

NEWS FROM CHINA

# CHINA-INDIA REVIEW



P2P CONNECT  
SHAPING AN ASIAN CENTURY





*Let the Chinese Dragon &  
Indian Elephant dance together!*





**H.E. Luo Zhaohui**

China's Ambassador to India

## In 2019, China-India ties will enter a new journey

On the arrival of the New Year, on behalf of all diplomats of the Chinese Embassy in India, I wish all my Indian friends a Happy New Year! Namaste!

The year 2018 was extraordinary in the history of China-India relations. The Informal Summit between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi-ji in Wuhan is a milestone in the history of China-India relations. The two leaders met four times in 2018, giving a fresh impetus to China-India relations.

With high-level strategic guidance, China-India relations have warmed up and developed with quality and speed. The two sides maintained frequent high-level exchanges, accelerated exchanges in various fields, increased coordination on international and regional issues, and practical cooperation entered a fast track. Chinese State Councilor and Defence Minister Wei Fenghe and State Councilor and Public Security Minister Zhao Kezhi visited India successively. The Special Representatives of our two countries on the boundary question met in China. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian External

Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the first meeting of China-India High-level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism in New Delhi, which set off a new upsurge in bilateral people-to-people and cultural exchanges and marked a fitting finale the development of China-India relations in 2018.

The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of founding of the People's Republic of China. China-India relations will see new opportunities and embark on a new journey. We will continue to implement the Wuhan Consensus of our two leaders, transmit their personal friendship to people of the two countries and translate their consensus into concrete results. We will build a closer development partnership, explore the way for coexistence and win-win cooperation of neighbouring big countries, and contribute to the revitalisation and development of Asia and the world. In the New Year, my colleagues and I look forward to working closely with Indian friends and making new contributions to the development of China-India relations.



A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the ambassador, Luo Zhaohui.



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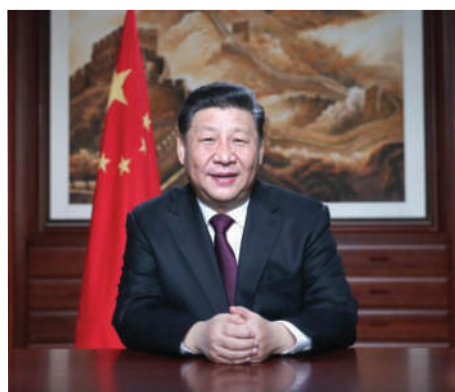
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# **P2P POWER FOR CHINA-INDIA TIES: A 10-POINT AGENDA**



A new idiom of China-India relations was born on a crisp wintry afternoon in New Delhi on December 21, 2018 when the two Asian giants unveiled a 10-point template to enhance cultural exchanges and people-to-people (P2P) contacts to undergird their growing relationship with the glow of soft power.

Culture and P2P, hitherto a footnote in diplomatic discourse, moved to the forefront of the China-India relationship as China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held their first meeting under the newly-constituted China-India High-level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism.

The P2P mechanism flowed from the first informal summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the picturesque city of Wuhan in April 2018, which reflected the joint resolve of the two leaders to provide popular support to this crucial partnership. This umbrella mechanism will cohere

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over 40 existing programmes for cultural and P2P cooperation between China and India, and will also include new initiatives.

## People-to-People Connect

The P2P Mechanism included a string of interrelated events, including the China-India Media Forum, the China-India Think Tanks Forum, the Forum on China-India Museum Management and the China-India Film Festival.

## Connect minds for stronger relations: President Xi



In his congratulatory message on the first meeting of the P2P Mechanism, Chinese President Xi Jinping underlined that “a good bilateral relationship benefits not only both countries but also the whole world.”

The Chinese President urged both sides to make proper use of the high-level people-to-people exchanges mechanism to deepen and strengthen China-India partnership. China and India should promote the communication between the minds of the two peoples and forge a closer development partnership, Mr Xi said.

He said that China and India are both ancient civilisations with a long history and splendid culture, and stressed that the two civilisations, with close exchanges across centuries, have both made significant contributions to human development and progress.

Taking a forward-looking view, he said: “China-India relations are actively moving forward, with mutual political trust deepening, practical cooperation accelerating, people-to-people and cultural exchanges flourishing, and bilateral coordination in international and regional affairs sustaining.”



The two foreign ministers jointly announced the 10 focus areas which will receive special attention in this new framework of P2P and cultural exchanges. These include film and television co-production, media, cultural exchanges, sports, youth affairs, tourism, traditional medicine and yoga, exchanges between cities and states, education and think tanks.

Jointly inaugurating the third edition of the China-India Media Forum, the two foreign ministers also urged the media of the two countries to make a positive contribution to the bilateral relationship and present a correct picture of the growing bilateral partnership to their audience.

Terming the P2P exchange mechanism as a “major initiative in the history of China-India relationship,” the Chinese Foreign Minister expressed confidence that it will “help consolidate the popular basis for state-to-state relations”.

Mr Wang underlined that better ties between Beijing and New Delhi and greater P2P exchanges could “serve as a driving force for the entire mankind”. He said that the meeting was a “full success” and stressed that the top leadership of both countries “paid great attention and have high expectation from P2P exchanges”.

“This is an important step in implementing the consensus of the leaders of the two countries, an important measure to promote the comprehensive development of China-India relations, and also an important platform for the revival of oriental civilisations,” said Mr Wang.

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**“Both sides agreed that people-to-people and cultural exchanges should be from the people and to the people. We need to actively build a new framework for people-to-people and cultural exchanges, with multiple players from both the government and non-government sectors, and oriented towards all members of society,” said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.**

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“It is conducive to consolidating the public opinion foundation for bilateral relations, promoting the healthy development of bilateral relations, advancing the harmonious coexistence of different civilisations, and jointly safeguarding the peace and stability of the world.”

Underlining the essence of the maiden meeting of the P2P Mechanism, the Chinese Foreign Minister said: “Both sides agreed that people-to-people and cultural exchanges should be from the people and to the people. We need to actively build a new framework for people-to-people and cultural exchanges, with multiple players from both the government and non-government sectors, and oriented towards all members of society,” he said.

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Address by  
External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj  
State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China, Mr. Wang Yi

21 December 2018  
New Delhi

H.E. Mr. Wang Yi

Smt. Sushma Swaraj





“We need to push for more accessible and popular exchange activities so as to truly benefit the people of the two countries and attract more people to the great cause of China-India friendly exchanges.”

The Chinese Foreign Minister added that both sides also agreed to take “active part in P2P exchanges under the framework of the SCO, BRICS, East Asia Forum and ancient civilisational co-operation in effort to serve as a driving force for regional and global peace and development”.

Mr Wang hoped that the “complete success of the first meeting will also elevate bilateral people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation to new highs and make the bond of people-to-people and cultural exchanges a stabiliser of bilateral relations.”

## National Rejuvenation

Mrs Swaraj encapsulated the importance of P2P exchanges in her remarks at the inauguration of the third China-India Media Forum. “Unlike earlier when China and India discussed cultural and P2P issues rarely for more than 10 minutes, today we talked only about these two subjects for two hours”, she said.

“Both our leaders believe that improving people-to-people exchanges will help in boosting bilateral relations,” she said.

Terming the China-India ties as a “special partnership” and a “stabilising factor at a time of global uncertainty,” Mrs Swaraj underlined that the joint forums across different domains, including media, academia and think tanks, are designed to promote a greater understanding of each other.

The Chinese Foreign Minister placed the P2PM Mechanism in the context of the larger national goals of national rejuvenation of China and India. “At present, China is moving towards the ‘two centenary goals’ and India is committed to striving for the building of the ‘New India’. China and India, as two ancient civilisations, have embarked on the road of national rejuvenation



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hand in hand, providing a broad stage for strengthening people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries.”

The launch of the High-Level China-India Mechanism on People-to-People Exchange on December 21 served as a fitting finale to a year of unprecedented high-level diplomacy, with four meetings between the leaders of the two countries spanning three continents in Wuhan, Qingdao, Johannesburg and Buenos Aires. These meetings have set a positive and upbeat tone for the future trajectory of China-India relations in 2019.

# A duet, not a duel



In 2018, the landmark Wuhan summit left a deep imprint on China-India relations. In April, China's President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a significant political

decision: holding an informal summit in Wuhan for in-depth strategic communication.

As a new form of China-India high-level engagement, the summit increased trust and understanding between the two countries and led bilateral relations on to a track of healthy and steady growth. China and India are each other's important neighbours and the world's two largest developing countries. Friendly exchanges and win-win cooperation between China and India will positively affect the evolution of a global landscape and human society. President Xi emphasised that the Chinese "dragon" and Indian "elephant" should join each other in a duet, not a duel. PM Modi responded that when India and China work together, 1+1 is not 2, but 11. China will continue to work with India to explore a path for two big neighbours to live side by side for win-win outcomes and contribute our due share to the progress and prosperity of Asia and the world.

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**President Xi emphasised that the Chinese "dragon" and Indian "elephant" should join each other in a duet, not a duel. PM Modi responded that when India and China work together, 1+1 is not 2, but 11.**

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China also achieved all-round improvement and growth of our relations with other neighbouring countries. China-Japan relations were back on the right track; the traditional friendship between

China and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was revitalised; and China-South Korea relations continued to grow steadily. The China-ASEAN comprehensive strategic partnership is maturing, with consultation on a code of conduct in the South China Sea on the fast track. Facing a new situation in the Korean peninsula, we encouraged the North and the South to seize the opportunity to improve relations, support the United States and DPRK in starting the process of settling the issue, and stay committed to preserving the hard-won momentum of de-escalation in the peninsula.

In 2019, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Looking ahead, we will focus on the following. First, ensure success of second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and 2nd CIIE. Second, make multipronged efforts to advance friendship and cooperation with all countries, strengthen political trust with neighbours and expand cooperation and shared interests. Third, actively safeguard peace and stability in our region and beyond. Fourth, take an active part in shaping global governance. Fifth, make more active efforts to serve our domestic agenda of reform and development. We will continue to advocate the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind. We will stand firmly for the existing international order, participate constructively in settlement of hotspot issues, and deepen international exchanges on all fronts. These efforts will mark a new phase of major-country diplomacy with Chinese features

**(H.E. Wang Yi is State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China. The above article is a condensed version of the article written by Wang Yi in The Hindustan Times.)**



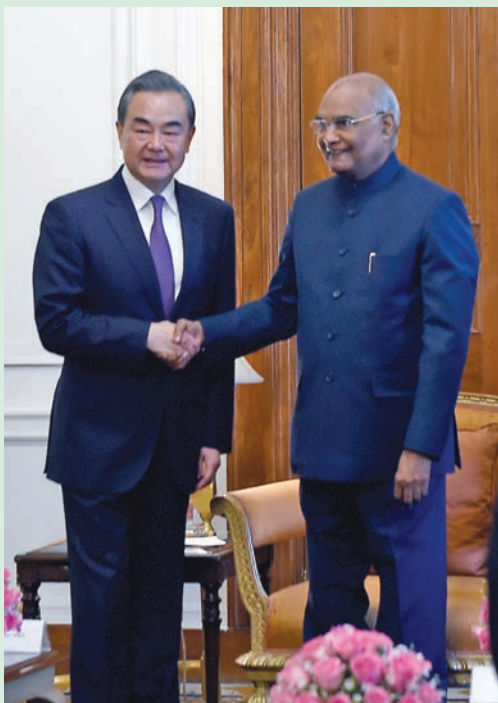
# Growing Convergence

**T**he Wuhan spirit of positivity and cooperation in China-India relations permeated wide-ranging interactions of Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi with India's President Ram Nath Kovind, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Amid the changing international situation, Mr Wang conveyed to his Indian interlocutors President Xi Jinping's optimism about the future trajectory of China-India partnership.

In his meeting with President Kovind, Mr Wang stressed that China and India, as two ancient civilisations, have enormous space and great potential for people-to-people and cultural exchanges. A healthy and stable China-India relationship is in the interests of the two countries and the two peoples, and also conducive to the cause of world peace and development, he said.

The Chinese Foreign Minister also spoke about a growing convergence of interests between China and India on a range of cross-cutting global issues. "In the face of the current international situation, China and India should also cement coordination in international affairs, jointly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of both countries and developing countries, and contribute to global governance and serve as stabilisers of the international order," he conveyed to the Indian President.



India's President Ram Nath Kovind with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

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President Kovind, on his part, conveyed India's willingness to maintain high-level exchanges with the Chinese side and deepen the strategic partnership across the spectrum, including trade and investment, greater military-to-military cooperation and coordination in international and regional affairs. He also spoke about the imperative of enhancing political mutual trust and safeguarding peace and stability in the border areas.

Enhanced cooperation on international and regional issues also figured prominently in Mr Wang's meeting with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, also India's Special Representative for boundary negotiations, in Mumbai.

## Meeting with Maharashtra CM: Focus on films & tourism



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

In Mumbai, Mr Wang had a meeting of minds with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, with both enthusiastically rooting for enhanced cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts. "By joining hands to develop together, China and India can change the world," Mr Wang told Mr Fadnavis. He shared his ideas about expanding exchanges with India in the fields of education, overseas students, tourism, sister cities, and film and television. It is hoped that Maharashtra would take the lead in the national development of India, as well as in China-India cooperation, so as to make positive contribution to the development of China-India relations, said Mr Wang.

Mr Fadnavis was all praise for "China's great development achievements." "We are willing to learn from China's experience in such areas as sustainable development and infrastructure construction," he told the Chinese Foreign Minister.





# Arc of Understanding

## Telling real stories of a real India & a real China

With the overarching goal of widening the arc of understanding between the two Asian neighbours, senior journalists from China and India held intense discussions in New Delhi recently to bridge knowledge and information gap. The Third China-India Media Forum, held in New Delhi on December 21, dwelt on dismantling walls of misperception, misunderstanding and mistrust that tend to shadow the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries.

Jointly inaugurated by China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, this was

the first Media Forum held as part of the newly-constituted P2P Mechanism. In a joint press conference that preceded the Media Forum, the two foreign ministers set the tone by underscoring the pivotal role of the media in moulding public perceptions and shaping a positive narrative of China-India partnership.

In his welcome remarks, Mr Wang Yi stressed that the forum has played "an important role in enhancing mutual understanding between Chinese and Indian media and has become an important brand of China-India people-to-people and cultural exchanges."



“Leaders of the two countries have always attached great importance to media exchanges and encouraged everyone to create an objective and friendly environment of public opinion for China-India cooperation,” he said.

Alluding to the Wuhan Consensus, the Chinese Foreign Minister said: “The strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries today has also pushed for the robust development of China-India relations and advanced bilateral relations to enter a new historical stage, providing an important opportunity for the media of the two countries to strengthen cooperation.” He hoped that media personalities of the two countries will deepen the understanding of each other’s development path, society and culture by telling the stories of China-India development well and spreading the touching stories of China-India friendship. He underlined that the media of the two countries should collaborate proactively to present to the people of the two countries and the international community “a real China, a real India and the constant and forward-looking development of China-India relations.”

Mrs Swaraj, on her part, spoke eloquently about the critical role of the media in facilitating a sound understanding of each other’s interests and viewpoints. “I am confident that our media will fully utilise the platform provided by this forum and have constructive talks with a view to contributing a stronger China-India media relationship, which in turn will make a positive contribution to our closer development partnership,” she said.

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## Setting the Agenda

The Media Forum was structured into three thematic sessions: I) Towards Enhanced Understanding: Challenges and Opportunities



China’s Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui, with the delegation of Chinese journalists who participated in the third China-India Media Forum in New Delhi. Officials of the Chinese embassy are also seen in the picture.



in India China Media Cooperation II) Role of Indian and Chinese Media in Promoting Closer Developmental Partnership III) India-China: A Roadmap for Media Cooperation.

Both Chinese and Indian journalists stressed on first-hand exchange of news and views to reduce reliance on Western media. Participating in the Media Forum, the journalists representing various media houses from the two countries said both sides should make efforts to enhance media understanding and cooperation to promote a closer development partnership.

“The high-level China-India Media Forum plays a significant role in boosting media cooperation between the two countries, which is beneficial for the public of the two countries to know each other,” said Sun Shangwu, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of China Daily, also head of the Chinese media delegation. He also spoke about the importance of the media in promoting two-way tourism, which will contribute to a better understanding of each other’s society and culture. “We just have one million people visiting each other. This number is less...Media can play a crucial role in increasing this number,” he said.

Supriya Sahu, Director General of India’s state-run Doordarshan television network, suggested joint production of short films and other documentaries on both sides to encourage a better understanding of each other’s countries

and foster better connections between the two peoples.

Senior Chinese journalists from People’s Daily, Xinhua News Agency, CGTN, China Radio International, Global Times and Wenhui Daily also participated in the forum. Indian journalists, who participated in the forum, represented leading print, broadcast and digital organisations, including the state broadcaster Doordarshan, Rajya Sabha TV, Hindustan Times, Economic Times, Republic TV, India Writes Network and ANI.

The Third China-India Media Forum ended on an upbeat note, with journalists of the two countries offering to connect on multiple levels to shape an affirmative narrative of this growing partnership, which will be crucial to realising dreams of nearly three billion people living in both countries.

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**“The high-level China-India Media Forum plays a significant role in boosting media cooperation between the two countries, which is beneficial for the public of the two countries to know each other,” said Sun Shangwu, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, China Daily, also head of the Chinese media delegation.**

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# A Roadmap for Media Cooperation

In their presentations, journalists of China and India came out with a host of recommendations and suggestions to enhance mutual perception and understanding, which included content-sharing, setting up collaboration for joint production of short-films and documentaries, which would result in having a better understanding of each other's countries and foster better connection between people of the two countries. Journalists stressed on the need to generate more positive stories

to present a true picture of China and India to each other, rather than latching on to sensational stories that whip up nationalist sentiments. They also suggested that media organisations of China should station more foreign correspondents in each other's countries.

“I urge my Chinese and Indian colleagues to use the determination and courage displayed by our early ancestors to tear down barriers, be they natural or man-made, and join hands to work for the common prosperities of our two countries. Let's make China and India great again.”



Yang Fuqing  
Deputy Director, CGTN

“Promoting two-way understanding between both media is a matter of will rather than capability.”



Chen Ping  
Deputy Executive Editor, Global Times

“To present the true picture of India and China to each other, we should not appeal to the sensational, nationalist sentiments and eye-catching negative stories.”



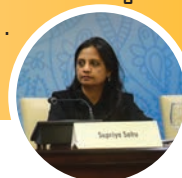
Huang Xingwei  
Senior Editor, Xinhua

“Talking of ABCD of India-China relations, A stands for Asia, B for Business, C for Culture and D for Development and Diplomacy. It's time to put D for Development at the heart of the burgeoning China-India partnership.”



Manish Chand  
Editor-in-Chief, India Writes Network

“Media organisations from China and India should undertake joint production of short films and documentaries to encourage a better understanding of each other's countries.”



Supriya Sahu  
DG, Doordarshan



## Building Bridge of Ideas

Animated by the dream of an Asian Century, leading scholars and intellectuals of China and India held the third edition of their Think Tanks Forum in New Delhi on December 20-21, 2018 as part of the newly-constituted P2P Mechanism. Themed “Civilisation Connect towards an Asian Century,” the Third China-India Think Tanks Forum (CITTF), inspired by the Wuhan Consensus, focused on building an intellectual framework for promoting greater trust and mutual understanding between the two neighbours.



Organised by the two premier institutes of China and India – the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Indian Council of World Affairs, the third TTF reflected what India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed informally in Wuhan – to reset bilateral ties, enhance P2P contact and widen areas of convergence.

In sync with the ethos of the P2P Mechanism, the third edition of the Forum included a

dedicated session on the role of culture and literature in linking people of the two countries.

### An Asian Century

In his message read out by China’s Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui, China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi underlined that the Think Tanks Forum has helped in deepening mutual understanding and enhancing trust between the two countries. In her message read out by Mr Pranay Verma, joint secretary in charge of East Asia in India’s foreign office, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj termed the Think Tanks Forum as a “useful framework” between academics and scholars of the two countries which enabled them in giving “structured advice and recommendations to governments of both sides”. “These discussions, which are held in the spirit of friendship and openness, have greatly contributed in enhancing mutual trust and understanding between our two countries,” she said.

Placing bilateral relations against the wider backdrop of civilisational interactions spanning centuries, Mrs Swaraj said: “As we trace back our civilisational bonds and take inspiration from the spirit of mutual learning kindled by our ancient scholars, our belief in the inherent intellectual connect between our two countries is only reinforced.”

“As our relations are deepening and our regional and international role evolving, there are expectations from our two countries to lead Asia and usher in an Asian Century,” she said.



**In his message read out by China’s Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui, China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi underlined that the Think Tanks Forum has helped in deepening mutual understanding and enhancing trust between the two countries.**

The TTF was set up as a Track 1.5 dialogue mechanism during the visit of PM Modi to China in 2015 to enhance exchanges between the academia and research institutions of the two countries, which will help in exploring long-term solutions to contentious issues and in finding new avenues of bilateral cooperation.

The TTF is an institutional platform which both sides agreed to strengthen since its first edition was held in New Delhi in December 2016. While the theme of the first edition of TTF was closer China-India developmental partnership, the second edition of the TTF in Beijing in June 2017 included strategic cooperation as one of its major focus areas.

## A Duet of Ideas

Earlier, writing in Indian newspapers on December 20, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi repeated President Xi's words to PM Modi in Wuhan that "the Chinese 'dragon' and Indian 'elephant' should join each other in a duet, not a duel". Mr Wang Yi also promised that "China will continue to work with India to explore a path for two big neighbours to live side by side for win-win outcomes and contribute our due share to the progress and prosperity of Asia and the world."

Participating in the Think Tanks Forum, Prof. Gao Peiyong, Vice President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that China and India have the responsibility to build a new international order. In the first session on strategic communication and strategic reality, Dr Wang Xu of Peking University underlined that

China and India could benefit from each other by strengthening a new model of development and collaborating in Afghanistan and Africa.

In her presentation, Prof. Madhu Bhalla, Editor, India Quarterly, referred to the rise of new powers and institutions to point out that India and China have been cooperating quite successfully within multilateral institutions.

## Buddhist Heritage

Amid the talks on geopolitics and geo-economics, the last session dwelt on enhancing cultural exchanges between the two civilisational neighbours.

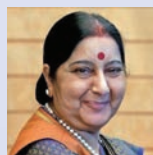
Dr. Prachi Aggarwal, Assistant Professor at the Sanchi University of Buddhist Indic Studies, in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, spoke about the Buddhism connect between China and India.

"While India happens to be the place where Buddha attained wisdom and Nirvana, as of today, most key ancient Buddhism scriptures are available in China. So, rather than competing over the legacy of Buddhism, India and China should work together," Dr. Aggarwal told India Writes Network.

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**"As our relations are deepening and our regional and international role evolving, there are expectations from our two countries to lead Asia and usher in an 'Asian Century,'" said India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj**

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# FORGING CROSS-CULTURAL LINKS



Building on the ancient civilisational links between China and India, eminent scholars from universities, think tanks and research institutions from the two countries participated in the “Dialogue of Civilisations” in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, on December 22, 2018. Aurangabad is better known all over the world over for Ajanta, a chain of 30 rock-cut Buddhist caves. The conference, a part of the High-Level P2P and Cultural Mechanism, was jointly organised by Dunhuang Academy and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU).

China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the closing ceremony of the Dialogue, along with other senior delegation members, who took part in the first meeting of P2P Mechanism in New Delhi on December 21.

The Dialogue dwelt on forging and sustaining a contemporary cross-cultural dialogue by

drawing on the shared civilisational heritage. China-India cultural exchanges date back to the era when Buddhism travelled from India to China, thanks to itinerant pilgrims and scholars. According to scholars, there is some evidence that conceptual and linguistic exchanges existed around 1500-1000 B.C. between the ancient Shang-Zhou and the Vedic civilisations. During first, second and third centuries A.D, several Buddhist pilgrims and scholars travelled to China on the historic “Silk Route”.

Kashyapa Matanga and Dharmaratna made the White Horse monastery at Luoyang their abode. Ancient Indian monk-scholars such as Kumarajiva, Bodhidharma and Dharmakshema spread Buddhism in China. Similarly, Chinese pilgrims also visited India, the most famous among them being Fa Xian and Xuan Zang.



## LANGUAGE CONNECT



### Learn Everyday Chinese



你(nǐ)好(hǎo) !	Hello
再(zài)见(jiàn) !	Goodbye
谢(xiè)谢(xiè) !	Thanks
不(bú)客(kè)气(qì) !	You're welcome!
对(duì)不(bu)起(qǐ) !	I am sorry
没(méi)关(guān)系(xì) !	Don't mention it.

I Love Learning  
我爱学中文 Chinese

The Symposium on Chinese and Indian Languages and Cultures, an associated activity under the P2P Mechanism, was held in New Delhi on December 20. This symposium was sponsored by Shenzhen University and the Chinese Embassy in India, and co-organised by the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) and Lovely Professional University in India. At the opening ceremony, the plaques of the Chinese Language Teaching Center at Lovely Professional University, and the Chinese Language Training and Research Center at Jindal Global University, were unveiled.



# **SHARED HERITAGE**

## **Enhancing museum cooperation**



The sound of the ancient chimes struck by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Hubei Provincial Museum in April 2018 resonated a few months later in the National Museum in New Delhi when the two countries held their first Forum on China-India Museum Management. The meeting, attended by eminent scholars, historians and museum specialists, firmed up an action plan to enhance museum cooperation, which will reinforce the centuries-old shared civilisational heritage between the two neighbours.

The idea of cooperation in museum management emanated from the first informal summit meeting between the leaders of China and India in Wuhan as part of the High Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism. On December 21, the Foreign Ministers of India and China held their maiden meeting under the P2P Mechanism and identified museum administration as one of the ten pillars of bilateral cooperation.

Tracing the idea of museum cooperation to the Wuhan meeting, China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui recalled in his speech at the Forum: "When I entered National Museum of India just now, I could still hear the resonating sound when PM Modi-ji struck the chimes in Hubei. He was fascinated by the sound. I would say that is not only the sound of chimes, but the beautiful music of China India Museum cooperation, the beautiful music of Dialogue of Civilisations between China and India, and the beautiful music of the excellent China-India relations."

The Forum on China-India Museum Management generated a host of suggestions and recommendations for enhancing cooperation in this crucial area, which included visits by museum specialists and personnel, and co-hosting of workshops and exhibitions. The Chinese envoy made an impassioned case for regularising the forum. "First, today's forum should be regularised. "This is just the beginning," he said.

## Vocational Education: Shaping Future



The First China-India Vocational Education Cooperation Forum was held in New Delhi on December 20, 2018, as part of the supporting activities of the First Meeting of the High-Level P2P Mechanism. During the opening ceremony, the plaques of China Tianjin Vocational College Students Overseas Expansion Base and EPIP Education Research Center were unveiled.



## ‘This is just the beginning’



Colleagues from China and Indian museums have done a lot on the exchanges and cooperation both on bilateral and multilateral occasions. The China-India Forum on Museum Management today is of very special significance.

First, the forum is initiated by the leaders. Last April, the first Informal Summit was held in Wuhan. Within two days, President Xi Jinping

and Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted at seven events. Hubei Provincial Museum witnessed the first one. The two leaders got together and held a one-on-one meeting and visited the collections of the museum. One of the most famous of their collections is the Chimes.

When I entered National Museum of India just now, I could still hear the resonating sound when PM Modi ji struck the chimes in Hubei. He was fascinated by the sound. I would say that is not only the sound of chimes, but the beautiful music of China India Museum cooperation, the beautiful music of Dialogue of Civilisations between China and India, and the beautiful music of the excellent China India relations.

I think Hubei Province impressed Mr. Modi ji. One of the areas of consensus reached by the two leaders in Wuhan is to promote bilateral museum cooperation. I am delighted to see that the consensus has been implemented today.



China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui, with participants at the Forum on China-India Museum Management, held at the National Museum, New Delhi.

Second, the booming bilateral relations provide us with solid basis for the museum cooperation. Since the Wuhan Informal Summit, our bilateral relations have witnessed tremendous progress. This year, President Xi Jinping and PM. Modi-ji met four times. Last year, bilateral trade reached USD 84 billion. Over 1000 Chinese companies are doing business in India, creating more than 1 lakh jobs. The two-way visits last year reached more than 1 million. Over 20,000 India youth are studying in China. These numbers reflect the healthy relationship between our two countries.

Third, the shared civilisation heritage provides us with more advantages for museum cooperation. Speaking of India, people in China may immediately think of the long history of exchanges and profound integration of our two cultures. The Indus River civilisation, Buddha and the ancient Silk Road will crop up in mind.

What is the function of the museums? The purpose of the museums is to record the memory of human history, to collect the heritage of humanity, to educate, study and enjoy.

The museum requires professionalism and rich experiences in management. So far, what we have done is to hold some kind of mutual exhibition of collections. We can do much more.

First, today's forum should be regularised. This is just the beginning. Second, both sides shall encourage the mutual visits of personnel and experts. Third, both sides shall strengthen the



**Since the Wuhan Informal Summit, our bilateral relations have witnessed tremendous progress. This year, President Xi Jinping and PM Modi ji met for four times. Last year, bilateral trade reached USD 84 billion. Over 1000 Chinese companies are doing business in India, creating more than 1 lakh jobs.**

cooperation in scientific research. Fourth, both sides shall co-host workshops and joint exhibitions. Through these initiatives, we can better share the civilisation links and the common heritage, while promoting mutual understanding and friendship.

**(These are excerpts from remarks made by Ambassador Luo Zhaohui at the Forum on China-India Museum Management at the National Museum in New Delhi on December 20.)**



# BONDING WITH FILMS

Chinese ballet, Bharatnatyam, acrobatics, folk dances... It was an evening of China-India cultural symphony in New Delhi on December 21 as Chinese and Indian artistes mesmerised the audience with their scintillating cultural performances.

Evoking cultural bonding, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated an exhibition of photographs by Chinese and Indian youth and released two new books, including *Essays in Memory of Prof. Xu Fancheng* and *Sanskrit on the Silk Road*. The cultural

evening was organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

With a view to popularising Chinese films in India and Indian films in China, the China-India Film Festival was also launched at the event. Seven films -- four Chinese and three Indian, including *Dangal* -- were screened at Siri Fort Auditorium from December 22-24. These included Chinese blockbuster *Chinese Zodiac*, starring iconic Chinese actor Jackie Chan and *Dangal*, which has acquired a huge fan following in China.





# Cultural Connect

संस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद  
Cultural Relations

सांस्कृतिक संध्या  
Cultural Evening

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद  
Indian Council for Cultural Relations

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद  
Indian Council for Cultural Relations

भारत-चीन सांस्कृतिक संध्या  
India-China Cultural Evening

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद  
Indian Council for Cultural Relations



# FROM WUHAN TO BUENOS AIRES:

China, India hope for 'even  
better 2019'



## 4 MEETINGS/3 CONTINENTS

Four meetings between the leaders of China and India, spanning three continents in eight months! By any reckoning, 2018 was an extraordinary year in the annals of China-India relations, which has set the stage for a more vibrant and deeper partnership in months to come. Relations between the two Asian neighbours and emerging powers scaled new frontiers as they focused on enhancing mutual trust and laid out a roadmap for accelerating bilateral relations across the canvas, including economic, political-diplomatic, military-to-military and cultural.





# WUHAN CONSENSUS A NEW BEGINNING

The journey towards improving and upgrading China-India relationship goes back to the landmark informal summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the picturesque and culturally rich city of Wuhan on April 27-28, 2018.

Sporting a Nehru jacket with a tricolor pocket square, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi shook hands warmly with his Chinese host, President Xi Jinping, who was a picture of serenity in his ink blue suit. An ethnic dance performance greeted the two leaders as they admired a splendid array of relics at Hubei Provincial Museum. The meeting in Wuhan ushered in a new chapter in the bilateral relationship as the two leaders moved beyond stiff formalities of protocol to share their long-term vision of the China-India partnership and firmed up what is now called the Wuhan Consensus to take the relationship to new heights.

Striking an upbeat note, President Xi told PM Modi: "The great cooperation between our two great countries can influence the world." The Chinese leader expressed willingness to work with India and suggested that China and India should

look at the overall bilateral ties from a "strategic perspective" to ensure that it always proceeds in the right direction, China's official Xinhua news agency reported.

Placing China-India relations in the larger perspective, Mr Modi unveiled possibilities of dovetailing a new era in China with his dream of New India. "Your dream of a new era and our dream of a New India are steps in the direction and will benefit the whole world," he told President Xi.

"We (China-India) have the responsibility to work for 40% of the world population, this means trying to successfully rid the world of many problems. To work together towards this is a big opportunity for us," he said.

**“Your dream of a new era and our dream of a New India are steps in the direction and will benefit the whole world.”**

**- PM Modi to President Xi**



# Wuhan Informal Summit

## KEY TAKEAWAYS





# QINGDAO SUGAR & RICE

Building upon the Wuhan Consensus, President Xi and PM Modi met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Qingdao on June 9. In this second meeting in 2018, the two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation since the Wuhan summit and sought to add more substance and depth to it.

Scaling up trade and investment was one of the major focus areas of the discussions, with the Chinese side unveiling concrete initiatives to balance trade with India.

The two leaders jointly renewed their pledge to sustain “a new turning point” in their bilateral relationship.

Alluding to the talks that lasted around an hour, PM Modi said that following their “milestone” informal summit in Wuhan, the Qingdao meeting added more vigour to China-India bilateral ties. “Met this year’s SCO host, President Xi Jinping this evening. We had detailed discussions on bilateral and global issues. Our talks will add further vigour to the China-India friendship,” PM Modi tweeted after his meeting with Xi.

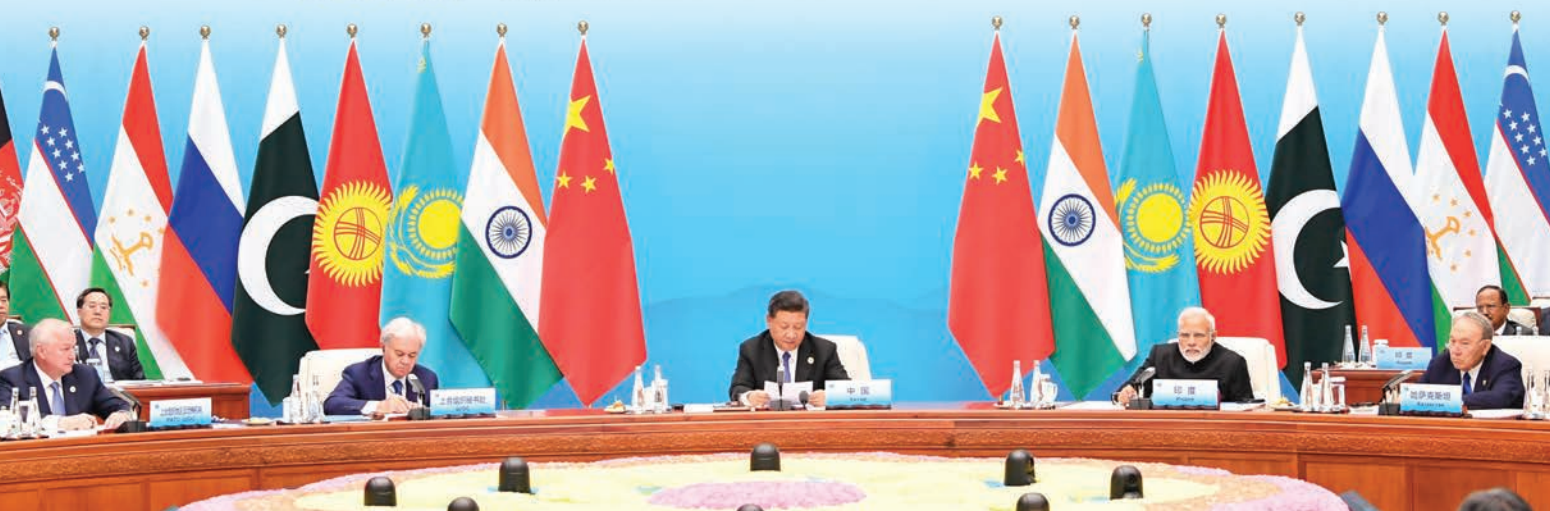
President Xi was also quoted by Xinhua as saying that China was willing to work with India to take the Wuhan meeting as a “new starting point” and “to continuously enhance mutual trust and engage in mutually beneficial cooperation across the board.”

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Review of implementation of decision taken in Wuhan
- Signing of MoU on sharing hydrological data of the Brahmaputra river by China to India
- Signing of amended protocol on phytosanitary requirements for rice exports from India to China to include non-Basmati variety
- Beijing accepts New Delhi’s offer of an informal summit in India in 2019
- Endorsement of decision to launch High-Level P2P and Cultural Mechanism
- Bank of China to open a branch in Mumbai

2018年6月9-10日 中国·青岛

9-10 ИЮНЯ 2018 Г. ЦИНДАО КИТАЙ



## JOHANNESBURG ENHANCING TRADE & P2P



The third meeting between President Xi and PM Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg was described as “very productive” by both sides. The two leaders decided to sustain the post-Wuhan momentum in bilateral ties.

President Xi reiterated China’s willingness to work with India to “consolidate and develop closer development partnership”.

“Today, as major emerging market economies, as well as vindicators and contributors of the current international order, China and India should strengthen bilateral cooperation, while exploring a new model for regional cooperation, upholding the banner of multilateralism, championing economic globalisation and striving for a more just and rational international order,” he said.

PM Modi expressed India’s willingness to “keep close dialogue and communication with the Chinese side, deepen cooperation in various fields, properly address differences, strengthen cooperation within a multilateral framework, and jointly deal with challenges facing developing countries and emerging market countries like protectionism and global market fluctuations to advance their closer development partnership.”

“It is important to maintain this momentum and for this we should, at our level, regularly review our relationship and give proper instructions whenever required,” PM Modi told President Xi.

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**China and India should strengthen bilateral cooperation, while exploring a new model for regional cooperation and upholding the banner of multilateralism.**

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS JOHANNESBURG



- Finalisation of visits by China's Defence Minister and Minister for Public Security to India respectively in August and October 2018
- Decision taken to set up High-Level P2P Mechanism, to be co-chaired by Foreign Ministers in 2018
- India to send National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to China for the Special Representative-level boundary talks
- Indian trade delegation to visit China on August 1-2 to discuss soya, sugar and non-basmati rice, among others
- India raised the issue of allowing Indian pharma exports to China. The Chinese side agreed to consider it



# BUENOS AIRES GREATER TRUST & CONFIDENCE

The Modi-Xi chemistry sparked at the Argentina capital as the two leaders warmly greeted each other before they sat down for talks with their respective delegations on November 30. A striking convergence of perspectives on the future trajectory of China-India relations marked their talks. The two leaders agreed that there has been a perceptible improvement in bilateral ties and “greater personal trust” since their landmark informal summit in the Chinese coastal city of Wuhan in April 2018. The fourth meeting between Mr Modi and Mr Xi underscored “a new confidence and a new stability,” in China-India relations since the Wuhan Consensus was forged between the two leaders.

Providing an insight into the talks at Buenos Aires, India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said: “Both sides agreed that 2018 was a good

year for China-India relations, but 2019 would be even better.” The talks focused on joint efforts to further enhance mutual trust and friendship between the two Asian giants. Terming the Wuhan meet as a milestone in the China-India ties, Mr Modi told Mr Xi that he was looking forward to host him for an informal summit next year. “Such initiatives are helpful in maintaining the momentum,” the Prime Minister said. “Today's meeting will be important in providing a direction in terms of strengthening our relations. I express my heartiest thanks to you (President Xi) for taking out time for this meeting,” PM Modi said.

“Had a wonderful meeting with President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Argentina. The talks revolved around a wide range of bilateral and global subjects. Our regular interactions have added significant strength to China-India ties,” said PM Modi in a tweet.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Decision to fast-track decisions taken at the Wuhan summit
- Enhanced imports of sugar and rice from India to China. The Indian side conveys appreciation for steps taken by China to reduce trade deficit
- President Xi signals willingness to allow greater import of soymeal and rapeseed. He also hoped that India would import more agricultural products from China
- Discussion on facilitating exports by Indian pharma companies to China
- Review of boundary talks between Special Representatives in Chengdu
- Reiteration of commitment to prioritise and sustain confidence-building measures to maintain peace and tranquility along the border



# Defence ties on upswing



China's State Councillor and Defence Minister Wei Fenghe with India's Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman; and with PM Modi.

**D**efence relations between China and India in 2018 witnessed a significant upward trajectory as the two countries decided to expand their military-to-military engagement relating to training and joint exercises.

The visit of China's State Councilor and Defence Minister Wei Fenghe to India in August 2018 was marked by significant initiatives to expand defence relations between the two nations. During his meeting with India's Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the two countries decided to expand the engagement between their armed forces and fast-track the operationalisation of a hotline to step up strategic communication between their militaries. The two sides also decided to work towards a new bilateral MOU (memorandum of understanding) on defence exchanges and cooperation to replace the one signed in 2006.

## Border Peace

Building on the Wuhan Consensus, China and India agreed to expedite the full implementation

of ongoing confidence building measures and intensify interaction at the working level to ensure maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas.

The Chinese minister, also a member of the powerful Central Military Commission, also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed ways to sustain momentum in the China-India relations, including in the areas of defence and military exchanges.

Terming the China-India relations as a factor of stability in the world, PM Modi said that the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is indicative of the sensitivity and maturity with which the two nations handle their differences by not allowing them to become disputes. Gen. Wei exhorted the two countries to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between their militaries so as to jointly safeguard border stability. The two countries should jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas so as to contribute to a closer development partnership, Gen. Wei added, according to Xinhua.

# Hand-in-Hand, combating terror



**C**amaraderie, communication and coordination. The joint Hand-in-Hand 2018 China-India counter-terrorism exercise held in Chengdu (December 10-23, 2018) was special as it reflected the Wuhan spirit of harmony and amity. The seventh edition of Hand-in-Hand, resumed after a gap of one year, saw the participation of over 100-strong contingents from both nations as they conducted drills to thwart terrorists.

## Camaraderie

The spirit of friendship was infectious as Chinese and Indian troops sang and danced together at evening parties and celebrated birthdays of soldiers at barracks.

Both officers and soldiers sampled freely from each other's canteens for a taste of each country's cuisine. Soldiers held basketball games and a friendly tug-of-war match to promote trust and interaction. "The games helped with communication and mutual understanding. But we mixed the Indian and Chinese participants on rival teams to avoid potential feelings of

The spirit of friendship was infectious as Chinese and Indian troops sang and danced together at evening parties and celebrated birthdays of soldiers at barracks.

antagonism," Ren Zhengxiong, the commander of company A, told the *Global Times*.

During the break, some Chinese soldiers learned yoga from their Indian counterparts, while Indian soldiers learned Tai-chi from the Chinese. The fortnight-long exercises, which focused on urban terrorism, concluded with mixed teams from both armies demonstrating seven rounds of different counter terrorism drills. The exercise aimed to acquaint both troops with the operating procedures under command and to bring them together to complete a counter-terrorism mission.

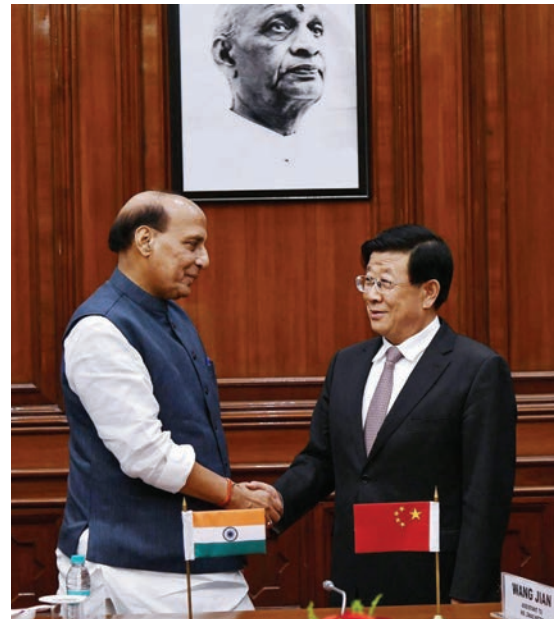
The Chinese soldiers were impressed by the professionalism and spirit of the Indian contingent. "They deserve respect for their courage in cooperation. They were definitely brave enough to try things without flinching," said Commander Ren.

The 14-day drill ended with an impressive closing ceremony. Major General Li Shizhong, a senior representative of the Chinese army, reviewed the formal drill, and granted certificates of honour and souvenirs for participants from both sides. "This has been the 7th 'Hand-in-Hand' joint training since 2007, upgrading the communication between the two armies to a higher level. It demonstrates the firm determination, as well as the good will, of the two countries to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability," Major General Li said at the closing ceremony.





China's State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi with PM Modi; and with India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh.



# First-ever China-India security pact

In a landmark step, China and India strengthened their post-Wuhan consensus by signing their first-ever security pact, which will enhance their cooperation in counter-terrorism and help the two nations to combat organised crimes and human trafficking.

The agreement was inked by China's State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi and India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh on October 22, after the first-high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation co-chaired by the two ministers in New Delhi.

The security pact marks a major movement towards bolstering trust and increasing mutual understanding between the security establishment of the two countries. The pact envisages, among other things, enhanced counter-terror cooperation, combating organised crime, drugs and human trafficking, intelligence-sharing, exchange programme and sharing of best practices and cooperation in disaster mitigation.

This pact is aimed at forging a more nuanced understanding of each other's position and practice on terrorism and other shared

security threats. Experts said that enhanced security cooperation, along with the plans to expand military-to-military contacts, will help foster greater trust and stability in the China-India relations.

## Enhancing Trust

During his visit to India, Mr Zhao Kezhi also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. Welcoming the pact, PM Modi conveyed to Mr Zhao that India is willing to work with China to maintain strategic communication, enhance political mutual trust, strengthen pragmatic cooperation in various fields such as law enforcement and security, and promote the development of China-India relations to a higher level.

Mr Zhao emphasised that China and India should build on the Wuhan consensus to enhance strategic mutual trust, promote all-round cooperation and deepen pragmatic cooperation on law enforcement and security, particularly on counter-terrorism and combating separatist forces and transnational crimes.

BOUNDARY TALKS

# Keeping borders peaceful



Chinese State Councilor and FM Wang Yi with India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

Taking the Wuhan understanding forward, Special Representatives of China and India held the 21st round of boundary talks in Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on November 24. The meeting focused on jointly maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas.

The talks were co-chaired by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

The meeting culminated in a shared understanding that "the two sides will jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas before a final settlement of the boundary issues," said a statement by China's Foreign Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

Both sides agreed to continuously promote the process of special representatives talks in line with the important consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on properly resolving border issues and developing China-India relations, to reach a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution as soon as possible, said the statement.

The two sides agreed to implement the consensus of the two countries' leaders to all

levels of personnel, including front-line troops, and further improve the construction of trust measures in border areas, while strengthening the communication and coordination of the two countries' departments involved in border issues.

## Long View

Taking a long-range view, both China and India stressed on fostering closer people-to-people contacts and developmental partnership. "Both sides shared the view that border trade and people-to-people exchange should be expanded step by step, to consolidate the public opinion foundation of border areas' friendly cooperation and create a good atmosphere for border negotiations and the development of bilateral relations," said China's MOFA.

The Indian side underscored "the importance of approaching the boundary question from the strategic perspective of China-India relations and agreed that an early settlement of the boundary question serves the fundamental interests of both countries."

The talks were marked by good will and a reiteration of resolving all issues, including the boundary negotiations, with "due respect for each other's sensitivities, concerns and aspirations."

Taking a long-range view, both China and India stressed on fostering closer people-to-people contacts and developmental partnership.



# 'XIPLOMACY' SCALES NEW FRONTIERS



Over the past year, China's diplomacy has opened new prospects and achieved new progress under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, with Xi Jinping at the core. Under President Xi's leadership, China's major-country diplomacy is forging ahead. A community with a shared future for humanity is in the making.

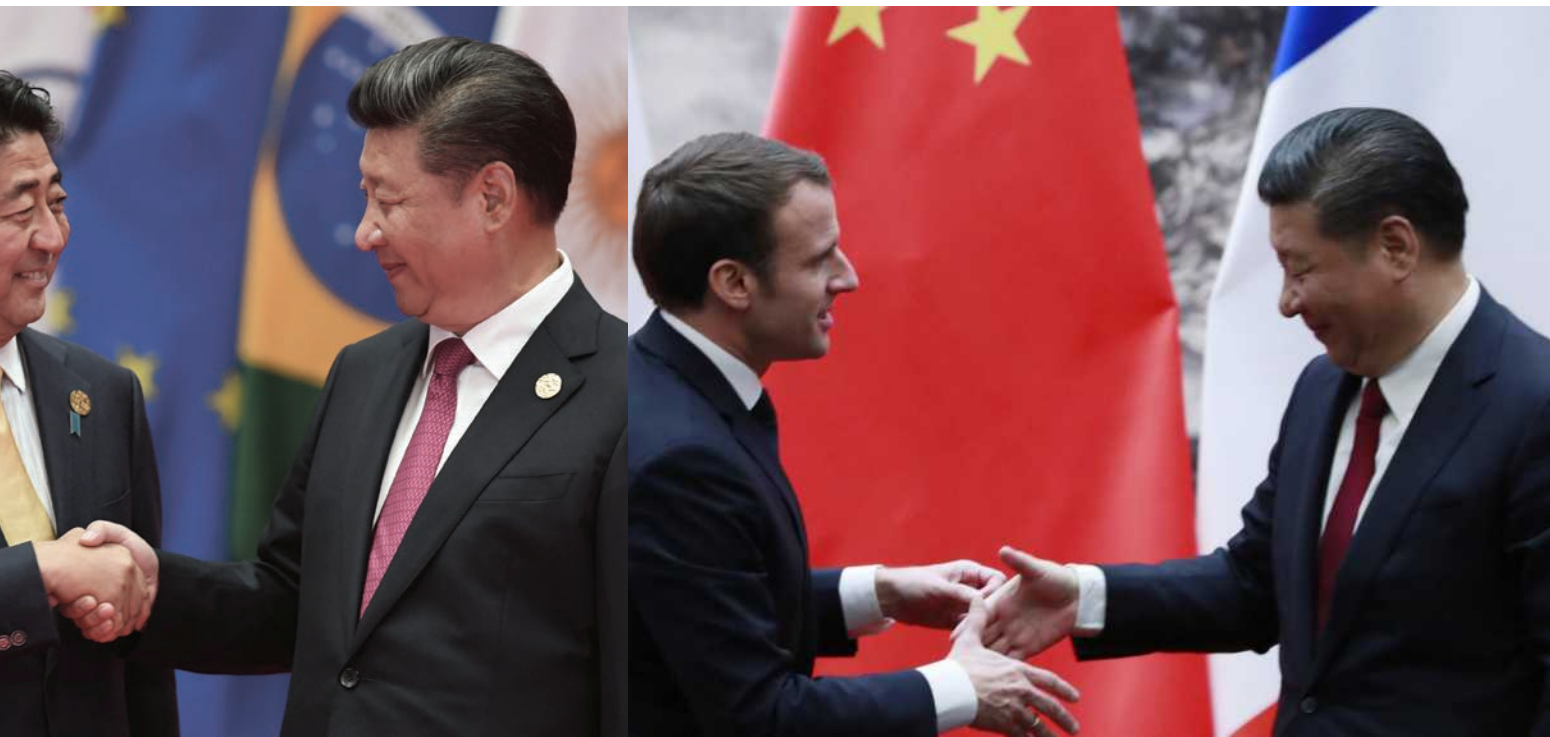
# Highlights of ‘Xiplomacy’ in 2018

- At the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs in June, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy was established as the fundamental guideline for China’s foreign relations, charting the way forward for China’s major-country diplomacy in the new era.
- More than 100 foreign leaders, including heads of state or government, visited China over the past year. Among them were French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime

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**More than 100 foreign leaders visited China in 2018. Among them were French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Theresa May, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, to name a few.**

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Minister Theresa May, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, to name a few.

- Over the past year, Mr Xi took four overseas trips, visiting 13 countries and attending more than 200 activities on five continents. His visits to the United Arab Emirates, Senegal, Rwanda, Mauritius, and Panama were the first for him as president.
- The international support for the one-China principle has been strengthened. In 2018, China established or restored diplomatic relations with the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso and El Salvador, bringing the total number of countries having diplomatic relations with China to 178.
- Reform and opening-up were the reigning keywords for 2018. At Boao, President Xi declared that China’s door will not close but open even wider. At CIIE, a pioneering



# Hosting World Leaders



President Xi presided over four major events China hosted in the past year. These were the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference in April, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Qingdao in June, the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September and the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in November.



undertaking for global trade, as many as 172 countries, regions and international organisations participated. Over 3,600 companies set up booths and attracted more than 400,000 buyers from home and abroad.

- To boost imports, China cut tariffs for an array of products, including automobiles, consumer products and medicine this year, lowering the overall tariff rate on imported goods from 9.8 percent last year to 7.5 percent.
- The year 2018 marked the fifth anniversary of the Xi-proposed Belt and Road Initiative. Over the past year, more friends have joined in the initiative, with an additional 50-plus countries and international organisations signing the cooperation documents, raising the total number of such documents to over 140.
- Almost three years into operation, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has seen the number of approved members increase to 93. The members come from nearly every continent, representing broad support for the China-proposed multilateral financial institution.



**Facing trade frictions, China has been adhering to seeking solutions through dialogues based on mutual respect, equality and good faith. In early December, President Xi met US President Donald Trump during the 13th Group of 20 (G20) summit in Buenos Aires. They reached an important consensus and charted the way forward for the China-US relations.**

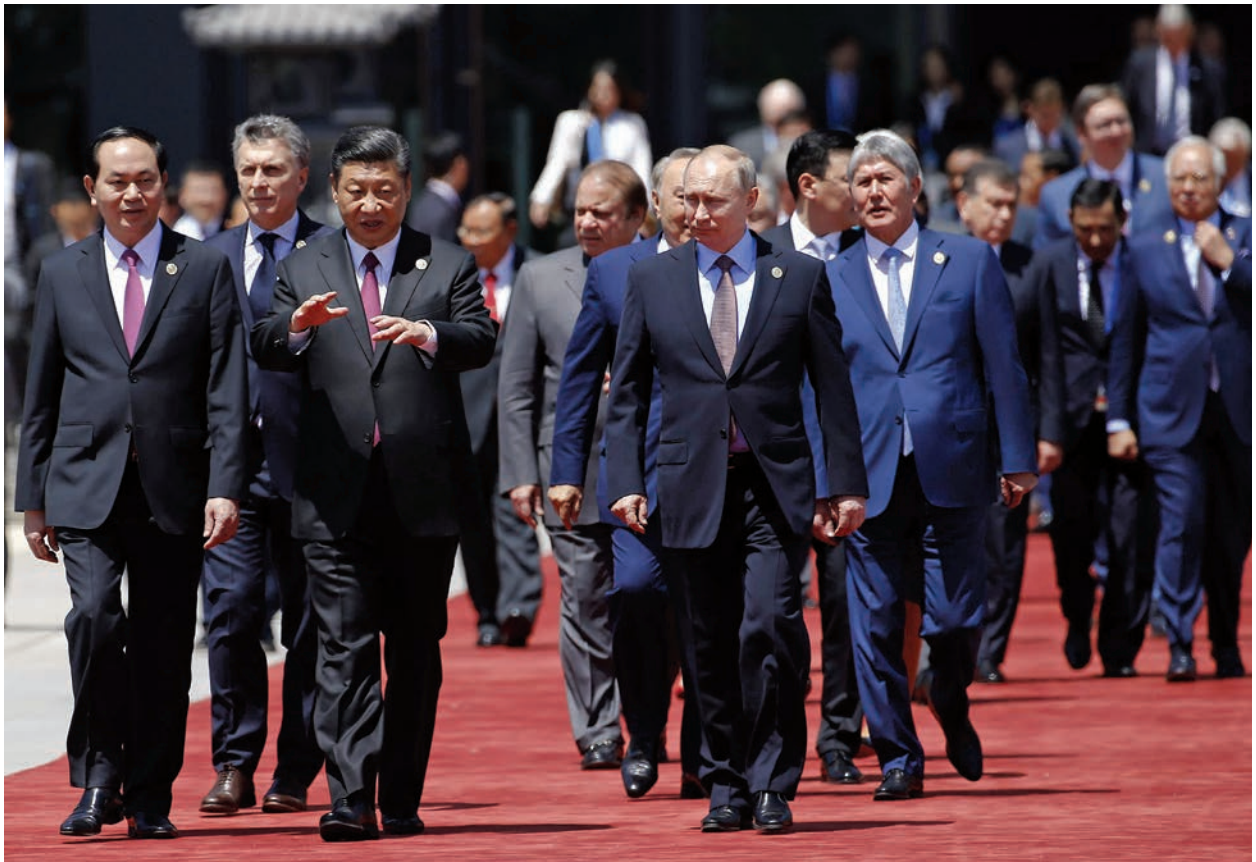
- China remains the top contributor of peacekeepers among the five permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council. Its 8,000-member peacekeeping standby force has recently passed the performance assessment conducted by the UN and is ready to deploy wherever needed.



**President Xi contributed China's wisdom and solutions while he attended summits of various multilateral platforms, including the G20, APEC, BRICS and SCO. China has also participated constructively in the settlement of nearly all of the world's hot-spot issues such as the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, the Iranian nuclear issue, and issues in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Syria and South Sudan.**



# Belt & Road: Transforming Asia-Pacific region



China hosted the first BRI Forum Summit in May 2017, which was attended by several world leaders.

More than five years after President Xi Jinping unveiled the Belt and Road (BRI) initiative as his signature foreign policy plan, China will host the second Belt and Road Forum in April 2019.

Announcing the second BRI summit at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' meeting in Papua New Guinea, Mr Xi said China considered strengthening connectivity a high priority and underlined that cooperation under its Belt and Road infrastructure initiative had entered a "new phase of full implementation".

"China will work with all countries involved under the principle of consultation and collaboration for shared benefits to pursue the initiative against high standards, so that it will deliver quality outcomes and create even greater development opportunities for the people in the Asia-Pacific and beyond", the Chinese President said. The BRI initiative is President Xi's signature foreign policy plan, unveiled five years ago to boost trade through investment in ports, power plants and other infrastructure in more than 80 countries from Asia to Europe and Africa. Having

since been expanded to the Arctic and South America, the initiative has become synonymous with much of China's diplomatic and foreign economic activities.

The China-proposed BRI entered its fifth year in 2018, offering fresh impetus to economic development and integration in the Asia-Pacific region, while bringing tangible benefits to the people along the route.

The initiative, proposed in 2013, refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. It is aimed at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes.

## Connectivity Projects

A series of important achievements have been made in the development of major infrastructure connectivity projects under the BRI during 2018.

In early December, the first T-shaped concrete beam of the China-Laos railway was successfully erected in Laos' capital Vientiane. It marked a key milestone as the construction has been transferred from substructure to superstructure, according to the constructor China Railway No. 2 Engineering Group.

The construction of the China-Laos railway, the first overseas route to connect with the railway system in China, starts from Boten, the northern Laos town bordering China, connects

More than five years after President Xi Jinping unveiled the BRI initiative as his signature foreign policy plan, China will host the second Belt and Road Forum in April 2019.

with the Chinese Yuxi-Mohan Railway in Yunnan province to the north, and reaches Vientiane in the south. It is expected to open by the end of 2021, slashing the travel time between Kunming, the capital city of the Yunnan province and Vientiane to half a day.

Another key connectivity project under the BRI, the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway in Indonesia, also entered the stage of comprehensive implementation in June this year.

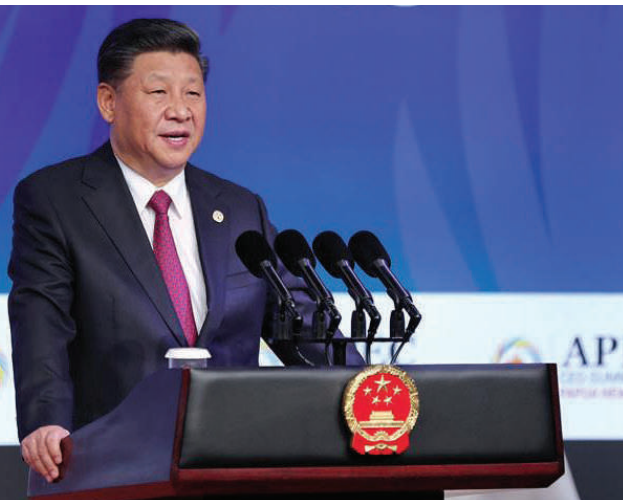
The project licensing, financing and land acquisition have been put in place, and the construction of 22 controlling works has made breakthrough, according to China Railway.

The 142.3 km-long project will connect Indonesia's capital Jakarta and West Java province's capital Bandung in the southeast. With a speed of 350 km per hour, the Chinese-technology high-speed train is capable of cutting travel time between the two cities from over three hours to about 40 minutes from over three hours. Currently, over 2,000 local employees are working for the project and the number is expected to further increase, according to the Chinese company.

Meanwhile, along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a major pilot project under the BRI Initiative, a series of infrastructure projects have also been completed.

Among them, the first section of the 392-km Multan-Sukkur Motorway, the largest transportation infrastructure project under CPEC, was inaugurated in May 2018.

The 33-km section spanning from Multan to Shujaabad city was completed ahead of schedule, and the project is expected to be completed by August 2019.





The CPEC, a corridor linking Pakistan's Karachi and northwestern Peshawar and running through the populated provinces of Punjab and Sindh, highlights energy, transport, industrial cooperation and Gwadar port construction, and seeks to expand cooperation to such sectors as finance, science and technology, education, poverty alleviation, and urban planning.

## Tangible Benefits for People

In August 2018, the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge opened to traffic. It is the first cross-sea bridge in the Maldives and an iconic project of the two countries in co-building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Connecting the capital Male and neighbouring Hulhule island where the Maldives' main international airport is located, the two-km bridge makes it possible for locals and tourists to go from one island to the other (via land) within five minutes.

"The boat ride between the two islands was affected by many factors such as the weather. I used to have difficulties in getting to school in Male on time. I would be very anxious about reaching on time because of the unpredictability of the weather," local school girl Aisha (alia) said.

However, Aisha can now ride her father's motorcycle every morning and arrives at school

in 10 minutes. "Reaching in 10 minutes was impossible before the bridge was opened to traffic," she said. Rehendhi Rabindan, a foreman in a restaurant in Hulhumale, said the bridge helped bring more customers to his restaurant.

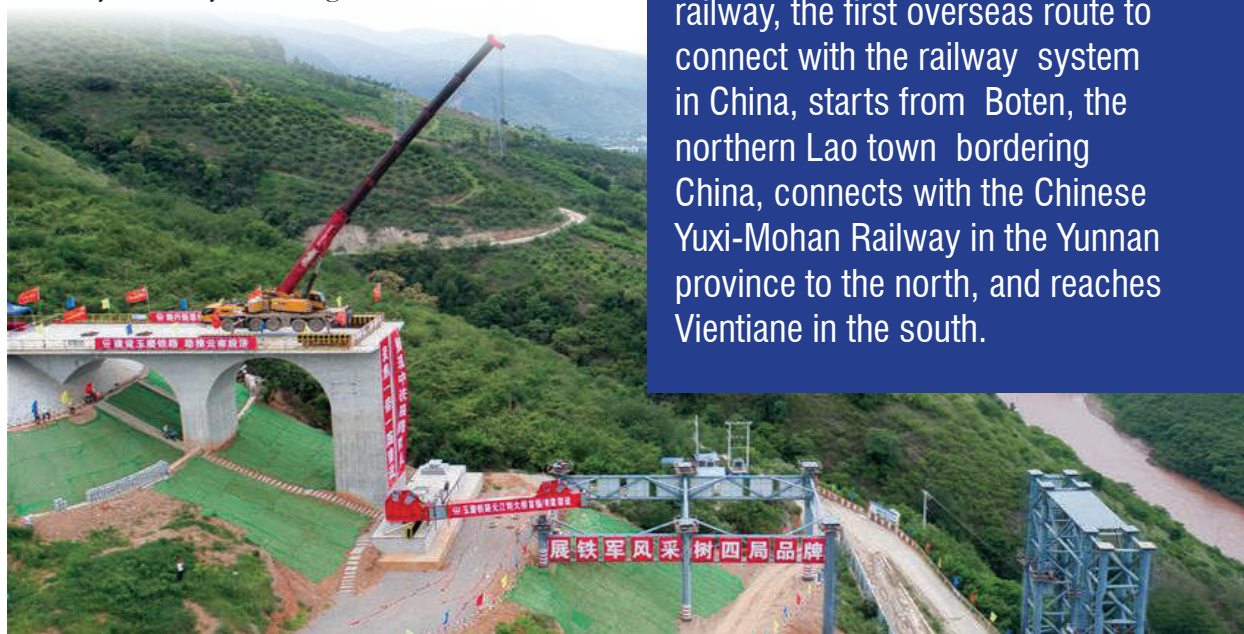
While some projects make life easier for locals and bring business opportunities, some others are literally a game-changer for those struggling in hardship.

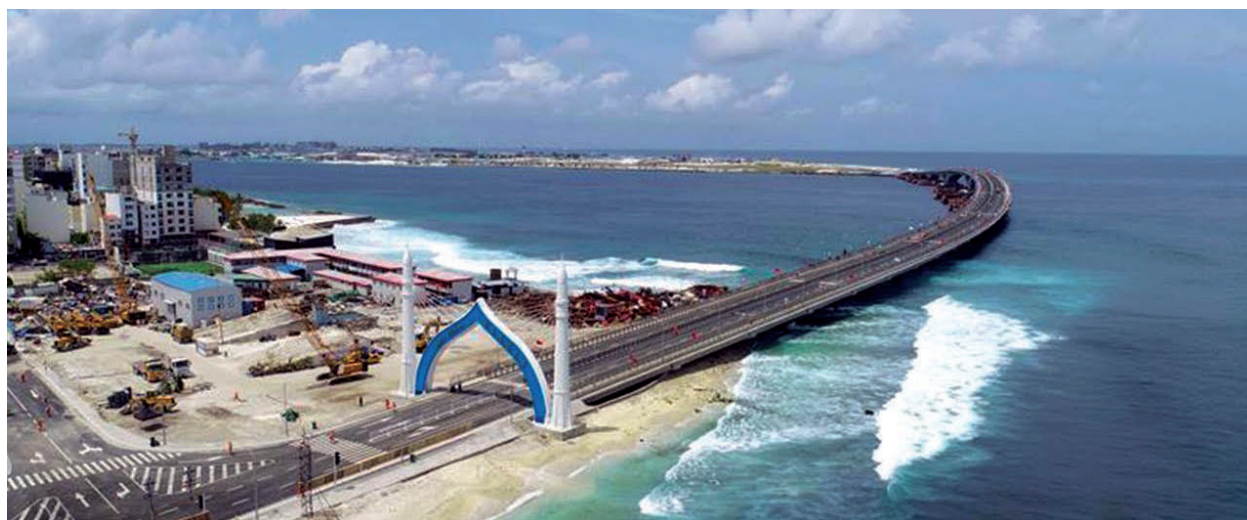
In Pakistan's southwestern port city of Gwadar, 15-year-old boy Akbar was both excited and relieved to learn about a new seawater desalination plant which was inaugurated in July this year.

Gwadar had been plagued with acute water scarcity, and Akbar used to stand on the road in the scorching sun for hours to wait for a water tanker to stop by. Locals had been forced to fetch water from dams far away, or spend a large part of their income buying water from private water tankers.

In May this year, the China Overseas Ports Holding Company, the operator of Gwadar port, agreed with the local government to provide the latter with 300,000 gallons of drinkable desalinated water daily.

The construction of the China-Laos railway, the first overseas route to connect with the railway system in China, starts from Boten, the northern Lao town bordering China, connects with the Chinese Yuxi-Mohan Railway in the Yunnan province to the north, and reaches Vientiane in the south.





In August 2018, the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge opened to traffic. It is the first cross-sea bridge in the Maldives and an iconic project of the two countries in co-building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

## Economic Linkages

With China now a major contributor to global growth, the BRI Initiative could help strengthen links within the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asia and with China, Standard Chartered Global Research said in a report issued in October.

The BRI has generated significant interest among countries in the region, given their substantial infrastructure needs and China's ability to offer the expertise to deliver large-scale infrastructure projects, it said.

According to Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, "Cooperation in trade and connectivity will create jobs for the people, multiply economic opportunities and enhance the productivity of the entire economy. These are vital components for sustainable regional cooperation as well." Nepal and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2017.

Meanwhile, for many Pacific island nations, the Belt and Road Initiative is a platform through which they can be better connected to the global economy.

Papua New Guinea (PNG), which hosted APEC economic leaders' meeting in November 2018, joined the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in May, and became the first Pacific island country to sign an MOU with China on the Belt and Road cooperation in June.

PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill told Xinhua recently that "for international developing countries like PNG, this (the Belt and Road Initiative) is a great initiative because of the access to capital and infrastructure-building capacities that we are now developing together with China. It is able to open up markets and improve the standard of living for our people."

In November, the tropical nation of Fiji also signed an MoU with China on cooperation within the Belt and Road framework. The BRI Initiative is "very important for the future development of the world, especially for the small developing nations that are remote and lack in their social and economic development, looking for avenues and support to link themselves to the rest of the world," Keshmeer Makun, lecturer at the Fiji National University's School of Economics, told Xinhua.

(Courtesy: Xinhua)



# CHINA UNBOUND

## Setting new benchmarks

China's unfolding national development and resurgence scaled new frontiers in 2018, with a host of technological marvels setting new benchmarks for human ingenuity and excellence. From devising a 500-metre aperture spherical radio telescope and a farm machine that dries unhusked rice in the sun, Chinese inventors left no stone unturned to provide the world a glimpse of a rapidly modernising China. The opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was yet another milestone in China's journey towards becoming a tech powerhouse.



Photo taken on Sept. 10, 2018 shows China's 500-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) in southwest China's Guizhou Province. (Xinhua)



## FARMING MACHINE DRIES UNHUSKED RICE IN THE SUN

A farming machine dries unhusked rice in the sun at a farm in Sihong, east China's Jiangsu Province, Oct. 23, 2018. (Xinhua/Zhang Lianhua)



## TRANSMISSION TOWERS ON THE NORTH BANK

Photo taken on April 15, 2018 shows transmission towers on the north bank of the Changgu extra-high voltage project in Gaogou Town of Wuwei County, east China's Anhui Province. (Xinhua/Guo Chen)



## HONG KONG-ZHUHAI- MACAO BRIDGE



Aerial photo taken on Oct. 24, 2018 shows a bus running on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. (Xinhua/Liang Xu)

## YOGA PRACTICE AT THE BAIHUA PARK





## HIGH-SPEED LOOP LINE IN CHANGJIANG LI

Photo taken on March 7, 2018 shows a bullet train running on the western track of the high-speed loop line in Changjiang Li Autonomous County, south China's Hainan Province. (Xinhua/Yang Guanyu)



People take part in a yoga practice at the Baihua Park in Xiajiang County, east China's Jiangxi Province, June 21, 2018. (Xinhua/Chen Fuping)





# COLOURS OF CHINA

2



1. Aerial view of the Lujiazui area in Pudong of Shanghai, east China.

2. The Nuorilang Waterfall in the Jiuzhaigou National Park in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was rocked by a 7.0-magnitude quake in August 2017.

3. The Hukou Waterfall scenic spot on the Yellow River, which is located on the border area between north China's Shanxi and northwest China's Shaanxi provinces. Warmer temperature and melting ice in upper reaches lead to the annual spring flood of the waterfall.

4. Mount Kangrinboqe in the morning light in Burang County of Ngari Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

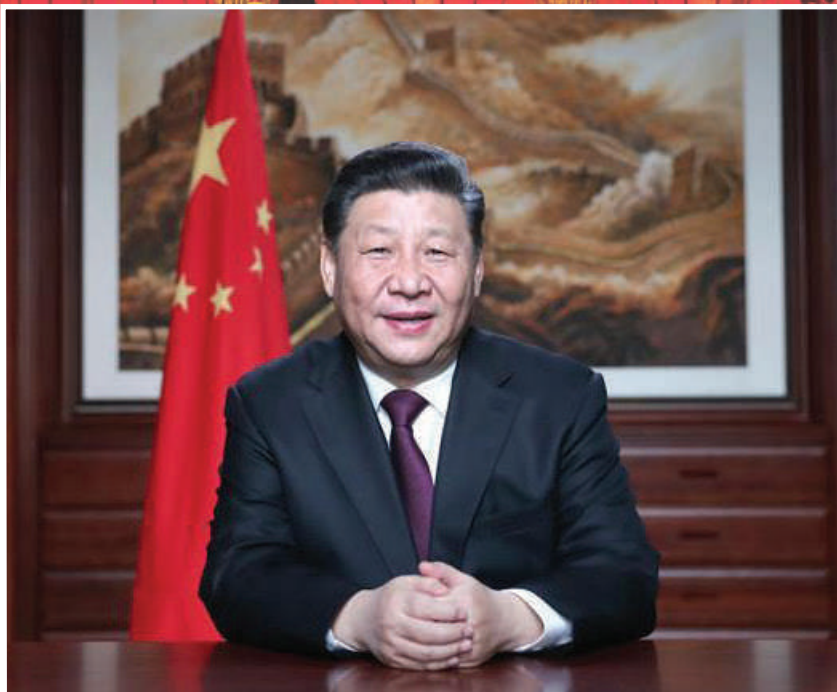
5. Terraced fields surrounded by mountains in Simeng Township of Donglan County in Hechi, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.







## New Year Message



# LET'S STRIVE FOR A GREAT CAUSE IN 2019

Unveiling new hopes and targets for China, China's President Xi Jinping, in his New Year Eve message, exhorted the nation to strive for "an unprecedented and great cause" in 2019, the defining year that marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Chinese people, who are self-reliant, hardworking and enterprising, have created a China miracle recognised by the world, he said, vowing to rely on the people and push forward the cause step by step.

President Xi said in his New Year speech on December 31, 2018 that China's reforms "will never stop" and his country will be "resolute" in defending national sovereignty.

President Xi's speech touched upon China's journey towards poverty alleviation, attaining self-sufficiency in technology and innovation, high-quality economic development and greater integration with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

He also urged his countrymen to “stick to self-reliance and hard work” in 2019. However, the greatest share of time and words in President Xi’s speech was spent on establishing a personal rapport with all section of society including military veterans, villagers, and city workers from deliverymen to street cleaners.

## Fulfilling 2018

“In 2018, we had a fulfilling and focused year,” Xi said in the speech, summarising the progress made in 2018, which saw the country’s economy stay “within a reasonable range.”

The campaign to prevent and control pollution of air, water and soil went smoothly while the people’s wellbeing and their living standards improved, Mr Xi said.

National strategies, including the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the development of Yangtze Economic Belt, and the construction of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area were steadily implemented.

President Xi also mentioned the achievements he witnessed during his inspection trips: the improved ecology along the Yangtze River, the agricultural harvest in northeast provinces, the reform and vitality in Shenzhen and Shanghai, as well as the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

Around 10 million people in the country’s rural areas were lifted out of poverty in 2018, said the president, recollecting his visits to villages in Sichuan, Shandong, Liaoning and Guangdong provinces.

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

## Hopeful 2019

Joint efforts are needed as China faces both opportunities and challenges in 2019, President Xi noted. In 2019, President Xi said that the policies to cut taxes and fees should be well implemented to ease the burden on enterprises.

Sincere appreciation should be given to professionals in all areas while efforts should be made to motivate responsible and competent grass-roots officials, he said. President Xi also extended gratitude to millions of hardworking people, such as deliverymen, sanitation workers and taxi drivers.

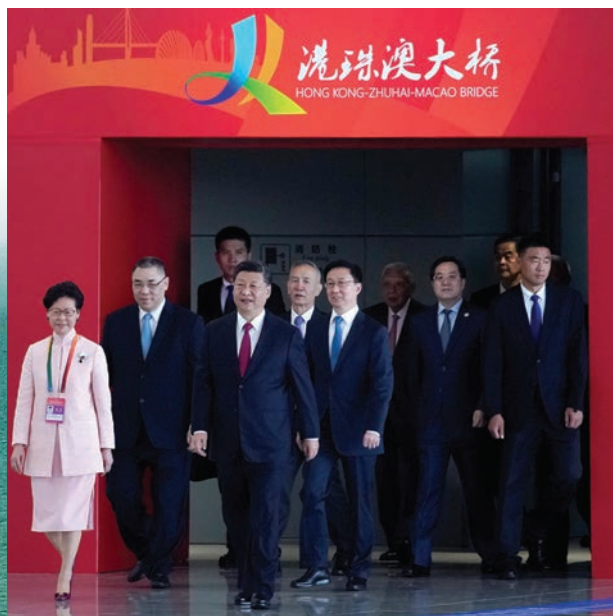
“President Xi’s New Year speech is very touching and inspiring,” said Soinam Yangjen, a 35-year-old village official in Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China.

With over 16 years of experience in poverty alleviation work, she said that through the speech she and her fellow villagers can see a brighter future, “a future that is created by us together.”

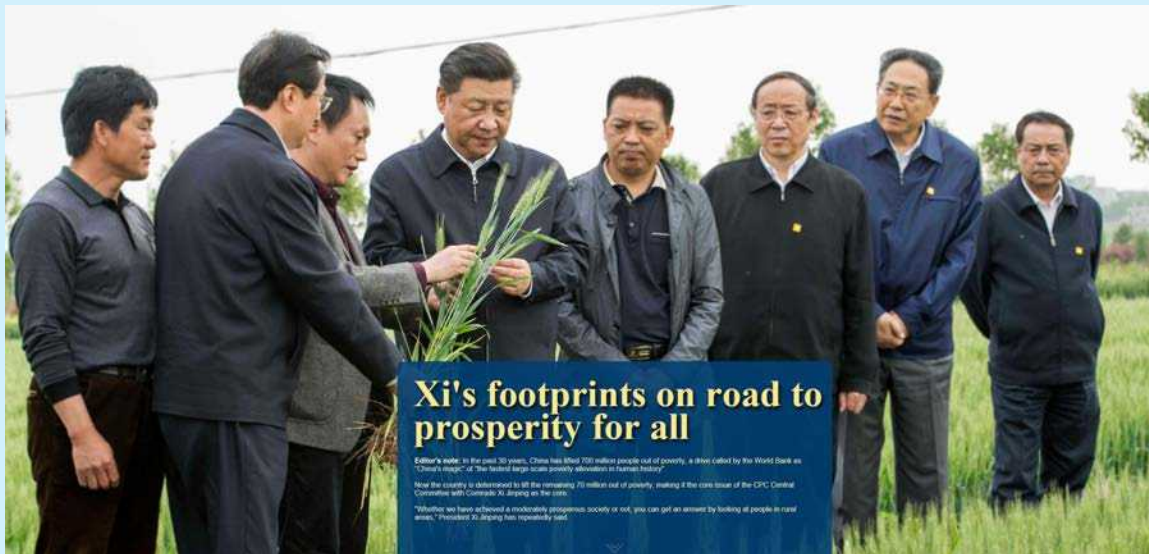
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**President Xi’s speech touched upon China’s journey towards poverty alleviation, attaining self-sufficiency in technology and innovation, high-quality economic development and greater integration with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.**

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## 10 million rural people lifted out of poverty

Around 10 million people in the country's rural areas were lifted out of poverty in 2018, President Xi said. Another 125 counties were removed from the country's list of impoverished counties after going through evaluation in 2018, he said.

The goal of lifting 10 million rural residents above the poverty line should be fulfilled as planned, he said, adding that veterans should receive proper attention and care.

The country reduced the prices of 17 cancer-fighting drugs, and included them on the medical insurance list, he added. President Xi also noted officials on the frontlines of fighting against poverty, including more than 2.8 million cadres dispatched to work in villages, and rural Party officials. "They are devoted to their work and do an awesome job," Xi said, wishing them good health.

## Chinese economy: New Growth Drivers

Despite all sorts of risks and challenges, China pushed its economy toward high-quality development, accelerated new growth drivers to replace old ones, and kept the economy within a reasonable range, President Xi Jinping said. The campaign to protect blue skies and defend the rivers and soil from pollution was going smoothly. The efforts to improve the people's wellbeing were intensified and their living standards were steadily raised, Mr Xi said.



## A Better World

In the past year, many friends, both old and new, visited China, President Xi said, noting that China hosted diplomatic events, including the annual Boao Forum for Asia, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Qingdao and the Beijing summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

China put forward its proposals and made its voice heard, and enlarged its circle of friends in 2018, President Xi said.

President Xi said he and his colleagues visited five continents and participated in many major diplomatic events, carried out wide-ranging exchanges with leaders of various countries, consolidated friendships, enhanced mutual trust, and enlarged China's circle of friends.

## Over 100 key reform measures rolled out

This year, China celebrated the 40th anniversary of its reform and opening-up and unveiled a systematic, comprehensive and restructuring reform of both Party and State institutions, Mr Xi said.

The country hosted the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) and started the construction of Hainan Pilot Free Trade Zone, he added.

China's reforms will never stop and its door will only open even wider, he stressed.

## Promoting BRI

China will actively promote the joint construction of the Belt and Road, continue to promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, and work relentlessly for an even more prosperous and beautiful world, President Xi said.

## Defending sovereignty

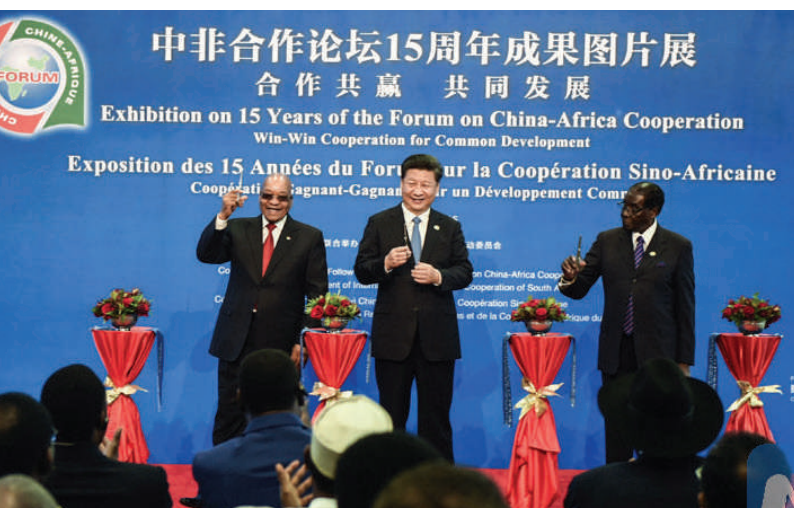
In a world that is undergoing changes unseen in a century, China will remain confident and resolute in safeguarding its sovereignty and security, and maintain its sincerity and goodwill for safeguarding world peace and promoting common prosperity, President Xi said.

## 13 million jobs

About 13 million Chinese found jobs in cities in 2018, said President Xi Jinping in his New Year speech, when summarising the progress made in 2018.

## Innovation and manufacturing

President Xi hailed a changing China with its achievements in manufacturing, innovation and construction. China launched Chang'e-4 lunar probe, conducted sea trials of its second aircraft carrier, completed first water takeoff of its independently-developed large amphibious aircraft, and took solid steps in BeiDou Navigation Satellite System's global service, President Xi noted in the speech.







# Sichuan-Tibet Railway

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway, which will connect Chengdu to Lhasa, is poised to be an engineering miracle and will serve as a major artery of transportation linking China with South Asian countries, such as Nepal and India.

The State-owned China Railway Corp (CRC) has declared that it aims to complete a feasibility study of the railway by the end of the second quarter of 2019 and seek the approval from the central government in the third quarter.

It hopes to complete initial designs for key sections of the railway, such as tunnels and bridges and make sure they are ready for construction by the third quarter, according to a CRC statement sent to the Global Times.

## Sichuan-Tibet Railway (STR)

- » STR to connect Chengdu to Lhasa
- » Construction to start in late 2019
- » STR to be completed by 2025
- » STR, covering 1,629 km, will shorten the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours
- » Projected to cost 105 billion yuan (16 billion USD)





The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway into Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. It will go through the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas.

## Linking Tibet with South Asia

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Zhao Gancheng, director of the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, told the Global Times that the railway aims to drive the economy of the region and strengthen the link between Tibet with the inland.

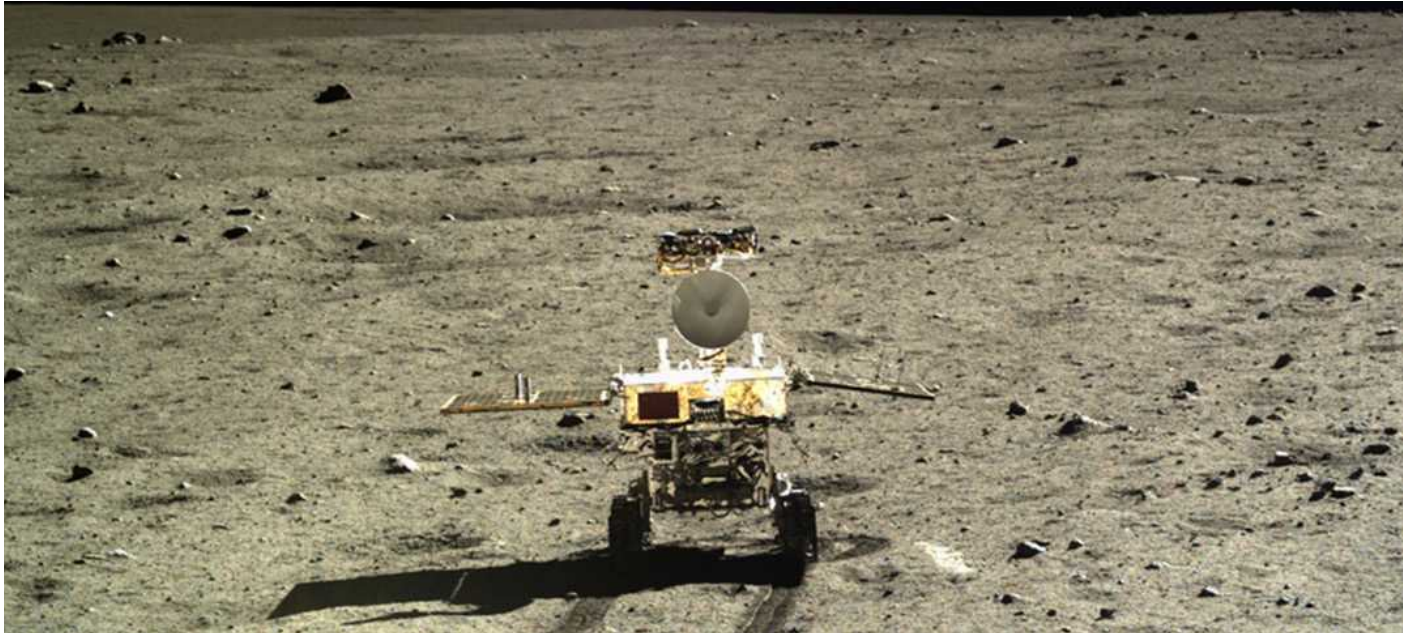
It can help with the possibility of a railway connecting China and Nepal, which could be a major route for China to reach South Asia, Mr Zhao said.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will start from Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan Province, travelling through Ya'an and enter Tibet via Qamdo. It will then go through the Nyingchi prefecture before arriving at Tibet's capital Lhasa. The total construction length will be 1,700 kilometers and will cost 250 billion yuan (\$36.88 billion), the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The completion of the railway will help shorten the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours.

The 140-kilometer Chengdu-Ya'an section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway officially started operations to 11 stations on December 28, 2018, according to media reports.





# FAR SIDE OF THE MOON

## China's Chang'e-4 probe opens new vistas

**T**he year 2019 began with a historic moment for human space exploration as China's Chang'e-4 probe touched down on the far side of the moon on January 3.

With the first spacecraft soft-landing on the moon's uncharted side never visible from Earth, China's space ambitions are set to acquire new heights.

The probe, comprising a lander and a rover, landed at the preselected landing area on the far side of the moon at 10:26 a.m. Beijing Time, the China National Space Administration announced.

Over about 12 dramatic minutes, China's Chang'e-4 probe descended and softly touched

down on a crater on the far side of the moon. Wu Weiren, chief designer of China's lunar exploration programme, said Chang'e-3 landed on the Sinus Iridum, or the Bay of Rainbows, on the moon's near side, which is as flat as the north China plain, while the landing site of Chang'e-4 is as rugged as the high mountains and lofty hills of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

**With the first spacecraft soft-landing on the moon's uncharted side never visible from Earth, China's space ambitions are set to acquire new heights.**

Chinese space experts chose the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken Basin as the landing site of Chang'e-4. The area available for the landing is only one eighth of that for Chang'e-3, and is surrounded by mountains as high as 10 km.

Unlike the parabolic curve of Chang'e-3's descent trajectory, Chang'e-4 made an almost vertical landing, said Mr Wu.

"It was a great challenge with the short time, high difficulty and risks," Wu said.

The whole process was automatic with no intervention from ground control, but the relay satellite transmitted images of the landing process back to Earth, he said.

"We chose a vertical descent strategy to avoid the influence of the mountains on the flight track," said Zhang He, executive director of the Chang'e-4 probe project, from the China Academy of Space Technology.



When it descended to an altitude of about 2 km, its cameras took pictures of the lunar surface so the probe could identify large obstacles such as rocks or craters, said Wu Xueying, deputy chief designer of the Chang'e-4 probe.

Li Fei, one of the designers of the lander, said when the process began, an engine was ignited to lower the craft's relative velocity from 1.7 km per second to close to zero, and the probe's attitude was adjusted to face the moon and descend vertically.

When it descended to an altitude of about 2 km, its cameras took pictures of the lunar surface so the probe could identify large obstacles such as rocks or craters, said

Wu Xueying, deputy chief designer of the Chang'e-4 probe.

At 100 meters above the surface, it hovered to identify smaller obstacles and measure the slopes on the lunar surface, Wu said.

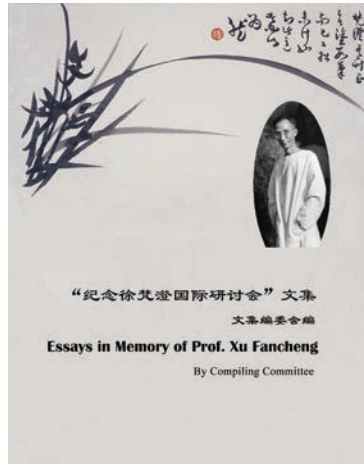
After calculation, the probe found the safest site, and continued its descent. When it was 2 meters above the surface, the engine stopped, and the spacecraft landed with four legs cushioning against the shock.



# REJUVENATING SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

Geopolitical calculations and constructs tend to dominate headlines and reportage on China-India relations. What is often lost and forgotten in contemporary discourse is the deep spiritual and cultural bonding that binds the two ancient civilisations. The world of Upanishads, Vedas, Chinese sutras and sage-philosophers takes us to another realm where it's possible to get a deeper insight into the spiritual connections that link China and India.

In this context, the life and works of Prof. Xu Fancheng, one of greatest Chinese scholars of Indian philosophy and thought who lived in India for over three decades, opens another world of cross-cultural and spiritual intermingling between the two civilisations. A new book --

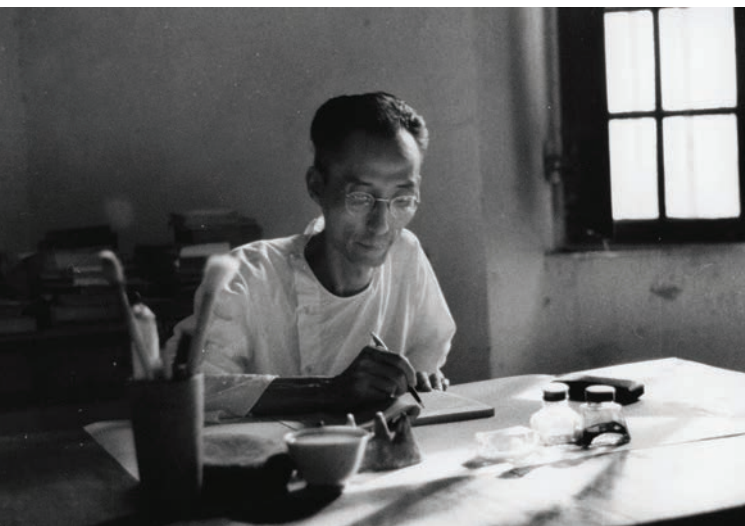


*Essays in Memory of Prof. Xu Fancheng* -- vividly illuminates the multi-faceted legacy of this legendary Chinese scholar and his exemplary contribution to building spiritual bridges between the people of China and India.

To appreciate his legacy, it's important to encapsulate his achievements: he diligently translated *Fifty Upanishads*, *Bhagavad Gita* and *Shakuntala*

from Sanskrit to Chinese. He was the first Chinese who introduced India's spiritual sage-philosopher Sri Aurobindo to China, and translated Sri Aurobindo's *The Life Divine* and *Integral Yoga* into Chinese. "We know that in the modern history of India, there were three great men, namely Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Sri Aurobindo. The first two men are well known in China. It was due to Professor Xu's contribution, China began to know Sri Aurobindo," said China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui at a symposium held in memory of Prof. Xu Fancheng in Puducherry, home to the iconic scholar for many years, in March 2018.

Prof. Xu's love for India, Indian culture and Indian philosophy emanated from the depths of his being. "He is one of the Chinese scholars who lived in India for the longest period of time. He came to India at the age of 36 and returned to China at 69. He really understood India, loved India and introduced Indian culture to China," said the envoy.



Prof. Xu emerged as a bridge between different cultures. He translated German philosopher Nietzsche's books into Chinese and also wrote books such as *Confucianism* and *The Corpus of Seng Zhao* in English, introducing China's ancient classics to the world. A multi-faceted personality, Prof. Xu is also known for his hauntingly beautiful paintings.

In his Foreword, eminent Indian scholar Dr Lokesh Chandra has evoked the special nature of Prof. Fancheng's unconditional devotion to India and China-India intellectual and spiritual exchanges. "Prof. Xu changed his name to include Fan 'Brahman', unaware that it came from the depths of his reincarnations," he writes. "The personal name of Prof. Xu begins with Fan or Brahman, the central concept of the *Upanishads*. The Chinese Ju-leng-ch'ieh-ching or Lankavatara-sutra calls the Upanisadic doctrine Brahmayana or the Way of Brahman. In the same vein, Prof. Xu's translation of the *Shakuntala* of Kalidasa comes from twelve centuries of China's adoration of the great classic of Kalidasa."



**"Essays in Memory of Prof. Xu Fancheng" vividly illuminates the multi-faceted legacy of this legendary Chinese scholar and his exemplary contribution to building spiritual bridges between the people of China and India. To appreciate his legacy, it's important to encapsulate his achievements: he diligently translated "Fifty Upanishads," "Bhagvad Gita" and "Shakuntala" from Sanskrit to Chinese**



China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj released "Essays in Memory of Prof. Xu Fancheng" at the China-India cultural evening in New Delhi.

The book comprises essays by well-known scholars like Prof. Huang Xinchuan, Dr. Huang Xianian, Nirmala Sharma, Devdip Ganguli, Prof. Jaishaktivel, Richard Hartz, Prof. Sharad Joshi and Prof. Priyadarshi Mukherji who illuminate myriad aspects of Prof. Fancheng's oeuvre and his pioneering role in spawning an enduring dialogue of ideas and spirit between the two ancient civilisations. These well-crafted essays are written straight from the heart, and underline the need to continue this rejuvenation of Indian philosophy in China and Chinese philosophy in India.

These essays are a must-read for students and scholars of China-India relations who wish to move beyond news headlines to get a deeper sense of spiritual and intellectual underpinnings of the China-India relationship. There is no better way to do so than to delve into the extraordinary live and works of Prof. Xu Fancheng, an enlightened spirit who transcended cultural divides to compose a lasting spiritual symphony for China-India relationship.



# New Year, New Horizons



**F**estivities, feasting, fireworks, fun, family reunions and homecoming – Chinese New Year is a time for joyous celebrations, symbolising new hopes and new beginnings.

The festival is usually referred to as the Spring Festival in modern China, and is one of several Lunar New Years in Asia. Observances traditionally take place from the evening preceding the first day of the year to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year. The first day of Chinese New Year begins on the new moon that appears between January 21 and February 20. In 2019, the first day of the Lunar New Year will be on Tuesday, February 5.

In Chinese Zodiac, each year is represented by an animal which features a 12-year cycle consisting 12 animals for each year. According to Chinese astrology, 2019 is the “Year of the Earth Pig”.



Pig comes after dog, and symbolises kindness and generosity. 2019 is predicted to be a lucky year.

One of the world’s most celebrated festivals, Chinese New Year triggers the largest annual mass human migration in the world, with



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**Festivities, feasting, fireworks, fun, family reunions and homecoming – Chinese New Year is a time for joyous celebrations, symbolising new hopes and new beginnings.**

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Chinese, wherever they may be living, returning to their home towns for family get-togethers. It's a major holiday in Greater China and has strongly influenced the Lunar New Year celebrations of China's neighbouring cultures, including the Korean New Year (seol) and the Tet of Vietnam. It is also celebrated worldwide in countries with significant Overseas Chinese populations, including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines and

Mauritius, as well as many countries in North America and Europe.

Chinese New Year is associated with several myths and customs. The festival was traditionally a time to honour deities as well as ancestors. Within China, regional customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the New Year



vary widely, and the evening preceding Chinese New Year's Day is frequently regarded as an occasion for Chinese families to gather for the annual reunion dinner. It is also traditional for every family to thoroughly clean their house, in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for incoming good luck.

Another custom is the decoration of windows and





doors with red paper-cuts and couplets. Popular themes among these paper-cuts and couplets include that of good fortune or happiness, wealth, and longevity. For the northern regions of China, dumplings are featured prominently in meals celebrating the festival.

Chinese New Year is, above all, a time of happiness, love and joy, a time to enjoy feasts with loved ones, visit the relatives, forgive and forget past mistakes and starting afresh.

It's the time to wish each other good luck, affection and abundance. And enjoy the festivities followed by a beautiful Lantern Festival after the New Year's Eve. As they say in Chinese, "Xin Nian Kuai le", meaning Happy New Year, and in Mandarin Chinese, "Gong Xi Fa Cai", meaning "Wishing you fortune & abundance."





HAPPY  
*Chinese*

NEW YEAR

新年快乐

2019

YEAR OF THE PIG





“

A sound China-India  
relationship is an  
important, positive  
factor for safeguarding  
world stability.

”

China's President Xi Jinping  
to PM Modi at the Wuhan  
summit

