

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

BRI JOURNEY
TAKING THE
WORLD ALONG





DUNHUANG

A critical town along the Silk Route





H.E. Luo Zhaohui

China's Ambassador to India

Thinking Ahead: New Horizons

A year is not a long time in diplomacy. But the past year has been special in the annals of China-India relations. As we celebrated the first anniversary of the Wuhan informal summit between the leaders of our two countries in April, we looked back with great satisfaction at what has been achieved, setting the stage for new frontiers in China-India relations. The Wuhan consensus of building trust and expanding cooperation has triumphed. Recent developments indicate that China is looking to build a more balanced economic relationship and cooperate more closely with India.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. China has become the second largest economy in the world, with GDP reaching \$14 trillion in 2018 and per capita GDP increasing to nearly \$10,000. China's diplomacy is standing at a new historical starting point. This year, we hosted the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (April 25-27) in Beijing, which was attended by over 6,000 representatives from 150 countries and 92 international organisations. President Xi Jinping unveiled his vision of high-quality, open, green and clean Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is set to win over sceptics and lend a fresh impetus for global economic growth. The articles in this edition evoke the spirit of the second BRF and encapsulate its key outcomes.

Next year, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India. The

development of bilateral relations will face rare historical opportunities. We need to transmit the consensus of the two leaders achieved during the Wuhan summit to the grassroot level and translate it into action. We need to transcend crisis-managing diplomacy, proactively shape the relations and break the cycle of ups and downs in bilateral relations. We need to explore free trade agreements, initiate consultations on early harvests of the boundary question, and achieve synergy on the BRI.

As we march ahead, enhancing mutual understanding will be the key to unlocking the potential of China-India relations. In this regard, I am enormously pleased to see that our efforts to revamp the Embassy magazine are getting greater appreciation from readers. It was, therefore, a matter of great joy for me to host a launch ceremony to celebrate the new edition of the magazine. The interaction with readers was especially lively, generating a host of new ideas for further improving the magazine. Building on positive feedback, I am pleased to announce the setting up of Readers Club and Advisory Board, and launch a writing competition entitled "My China Story." Initiatives like these are meant to boost P2P connect and enhance stakes of people in building a stronger and harmonious China-India partnership. Let's join hands to shape an Asian Century and create a brighter future for people of China and India.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the Chinese characters '罗照辉' (Luo Zhaohui).

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Published and Printed by

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Embassy of the People's Republic of China
in India

50-D, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri

New Delhi- 110021

Tel: 011-26881249

Fax: 011-26882024

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Printed at M/s Advantage Offset

B-256, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-I,
Delhi-110028

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TGII Media Private Limited

Website of Foreign Ministry of China

www.mfa.gov.cn

www.fmprc.gov.cn

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RNI No.: 47440/88

Postal Regd. No DL-SW-16/4034/18-20

E-book & PDF version

(<http://in.china-embassy.org>)

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China's Ambassador to India

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SHAPING HIGH-QUALITY GREEN & CLEAN BRI





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25 APRIL 2019 BEIJING, CHINA

“一带一路”国际合作高峰论坛
FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
25-27 APRIL 2019 BEIJING, CHINA



The Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), a much bigger show than the first edition, has culminated in a new vision for creating a high-quality BRI, which will be “open, green and clean,” in President Xi Jinping’s words.

The three-day forum, held in Beijing from April 25-27, 2019, lived up to its overarching theme of “Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future”. The scale of participation at the second BRF was bigger, which underlined the project’s growing international appeal. In all, 40 leaders attended the roundtable, including heads of state and government from 38 countries, including China, United Nations (UN) Secretary General and Managing Director, the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Over 6,000 foreign guests from 150 countries and 92 international organisations participated in the forum.

Besides positioning BRI as a people-centric high-quality project, the second BRF was result-oriented, culminating in 283 deliverables and agreements worth \$64 billion, which spanned diverse sectors such as agriculture, science and technology, ecological protection and people-to-people exchanges. From 2013 to 2018, trade between China and other BRI countries surpassed \$6 trillion, and China’s investment in B&R

countries exceeded \$80 billion. “The 82 overseas cooperative parks jointly built by China and the countries along the route have created nearly 300,000 jobs for locals and brought abundant development opportunities to all countries,” said China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a press conference in Beijing. “With the match-up and talks of Chinese and foreign enterprises, cooperation agreements worth over \$64 billion were signed, proving the massive business opportunities presented by the BRI,” he said while summarising key outcomes from the second BRF.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the forum, Nursultan Nazarbayev, the first president of Kazakhstan, said that the BRI has “transcended the challenges of geography and unequal development,” and underlined that China “has proven itself as a reliable, responsible partner in the international arena.”

Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, attended the first BRF in 2017. Recalling the first forum, he

described the BRI then as “still a child growing up.” “Now the BRI has become an adult, which means that it has become an important factor in the global economy. It has grown up,” he told Xinhua at the second BRF.

Raising the Bar

In his speech at the ceremonial opening of the Forum, President Xi stressed on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits to advance the Belt and Road Initiative.

Mapping the next steps for BRI, the Chinese leader stressed on building infrastructure that is not just high quality, but is also sustainable, risk-resilient, reasonably priced, inclusive and accessible. The president added that building infrastructure with such standards could help countries give full play to their advantages in resources and better integrate into the global supply, industry and value chains for interconnected development.

The goals of high-standard, livelihood-improving and sustainable development should be achieved, President Xi told world leaders and delegates at the China National Convention Centre.

Green and Clean BRI

In particular, President Xi focused on green development and promoting Clean Silk Road, which is underpinned by zero tolerance for corruption.

“We need to pursue open, green and clean cooperation. The Belt and Road is not an exclusive club; it aims to promote green development,” he said.

“We may launch green infrastructure projects, make green investment and provide green financing to protect the Earth which we all call home.”

The Chinese leader’s focus on transparency and zero tolerance for corruption has attracted a lot of international attention. “In pursuing the Belt and Road cooperation, everything should be done in a transparent way, and we should have zero tolerance for corruption,” said President Xi. “The Beijing

HIGHLIGHTS

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Mapping the next steps for BRI, the Chinese leader stressed on building infrastructure that is not just high quality, but is also sustainable, risk-resilient, reasonably priced, inclusive and accessible.

“In pursuing Belt and Road cooperation, everything should be done in a transparent way, and we should have zero tolerance for corruption,” said President Xi. “The Beijing Initiative for Clean Silk Road has been launched, which represents our strong commitment to transparency and clean governance in pursuing Belt and Road cooperation,” he added.



With the world listening in, President Xi also leveraged the BRF platform to reiterate China's commitment to multilateralism and further opening up of its market. Going forward, China will take a series of major reform and opening-up measures and make stronger institutional and structural moves to boost higher quality opening-up, said President Xi.

Initiative for Clean Silk Road has been launched, which represents our strong commitment to transparency and clean governance in pursuing the Belt and Road cooperation," he added.

A Gateway to New Opportunities

Summing up the outcomes of the second BRF in an interaction with the media on April 27, President Xi underlined that extensive consensus was reached on promoting "high-quality cooperation" under the BRI. "We spoke positively of the progress and significance of the cooperation under the BRI. We shared the view that cooperation under the BRI has opened a gateway to opportunities for common prosperity," Mr Xi said.

Besides the opening ceremony, the second BRF included the Leaders' Roundtable, the High-Level meeting, 12 thematic forums, and a CEO conference.

At the roundtable meeting, the leaders enriched the concept of BRI cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to a high-quality development path, while clarifying the priorities for future cooperation and deciding to strengthen overall cooperation in all areas, according to President Xi.

"We all supported the idea of developing a global partnership for connectivity and agreed to strengthen cooperation mechanisms," he said. "We all supported more pragmatic cooperation to achieve more concrete outcomes."

Proposed by President Xi in 2013, the BRI has extended from Asia and Europe to Africa, Americas and Oceania, opening up a new space for the world economy with better-than-expected results. More than 150 countries and international organisations have signed BRI cooperation documents with China.

Free Trade and Opening-up

With the world listening in, President Xi also leveraged the BRF platform to reiterate China's commitment to multilateralism and further



opening up of its market. Going forward, China will take a series of major reform and opening-up measures and make stronger institutional and structural moves to boost higher quality opening-up, said President Xi.

“We spoke positively of the progress and significance of the cooperation under the BRI. We shared the view that cooperation under the BRI has opened a gateway to opportunities for common prosperity,” Mr Xi said.

China will increase imports of goods and services on a larger scale, slash its negative list on imports, and negotiate and sign high-standard free trade agreements with more countries.

China will further lower its tariff rates and the country would continuously open up its market and welcome quality products from around the world, he said.

President Xi assured that China is also willing to import more competitive farm produce, finished products and services and will allow foreign investors to operate businesses in more sectors with controlling or full stake.

P2P Connectivity

The second BRF will also stand out for its multifarious initiatives in expanding people-to-people and cultural contacts among BRI countries. President Xi announced that in the next five years, China will invite 10,000 representatives of political parties, think tanks and non-governmental organisations from Belt and Road participating countries to visit China.

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China will also support 5,000 people from the innovation sector in Belt and Road countries in conducting exchanges, training programmes and joint research over the next five years, the Chinese leader said. China will work with other participants of the BRI to promote scientific and cultural exchanges, set up joint science labs, build science and technology parks, and promote the transfer of technologies, Mr Xi said.



World leaders laud BRI's promise & potential

The participating Heads of State/Government at the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation lauded substantive progress in the BRI projects and their potential to shape pathways of prosperity.



A constellation of leaders of countries and international organisations said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has made substantial progress and contributed to expanding connectivity and raising living standards across the world.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in Beijing on April 26, the foreign leaders also pledged efforts to ensure a higher quality development for the Belt and Road and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Since Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the initiative six years ago, 126 countries and 29 international organisations have signed BRI cooperation agreements with China. The second BRF was attended by 6,000 participants from more than 150 countries and 92 international organisations.

BRI: A Win-Win Deal for All

“The goal that brings us together is to provide harmony and sustainable economic development and growth across the Eurasian region,” said Russian President Vladimir Putin in his address.

The BRI corresponds with Moscow’s efforts to forge a greater Eurasian partnership, and Russia hopes for more alignments with other bilateral and multilateral development agendas in the region, he added.

The Russian president also called for closer dovetailing between the BRI and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), saying that the EAEU “is seeking to ensure the widest cooperation with all the interested countries and associations, primarily with China.”



For his part, Nursultan Nazarbayev, first president of Kazakhstan, said his country, a cradle of the BRI, has actively supported the initiative since it was put forward in 2013.

The BRI, he added, has become a path for stability, development and prosperity, creating better development opportunities and setting a new model of globalisation.

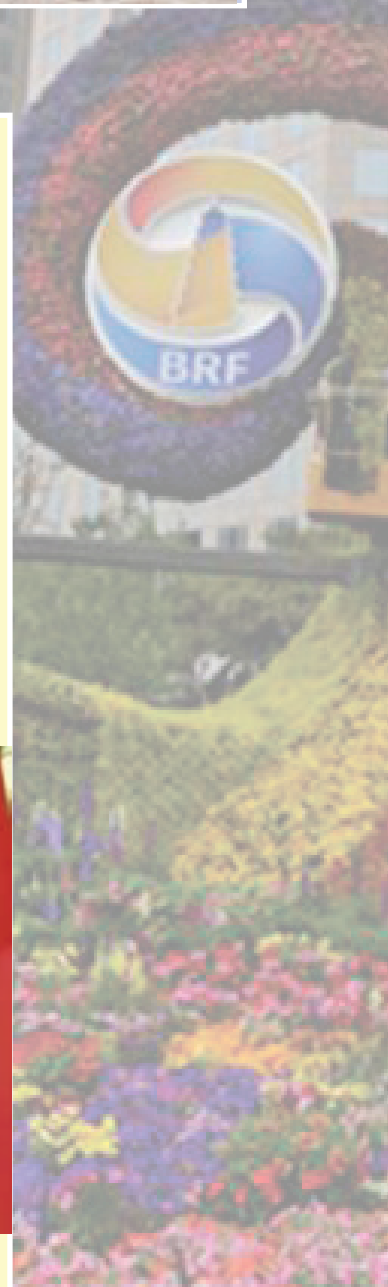
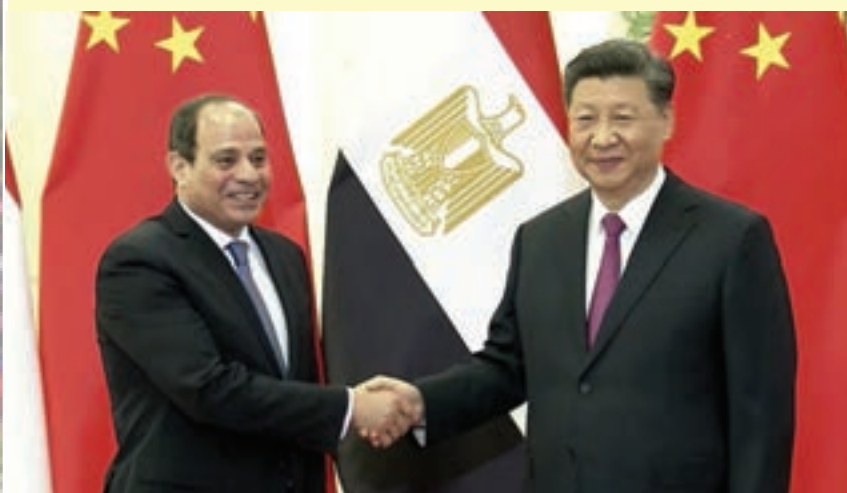
“The BRI has transcended the challenges of geography and unequal development,” and China “has proven itself as a reliable, responsible partner in the international arena,” he said.

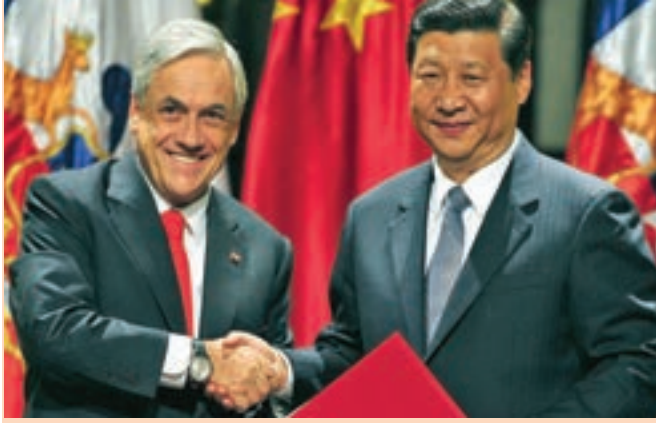


Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said the BRI dovetails with Egypt’s efforts to expand its economy, advance industrialisation, strengthen economic and trade links, promote financial integration and increase people-to-people exchanges.

Meanwhile, the initiative also befits Egypt’s development prospect of enhancing regional cooperation and cementing economic integration, Mr al-Sisi said.

He stressed that participating parties should make good use of the BRI as a basis for their cooperation, and jointly fulfil people’s expectations and promote common stability and development.





In his speech, Chilean President Sebastian Pinera said there is no doubt that the BRI will continue bolstering economic growth for participating countries and improving their people's living standards.

The BRI, he added, provides a great platform for countries involved to promote free trade and multilateralism through cooperation.

Mr Pinera said he agrees with the principles of BRI cooperation Mr Xi elaborated in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony, and called for continued joint efforts to uphold these principles.



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan pointed out that in today's world of geopolitical uncertainty, rising inequality and trade barriers, "the BRI offers a model of collaboration, partnership, connectivity and shared prosperity."

"Pakistan is proud to have partnered and pioneered with China in this transformation endeavour," he said, noting that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a major BRI cooperation project, "has made substantial progress."

With BRI cooperation entering what Mr Xi calls the phase of "meticulous painting," the Pakistani leader called on participating countries to pay more attention to people's well-being and push for sustainable development.



Calling the BRI "a great idea," Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said: "It can bring the landlocked countries in Central Asia closer to the sea," so that they can "grow in wealth and reduce whatever poverty they have."

"I fully support the Belt and Road Initiative. I am sure my country, Malaysia, will benefit from the projects," he added.



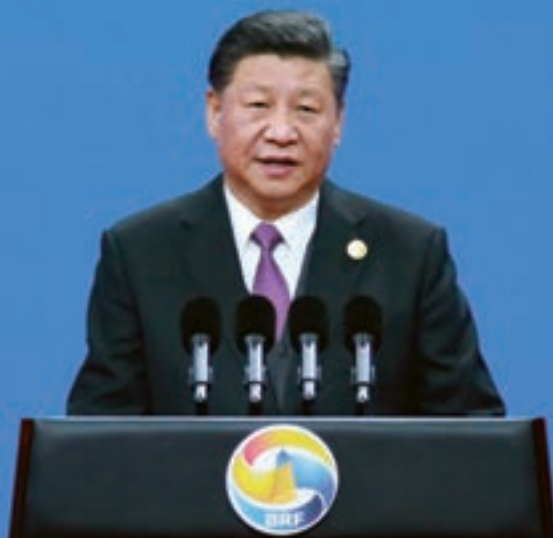
In his remarks, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that with the scale of its planned investments, the BRI “offers a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the creation of a more equitable, prosperous world for all, and to reversing the negative impact of climate change.”

The BRI’s five pillars -- policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people exchanges -- “are intrinsically linked to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals” and serve as “conceptual pillars that can be translated into real-life progress for all people,” he added.

“The United Nations is poised to support the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative with the Sustainable Development Goals, to share knowledge, and to make the most of the opportunities of this large-scale initiative for maximum sustainable development dividends,” Mr Guterres said.



Working Together For A Brighter Future: Xi



In his opening speech entitled “Working together To Deliver a Brighter Future for Belt and Road Cooperation” at the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on April 26, China’s President Xi Jinping unveiled the next steps for shaping a high-quality BRI. He exhorted partner countries to join hands in promoting high-quality infrastructure development, which adheres to the principles of sustainability, risk resilience, reasonable pricing, inclusiveness and accessibility under the BRI.

Highlights of President Xi Jinping’s Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Second BRF

- ⇒ The joint pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to enhance connectivity and practical cooperation. It is about jointly meeting various challenges and risks confronting mankind and delivering win-win outcomes and common development.
- ⇒ Thanks to the joint efforts of all of us involved in this initiative, a general connectivity framework consisting of six corridors, six connectivity routes and multiple countries and ports has been put in place.
- ⇒ The complementarity between the BRI and the development plans or cooperation initiatives of international and regional organisations such as the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the Eurasian Economic Union and between the BRI and the development strategies of the participating countries has been enhanced.
- ⇒ From the Eurasian continent to Africa, the Americas and Oceania, Belt and Road cooperation has opened up new space for global economic growth, produced new platforms for international trade

From the Eurasian continent to Africa, the Americas and Oceania, Belt and Road cooperation has opened up new space for global economic growth, produced new platforms for international trade and investment and offered new ways for improving global economic governance.

and investment and offered new ways for improving global economic governance.

- ⇒ What we have achieved amply demonstrates that Belt and Road cooperation has both generated new opportunities for the development of all participating countries and opened up new horizon for China's development and opening-up.
- ⇒ Going ahead, we should focus on priorities and project execution, move forward with results-oriented implementation, just like an architect refining the blueprint, and jointly promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.
- ⇒ We need to be guided by the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. We need to act in the spirit of multilateralism, pursue cooperation through consultation and keep all participants motivated.
- ⇒ We need to pursue open, green and clean cooperation. The Belt and Road is not an exclusive club; it aims to promote green development.
- ⇒ In pursuing Belt and Road cooperation, everything should be done in a transparent way, and we should have zero tolerance for corruption.
- ⇒ We need to take a people-centred approach, give priority to poverty alleviation and job creation to see that the joint pursuit of Belt and Road cooperation will deliver true benefits to the people of participating

countries and contribute to their social and economic development.

- ⇒ Connectivity is vital to advancing Belt and Road cooperation. We need to promote a global partnership of connectivity to achieve common development and prosperity.
- ⇒ Infrastructure is the bedrock of connectivity, while the lack of infrastructure has held up the development of many countries.
- ⇒ High-quality, sustainable, resilient, affordable, inclusive and accessible infrastructure projects can help countries fully leverage their resource endowment, better integrate into the global supply, industrial and value chains, and realise inter-connected development.
- ⇒ China will continue to work with other parties to build a connectivity network centering on economic corridors such as the New Eurasian Land Bridge, supplemented by major transportation routes like the China-Europe Railway Express and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and information expressway, and reinforced by major railway, port and pipeline projects.

Connectivity is vital to advancing Belt and Road cooperation. We need to promote a global partnership of connectivity to achieve common development and prosperity.

- ⇒ We will continue to make good use of the Belt and Road Special Lending Scheme, the Silk Road Fund, and various special investment funds, develop Silk Road theme bonds, and support the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance in its operation.
- ⇒ We welcome the participation of multilateral and national financial institutions in BRI investment and financing and encourage third-market cooperation. With the involvement of multiple stakeholders, we can surely deliver benefits to all.

- ⇒ We need to promote trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, say no to protectionism, and make economic globalisation more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

Infrastructure is the bedrock of connectivity, while the lack of infrastructure has held up the development of many countries.

- ⇒ We have also formulated the Guiding Principles on Financing the Development of the Belt and Road and published the Debt Sustainability Framework for Participating Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative to provide guidance for BRI financing cooperation.
- ⇒ We need to keep up with the trend of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, jointly seize opportunities created by digital, networked and smart development, explore new technologies and new forms and models of business, foster new growth drivers and explore new development pathways, and build the digital Silk Road and the Silk Road of innovation.
- ⇒ Imbalance in development is the greatest imbalance confronting today's world. In the joint pursuit of the BRI, we must always take a development-oriented approach and see that the vision of sustainable development underpins project selection, implementation and management.
- ⇒ We have set up the BRI Environmental Big Data Platform. We will continue to implement the Green Silk Road Envoys Programme and work with relevant countries to jointly implement the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change.
- ⇒ We will also put in place new mechanisms such as the Belt and Road Studies Network and the Belt and Road News Alliance to draw inspiration and pool our strength for

greater synergy.

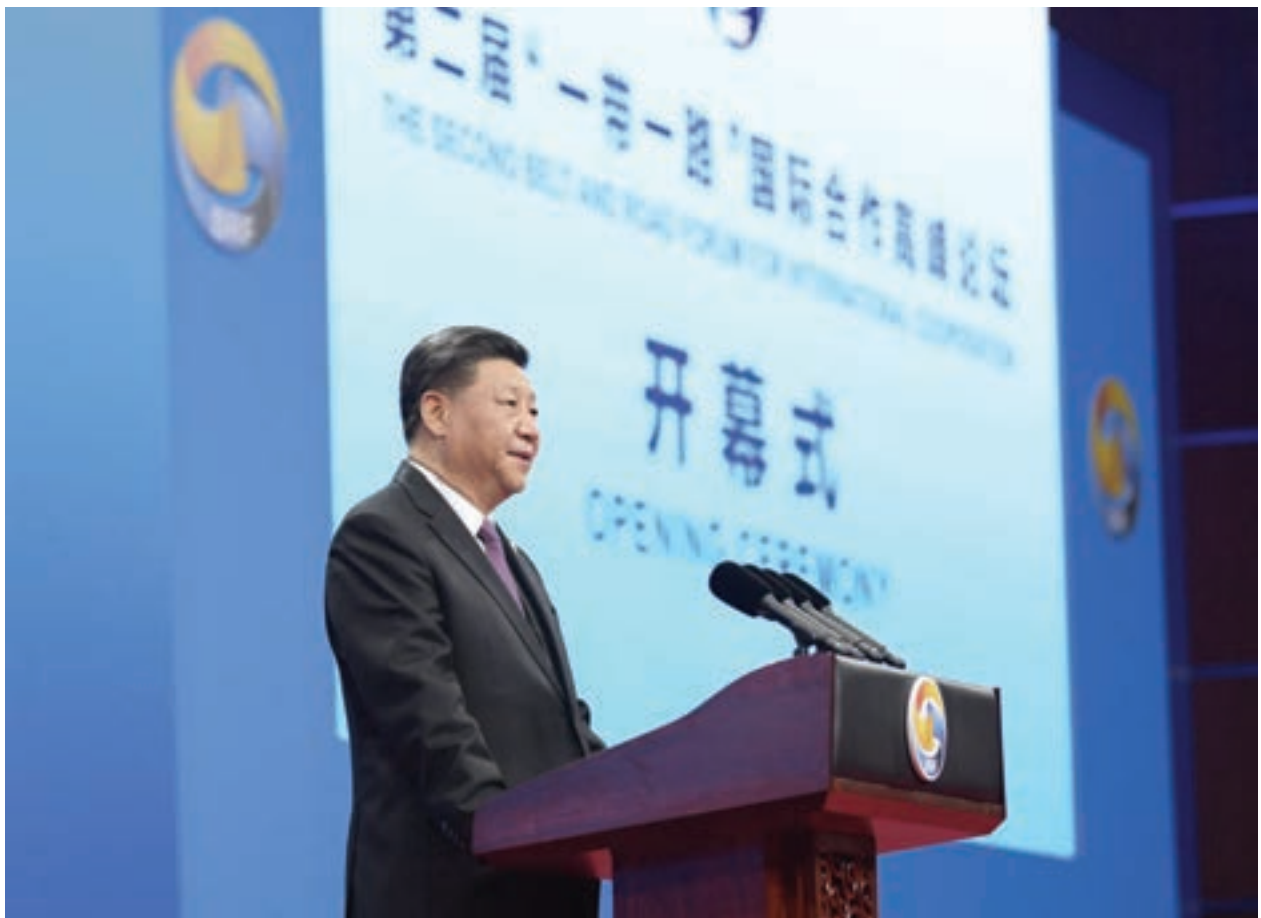
- ⇒ Today, China has reached a new historical starting point. However, we are keenly aware that with all we have achieved, there are still many mountains to scale and many shoals to navigate.
- ⇒ We will continue to advance along the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, deepen sweeping reforms, pursue quality development, and expand opening-up. We remain committed to peaceful development and will endeavour to build a community with a shared future for mankind.
- ⇒ Going forward, China will take a series of major reforms and opening-up measures and make stronger institutional and structural moves to boost higher quality opening-up.
- ⇒ We will expand market access for foreign investment in more areas. We will work for the all-round opening-up of modern services, manufacturing and agriculture, and will allow the operation of foreign-controlled or wholly foreign-owned businesses in more sectors.
- ⇒ We will plan new pilot free trade zones and

We have also formulated the Guiding Principles on Financing the Development of the Belt and Road and published the Debt Sustainability Framework for Participating Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative to provide guidance for BRI financing cooperation.

explore at a faster pace the opening of a free trade port.

- ⇒ We will intensify efforts to enhance international cooperation in intellectual property protection. Without innovation, there will be no progress.

- ⇒ China will strengthen cooperation with other countries in intellectual property protection, create an enabling environment for innovation and promote technological exchanges and cooperation with other countries on the basis of market principles and the rule of law.
- ⇒ We will increase the import of goods and services on an even larger scale. China is both a global factory and a global market. With the world's largest and fastest growing middle-income population, China has a vast potential for increasing consumption. We will steadily open China's market wider to quality products from across the world.
- ⇒ China does not seek trade surplus; we want to import more competitive quality agricultural products, manufactured goods and services to promote balanced trade.
- ⇒ We will more effectively engage in international macro-economic policy coordination.
- ⇒ China will not resort to the beggar-thy-neighbour practice of RMB devaluation. On the contrary, we will continue to improve the exchange rate regime, see that the market plays a decisive role in resource allocation and keep the RMB exchange rate basically stable at an adaptive and equilibrium level.
- ⇒ We are convinced that a more open China will further integrate itself into the world and deliver greater progress and prosperity for both China and the world at large.
- ⇒ Let us join hands to sow the seeds of cooperation, harvest the fruits of development, bring greater happiness to our people and make our world a better place for all!





BRI A NEW MODEL OF GLOBALISATION, SAY EXPERTS

Experts say that the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation reaffirms China's commitment to advance economic reforms and global cooperation.



The just-concluded Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) reaffirms China's commitment to further open up, bolster international cooperation and realise tangible benefits on the ground, experts say. The speech delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the second BRF (April 25-27) in Beijing, "reflects another chapter of China's opening and promoting international cooperation," said Selcuk Colakoglu, director of Turkish Center for Asia Pacific Studies.

"China has increasingly become a staunch supporter of inclusive growth, common, sustainable and green development, international trade liberalisation, and good global governance," added Mr Colakoglu. Addressing the Belt and Road forum, President Xi announced new measures for China to further open up, including broadening market access, strengthening intellectual property

rights (IPR) protection, increasing imports, and setting up new free-trade pilot zones.

Mr Colakoglu, meanwhile, praised the BRF for building infrastructure that "could help countries give full play to their advantages in resources and better integrate into the global supply, industry and value chains for interconnected development."

Ismael Buchanan from the University of Rwanda said he agrees with President Xi that infrastructure is a bottleneck of development facing many countries, adding "the initiative will contribute to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, employment creation, and better integration of the world."

On President Xi's call for high-quality development of the Belt and Road construction, Lothar Herrmann, head of Siemens (Greater China), said that high-quality development is the

right formula going forward for this initiative. “High quality means to construct an open and inclusive playing ground for all participants, to drive practical cooperation ... and to bring tangible benefits,” he said, adding that the BRF Initiative has proven to be “a strong force for the development of globalisation that connects people and economies.”

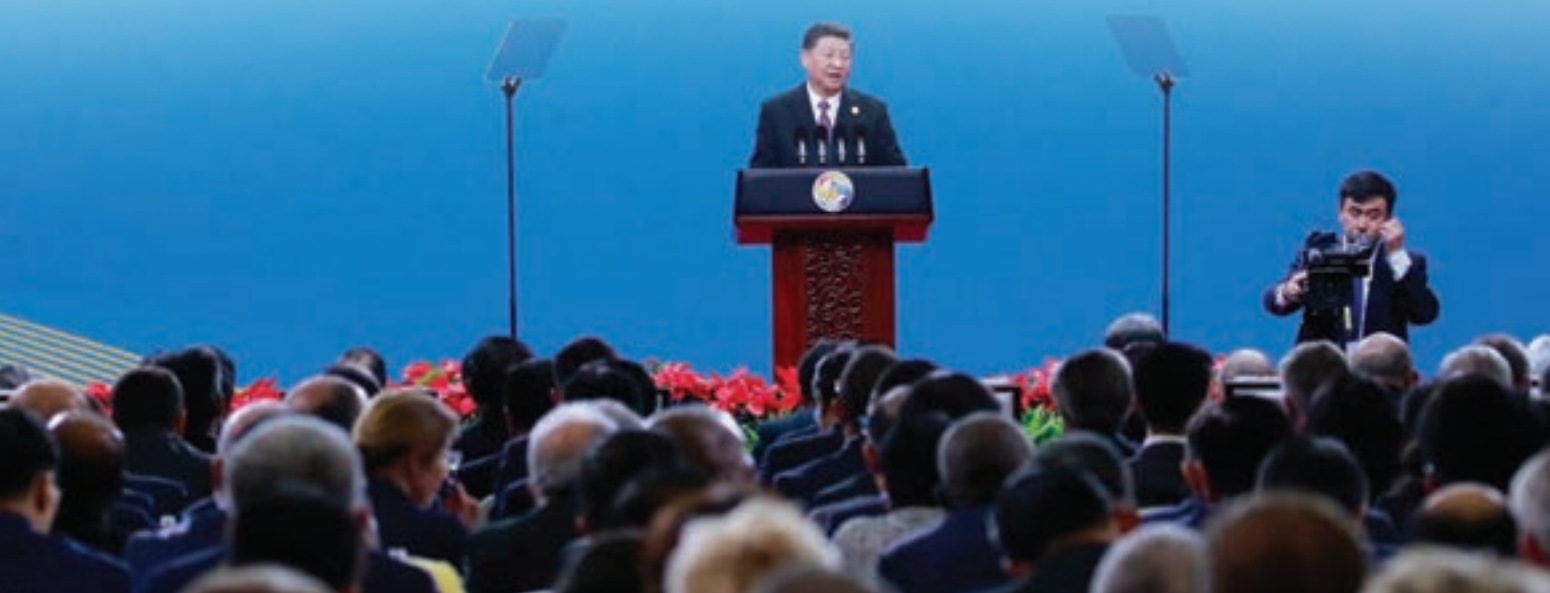
French expert David Gosset said the Chinese president “reaffirmed his commitment to China’s new level of openness.” It shows that China not only embraces the world in a constructive manner through a major diplomatic initiative, but the country is increasingly open to foreign business, talents and ideas, Gosset added. “In a world of rapid changes, threatened by many divisive forces, China appears as the connector country, connecting East and West but also North and South,” noted the French expert.

The head of the Oriental Studies Department of the Russian Higher School of Economics Research University, Alexei Maslov, said: “The second Belt and Road forum is a new model of globalisation ... many countries support the Belt and Road Initiative as a global platform for multilateral cooperationThe second forum is a new mechanism of interaction between countries”.

Andrei Ostrovsky, deputy director of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said, “The second Belt and Road forum is, in fact, creating some new mechanisms and new forms of interaction between states.”

He also noted that Beijing intends to accelerate the formation of procedures that will facilitate China’s trade and economic cooperation with other states and will continue to create conditions for financing projects within the framework of the Belt and Road. “Xi noted that such measures are in line with China’s policy to increase market openness,” Mr Ostrovsky added. “This means that all countries of the economic belt of the Silk Road can get real benefits from the implementation of this initiative,” he said.

The Russian media reported that President Vladimir Putin believes the initiative has a bright future. According to the report, Mr Putin said the initiative stems from China’s national interests while conforming to the interests of most countries and taking full account of the interests of partners. It also represents China’s efforts to safeguard the principles of the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund as well as to maintain global economic stability, Mr Putin was quoted as saying.





A blueprint for green development

The BRI's commitment to green growth is proving to be an attractive proposition for many global companies

One of the major achievements of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), which was held in Beijing on April 26, was the promise of making green development a part of the consensus reached by the participating countries. A series of cooperative documents on green development was signed at the forum, highlighting the importance of sustainability of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

“The Belt and Road is not just a road of prosperity, it is also a road of green development,” said China’s Minister of Ecology and Environment Li Ganjie at a thematic forum of the BRF.

At the forum, a proposal on green cooling was raised, which aimed at enhancing policy

and standard coordination as well as technology exchanges among Belt and Road countries in the air conditioning industry.



China's Minister of Ecology and Environment Li Ganjie



“The demand for cooling has been growing for people in countries and regions along the Belt and Road, posing potential environmental challenges that need to be addressed through collaboration,” said Mr Zou Ji, president of the Energy Foundation China, which helped initiate the proposal.

China has repeatedly called for a green and sustainable BRI. “The Belt and Road Initiative pursues the vision of green development and a way of life and work that is green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable,” read a report published this month on the progress, contributions and prospects of the BRI.

Green Development has Many Takers

This commitment to green development in the BRI has attracted global companies and associations to participate in the project.

Mohamed Helal, vice president of Gizatec, an Egyptian company that focuses

on eco-friendly fertiliser technology, said the BRI has provided a platform for companies with different advantages to work together to address environmental challenges.

“It is important that countries can form strategic alliances through the Belt and Road Initiative to work on developing eco-friendly and low carbon emission technologies that are committed to climate change issues. These technologies are always found to be economical and more effective,” said Mr Helal.

Davide Cucino, chairman of the China-Italy Chamber of Commerce, said that he is glad to see the forum place a lot of emphasis on high-quality development of the BRI.

“High quality implies sustainability. We are not only talking about environmental and economic aspects but also social sustainability. These are the values we need to share when we do business,” Mr Cucino said.





BRSN



FORGING THINK TANKS NETWORK FOR A SMART BRI

With the global spotlight focused on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a network of think tanks and research institutions was launched in Beijing ahead of the second Belt and Road Forum to provide intellectual support to the BRI.

The Belt and Road Studies Network (BRSN), co-initiated by the Xinhua Institute and

15 other think tanks and inaugurated on April 24, is a pioneering platform that seeks to spur a freewheeling debate on various aspects of this grand China-initiated trans-continental initiative for building infrastructure and connectivity projects around the world. More than 200 experts and scholars from 59 countries and two international organisations attended the inaugural meeting of the BRSN.

The BRSN is an open mechanism of academic exchanges and cooperation, which will serve international think tanks, international and regional organisations and researchers of various countries, and promote the studies and academic exchanges on the BRI, according to a statement issued at the inauguration meeting.

Its 16 initiators formed an initiators' council, and Cai Mingzhao, President of Xinhua News Agency and Chairman of Xinhua Institute, serves as Chairperson of the council. Xinhua Institute, the leading initiator, also hosts the secretariat of the council.



Japan's former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama speaking at a reception, organised by the Xinhua Institute, to mark the launch of the Belt and Road Studies Network (BRSN) in Beijing.

The official website, www.brsn.net, was launched at the meeting. The BRSN will also launch its App, as well as create a BRSN journal and a Belt and Road basic database.

The BRSN was launched a day ahead of the second BRF, which was attended by 40 world leaders and high-level representatives from 150 countries and 92 international organisations.

Think tanks have a key role: Xi

With the BRI facing charges of debt-trap diplomacy, the importance of bringing intellectuals and experts together on the BRSN platform can't be underestimated.

Underlining the importance of think tanks in enabling a better and nuanced understanding of BRI, President Xi Jinping sent a letter to

BRI originates in China, it belongs to the world. In his letter, Mr Xi stressed that the initiative has become an open and inclusive platform for international cooperation and popular global public goods, thanks to the concerted efforts of all parties.

Mr Xi underscored that think tanks are an



congratulate the inauguration of the BRSN. The overarching message of the Chinese leader, who first unveiled the idea of BRI at Nazarbayev University in Astana in 2013, was that although the

The BRSN is an open mechanism of academic exchanges and cooperation, which will serve international think tanks, international and regional organisations and researchers of various countries, and promote the studies and academic exchanges on the BRI.

important force in the joint pursuit of the BRI, adding that exchanges and cooperation among think tanks help deepen mutual trust, build consensus, and advance the joint pursuit of the BRI towards higher levels.

Setting the tone for discussions at the BRSN, Mr Cai said that BRSN will be “an open-ended platform for exchange of ideas and thoughts on BRI.” “The BRI is not only in the interests of China, but is also in the interests of the world,” said Wang Jingqing, Vice-President of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Underlining the importance of think tanks in enabling a better and nuanced understanding of the BRI, President Xi Jinping sent a letter to congratulate the inauguration of the BRSN.



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Countering misconceptions

“In a period when misconceptions about China dominate the Western public sphere, the BRSN offers a creative approach to setting the record straight. Representatives of several Chinese think tanks have already talked about the necessity of “theoretical innovation.” “This could contribute to creation of new analytical frameworks to better explain the BRI,” writes George N. Tzogopoulos in *China Daily*.

“Terms such as ‘a community of shared future for the humanity,’ for example, require further academic analysis in order for scholars, especially those in the West, to fully understand their meaning,” he wrote.

The BRSN plans to hold an academic exchange event each year, organise seminars and field trips to Belt and Road projects, and raise money to set up a non-profit Belt and Road international research fund.

The inauguration of the BRSN will promote think tank studies on the Belt and Road to a higher level, and contribute more wisdom and strength to the Belt and Road construction, said the statement.





Strengthen Interconnectivity and Share BRI Opportunities

By H. E. LUO ZHAOHUI

A few days ago, the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) concluded successfully and fruitfully. Forty leaders, including heads of state and government and heads of international organizations, attended the round-table summit. More than 6,000 foreign guests from 150 countries and 92 international organizations were present at the Forum. Over 100 multilateral and bilateral cooperation documents were signed between China and relevant countries and international organizations. A list of 283 concrete deliverables was put together. Chinese and foreign enterprises reached cooperation agreements worth more than \$64 billion.

Open & Green BRI

President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech during the Forum, demonstrating to the world China's sincerity and determination to implement the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) under the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits with partner

President Xi pointed out that China will pursue open, green and clean cooperation, and stick to high-standard, people-centered, and sustainable development. China will follow international rules and standards widely supported by all parties and respect the laws and regulations of each country.

countries. President Xi pointed out that China will pursue open, green and clean cooperation, and stick to high-standard, people-centered, and sustainable development. China will follow international rules and standards widely supported by all parties and respect the laws and regulations of each country.

The BRF set the goal of jointly promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, established a global partnership for interconnectivity, and built new platforms for the match-up of local governments and the industrial and commercial communities. It has been made clear that the Belt



It is noted that India was once again absent from the Forum. I believe India has the least reason to be absent. More than two thousand years ago, China and India built close relations of interconnectivity and mutual exchanges through the ancient Silk Road including the Maritime Silk Road.

and Road international cooperation architecture will be led by the BRF and underpinned by multilateral and bilateral cooperation in various areas. The BRI has lent fresh impetus for global economic growth.

Why India should join BRI

It is noted that India was once again absent from the Forum. I believe India has the least reason to be absent. More than two thousand years ago, China and India built close relations of interconnectivity and mutual exchanges through the ancient Silk Road, including the Maritime Silk Road.

Nowadays, China and India have achieved comprehensive connectivity by land, sea and air. Although the boundary between the two countries has not been demarcated, there are

several border trade points. Indian pilgrims can make yatras to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet, China through Nathula Pass and Qiang La (Lipulekh) Pass. The two sides opened the maritime route through the DaChan Bay Terminals in Shenzhen and most bilateral trade in goods is by sea. There are 47 weekly flights between the two countries. Personnel exchanges in 2018 exceeded one million. More than 20,000 Indian students are studying in China.

Since its establishment, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has provided more than \$2 billion for Indian infrastructure projects, which makes up nearly 30% of its total loans, making India its biggest beneficiary.

China and India have conducted cooperation under the framework of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM). During the Wuhan Summit, the Indian leader pointed out that BCIM construction should be speeded up. We expect that the fourth meeting of the Joint Study Group would be held earlier this year to complete the joint study report.

Reducing Trade Deficit

The Indian side is deeply concerned about its trade deficit with China. I believe connectivity is the key to its solution. Direct connectivity between



the two countries or indirect connectivity via third countries will facilitate the flow of goods, capital and people and make our bilateral trade more balanced. With better interconnectivity, BRI could have more strategic convergence with India's "Act East" policy and "Spice Route" to achieve common development.

There are no losers in win-win cooperation. As the world is becoming a global village, both China and India have benefited from globalisation. After the Wuhan Summit, China-India relations have entered a new phase, with improving and

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upgrading quality, hence providing political guidance for accelerating interconnectivity. Recently, the listing issue of Masood Azhar has been resolved, adding positive factors to bilateral relations. We understand India's concerns on the BRI. It is only right to separate the issues left over by history with the BRI and the welfare of the two peoples.

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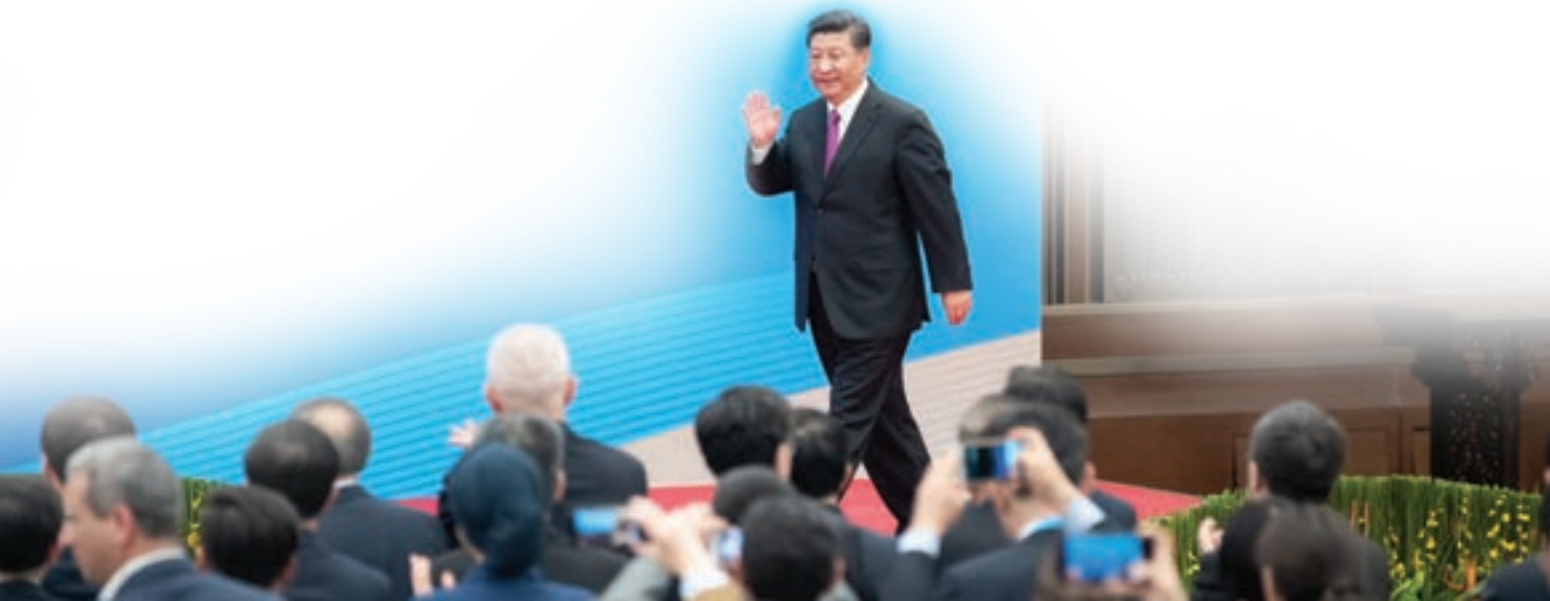
Win-Win Cooperation

I noticed that public opinion in India had undergone a quiet change before and after the BRF. More attention has been paid to achievements of the BRI and people have come to recognise BRI's increasing international popularity and China's sensitivity to the concerns of all parties. India's neighbouring countries have participated in the BRI, and some scholars are calling for rethinking India's existing policies and re-examining it with pragmatic attitudes to avoid missing a historical opportunity.

The main theme of the BRI is to achieve win-win cooperation. It is not China's geo-strategic tool. We are expecting India to be part of the BRI. By doing so, India could be in a better position to explore its potential, give play to its unique advantages and improve regional infrastructure and promote regional interconnectivity.

As a saying goes, "Better late than never".

(Luo Zhaohui is Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to India. This article was first published in *Hindustan Times*.)





IT'S TIME FOR INDIA TO RETHINK ITS POSITION ON BRI

B. R. Deepak

The Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) was held in Beijing from April 25-27, 2019, with the theme of “Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future”. The Forum was attended by 38 Heads of State and delegates from 150 countries and 92 international organisations.

At the end of the forum, 283 deliverables and agreements worth \$64 billion were signed across different sectors such as agriculture, science and technology, ecological protection and cultural exchange, thus taking the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) beyond the infrastructure connectivity projects. I was among the few Indians, perhaps only one from the academic circles, to attend the forum and had the opportunity to engage in extensive discussions with delegates from other countries.

The BRI is almost six years old and China took a stock of the ‘project of the century’ in terms of its geo-economics as well as politics. What emerged clearly from President Xi Jinping’s speech at the Forum is that China is convinced that the projects signed with 125 countries and

29 international organisations during the first forum in 2017 have “taken roots” along the “six economic corridors” in various countries. China’s trade with the BRI countries has exceeded \$6 trillion, implying that 50% of China’s GDP originates from these countries.

In 2018 August, Ning Jizhen, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and director of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), revealed that 103 countries and international organisations have signed 118 cooperation agreements with China on the BRI. The implementation rate of these projects is 95%.

It is the massive Chinese investment for such projects that is appealing to foreign countries, including the new entrant Italy, the first in the G7 grouping to sign BRI-related agreements, and Switzerland. Both countries have echoed President Xi Jinping’s words: “BRI is a common road of opportunities, a road towards prosperity.”

The focus has been on the “six economic corridors” of which the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been projected as the flagship one, and the work is progressing smoothly. The construction of the China-Laos Railway, the China-Thai Railway and the Hungary-Serbia Railway has been progressing steadily; construction work on some sections of the Jakarta-Bandung High-speed Railway has been initiated, and the Gwadar Port could be operated to its full capacity. Other rail projects such as Djibouti-Addis Ababa and Mombasa-Nairobi have been completed.

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The China Club

The China Club, as many have referred to it, is undoubtedly becoming more and more attractive to many countries. I had extensive discussions with the delegates from Europe, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America. Nearly all the participants believed that prior to the Chinese initiative, the



The China-built Ethiopia-Djibouti railway was inaugurated in October 2016.

If one believes in the data provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia will require an infrastructure investment of \$26 trillion between 2016 and 2030, which is roughly about \$1.7 trillion per annum. If the West remains non-committal towards investing in the region, people will certainly welcome it from any quarter.

US and its allies were the sole providers of the global goods, but when China is willing to provide the same and wanting to make them inclusive by everyone’s participation, questions are being asked about the intention behind these projects.

If one believes in the data provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia will require an infrastructure investment of \$26 trillion between 2016 and 2030, which is roughly about \$1.7 trillion per annum. If the West remains non-committal towards investing in the region, people will certainly welcome it from any quarter.

Delegates from South Asia have seen the initiative as a massive opportunity for building capacities and eradicating poverty. China has invested billions of dollars in India’s immediate neighbourhood: in Bangladesh, infrastructure projects over \$10 billion are being executed.

Nepal is executing the China-Nepal Transit and Transportation Agreement, which will facilitate the building of a connectivity network in terms of roads, rails, air and optical fiber cables along Koshi, Kaligandaki and Karnali corridors.

Sri Lanka is upbeat about the Chinese investment in spite of having leased the Hambantota Port and 15,000 acres of surrounding land to China for a period of 99 years.

Roadmap for Shared Opportunities

Interestingly, during this forum, of all the 13 bilateral and 16 multilateral agreements with Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan almost none is in the infrastructure

sector. While connectivity, mutual consultation, joint development contribution, and shared benefits remains the golden principles of the BRI, the BRI-2 has laid emphasis on the “high quality development” that would be accompanied by an open, green, clean and sustainable development. This will bring greater benefits to the people in the BRI countries by reducing poverty, increasing employment opportunities, and improving people-to-people ties, as conveyed by President Xi Jinping’s speech at the forum.

The “high quality development” perhaps is meant to blunt the Japanese pitch of building

The BRI-2 has laid emphasis on the “high quality development” that would be accompanied by an open, green, clean and sustainable development, which will bring greater benefits to the people along the BRI countries.

“quality infrastructure” in the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor and the Indo-Pacific Region where India is a partner country. The presence of all the 10 ASEAN countries at the forum underlined that the Japanese pitch was never a counter to the BRI. Furthermore, the presence of former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatayama and many other delegates from Japan shows that the country has warmed up to the Chinese initiative, and is even proposing joint investment in third countries, which China has welcomed for various reasons, including financing of the projects.

Made in China 2025

Obviously, the Chinese initiative, including others such as “Made in China 2025,” has invited backlash from some countries, especially the US. They have blamed China for initiating “neo-colonial” policies and establishing a “China-centric” order. The issue of government debt in some countries has been hyped and the Chinese loans to such countries are portrayed as debt traps. These may be few aberrations amongst the 21,284 projects

the Chinese companies contracted in more than 60 countries between 2015 and 2018 worth \$410.78 billion.

China perhaps has come a long way to understand the political, economic, cultural, environmental and legal risks of the BRI projects. Unlike the initial phase of the BRI, the projects are weighed for every risk and are subjected to asset-liability ratios and return on capital requirements. Moreover, some of the debt issues may have existed before the Chinese investment, and are therefore not necessarily related to the BRI. Nevertheless, some of the concerns are genuine.

Finally, the longevity of the BRI has been ensured by incorporating it into the constitution of the Communist Party of China. In other words, it makes it an important component of China’s development blueprint as well as the dream of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

India’s official absence from the 2019 forum was conspicuous even though the Tricolour flew high along with the flags of BRI countries at every venue of the forum. India has been critical of China’s insensitivities towards its core interest in the region, especially China’s investment in the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. Nevertheless, the “opposition” or “boycott” to the BRI will not yield any results.

India’s passive participation in the BRI through the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM) has been rendered meaningless, as the corridor has been replaced by the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. The question of sovereignty regarding the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir is not new. Did we stop engaging China or Pakistan on account of this? If not, I believe, it is time for India to rethink the question of BRI.

(The author is Professor, Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, JNU, Delhi)

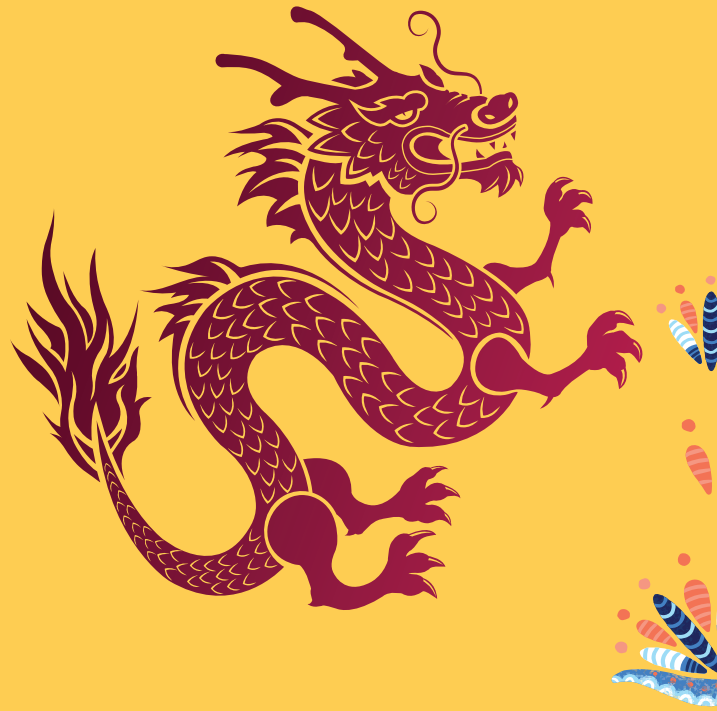
The establishment of diplomatic ties was a major event in China-India relations, which had significant international implications. Through the sufferings of aggression by colonialists and fascists, the two ancient Eastern civilisations had come together side by side and opened a brilliant chapter in the journey of national independence and liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America, ushering in the magnificent process of reviving Eastern civilisations.



The establishment of diplomatic ties built on the friendly exchanges between China and India for two thousand years.

Towering snow-capped mountains and vast expanse of deserts have never blocked the exchanges between Chinese and Indian civilisations. Emperor Ming of the Eastern Han Dynasty once dreamed of a golden statue and then dispatched envoys to the Western Regions. They met two eminent monks Kasyapa Matanga and Dharmaraksa from India with a white horse, carrying Buddhism scriptures on the way to China.

Dragon-Elephant Creating an



The Imperial Hotel in the downtown of New Delhi is much favoured by Chinese because of its close bond with the People's Republic of China. After the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India on April 1, 1950, the hotel was rented as a temporary chancery for Chinese diplomats for three years. The first batch of diplomats of the PRC started their mission from scratch and made

Tango Asian Century



a great contribution to laying the foundation of China-India relations.

As a Chinese saying goes, “A man seldom reaches the age of seventy years in ancient times.” Looking back on the history after the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India for nearly 70 years, I can’t help but feel overwhelmed with emotions.

- H.E. Luo Zhaohui

This indicates that Buddhism was introduced eastward to China from its cradle in India. Monk Xuanzang made a pilgrimage to the West for Buddhism scriptures. Several other eminent monks also crossed sea and mountains alone far to India. Zhang Qian, a famous Chinese envoy in Han Dynasty, went to the Western Regions and discovered “Shu cloth” and “bamboo sticks” that were imported from India. Chinese paper-



making, silk, porcelain and tea were introduced to India, and Indian songs and dances, astronomy, architecture and spices were introduced to China. This is a historical evidence of mutual exchanges between the two sides via the ancient Silk Road.

During his seven expeditions, the great Chinese navigator Zheng He visited India six times. Since modern times, Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other Chinese revolutionists had been supporting the Indian independence movement. Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore visited China twice and advocated Eastern spiritual civilisation together with Tan Yunshan (the founding director of the

The first phase is the “honeymoon period” immediately after the establishment of diplomatic relations. In addition to jointly proposing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Premier Zhou Enlai and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru exchanged visits and jointly attended the Bandung Conference, guiding the agenda and process of the conference.

Department of Chinese Language and Culture “Cheena-Bhavana” at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan). During the war against Japanese aggression, India sent a medical mission to China in which Doctor Dwarkanath Kotnis, one outstanding representative of this medical team, sacrificed his life in China. Prof. Xu Fancheng, a famous Chinese scholar and translator, spent 33 years in India, where he translated the Hindu classic Bhagavad Gita.

A New Journey: Four Phases

The establishment of diplomatic ties opened a new journey in the development of modern China-India relations. India was the first non-



India's then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, then Vice-President S. Radhakrishnan, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and President Rajendra Prasad at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi in June 1954.

socialist country to establish diplomatic relations with China. The Indian film *Awaara* had since swept China and influenced a generation. “Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai” had become a catchphrase in India, inspiring young people to join the tide of China-India friendship. In my view, China-India relations can be divided into four phases since the establishment of diplomatic ties:

The first phase is the “honeymoon period” immediately after the establishment of diplomatic relations. In addition to jointly proposing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Premier Zhou Enlai and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru exchanged visits and jointly attended the Bandung Conference, guiding the agenda and process of the conference. China and India also conducted cooperation on the 1954 Geneva Conference regarding the settlement of outstanding issues resulting from the First Indochina War.

In the second phase, after the border conflict in 1962, China-India relations fell into a “frozen period”. It was not until Labour Day in 1970 that Chairman Mao Zedong, after shaking hands with Mr. Brajesh Mishra, the then Charge d’Affaires of the Indian Embassy in China at the Tian’anmen Rostrum, said “we cannot keep on quarrelling like this. We should try and be friends again.” The two sides then resumed contacts. In 1988, the then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi started his “ice-breaking visit” to China, and the two sides reached the consensus to delink the boundary question from the overall development of bilateral relations.

The third phase, from the 1990s to the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, is the “recovery period” of China-India relations. China and India began the process of normalisation of the bilateral relations. The two countries found more common language by seeking development and cooperation, promoted reform and opening up through mutual learning, and pushed for a complete settlement of the issues of Tibet and Sikkim left by the history. Entering the new century, China and India have expanded cooperation from bilateral to multilateral areas,



China's President Xi Jinping and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi walk together in Wuhan in April 2018.

and have joined hands to speak up for emerging economies.

The fourth phase, from the CPC's 18th National Congress in 2012 until the present, is the "acceleration period" of China-India relations. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi initiated "hometown diplomacy" and put huge efforts into advancing China-India relations to new heights. India was the first stop of Premier Li Keqiang's outgoing visits since he took office. Bilateral relations experienced large fluctuations due to the Dongleng standoff in 2017. However, the two leaders decided to take a forward-looking approach to "turn the page and open a new chapter of the bilateral relations" during the BRICS Xiamen summit in September 2017. With great vision, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi held their first historic informal meeting in Wuhan in April 2018. Subsequently, the two leaders met three times on different occasions and three Chinese State Councilors also visited India respectively. China-India relations have upgraded and entered the fast track of development, becoming a highlight of China's neighborhood diplomacy. This represents a successful practice of Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy.

Trends & Directions

In general, China-India relations have experienced hardships and overcome obstacles. The current sound momentum of development has not

come by easily and should be cherished. Taking history as a mirror, we have the following observations:

First, leaders' strategic guidance runs through China-India relations. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, our two leaders have always firmly grasped the general direction of the development of China-India relations. Whenever we fought side by side during the national liberation movement, or put relations back on track after border conflicts, whenever we learned from each other in the tide of reform and opening up, or explored ways for major emerging and neighboring countries to get along with each other in the new era, our two leaders, like helmsmen, always set things right at crucial moments and lead the ship of China-India relations through the waves to forge ahead.

Second, China-India relations have gone through twists and turns, but the forward momentum is unstoppable. From the perspective of the four phases after the establishment of diplomatic relations, China-India relations have experienced ups and downs. From the perspective of peak-valley fluctuation model, the fluctuation interval is getting shorter and shorter, which shows the sensitivity, maturity and adaptability of China-India relations. The past 69 years have proved that friendly cooperation, which has dominated most of the time, is the general trend and the mainstream, far more prominent than differences and frictions.



China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi with India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

Boosting P2P Ties & Pragmatic Cooperation

Third, people-to-people exchanges are the “adhesive” for bilateral relations. The Chinese and Indian civilizations share the same Eastern gene, which enabled us to break down barriers and emerge even in difficult times. In 1981, China and India resumed yatra for Indian pilgrims to Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar in Tibet, China. So far, the two countries have established over ten pairs of sister cities or provinces, and personnel exchanges have exceeded one million. The total number of Indian students studying in China is over 20,000.



Chinese food, acupuncture, martial arts and movie stars are becoming increasingly popular in India. Practicing yoga, tasting Darjeeling tea and watching Bollywood films have become fashionable among the Chinese youth. Yunnan Minzu University of China became the first university outside India to award master's degrees in yoga. Last year, the two countries established the High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism and held its first meeting. It is another creative initiative to deepen people-to-people ties between the two countries, which unprecedented in the history of China-India relations.

Fourth, pragmatic cooperation is the “ballast stone”. The Nathu La Pass was the main access to the Southern line of the Silk Road as part of the “Tea Horse Road” in the history. In 2006, China and India reopened the Nathu La border trade route, which had been closed for 44 years. China has been India's largest trading partner for consecutive years, with bilateral trade reaching a record high of \$95.5 billion in 2018.

At present, more than 1,000 Chinese companies are doing business in India, and Chinese mobile phone brands such as Xiaomi, VIVO and OPPO have cornered half of the Indian market. The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) of India has established three IT corridors in Dalian, Guizhou and Xuzhou, China. China and India have great potential for cooperation in the fields of medicine, information technology and interconnectivity.

Promoting globalisation

Fifth, multilateral cooperation is the “growth point”. As developing countries, China and India both face the same tasks of developing the economy and improving people's livelihoods. The two countries are at a critical stage of deepening reform and advancing the modernisation process, which require a favourable external environment. As

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members of multilateral organizations such as RIC, the BRICS, SCO and the G20, both China and India share common interests in promoting globalisation and opposing trade protectionism. The interests of China and India converge as the two countries share similar positions on major international issues. By speaking in one voice, the two countries are injecting new impetus into the development of the bilateral relations.

Managing Differences

Sixth, managing differences is the “stabiliser”. China-India relations have been disturbed by differences and problems from time to time. The “negative list” not only includes issues such as the boundary question, and Dalai Lama left by history, but also emerging ones such as the listing issue of the UN Security Council 1267 Committee.

Some third-party factors such as Pakistan, the United States, and South Asia have implications for China-India relations as well. China and India have successfully resolved the issues of Tibet and Sikkim through consultation and dialogue. In recent years, the two countries have been exploring “China-India Plus”, a new model of cooperation, and successfully carried out a joint China-India training programme for Afghan diplomats. It should be the direction of efforts for China and India to enhance mutual trust, enlarge cooperation cakes and narrow down the divergence.

The Road Ahead

China and India will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2020. Looking forward, we should continue to take Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy as guidance and highlight the three key words of “transmission”, “stability” and “vision” to achieve steady and long-term development of China-India relations.

Regarding transmission, we need to transmit the consensus of the two leaders achieved during the Wuhan summit to the grass-root level, and translate it into action. Regarding stability, we need to transcend the crisis-managing diplomacy and explore a model to actively shape the relations and break the cycle of ups and downs in the bilateral relations. Regarding vision, we need to be guided by four-area cooperation, namely negotiating and signing “China-India Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly

China-India relations have gone through twists and turns, but the forward momentum is unstoppable. From the perspective of peak-valley fluctuation model, the fluctuation interval is getting shorter and shorter, which shows the sensitivity, maturity and adaptability of China-India relations.

Cooperation”, exploring free trade agreements, initiating consultations on early harvests of the boundary question, and achieving synergy on the Belt and Road Initiative. I believe that as two ancient civilisations, China and India have the ability and wisdom to find a path for major emerging and neighbouring countries to get along with each other, join hands to realise the “Dragon-Elephant Tango”, create an Asian Century and achieve greater glory in the next 70 years!

(This article was first published in the *Indian Express* in April.)

China, India focus on sustaining positive momentum in ties

India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale visited Beijing on April 22 for Foreign Office consultations, which focused on taking forward the Wuhan Consensus and bolstering China-India cooperation in international and regional affairs.

Ahead of the first anniversary of the Wuhan informal summit meeting between the leaders of China and India, India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale visited Beijing on April 22 for regular diplomatic consultations to sustain momentum in bilateral ties. During his visit to Beijing, Mr Gokhale called on China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and held talks with Executive Vice Foreign Minister of China Le Yucheng and Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou.

The talks focused on fast-tracking implementation of decisions taken at the first informal meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 27-28, 2018, in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The two sides also discussed a host of regional and international issues.

In his talks with Mr Gokhale, China's Foreign Minister Wang said that as neighbouring countries, representatives of emerging economies



China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale in Beijing.



In his talks with Mr Gokhale, China's Foreign Minister Wang said that as neighbouring countries, representatives of emerging economies and strategic cooperative partners, China and India should continue to strengthen strategic communication, enhance political mutual trust, and maintain close coordination in international and regional affairs.

and strategic cooperative partners, China and India should continue to strengthen strategic communication, enhance political mutual trust, and maintain close coordination in international and regional affairs. Mr Wang underlined that since the Wuhan summit nearly a year ago, the two countries have made great progress in bilateral relations and comprehensively promoted cooperation at all levels in various fields. “Our shared interests far outweigh differences. Since both nations are facing major global changes unprecedented in the past century, China and India should strengthen solidarity, keep the positive momentum of steady bilateral relations, and uphold the common interests of emerging economies and developing countries,” he told India’s top diplomat.

Alluding to the “brisk” political exchanges since the Wuhan summit, including Mr Wang’s visit to New Delhi to launch the High-Level People-to-People Mechanism, Mr Gokhale conveyed that External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is “looking forward to come to China this year”. “As your Excellency said, we will work together with the Chinese side to deepen understanding to strengthen trust to implement the decisions that were taken by leaders and do it in a manner in which we are sensitive to each other’s concerns,” he said.

The Indian side is willing to maintain high-level exchanges with the Chinese side, enhance mutual understanding, accommodate each other’s concerns, and promote greater development of India-China relations, said Mr Gokhale.

The foreign secretary’s visit ended with the reiteration of the shared commitment by both sides to sustain the Wuhan momentum in bilateral ties by maintaining high-level exchanges. The two sides decided to continue the dialogue in various fields, promote exchanges and cooperation in diverse areas, including economy, trade, people-to-people and cultural engagement, and defence. They also decided to strengthen coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs to promote the healthy and stable development of China-India relations.



China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India’s External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated a photo exhibition in New Delhi after the launch of the maiden High-Level China-India People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism in December 2018.

EXPERTS FROM CHINA, INDIA HOLD TRACK II DIALOGUE



A group photo of former diplomats and experts, who participated in the China-India Track II dialogue, which was held in Manesar, Haryana, in March 2019.

For veteran Chinese diplomat Dai Bingguo, a visit to India towards March-end was special – it was a visit to the country which loomed large in his diplomatic career and thinking. This time round, it was for a Track II dialogue between former senior diplomats and experts from China and India.

The high-level dialogue, held in Manesar in northern Haryana, located barely 60 km from Delhi, saw candid discussions on an entire gamut of bilateral, regional and global issues that impinge on China-India relationship.

Dai Bingguo, former Chinese State Councilor and Special Representative on Boundary

Question, and Shivshankar Menon, a former Indian National Security Adviser and SR, delivered keynote speeches at the meeting's opening ceremony, which was attended by more than 40 Chinese and Indian former government officials and academic experts.

The experts examined China-India relations in a changing global context, explored ways to further boost economic engagement and reviewed the search for a boundary settlement and management of borders, the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) said in a release. Enhancing defence and security cooperation figured prominently in the talks.

The two sides also discussed issues relating to economic and trade cooperation as well as the increasingly important role of China and India in global affairs. They believed that the dialogue was fruitful and expressed their confidence in the future development of the bilateral relations.

The dialogue was jointly held by the Institute of South Asian Studies of China's Sichuan University and the Institute of Chinese Studies in India.

The two sides agreed to hold the next dialogue in southwest China's Sichuan Province in 2020. The first such dialogue was held in Meishan in Chengdu, provincial capital of Sichuan Province in November 2017.

China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui also participated in the dialogue.

Former Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister's Special Envoy Shyam Saran and Qiu Yuanping, Standing Committee member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and former State Council Minister also spoke at the concluding session.

Ambassador Ashok K. Kantha, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies and Prof. Yan Shijing, Secretary General, China Center for South Asian Studies, Sichuan University agreed that these informal high-level discussions will continue.



China's former State Councilor and Special Representative for Boundary Talks Dai Binguo; and China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui



Spouses of participants in the China-India Track II dialogue.

Easing Kailash Mansarovar yatra: A symbol of China-India friendship

The Chinese government has allocated funds in its 12th Five-Year Plan and 13th Five-Year Plan to improve infrastructure in the TAR, including building of roads, provision of electricity and telecommunication facilities.



CII

Confederation of Indian Industry

The Kailash Mansarovar yatra is considered a sacred pilgrimage for millions of Hindus and Buddhists. For Hindus, the 6,675-metre high Mount Kailash is the abode of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and to Tibetans, it is Sumeru, the cosmic centre of the universe. According to the Hindu mythology, Lake Mansarovar personifies purity. Buddhists also consider the lake sacred as it is said to be the place where Queen Maya conceived Buddha.

A slew of recent steps taken by the government of China's Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) have enhanced ease of travel and the unique experience of the pilgrimage to this stunningly scenic habitat of gods. This came out vividly in a wide-ranging interaction between a delegation of visiting Tibetan officials and the pilgrims in New Delhi in early April.

Speaking to "yattris," Baimanyangzong, Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of China's Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), underlined that the Kailash Mansarovar yatra has emerged "as an important symbol of friendly relations between China and India."

Baimanyangzong informed them of arrangements made by the Chinese government to make travel easier for pilgrims. Three new reception centres have been constructed and other ancillary works are being undertaken, she said. "In 2018, there was a landslide on the Indian side, and [issues of] visa validity [of pilgrims] arose since many pilgrims' were delayed. We later extended their visas, so they could undertake the journey," she said. The Director General added that China has allocated funds in its 12th Five-Year Plan and 13th Five-Year Plan to improve infrastructure in the TAR, including building of roads, provision of electricity and telecommunication facilities.

To facilitate easier travel of foreign tourists, the Chinese government is now mulling an upgrade of a domestic airport to an international one at the Ali prefecture of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), she said. Currently, there is no international airport near the area. The nearest airport is the Qunsha airport, which is around

200 kilometres from the pilgrimage sites.

Interacting with pilgrims, Minister Li Bijian, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy, spoke about the importance of Kailash Mansarovar yatra in boosting people-to-people ties between China and India. He informed the pilgrims of the ongoing upgrade and modernisation of infrastructure in the area and assured them of easing visa process for aspiring pilgrims. Mr Li, however, clarified that a holy dip has not been allowed by the authorities "keeping in view the fragility of the environment". "Mt Kailash and Lake Mansarovar are considered holy by many people, but there are environmental issues. To maintain that environment, a dip is not allowed. However, people can take a bath by taking the water from the lake through a gourd ladle," he said during the event.

The official Yatra is undertaken from June to September via two routes; one route is through the Lipulekh Pass and the other through Nathu La Pass. The route through the Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand), which involves some trekking, passes through important sites like Narayan Ashram and Patal Bhuvaneshwar. The pilgrims can also see the scenic beauty of Chialekh Valley or the Om Parvat, which has the natural occurrence of snow in the shape of "Om" on this mountain. The route through the Nathu La Pass (Sikkim) is motorable and suitable for senior citizens unable to undertake arduous trekking. From Gangtok, the route passes through scenic places like the Hangu lake, and through the vast landscape of the Tibetan plateau.



DEMOCRACY IN TIBET: ON THE FAST TRACK



A white paper on the achievements of Tibet's democratic reforms captures social and economic transformation of the region.

China's State Council Information Office on March 27 issued a white paper on the democratic reform and economic development in Tibet in the last six decades.

The democratic reform in Tibet is the greatest and most profound social transformation in the history of Tibet, the white paper *Democratic Reform in Tibet – Sixty Years On* said. “By abolishing serfdom, a grim and backward feudal system, Tibet was able to establish a new social system that liberated the people and made them the masters of the nation and society, thus ensuring their rights in all matters,” the paper added.

Abolishing Serfdom: Breaking Monopoly

The document noted in pre-reform Tibet, the three major estate-holders (governmental officials, nobles and upper-ranking lamas in monasteries) had a monopoly on cultivated land, pastures, mountains, rivers and most livestock. The other one million Tibetan serfs and slaves had no personal possessions. Under the system, the estate holders deprived the serfs of their all rights and exploited them with exorbitant taxes and levies, and exercised strict control of their minds in the

name of religion, it added. The serfs were also physically tortured.

“Serfdom is the most brutal form of slavery in feudal society. It is a barbaric and backward social system in terms of economic development, political democracy or human rights protection,” the white paper read. “By the 1950s, the very existence of feudal serfdom had violated the development trend of human history,” added the white paper, noting that such a system was a stain on the civilisation and was destined to be eradicated by history.

Democratic Reforms

The white paper pointed out that the recent democratic reforms have ended the miseries of Tibetan serfs and slaves. The 17-point agreement, the shortened name of the Agreement between the Central People’s Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, was signed in Beijing on May 23, 1951.

After the agreement took effect, the People’s Liberation Army marched into Tibet and entered Lhasa in October 1951.

The PLA and Communist Party of China (CPC) organisations in Tibet then worked hard to benefit the local people by giving free medical treatment, building water conservancy projects,

and providing disaster rescue and relief, the white paper said.

In contrast, the 14th Dalai Lama and the Tibetan upper class tried to maintain the system, fearing that reforms would deprive them of their political, religious and economic privileges. They tore up the 17-point agreement and launched a full-scale armed rebellion in March of 1959. The central government then decided to dissolve the Tibetan local government, put an end to the rebellion and carry out democratic reforms.





The white paper also added that some Tibetan serfs stood up to oppose oppression and exploitation and some members of the upper class began to support the democratic reforms and see it in a more positive light.

After the democratic reform, 553 monasteries housing over 7,000 monks and nuns were retained in Tibet, which fulfilled the religious needs of local believers, it added.

Empowering People

Tibet's democratic reform destroyed the institutional shackles which infringed serfs' rights to subsistence, marriage, migration, residence, work, personal freedom, human dignity, and education, according to the document.

Noting that people's governments were

established at various levels for the people to exercise their rights after the reform, the white paper said that for the first time in the history of Tibet, local governments were elected in a democratic way by exercising their franchise and standing for elections.

From September 1 to 9, 1965, the First Session of the First People's Congress of Tibet was held. At this session, Tibet Autonomous Region was established, and the People's Committee of the autonomous region came into being by election.

Since 1978, Tibet has held 11 elections of deputies to the people's congresses at township level, 10 at county level, and eight at the level of municipalities having subordinate districts, according to the document.

Currently, there are 35,963 deputies to the people's congresses at all levels in Tibet. Of them, deputies from the Tibetan and other minority ethnic groups account for 92.18 percent, it said.

The rights of people of all ethnic groups to participate in the deliberation and administration of state affairs have been fully guaranteed, according to the document.

In addition, community-level democracy is developing and improving. By the end of 2018, there were 5,756 community-level workers' unions with 497,082 members, it added.



The paper said Tibet's development has entered a new era. Local authorities have prioritised technology and innovation strategy, while stressing on green growth. The region's GDP reached 147.76 billion yuan (\$22 billion), about 191 times more than the 1959 figure calculated at comparable prices. Tourism has grown rapidly. In 2018, Tibet received 33.69 million tourist visits, with a total revenue of 49 billion yuan (47.29 billion).

A Link in BRI

The paper said Tibet has been actively participating in the country's mega Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and regional economic cooperation projects such as the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM) and Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network.

For instance, Tibet played a significant role in joint infrastructure and transport projects with

“Serfdom is the most brutal form of slavery in feudal society. It is a barbaric and backward social system in terms of economic development, political democracy or human rights protection,” the white paper read. “By the 1950s, the very existence of feudal serfdom had violated the development trend of human history,” added the white paper, noting that such a system was a stain on the civilisation and was destined to be eradicated by history.

Nepal, and continued to expand trade through a China-Nepal cross-border economic cooperation zone, it noted. In 2018, Tibet's imports and exports volume reached 4.8 billion yuan (\$71.4 million), and attracted 1,450 foreign investment projects, worth 63.08 billion yuan (\$9.3 billion).



Xinjiang: China calls for global cooperation to combat terror

China recently released a white paper on anti-terrorism, deradicalisation and human rights in Xinjiang.

The State Council Information Office on March 18 issued a white paper, *The Fight Against Terrorism and Extremism and Human Rights Protection in Xinjiang*, which said that the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR) is an inseparable part of China, and there will be a crackdown on terrorist activities in the region as per the law. The document also highlighted the preventive steps that have already been taken against terror activities in the region and called for extensive international cooperation to tackle the problem.

Integral Part of China

Saying that Xinjiang, a multi-ethnic region since ancient times, is an integral part of China, the white paper asserted: “Xinjiang ethnic cultures are an inseparable part of Chinese civilisation.” It said the Uygur ethnic group migrated into the region, and are not descendants of the Turks. For a long time, terrorists have been trying to instigate separatist activities by distorting and falsifying the history of Xinjiang, exaggerating the cultural differences between the ethnic groups, instigating isolation and hatred, and advocating religious extremism.

Role of ‘East Turkistan’ Forces

With the support of international anti-China forces, the paper said that the “East Turkistan” forces have resorted to organising, planning and carrying out acts of separatism and sabotage. Since the 1990s, especially after the September 11 attacks in the United States, the “East Turkistan” forces inside and outside China have stepped up their collaboration with other terror groups across the globe, trying desperately to establish “East Turkistan” through “jihad” (holy war), it said.

The white paper also noted that religious extremism under the banner of Islam runs counter to Islamic doctrines.

Incomplete statistics show that between 1990 and 2016, separatist, terrorist and extremist



forces launched thousands of terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, killing innocent people and police officers, and causing immeasurable damage to property. “These inhuman, anti-social and barbaric acts have brought enormous suffering to all ethnic groups in Xinjiang,” the paper said. China has been striking at terrorism and extremism in accordance with the law, said the white paper.

The local government will protect lawful activities, curb illegal actions, contain extremism, resisting infiltration, and prevent and punish crimes, while fully safeguarding civil rights, including freedom of religious belief.

Based on the experience of the international community, China has been active in implementing the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly concerning the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy (60/288), the paper stressed.

First Law to Curb Extremism

Since 2014, the authorities in Xinjiang have destroyed 1,588 violent and terrorist gangs, arrested 12,995 terrorists, seized 2,052 explosive

devices, punished 30,645 people for 4,858 illegal religious activities, and confiscated 345,229 copies of illegal religious materials, said the white paper.

China has been giving top priority to a preventive counter-terrorism approach, the paper added.

Specific measures include improving public well-being, promoting knowledge of the law through education, and offering education and aid through vocational education and training centers in accordance with the law.

Need for Global Cooperation

China’s fight against terrorism and extremism is an important part of the same battle being waged by the international community, the white paper said, adding that it is in keeping with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to combat terrorism and safeguard basic human rights.

The white paper said that the world can effectively combat terrorism by strengthening our shared future, abandoning double standards, enhancing political mutual trust, reaching strategic consensus, and promoting exchanges and cooperation.



WHY BOAO FORUM MATTERS FOR ASIA



Dr Das Bikash Kali

The Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), which is better known as the “Asian Davos”, was held on March 26-29, 2019, at its permanent location since 2001, Boao in Hainan Islands. The theme for this year’s forum was “Shared Future, Concerted Action, Common Development” and over 2,000 delegates from 60 countries attended the BFA. An exclusive event for members, partners and special invitees, the BFA provides a platform for government, businesses and academia to share their vision on the most pressing issues facing this dynamic region and the world such as health, society, environment, blue economy, tourism, culture, education, technology and agriculture.

An Asian Perspective

The main idea of the BFA is to promote and deepen economic exchange, coordination, and cooperation within Asia and between Asia and other parts of the world. At the 2019 edition, Indian business tycoon Ratan Tata was inducted as a member of the board of BFA, a great distinction for an Indian. During a previous interaction with the media at the BFA, Mr Tata said Indian businesses had failed to grasp many opportunities offered by the vast Chinese market. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General of The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), spoke at the ‘WTO Reform’ session.

China praised globalisation, multilateralism and free trade initiatives as the pillars of development in the absence of global leadership. The forum is going forward by China leading the world in economic affairs.

The BFA has managed to push forward cooperation between countries, with an array of projects carried out in recent years. For example, projects on sharing the seed production technology of a rice breed have been carried out between Hainan and several ASEAN countries. So far, 550,000 hectares of hybrid rice has been planted in the Philippines, 2.5 million hectares in India, 330,000 hectares in Pakistan, 700,000 hectares in Vietnam and 200,000 hectares in Indonesia.

During this year's forum, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang emphasised on Beijing's support for the multilateral trading system and reforms in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

While outlining the key reforms China is undertaking and steps being taken for encouraging Foreign Direct Investment, he also mentioned that Beijing would take specific steps for opening up sectors such as transport, infrastructure, telecommunications, medical care and education. He emphasised on the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind. Premier Li underlined that China will continue to open up and innovate to energise the market, and strengthen indigenous economic development.

Personal Diary

The Forum gave me a deep insight about its significance in Asia, and also gave me an opportunity to put forward my views on an issue of global importance: "Tech for culture". I spoke on how technology can play a vital role in enhancing people-to-people interaction and can also be used for the preservation and promotion of culture of human history and cultural identity. It can play a vital role in knowledge development, conservation, use and enhancement of cultural and artistic heritage.



The Forum was important not just from Beijing's standpoint since it highlighted some of its key economic policies such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), but also the perspective of China-Asia relationship.

The other speakers at the Young Leaders' roundtable shared their personal experiences and understanding of the relationship between technology and future generations.

Professor Mitsuko Chikasada from Soka University spoke on the importance of education; Tian Ning, CEO, Panshi IT Corporation Limited stressed on the opportunity to embrace the changes in technology; and Du Chao from *Fortune Times* spoke on the impact overuse of technology, especially mobile phones on this generation. I also suggested on developing a manual for parents that can help understand the uses of mobile technology for the alpha generation.

The Boao Forum for Asia is a platform where we can put forward relevant issues and is a great opportunity to collaborate with Asian countries for development. The BFA has projected the future of Asia as a whole which would be prosperous, peaceful and stable with common development and strong collaborations. The Boao Forum is iconic in terms of its message and issues of Asian ideology. This also highlights the fact that Asians hold Asia most important above all. The BFA presents message of peace and stability to the rest of the world.

(Dr Das Bikash Kali is Secretary General, Pondicherry India China Friendship Association)

Call it the Power of Sport. Be it badminton or basketball, Chinese diplomats at the embassy simply love these games. Enthusiasm was simply infectious when the Chinese badminton team played in the India Open 2019. On March 31, H.E. Ambassador Luo Zhaohui and his wife Dr. Jiang Yili were invited to attend the 2019 India Open (badminton). “Congratulations to Chinese Badminton Team on their great performance at India Open 2019. Thank you India for hosting the wonderful games,” tweeted the Chinese ambassador. The Embassy also held basketball matches with Huwai and ZTE India. “The spring in Delhi is a great season for sports and exercises,” the ambassador said in a tweet.

SPORTS BONDING





& BONHOMIE



Celebrating rebirth of embassy magazine

Forging connect with readers





New look, new content and new horizons. It was a time for celebrations, stock-taking and connecting with readers at the ceremonial launch of the revamped magazine of the Chinese embassy in New Delhi on April 10.

The launch function was attended by a distinguished audience comprising diplomats, journalists, academics, experts and young students from colleges in Delhi. Organised in a roundtable format, the interaction with readers was lively and interesting, generating a host of ideas and suggestions for further improving the magazine.

The function began with a formal unveiling of the magazine by China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui, along with his wife Dr. Jiang Yili; Minister Li Bijian; Tarun Vijay, Chairman of CII India-China Forum; Prof. Lokesh Chandra, Chairman, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library and former President of ICCR; Amarendra Khatua, former Director General of ICCR; Manish Chand, CEO, TGII Media Private Limited; and Mr. Narayana Pillai, a former member of the magazine's editorial team.

Building Bridges

In his welcome remarks, the Chinese envoy H.E. Luo Zhaohui said that the *News from China* magazine will help introduce China to Indian readers and promote friendship between China and India. The envoy also struck an upbeat note on the future of China-India partnership, saying bilateral relations were on fast-track, especially after the Wuhan summit between the leaders of the two countries in April 2018. He said the newly revamped magazine will enable readers to keep pace with new developments in China-India relations.

The envoy also proposed a host of new ideas, including the setting up of an Advisory Board and Readers Club, which will guide the evolution of the magazine to greater heights.

"The main purpose of this makeover of this magazine is to build an enduring information bridge between our ancient civilisations, and to create a greater interest in China-India relations and latest developments in China," said the envoy.

"Thanks to the efforts of every editorial team, this magazine has played a unique role in different historical periods of China-India relations and has become an important window for Indian people to understand China and China-India relations," he said.



Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Chandra spoke about centuries-old civilizational and philosophical connect between the two countries, and expressed hope that the magazine will help generate a dialogue of ideas between people of the two countries.



Tarun Vijay, former MP, lauded the rebirth of the magazine, and hoped that it will open new pathways of friendship between India and China. "China must be reported to India through Indian eyes," he said.



In a similar vein, Mr Amarendra Khatua stressed that the magazine should reach the youth, think tanks and universities in both countries.



"This magazine is an excellent way to create awareness among the general population and will help build unity between the people of our two countries, which will result in stronger India-China relations," said Inderjit Singh, Director,

Dr D.N. Kotnis Acupuncture Hospital. "Each magazine has its own importance. *News from China*, in its new form, will enable us to appreciate developments in the country," he said.



H.E. Bulat Sarsenbayev
Kazakhstan Ambassador to India



Connecting with Readers

The new edition of the magazine is set to fuel the interest of a new generation of Indians in China-India relations, enhance mutual understanding between the two peoples, and promote the continuous development of China-India relations. Readers, who participated in the launch event, shared their experience and hoped for a brighter future for the China-India relations. Many readers mentioned the pleasant experiences of visiting China and expressed their admiration for China's tremendous development and progress. Many of them said that India and China should learn

from each other and work together to create an Asian century. Some students said they hope to have more opportunities to visit China, and look forward to the setting up of more Confucius Institutes in India to enhance their understanding of China through learning Chinese.

The magazine launch event also saw Minister Li Bijian introduce two new books commissioned by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi. These included *Fond Memories on the Campus*, edited by scholar-diplomat Dr Jiang Yili and *Essays in Memory of Prof. Xu Fancheng*. "These books are the latest achievement of the Embassy in carrying



R. N. Anil



Mohammed Saqib



Placing the magazine in the context of the burgeoning economic partnership between China and India, Mr Chand underlined the

importance of narrative in building stronger India-China relationship. "With the India-China relationship growing by the day, there is a compelling need to increase mutual understanding. With so much at stake, not knowing or not understanding each other is simply not an option," he said.

"The newly revamped magazine of the Chinese embassy holds a mirror to unfolding changes in the two big Asian countries and their interlocking relationships. The magazine has sections on diplomacy, geopolitics and other topical issues, but what makes it stand out is its special focus on People-to-People and Cultural Contacts," he said.



“*News from China* has always helped us to know about the developments in China and India-China relations. The magazine has played an important role in exchange of ideas, and will continue to boost people-to-people contacts,” said Mr V. Bhaskaran, General Secretary,

India-China Friendship Association (Karnataka).

“I am happy to see the magazine’s new look and contents, which highlight the need to strengthen India-China bilateral relationship and cooperation,” he added.

out public diplomacy and promoting cultural exchange between China and India. They will help the people of both countries to read and understand each other in a truly comprehensive, rational and objective manner,” he said.

Looking ahead, Mrs Ji Rong, Press Counselor and Editor-in-Chief, *News from China*, said: “We are confident that with your valuable feedback and suggestions today, we can together build a better information bridge and promote friendly relations between China and India.”



The magazine launch event also saw Minister Li Bijian introduce two new books commissioned by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi. “These books will help the people of both countries to read and understand each other in a truly comprehensive, rational and objective manner,” he said.



Nostalgia: *News from China* Over the Years



I joined as a typist at the Chinese Embassy, Jind House, near India Gate on February 1, 1966. The staff then comprised nine Indians in the Information and Cultural Department of the Embassy. At this time, the cyclostyled version of *News from China*, in English and Hindi, was published as a fortnightly.

All the news items were sent by the Xinhua News Agency from Beijing to the Press Office at the Embassy. It was the Press Office that was responsible for arranging them in order and handing them over to us for typing and proofreading. Later, the Embassy shifted to Shantipath, Chanakyapuri. Due to diplomatic incidents between

the two countries in the middle of 1967, the Embassy was surrounded by Indian protesters for a few days. Those were difficult times. All publications were put on hold for a month.

The *News from China* supplement published in English by the Press Office was quite popular among Indian readers. The articles for the supplement were selected from Xinhua, China Today, China Pictorial and China Sports. Through these articles, we could understand the sports, agricultural and industrial developments taking place in China. Later, the Hindi edition of *News from China* was stopped while the English version continued to be published only as a monthly magazine. The news coverage was good as it talked about China's relationship with other countries, its political stand on world affairs and its neutral position on world disputes.

China has grown and developed by leaps and bounds. It is now poised to be the number one economy in the world. All this is due to the right policy decisions taken by the Chinese government and the hard work and patriotism of its citizens. Needless to say, without the able guidance of the CPC leadership, none of this would have been possible. The present format of the magazine that I still receive regularly is perfect so far. My memories of working here are a constant source of nostalgia and I will always wish more success to you all.

Long Live India-China friendship!

(These are excerpts from a speech made by Mr. Narayana Pillai, a former member of the magazine editorial team, at the magazine launch function)

Down the Memory Lane...

The Embassy magazine *News from China* was started in the 1960s. In 1990s, the Embassy magazine got formally registered in India. In those early days, it was a weekly and fortnightly magazine printed in black and white. In 2001, the cover pages of the magazine were printed in colour. In 2004, it was upgraded to a monthly magazine. Full colour page printing began in 2014, and continues till this day. From January 2019, the format and design of the magazine was changed to make it more informative, relevant and visually appealing. In May 2019, 'Readers Club,' and Board of Advisors were set up to steer the publication to greater heights.



NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

READERS CLUB



Inspired by overwhelming response to the makeover of the Embassy magazine, we are pleased to announce the setting up of Readers Club, which comprise dedicated readers of our magazine with an interest in China and China-India relations.

As a member of Readers Club, you will get free subscription of the magazine. The club members are welcome to provide us feedback and guidance for improving the content and quality of the magazine. We are keen to learn about your feedback and do a better job. You will be also occasionally invited to embassy functions and roundtable interactions with the Editorial Team of the magazine. The members are also encouraged to write for the magazine.

We have also invited some readers to be the conveners of the Readers Club. They are: **Biju Vijayakumar**, Research Scholar, Central University of Kerala; **Rabi Sankar Bosu**, Founder & Secretary, New Horizon Radio Listeners' Club West Bengal; **Raj Kumar Oberoi**, CEO, Media PR and corporate affairs; **V. Bhaskaran**, General Secretary, India-China Friendship Association (Karnataka); **R. N. Anil**, Chairman, India-China Friendship Association (Delhi); **Dr Jyoti Mohapatra**, General Secretary, Friends of China Society; **Dr Inderjit Singh**, Director, Dr D.N. Kotnis Acupuncture Hospital.

Together with our readers, we hope to continue to inject fresh impetus and make our magazine more informative, interesting and readable, which serves as a better information bridge for Chinese and Indian people.

Editorial & Marketing Team
News from China



My China Story

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Everyone, who has visited China or interacted with Chinese people, will have his/her China story to tell. With China-India relations getting better, more Indians are visiting China than before. Over 800,000 Indians visited China in the last two years, which translates into as many stories to tell and share.

Geographically and culturally diverse as India, but different in many ways, China evokes a range of emotions in Indians visiting the country.

News from China magazine invites you to share your impressions and memories of China in the form of an essay/article/travelogue/memoir. The article should be around 400-800 words. If you also have high-resolution pictures, do not forget to share with us! The best articles will be published in our embassy magazine. The winners will get special awards from the Chinese embassy and might be invited to attend the function to mark the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China in September 2019 and get an opportunity to visit China later on.

Please send your articles to chinaembassypress@gmail.com

(The articles should be marked 'My China Story', and addressed to Editor-in-Chief, *News from China*).



LETTERS from

Readers



I have been an avid reader of *News from China* ever since I retired from the Indian Foreign Service in 1993, and I thank the embassy of the P.R.C. in Delhi for posting the monthly magazine to me regularly. The last issues of the magazine were excellent. Please accept my best wishes for further positive developments in India-China relations.

Amb. (ret'd.) C.V. Ranganathan

India's former ambassador to China and France

Words fail me to express my high appreciation for the new look of the magazine. The magazine is really an "information bridge" between our two countries, India and China. I appreciate your hard work and great sincerity for the need for a renewal of Sino-India ties in tune with the realities of the 21st century that Chinese President Xi Jinping has been dreaming about.

Rabi Sankar Bosu

Founder & Secretary, New Horizon Radio Listeners' Club, West Bengal, India

The articles in the magazine are very informative and very helpful to me. I am looking forward to receiving the magazine in future and continuing long association with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India!

Raj Kumar Oberoi

CEO and consultant, Media PR and Corporate Affairs

The new format, design and selection of articles are attractive and interesting. As a researcher, I hope there would be more interesting book reviews, academic introduction to ancient Chinese culture, contemporary trends and popular culture and folklore. The "Learn Everyday Chinese" on the back inner section is really useful and, if possible, some more pages may be devoted for the same!

Biju Vijayakumar

Central University of Kerala

The *News From China* magazine is not just attractive, but also full of interesting news and information. Please carry on the good work, and I look forward to reading it regularly.

Manoranjan Mohanty

Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development

The magazine very ably captures the past and present relationship between the two ancient civilisations. It has impressed me a lot and I wish the editorial team the very best for future endeavours.

P.G.R. Sindhia

Former Minister for Home, Finance, Industry, and Transport, Government of Karnataka

The latest revamped issue of your esteemed magazine 'News from China' is quite rich in content and design. In fact, I have been a regular reader of this magazine since its inception and during the years it has been upgraded and made more readable. Many a time, as a journalist, I have contributed articles to this magazine on Sino-Indian relations and also my visits to China.

R.N. Anil

Chairman, India-China Friendship Association, Delhi

The magazine is the only authentic source of news on China for us. We live in an era that demands a new approach to national and international issues. India and China are the two oldest civilisations in Asia and they can contribute more in strengthening global development and peace. The magazine should give more space to regional issues and the region's cultural and linguistic diversities.

Timir Basu

Editor, Frontier

I'm a regular recipient of your magazine and enjoy reading it. Your latest revamped issue is indeed a great improvement. I have discovered many interesting things about China from the revamped magazine. I hope you will continue adding more interesting articles about life and people of China, and make the magazine still more interesting.

Janak Kumar

Freelance Journalist

I have been reading News From China regularly. The Spring Festival issue was impressive and informative, especially the Ambassador's article.

Jose Kalathil

Senior Journalist and Foreign Correspondent

When I received the 'January 2019 Special Edition of *News from China* magazine, I was mighty thrilled to see its get-up in terms of excellent paper, photographs and contents. I lost no opportunity to address a letter immediately to Editor-in-Chief offering my congratulations. I hope that this trend will continue for future editions as well.

R.C. Suneja

Financial Consultant

Let me congratulate you and your team on the makeover of the News From China magazine, which is a great improvement over the previous one as it is pleasing to the eyes of readers. The magazine provides a wide variety of material on political, strategic affairs, art and culture as well as the landscape of the country which are otherwise not available without great effort. What interests me more is official statements, speeches by top ranking functionaries of the government and the ruling Communist Party which provide an in-depth knowledge to understand the official position of the People's Republic of China on a number of issues.

M.I. Khan

Editor, Political Events

It is a very informative and useful magazine for our member as it covers latest information about China like India-China relations, China's economy and foreign relations. The magazine has been placed in the USI Library for reference by scholars doing research, as well as for members to read.

Anita Midha

United Service Institution of India

BOARD OF ADVISORS

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW



The formal launch of the *News from China* magazine was followed by the setting up of the Board of Advisors to steer the publication to greater heights. The Advisory Board includes (from left to right) : **Li Bijian**, Minister & Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India; **Kaushal Goyal**, CEO, GBD Books; **Mohammed Saqib**, Secretary-General, India China Economic and Cultural Council; **Manish Chand**, CEO, TGII Media Private Limited & India Writes Network; and **B. R. Deepak**, Professor, JNU.

Form IV (See Rule 8)

1.Place of Publication	New Delhi
2.Periodicity of publication	Monthly
3.Printer's name (Whether citizen of India) (If foreigner,state the country of origin) Address	Mme Ji Rong No The People's Republic of China Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India 50-D, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi -110021
4.Publisher's name (Whether citizen of India) (If foreigner,state the country of origin) Address	Mme Ji Rong No The People's Republic of China Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India 50-D, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi -110021
5.Editor's name (Whether citizen of India) (If foreigner,state the country of origin) Address	Mme Ji Rong No The People's Republic of China Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India 50-D, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi -110021
6.Name and address of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one percent of the total capital	Embassy of the People's Republic of China 50-D, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi -110021

I, Mme. Ji Rong, hereby declares that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: April, 2019

Mme. Ji Rong
Signature of Publisher



LEARN EVERYDAY CHINESE

wǎnhou 问候 (3)
GREETINGS

03 你工作忙吗

ARE YOU BUSY WITH YOUR WORK

一 句子 Sentences

009 你工作忙吗? Are you busy with your work?
Nǐ gōngzuò máng ma?

010 很忙, 你呢? You, very much. And you?
Hěn máng, nǐ ne?

011 我不太忙。 I am not very busy.
Wǒ bù tài máng.

012 你爸爸、妈妈身体好吗?
Nǐ bàba, māma shēntǐ hǎo ma?
How are your father and mother?

二 会话 Conversations

1

李老师: 你好!
Lǐ lǎoshī: Nǐ hǎo!

张老师: 你好!
Zhāng lǎoshī: Nǐ hǎo!

双语会话 301日 上册

李老师: 你工作忙吗?
Lǐ lǎoshī: Nǐ gōngzuò máng ma?

张老师: 很忙, 你呢?
Zhāng lǎoshī: Hěn máng, nǐ ne?

李老师: 我不太忙。
Lǐ lǎoshī: Wǒ bù tài máng.

2

大卫: 老师, 您早!
Dàwèi: Lǎoshī, nín zǎo!

玛丽: 老师好!
Mǎrì: Lǎoshī hǎo!

张老师: 你们好!
Zhāng lǎoshī: Nǐmen hǎo!

大卫: 老师忙吗?
Dàwèi: Lǎoshī máng ma?

张老师: 很忙, 你们呢?
Zhāng lǎoshī: Hěn máng, nǐmen ne?

大卫: 我不忙。
Dàwèi: Wǒ bù máng.

玛丽: 我也不忙。
Mǎrì: Wǒ yě bù máng.

3

王立: 刘京, 你好!
Wáng Lì: Liú Jīng, nǐ hǎo!

刘京: 你好!
Liú Jīng: Nǐ hǎo!

王立: 你爸爸、妈妈身体好吗?
Wáng Lì: Nǐ bàba, māma shēntǐ hǎo ma?

刘京: 他们都很好, 谢谢!
Liú Jīng: Tāmen dōu hěn hǎo, xièxiè!

生词 New Words

1	工作	gōngzuò	动/名	to work, work
2	忙	máng	形	busy
3	呢	ne	助	used at the end of a special, alternative, or rhetorical question to indicate a question
4	不	bù	副	not, no
5	太	tài	副	very, extremely
6	累	lèi	形	tired, worn out
7	哥哥	gēge	名	older brother
8	姐姐	jiějie	名	older sister
9	弟弟	dìdì	名	younger brother
10	妹妹	mèimei	名	younger sister
11	月	yuè	名	month, month
12	明天	míngtiān	名	tomorrow
13	今年	jīnnián	名	this year
14	〇 (零)	líng	数	zero
15	年	nián	名	year
16	明年	míngnián	名	next year

① 你呢? What about you?
承接上面的话题提出问题。例如:“我很忙, 你呢?”意思是:“你忙吗?”“我身体很好, 你呢?”意思是:“你身体好吗?”
It is a question asked in connection with the preceding topic, e.g. “我很忙, 你呢?” which means “Are you busy?”, “我身体很好, 你呢?” which means “How are you?”

Postal Regd. No. DL-SW-16/4034/18-20

R.N.I. No. 47440/88

April 2019

