lockdown time to streamline operations, retrain and re-skill their employees to adapt to the changes we are seeing across the world, and become more agile and independent.

Lastly, an emerging optimistic trend is that India is leveraging its prowess in IT to build innovative software solutions that are solving COVID-19 problems. From contact tracing apps to helping students learn in a more interactive format, to assisting companies in creating an internal calendar for team meetings in the office while maintaining social distancing, India's IT brains are finding creative, simple and easy solutions to live in the new normal.

What will happen next remains to be seen, but Indians have demonstrated an enormous amount of discipline and resilience at an individual level, and will work around the obstacles to get back on track soon. 

Charmaine Mirza is an independent consultant who curates content and communication strategies with a cross-cultural focus. Nazia Vasi is the founder and CEO of Inchin Closer, a China-India business and language consultancy.

Building a Global Community of Health for All

Edited by **Hu Zhoumeng**

Designed by **S.V.Shineta**

The COVID-19 global pandemic is the most extensive to afflict humanity in a century, a serious crisis for the entire world and a daunting challenge. The global spread of COVID-19 is causing great concern. Both the fight to rein in the virus and the struggle to fend off a deepening global recession call for the international community to stand in unity and engage in cooperation.

Having forged the idea that the world is a global community of shared future, and believing that it must act as a responsible member, China has fought shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the world. In an open, transparent, and responsible manner and in accordance with the law, China gave timely notification to the international

community of the onset of a new coronavirus, and shared without reserve its experience in containing the spread of the virus and treating the infected. China has great empathy with victims all over the world, and has done all it can to provide humanitarian aid in support of the international community's endeavors to stem the pandemic.

There are multiple deficiencies in current global health governance, including the absence of an international mechanism for joint prevention and control of infectious diseases and a dire shortage of international public health resources. On top of these, the upsurge in deglobalization has rendered the global public health system even more vulnerable.

China therefore calls on

the international community to draw lessons from this pandemic, reflect carefully, and turn crises into opportunities. Countries should show extraordinary political vision and a strong sense of responsibility by doing the following: embrace a philosophy that puts life above everything else, regards the world as a whole, and stresses equality, mutual respect, cooperation and mutual assistance; establish sound mechanisms for international cooperation, including a long-term financing mechanism, a monitoring, early warning and joint response mechanism for threats to public health, and a mechanism for reserving and allocating resources; create an efficient, sustainable global public health system for all; fortify defenses for the lives and health of all; and build a global community of health for all. 

CHINA RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

LEADERS OF
MORE THAN
170
COUNTRIES

HEADS OF
50
INTERNATIONAL
& REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

& **300**
FOREIGN POLITICAL
PARTIES & ORGANIZATIONS

expressed solidarity
and support for China
through phone calls,
letters, and statements.



77 + 12
COUNTRIES INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

donated emergency
medical supplies, including
masks, protective suits,
goggles, and ventilators.

Donations of materials
were made by local
governments, enterprises,
non-governmental
organizations & people
from **84 COUNTRIES**

The BRICS New Development
Bank & the Asian Infrastructure
Investment Bank respectively
provided emergency loans of

**7B Yuan (US\$1B) &
2.485B Yuan (US\$351M)**

The World Bank and the Asian
Development Bank offered loans for
the building of China's public health
emergency management system.

CHINA SHARES INFORMATION & EXPERIENCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

THE COMMUNIST
PARTY OF CHINA (CPC)
JOINT APPEAL WITH
240
POLITICAL PARTIES

IN MORE
THAN **110** COUNTRIES

calling on all stakeholders to put
people's lives & health first,
uphold the vision of a global
community of shared future, &
pull together to combat the virus.



PHONE CALLS / MEETINGS WITH NEARLY
50 FOREIGN LEADERS
& HEADS OF
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

Chinese President Xi Jinping explained
China's tactics and achievements in
fighting the virus, and emphasized
China's open, transparent and
responsible approach towards
releasing information and sharing its
experience in virus control and the
treatment of infected cases.



CHINA PROVIDES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY





China has instructed its medical teams stationed in 56 countries to support the local fight and provide counseling and health information to local people and overseas Chinese.

**400
TRAINING SESSIONS**

They have so far organized over 400 online and offline training sessions in this regard.

**150+
COUNTRIES
& REGIONS**



Local governments, enterprises, non-governmental organizations and individuals in China have donated materials to more than 150 countries and regions as well as international organizations through various channels.

CHINA ARRANGES FOR ORDERLY EXPORTS OF PROTECTIVE MATERIALS

**01
MAR**

China exported protective materials to
200 COUNTRIES & REGIONS

**31
MAY**

**70.6B
MASKS**



**115M
PAIRS OF GOGGLES**



**225M
TEST KITS**



**340M
PROTECTIVE SUITS**



**96.7K
VENTILATORS**



**40.29M
INFRARED THERMOMETERS**

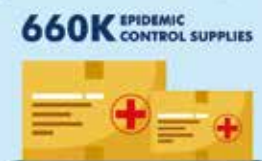


JAN

APR



The number of China-Europe freight trains and the volume of goods delivered respectively increased by 24% and 27% compared with the same period last year, and a total of 660,000 packages of epidemic control supplies were transported.



CHINA CARRIES OUT INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES & COOPERATION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



POSTED

104 + **970**
JOURNALS PAPER & REPORTS

The Ministry of Science and Technology, the NHC, the China Association for Science and Technology, and the Chinese Medical Association have jointly put in place a COVID-19 Academic Research Communication Platform for worldwide researchers to release results and participate in discussion.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences has released the **2019 Novel Coronavirus Resource database**, and built the **Novel Coronavirus National Science and Technology Resource Service System** and the **COVID-19 Pneumonia Scientific Literature Sharing Platform**.

3 PLATFORMS

370K+
USERS WORLDWIDE

48M
DOWNLOAD,
BROWSING &
RETRIEVAL SERVICES

The National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the SCO Committee on Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation held a video conference on the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 between a group of Chinese experts on integrating traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine, and hospitals from SCO countries. It also guided the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies and the World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies in organizing such events as the Expert Dialogue on COVID-19 Prevention and Control with Traditional Chinese Medicine and the International Lectures on COVID-19.



Chinese scientists, medical institutions, and disease control centers have published dozens of well-researched papers in some of the world's leading academic journals such as **The Lancet**, **Science**, **Nature** and **The New England Journal of Medicine**, releasing timely results of tests on the first patients, including the clinical characteristics of the virus, the risk of human-to-human transmission, China's experience with temporary treatment centers, medicine research and development, and the results of vaccines tested on animals.

To accelerate the development of vaccines and the clinical trials of medicines, China has also carried out cooperation in scientific research with other countries, and with such organizations as the WHO, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization.



Source: White Paper "Fighting COVID-19: China in Action" (June 2020)



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to enjoy clean air.**

COVID-19's Impact in Every Corner

Concept by *China-India Dialogue*

E-learning Ahead for Higher Education

Aditya Kumar Pandey

Occupation: Doctoral student with Jawaharlal Nehru University

Birth place: Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Current residence: New Delhi



The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has an unprecedented impact on every single entity across the globe. Not just trade, tourism and healthcare, it has also posed serious challenges to education mechanisms globally, and India is no exception.

Various schools and

educational institutions across India were closed down in mid-March, much earlier than the announcement of the country-wide lockdown. While the first phase of the lockdown saw a complete halt to educational and academic activities, the second phase saw significant growth of virtual learning. Online platforms such as Zoom, TeamLink, YouTube Live, Skype, Google Meet, Google Classroom (which had solely been for professional use) became household names.

Though the shift was rather smooth for private universities given the fact that the majority of students there have economically sound backgrounds, the scenario was completely different in public universities. For an institution like Jawaharlal Nehru University which caters largely to the population in deprived and remote areas, the major chunk of students who had returned to their hometowns after the lockdown of the university faced problems such as unavailability

of sound internet connections and economic burdens. Many students also went without essential facilities for virtual education such as laptops or smartphones.

However, it would be unfair to snub the efforts by universities and the government to beef up online education and bring in gradual reforms. India's Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a series of web-based programs to promote e-learning. To name a few, SWAYAM is a free online education venture aiming to bridge the digital divide between the developed and underdeveloped students in the country. It provides video lectures, specially designed study materials and self-assessment tests through state-of-the-art technology. The National Digital Library of India is a single window search facility that contains educational materials ranging over a plethora of subjects available in all major regional languages. Another platform, Shodhganga,

enables research scholars to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make them available to the entire scholarly community in open access.

Pioneer educational institutions have also facilitated e-learning. For instance, Jawaharlal Nehru University provided a proxy for student access to its e-library and various other educational platforms it has subscribed to, enabling students to access research materials from anywhere. The Special Centre of E-Learning, founded two years ago in the university, has organized various online workshops and faculty development programs on themes including “Design, Development & Delivery of Online Courses” and “COVID-19 New Age Teaching Pedagogy: Innovative Tools, Techniques and Research Methods for Efficient Business Management Teaching in the Digital Era” over the past few months. The university has also organized an online fitness training program to create awareness regarding physical and mental health amongst the students.

Collaboration with various cutting-edge tech startups such as Byju’s, Unacademy and Vedantu can be a way ahead for the government to ensure the quality, relevance and agility of e-education. Lessons can also be drawn from China where e-education platforms including iCourse, MosoInk, and Neuedu provide online classes in universities across the country. It also demands efforts in creating a robust faculty training mechanism for e-teaching and creating a favorable environment for learning.

India in Lockdown

Wu Xiaoyin

Occupation: Website operator and freelancer

Birth place: Jiangxi Province, China

Current residence: New Delhi



In our highly globalized and connected world, no country has been immune to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has permeated all aspects of global society. I just read an article outlining how COVID-19 has not only drastically changed the global economic situation and social needs, but may also upend living and working styles.

In September 2019, I ventured to India to learn Hindi and planned to return to China this April. But like so many others, my plans were totally disrupted by the sudden outbreak of COVID-19.

Since late March, India has imposed a nationwide lockdown to slow the spread of coronavirus, and my school suspended all classes back on March 15.

Courses scheduled to finish in mid-April had to end a month early. The school temporarily suspended classes for 10 days but then required students to return to school for examinations after that.

Arpana Ji, our writing teacher who always wore elegant saris to class, left her phone number on the blackboard for us to contact her if we encountered any problems while stuck studying at home.

I still did not expect that day to be the last time I saw most of my classmates and teachers. Some of my Korean and Japanese classmates returned home before the end of the semester.

Initially, India’s lockdown was not intended to last long, but it kept getting extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi based on the real situation. He claimed that if India did not manage the lockdown for 21 days, the country could be pushed back 21 years. On March 24, the whole country responded to the Prime Minister’s call and immediately commenced the first 21-day lockdown.

I overcame my nerves and joined the Indian people’s fight against the epidemic. The first stage of lockdown was very strict. I witnessed a quiet India that I could have never imagined. The usual hustle and bustle of the streets seemed to be suddenly paused. The struggling starters of aging vehicles, the loud ringing of mobile phones, and the endless sound of voices reverberating through crowds all disappeared.

The only sounds registering on the city noise monitor were the random barking of dogs at night, the calls of vegetable vendors during the day, and the voice of my landlord disciplining his son occasionally.

My original intention in coming was to see the real India. However, seeing India during the epidemic showcased

a side I never expected.

The Indian people have shown overwhelming compliance with central governmental orders since the beginning of the epidemic. Vegetable vendors, grocery store owners, medical staff, police officers, movie stars, chief administrators of various states, and even the Prime Minister have all amazed me.

I originally thought that most Indians tended to behave unrestrained, so I didn't think everyone would voluntarily stay at home or wear masks as the authorities asked. But I was wrong. The police implemented traffic control daily. Everyone waited in orderly lines and maintained distance from each other by standing in circles drawn at the entrances of stores. Shops only allowed two customers inside at a time, and everyone wore masks.

Indian people's strict compliance with the rules demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility and apprehension about the epidemic to me.

Before the end of May, India announced a fourth round of lockdown. As this phase started, the country reported more than 100,000 confirmed cases. Although the lockdown has continued, its effects have not been enough.

Increasing pressure on the domestic economy has forced India to start relaxing epidemic prevention and control measures across the board.

I continued to live alone in Delhi and stayed at home almost entirely through the first-phase lockdown. My apartment house has a large balcony with space for daily activities, so I never felt that bored.

These days, I only go out once every three or four days to buy daily necessities such as vegetables, eggs, and milk and to take out the garbage.

I made a casual and relaxing schedule for myself. In my free time, I got caught up on all the TV dramas I had been wanting to watch, enjoyed nice long naps, spent entire night clicking around online, and created new snacks with ingredients I had never tried cooking before.

The lockdown showed me an unusually quiet India. As the birthplace of yoga and meditation, India is exceptionally qualified to teach people how to exist with minimal impact.

When things are so calm, you can meditate anywhere. You no longer need a spacious room or a comfortable yoga mat.

Most of the time, my life was still happy and enriched. Even when I was overcome by a bad mood, I could always find ways to adjust. In addition to pursuing inner peace, I have also extensively experienced most aspects of life in India, especially online shopping.

India has a variety of online shopping platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart, Myntra, which specializes in clothing and accessories, and the takeout platform Zomato. India has worked hard to develop e-commerce, but it is still waiting for its global giant to emerge. My go-to app has been the fresh food delivery service platform BigBasket.

In my opinion, logistics is a weak link that needs to be improved. Without solid logistics, no one will enjoy a good online shopping experience.

The lockdown continues, but

I am fine for now. There is a saying that 2020 has become a global "gap year" causing everyone to take a break and think about the future. During this period, I was lucky enough to remain immersed in a whole new India, and it has offered an opportunity to rethink my life trajectory.

International Travel Halted, Virtual Tourism Booms

Rachana Gupta

Occupation: Writer

Birth place: Bangalore

Current residence: Shanghai



Just like every year, this year too, I was planning to travel during the Chinese Spring Festival holiday in early January. My destination was South Korea. I researched a lot about the places worth seeing for my planned 10-day trip to the country, which would have been my first time. As the day of travel was coming closer, the excitement of seeing a new destination was becoming more real.

I had read in the news that a new kind of coronavirus was

reported in the city of Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province. However, like many others, I didn't realize its impact. The virus proliferated rapidly. In just a few days, I came to know that it is airborne, and human-to-human transmission is possible. It didn't take long for China to announce the lockdown of Wuhan. Soon, a number of cities in Hubei Province also adopted strict measures to restrict the movement of people.

Out of fear and panic, I cancelled my booking at the last moment. Thankfully, the airlines refunded my money. I consoled myself by thinking that all these problems would be over soon, and then I could go for traveling. However, to my surprise, in just a few months, more COVID-19 cases were reported in more countries and regions, including my travel destination, South Korea.

Currently, the whole world is suffering from the pandemic. Consequentially, preventive measures such as staying indoors, frequently washing hands, disinfecting every surface, using sanitizers, practicing social distancing, temperature checking, and wearing masks have become a new normal.

In Shanghai, although life is gradually getting back to normal, the fear of a second wave remains at the back of people's minds, along with the memory of the losses during the initial wave of COVID-19. Unlike the pre-pandemic time, people these days are easily scared of colds and coughs. Most people refrain from shaking hands, and even if they do, they use hand sanitizers immediately. Wearing

surgical masks, conducting temperature checks, and being asked to show health codes before entering into public places have all become a part of the daily routine.

In China, during this year's May Day and Dragon Boat Festival holidays, hundreds of thousands of people opted for virtual tourism instead of real travel plans. Notably, in virtual tourism, people can get a complete 360-degree view of tourist destinations while sitting in the comfort of their own homes with the help of their mobiles or laptops. TikTok, a Chinese home-grown short video sharing platform, was a pioneer in this business and several other Chinese companies and museums also adopted the idea.

For some, this new way of tourism works well, but for people like me, it's hard to derive the satisfaction of real travel from these virtual tours. Perhaps, prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, I wouldn't have even believed that the future would hold these dramatic changes. And now, it looks like everyone has already adopted a new way of life.

While most cities in China are gradually getting back to normal with stringent screening measures still in place, the rapidly swelling COVID-19 cases in other parts of the world have already started taking a toll on the healthcare systems of many countries. Therefore, to control the infection rate, and at the same time, to protect their health systems from collapsing, almost all nations have limited international flights and introduced a series

of restrictive measures for international travellers. These measures include showing health clearance certificates from the country of residence at immigration counters, along with strict quarantine measures for durations ranging from 14 to 21 days.

A recent Pew study has found that, as of April this year, more than 90 percent of the world's population lived in nations that had imposed COVID-19 related travel restrictions on international arrivals. Although the lockdowns in some countries are gradually easing and domestic travel is regaining momentum, a smooth international trip is still far away.

Recently, the quarantine period in both arrival and departure destinations has become a significant concern for most people who used to travel frequently, thereby bringing most business-related or leisure tours to a halt. This dramatic slowdown in the travel and tourism sector is bad for the economic stability of nations dependent on tourism.

Yet, with some countries still grappling with the rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases or focused on preventing a second wave of infections, there is little appetite for reopening international travel. Amid limited airline operations and a rapid increase in the restrictive measures for international travellers, including difficulty in getting visas and quarantine policies in place, the future of international travel and tourism doesn't seem very rosy or look like it's getting closer to that of the pre-pandemic days anytime soon.

Meet With the Extremely Handsome

By Xu Hui

The significance of our trip to India is far more than just one intimate contact between an Indian movie star and his Chinese fans. It lies in the bond of the film cultures that have enhanced the friendly exchanges between the two peoples.

On May 31, 2019, India's heartthrob Hrithik Roshan, dubbed the "sexiest Bollywood actor," came to Beijing to promote *Kaabil*, his first movie screened on China's mainland. During his stay in China, he and his team showed great kindness, professionalism, modesty, and politeness, which have deeply impressed his Chinese fans and audience.

Roshan's fine facial features, attractive body shape and green eyes won him the nickname "Greek God" in India. His Chinese fans lovingly call him "Da Shuai," which means "extremely handsome" in Mandarin. Despite his gorgeous appearance, Roshan's film works, by which he proved himself, are what catapulted him to the top

tier in Bollywood. He and his works have received various Indian film awards for more than 200 times. Movies in which he starred such as *Krrish 3* (2013), *Krrish* (2006), *Koi... Mil Gaya* (2003), *Jodhaa Akbar* (2008), *Guzaarish* (2010), and *Dhoom 2* (2006) are well-known in India.

As a researcher of Indian films, I was lucky enough to have a face-to-face conversation with Roshan in Beijing. I briefly introduced my research developments and spoke about the difficulties in data collection. "It's not hard. It's not hard," Roshan spoke to me with a comforting tone. He asked his agent to exchange his contact details with me and told me that I could reach to him if I have any difficulties. What he did greatly surprised and encouraged me.

Moved by his manners, I was even more proud of my studies on Indian films.

In 2019, *Super 30* and *War*, two of Roshan's films, were released back to back. The two movies have won box office success and critical acclaim in both Indian and overseas markets.

January 10, 2020 marked Roshan's 46th birthday, and this January also marked the 20th anniversary of his acting career. In 2000, Roshan made his smashing debut in the film industry with *Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai*, which made him an overnight sensation. However, his road to stardom was not smooth. Growing up to be an international superstar from being an object of ridicule because of his stammer and six fingers on one hand, to the dancing king and action

superstar from a desperate young man who was told by doctors that he could never dance because of spinal problems, Roshan has seen ups and downs in the past 20 years in the trade. He was often questioned, but he proved himself even more. His family and fans are always there for him. Every year on his birthday, Roshan's fans spontaneously gather outside his house to celebrate. This year, several of his Chinese fans, including me, came to India for this occasion, bringing with us hopes and blessings from China.

Roshan lived in a seaside apartment near Juhu Beach, Mumbai. Since it was not a single-family detached home and there were neighbors around, fans who arrived early waited quietly. There, I met fans from such countries as Germany and Indonesia, and of course, from around India. Some of them wore T-shirts with images of Roshan or his works, some put on the uniforms of their local fan clubs, and some wore clothes of Roshan-backed fashion brands, holding signature cards and gifts in their hands. With different nationalities and colors, the excitement of all people was the same. In high spirits, we spontaneously danced to music in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. Unfortunately, Roshan didn't feel well that day, but he still came to the balcony, waved to us and expressed his thanks with arms crossed over his chest.

After Roshan learned that some of the fans came from



A still from the film *Kaabil*. The film starring Hrithik Roshan hit Chinese movie theaters in June 2019.

afar, he insisted on meeting them the next day although he was still not well. With the temperature at 30 degrees Celsius in Mumbai, he wore a heavy coat and gloves. I thought he might be quite ill. Even so, he met with everyone patiently. When he saw me and the other several Chinese fans, "I remember your faces," he blurted out. We expressed our good wishes for him and welcomed him to visit China again. He was happy to receive our traditional Chinese gifts, and took pictures with us.

The significance of our trip to India is far more than just one intimate contact between an Indian movie star and his Chinese fans. It lies in the bond of the film cultures that have enhanced the friendly exchanges between the two peoples. In recent years, China-India co-productions including *Kung Fu Yoga*, *Buddies in India*, and *Xuan Zang* have

laid the foundation for cooperation in the film industry between the two countries. An increasing number of Indian movies have entered the Chinese market. Films reflecting on social realities such as *Dangal* and *Secret Superstar* brought tears to millions of Chinese viewers. I hope that in the future, more Chinese audiences will understand and become familiar with Indian film culture, more excellent films from both countries can be accepted and loved by people from both sides, and more communication will be possible between filmmakers and fans from both countries. 📺

The author is a lecturer of the Department of Digital Media and Arts in the School of Art & Design, Dalian Polytechnic University. Her research fields include Indian films, comparative studies on Chinese and foreign films, and new media arts.



India's Diplomatic Strategy

Ma Jiali

China Democracy and Legal System

Publishing House

May 2020

Long positioned at the intersection of global cultures, India has developed singular characteristics which are impacted by the changes in the world order while impacting it back in return. However the global situation evolves, India will hold an important position in the world order of the 21st century.

Positioned at the intersection of different regions of the world and the convergence of different concepts of order, India cannot avoid influence on the evolution of regional strategy and the future development of the world order.

India is an important neighbor of China, an influential country in South Asia and one of the few with the potential to become a major global power. Like China, India also has a large population and is rising.

Author Ma Jiali has been studying India and South Asian regional issues for many years. This book reviews India's major diplomatic strategies with focus on the practice and development of contemporary Indian diplomacy. Ma conducted comprehensive and systematic studies of the foreign policies and diplomatic relations of India since its independence.

This book gives a panoramic view to India's diplomatic work as well as specific diplomacy with various countries while discussing the opportunities, challenges, and development trends of China-India relations in details.

The work is tremendously valuable for understanding India's foreign policy, rationally analyzing the strategic significance of China-India relations, and actively seeking dispute resolution.

Basis of India's Diplomatic Strategies

By Ma Jiali

In recent years, India has caught the attention of the international community as a rapidly rising power.

India's economic strength led by software engineering has continued to increase, its military capabilities represented by missiles and aircraft carriers have expanded rapidly, and its diplomatic vitality has boomed with the campaign to put "India Everywhere"

on the international stage. The cultural influence of unique Indian symbols such as yoga, Bollywood movies and curry has gradually spread globally.

As its comprehensive national strength continues to increase, India's international visibility has become increasingly prominent, its military deterrence capabilities have continued to increase, and its political influence

has continued to expand. The country's aspirations for global power and influence have become increasingly transparent. India is moving fast to pursue its dreams.

India's long-standing civilization, vast territory, large population, robust economic strength, and profound historical traditions have given the country's political elites a strong

confidence in India's tremendous potential.

Jawaharlal Nehru, an eminent leader of the Indian independence movement, clearly outlined the lofty dreams of India in his far-reaching book *The Discovery of India*, written before the nation's independence. "India, constituted as she is, cannot play a secondary part in the world. She will either count for a great deal or not count at all," he declared in the book. He stressed that India has the potential to become a great nation and powerful country, which is in fact rather than anyone's ambition.

As a national goal, the ideas expressed by Nehru in the book represent the core of the "Indian Aspiration."

Objectively, India has the necessary conditions to become a world power.

First, it is the seventh-largest country in the world in terms of land area and holds rich land resources. The arable land area is close to half of the country's total land area, and many areas can achieve double or triple cropping.

Second, India is a population superpower second only to China. The average age of its people is relatively young. People under 25 years old account for more than 50 percent of its total population, and those under 35 years old account for 66 percent. The demographic dividend will ensure a sufficient labor supply for future economic growth and avert the huge economic and social burden of an aging society for a long time.

Third, India's education has developed impressively. Educational institutions at all levels and student volumes in science, technology and management are massive, which will help provide efficient human resources for economic development. Curriculum in English gives educated Indians major competitiveness in the international arena and provides convenience for seamless connection of India and the world economy.

India's present representation

in various UN agencies and other international organizations is already robust. In many research institutions and universities in Europe and the United States, many important positions are held by Indians, Indian-Europeans, and Indian-Americans. They speak fluent English and wield professional expertise key to influential institutions and departments across the West.

Furthermore, India's achievements in computer programming have so impressed the world that it is known as a "software superpower" second only to the United States. The software outsourcing services powered by the country have earned it the reputation of the "world office" and reaped considerable foreign exchange income.

India's achievements in space technology have also attracted great attention from the international community, and it is becoming a competitive player in the satellite launch and service market.

The massive global Indian diaspora has been another driver of the country realizing its dream of becoming a powerful nation. Indians living in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa have made great contributions to enhancing India's ties with the countries in which they reside due to their deep affection for their motherland.

Like the big banyan tree, the diaspora has leveraged overseas advantages to continuously nourish the motherland and play an irreplaceable role in attracting investment, promoting trade, and introducing technology.

India's laws and regulations in financial management are generally solid, space for political intervention is strictly restricted, and loan application and approval procedures are strict. Because normal operation of the financial system is guaranteed from both system and mechanism levels, risk of huge bad debts has been effectively reduced, ensuring that the

financial system plays a positive role in maintaining the stability of economic operations.

From a national perspective, strict supervision of financial institutions has been a good guarantee to avoid economic bubbles.

It should be noted that since India implemented economic liberalization in 1992, overall economic development has seen remarkable achievements. Especially since the turn of the 21st century, India's economic growth rate has increased sharply to historic highs.

Although India's economic growth rate has declined due to the impact of the international financial crisis in the past few years, it is still one of the best-performing emerging countries. Especially since Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office, the Indian economy has seen a major improvement with an annual growth rate of 7.2 percent.

According to the *Global Economic Prospects* released by the World Bank in June 2015, India's economic growth rate reached about 7.4 percent in 2015 and 7.8 percent in 2016, making it the world's fastest-growing major economy.

For the past two years, India's economic growth rate has declined significantly, but its growth rate still leads the world's largest economies. India does leverage advantages in democratic politics, legal system, financial management, English education, entrepreneurship, demographic structure, and industrial characteristics, among other realms. So many strengths fuel Indians' ambitions to become a world power. However, India does have a long way to go in realizing its ambitions, and many deep-rooted problems are still restricting its development.

Professor Ramachandra Guha, a distinguished Indian historian, published an article on the 65th anniversary of India's independence in which he arranged the achievements and failures

of India's development in equal halves. Many other intellectuals of the country also maintain a clear understanding of the "chronic diseases" and problems persisting in India and exhibit a calm attitude towards the gap between its grand ambitions and harsh realities.

India is a democratic country. A vast majority of its people accept the current political system and are proud of their rights to monitor the government's decisions. However, many have big doubts about the decision-making efficiency of the government. Due to the large number of political parties, various interest groups have naturally formed in Indian society, which has greatly compromised the government's decision-making ability and implementation efficiency.

An odd phenomenon often shows up in the Indian political arena in which the interests of a political party displace the national interests, and some politicians consider their personal interests more important than that of their respective party.

Even on the issue of forming a cabinet, competition from so many political parties can prevent the major national parties from obtaining a majority of seats in the parliament after scandals or other reasons, so they can only organize a coalition government. The coalition government often lacks sufficient cohesion, leading to policy compromise or standstills.

An American observer pointed out that in many cases the problem is not that the Indian government does not formulate a detailed development plan, but that its ability to implement the plan is very weak because of a trap known as "functional anarchy."

In terms of the economy, India's industrial structure is clearly unbalanced and cannot effectively absorb the growing labor force. Industry does not even manage to grab 30 percent of India's GDP. The country's manufacturing sector is relatively sluggish.

Consequently, available added value that could be generated is quite limited, and not a big part of the labor force can be absorbed.

Even India's thriving computer software industry cannot employ everyone, and many are jobless today. India's infrastructure is far from meeting the needs of large-scale development and modernization.

Many Indian cities are grappling with a huge gap in power supply, and blackouts are frequent even in the capital of New Delhi. Many companies maintain their own backup generators to maintain operations when the power goes out.

The severe shortage of energy resources gives the country a huge challenge for energy security. Heavy dependence on crude oil imports has caused huge foreign exchange to flow continuously to oil supplying countries.

Due to a severe shortage of investment, the problem of agricultural modernization is even more glaring. Reliance on good weather for a sustainable grain yield is very common. When facing major natural disasters, some farmers who couldn't make a living would commit suicide.

Indian Nobel laureate Amartya Sen pointed out that in terms of most social indicators of living standards such as life expectancy, infant mortality rate, mean years of schooling, and immunization coverage, the gap between India and China is expanding, not shrinking.

Arun Prakash, former Indian Chief of Naval Staff, wrote in an article about visiting Shanghai that India is steadily losing ground to China in every index of development and progress, which he attributed to poor governance.

Although China is not a reference case for India, such comments still reflect the serious difficulties India faces in terms of economic growth and social development.

From the perspective of social contradictions, India's polarization is

quite serious. Wealthy tycoons walk among those in extreme poverty, including millions of the homeless and the inhabitants of extensive slums around the cities.

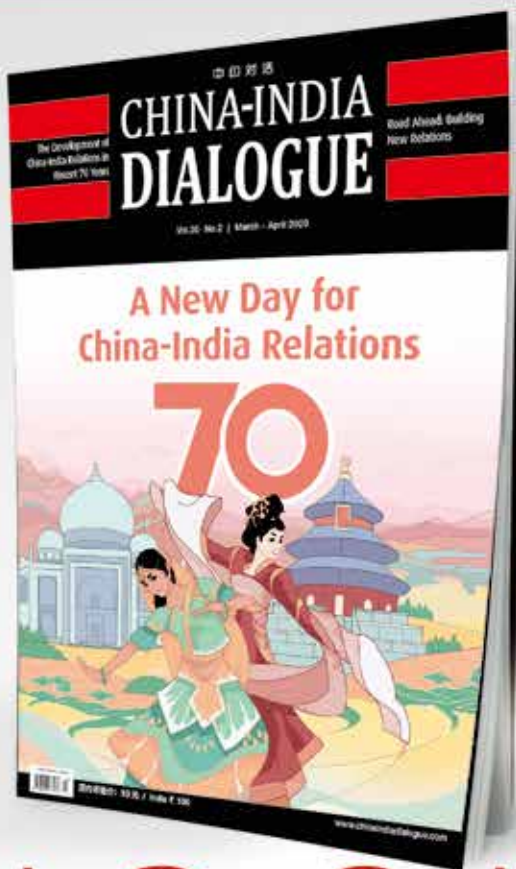
According to Indian media reports, more than 300 million people in India live below the absolute poverty line. Some media organizations have even argued that if the population living below the relative poverty line was properly counted, they would represent 66 percent of the total population. It cannot be overstated how difficult a mission it will be for India to lift two thirds of its population out of poverty to realize its dream of becoming a powerful country.

India has a deep-rooted caste system, and disputes between religious groups emerge from time to time, which severely damage human dignity, undermine social harmony and unity, restrict economic and social development, and increase risk of social unrest.

Every country has unique ambitions. If this country invests unremitting efforts in fighting for its goals by optimally leveraging its resources and advantages, the gap between ideals and reality will continue to narrow.

As a neighbor of India, China hopes India will seize prosperity and soon realize its great ambitions. At the same time, we also hope that India will make more efforts to improve bilateral relations with China while pursuing its ambitions, so that the two nations can coexist peacefully and realize common development at a higher level by working together to make contributions to Asia and the world. 🇨🇳

Excerpted from the preface of *India's Diplomatic Strategy*



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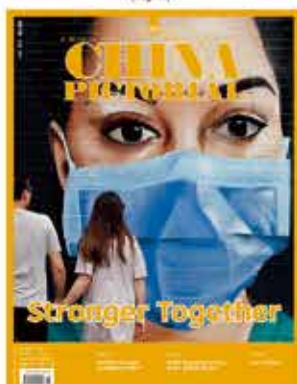
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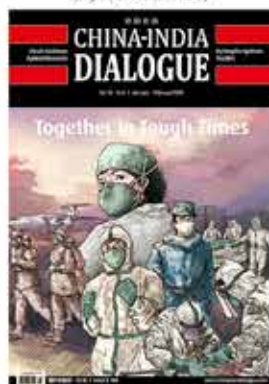
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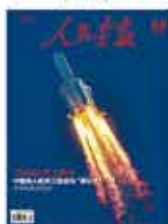
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