

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

P2P CONNECT BUILDING BRIDGES

中国—印度电影周
China-India Film Week

中印媒体高峰论坛
INDIA-CHINA HIGH LEVEL MEDIA FORUM
भारत चीन उच्च स्तरीय मीडिया फोरम

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中国—印度高级别人文交流机制第二次会议开幕式暨文艺演出
Opening Ceremony of the Second Meeting of China-India High Level Mechanism
on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges and Art Performance.

中国—印度
高级别人文交流机制
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文艺演出

Opening Ceremony of the Second Meeting of China-India High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges and Art Performance

CHINA'S AMBASSADOR PRESENTS LETTER OF CREDENCE



'China highly values relations with India, and welcomes India's development'

China's newly-appointed Ambassador to India H.E. Sun Weidong presented his Letter of Credence to India's President Ram Nath Kovind at an elegant ceremony at the stately Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on August 28.

In his cordial interaction with President Kovind, the Chinese Ambassador conveyed warm greetings of Chinese President Xi Jinping to him. Welcoming the envoy, President Kovind also conveyed his sincere greetings to President Xi.

Recalling centuries-old friendly exchanges between people of the two countries, the Chinese Ambassador said: "China attaches great importance to the development of relations with India, and sincerely welcomes

India's development." He underlined that the two sides should highlight the crucial role of the leaders in guiding the progress of bilateral relations, and jointly push for healthy growth of the China-India relations.

President Kovind expressed warm congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He highlighted that the Indian side highly values its relationship with China, and hoped the two sides would hold a series of events to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries next year and make it a great success.



New Hopes: Blossoming of P2P Friendship

Rainy season is always a wonderful time to be in India, kindling green foliage and fresh hopes for blossoming of China-India relations. Personally, it's delightful for me to present my credentials to Honorable President of India Ram Nath Kovind at this time amid high hopes for bilateral relations.

It's reassuring to see that the Wuhan consensus of widening convergences and building trust continues to shine forth as we prepare for the second informal summit between our two leaders and explore new areas of collaboration between our two countries.

The second meeting of High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism in Beijing (August 12) reaffirmed the primacy of P2P relations in the burgeoning China-India partnership. The meeting, co-chaired by China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, was held barely eight months after the inaugural edition, which suggests that the support for enhanced P2P contacts is widening in both countries.

The meeting reinforced several positive trends in bilateral relations. First and foremost, it's time for both countries to move beyond G2G and B2B interactions to bolster the P2P pillar of the relationship. In this regard, it was energizing to note that both foreign ministers stressed on expanding and consolidating the popular and social foundation for healthy and harmonious development of China-India relations. Secondly, the media has a critical role to play in promoting the win-win trajectory of the China-India partnership through positive and balanced stories about developments in each other's country. In this regard, the wide-

ranging discussions between senior journalists at the 4th China-India Media Forum in Beijing were quite fruitful and forward-looking. Third, as two big emerging countries with a population of over a billion people, there may be differences on some issues from time to time, but areas of cooperation outweigh these differences. Last but not the least, there is strong political will on part of the top leaderships in both countries to take the China-India partnership to new heights. Both sides should earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two leaders, take the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between China and India next year as an opportunity, enhance exchanges and cooperation, and continue to inject new impetus into our multi-faceted partnership.

I am pleased to present the latest edition of our embassy magazine, which encapsulates myriad facets of mutually beneficial partnership between China and India. It's nice to note that our efforts to balance bilateral trade are set to get an impetus with China revising its drug laws, which will facilitate import of legal generic drugs from India to China. It's also worth pointing out that China and India are becoming true friends in need as they help each other in good times as well as bad. The timely data provided by Chinese satellites helped India to plan its rescue efforts effectively. Similarly, the Chinese government has provided many additional facilities to Indian pilgrims, making the Kailash Mansarovar yatra easier and an experience to cherish. In the days to come, I am confident that such gestures will open new pathways of friendship between people of China and India.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be '孙卫东' (Sun Weidong).

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CEMENTING P2P BOND: NEW FRONTIERS



The wide-ranging discussions between the foreign ministers of China and India in August have set the stage for the visit of President Xi Jinping to India later this year.

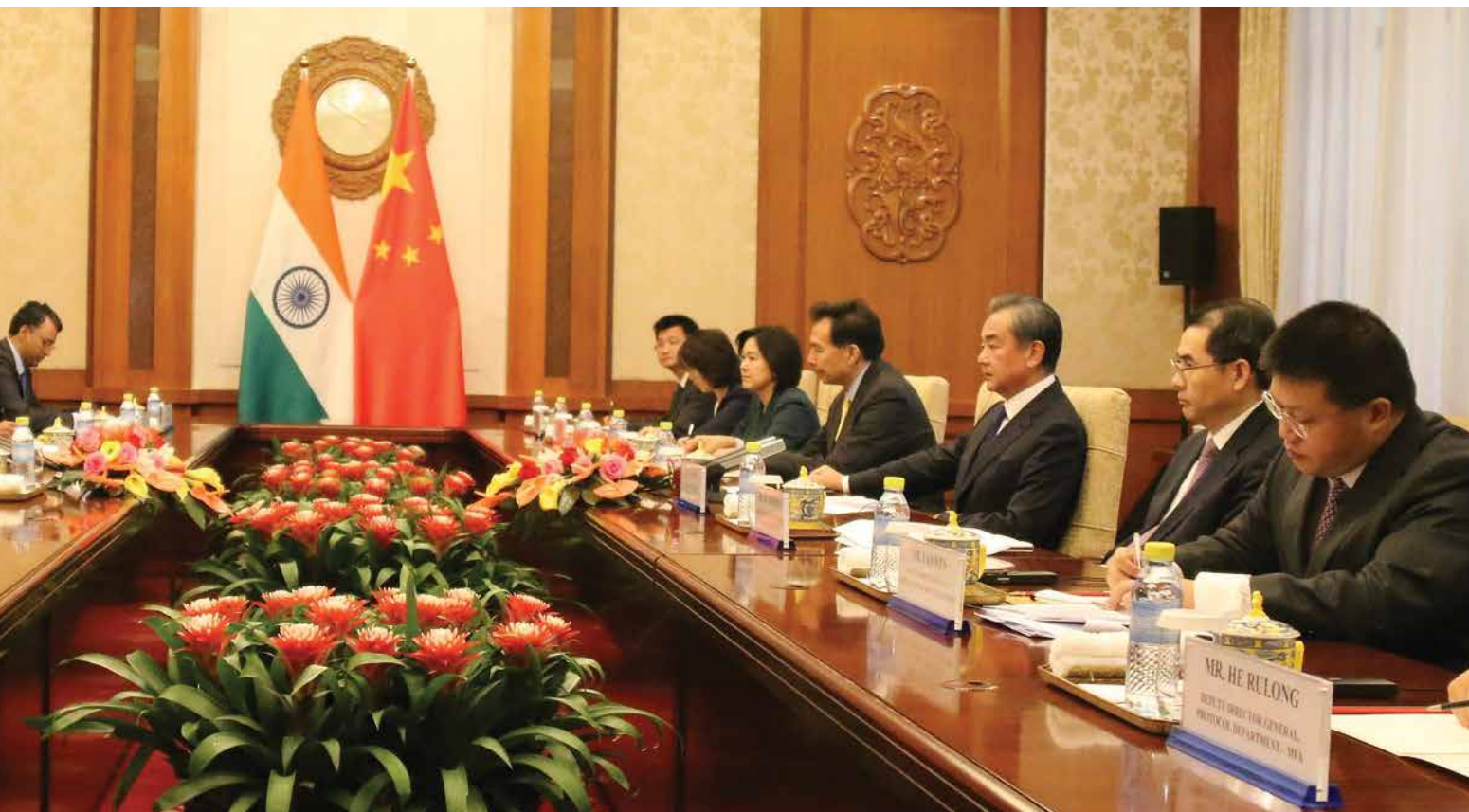
The Wuhan consensus of widening the canvas of convergences and cooperation between China and India found an eloquent expression in the second meeting of the High-Level People-to-People (P2P) and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism held in Beijing on August 12.

The second meeting of the P2P Mechanism, co-chaired by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, focused on fast-tracking the implementation of the initiatives designed to promote greater P2P and cultural cooperation between the two countries. At the inaugural meeting of the P2P Mechanism held in New Delhi in December 2018, the two Asian neighbours had identified 10 focus areas.

The wide-ranging discussions between the foreign ministers of China and India on an entire

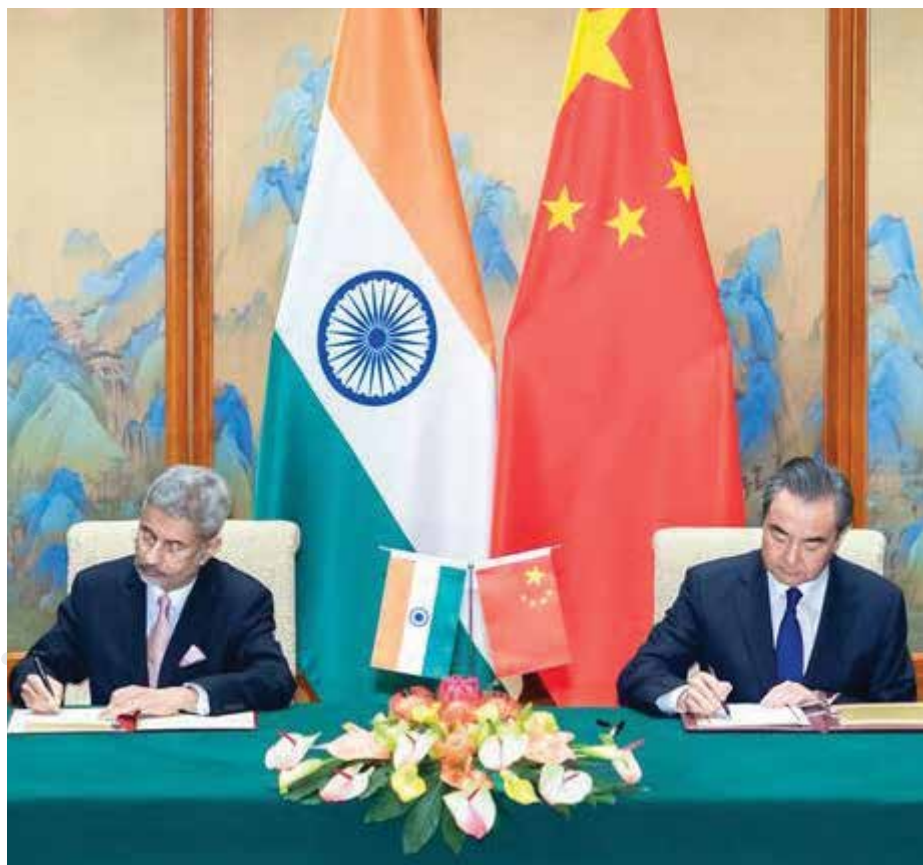
gamut of bilateral issues also set the stage for the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India for the second summit with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this year. Taking a pragmatic and long-range view of the multi-faceted bilateral partnership, the two foreign ministers agreed on the critical importance of China-India relations as "a factor of stability in this uncertain global environment."

Mr Wang called on both sides to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, cherish the outcomes of the improvement of bilateral relations, further enhance mutual trust and deepen cooperation. The two ministers agreed that China and India should safeguard their developing country status, and protect their rights of development and legitimate interests in the World Trade Organization.



Mr Jaishankar said India is looking forward to the second informal meeting between the leaders of the two countries in India this year and is keen to ensure that the meeting is a big success.

Wang Yi said that the High-Level P2P Mechanism was the joint initiative of President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and underlined that it “has built a new and important platform for promoting the comprehensive development of China-India relations.” Since the first meeting, bilateral people-to-people and cultural exchanges have seen new progress in the 10 focus areas, he said. It is in line with the original purpose of the leaders of both countries when they decided to establish the mechanism, and also meets the expectations of the peoples of the two ancient civilizations to join hands for creating a shared future.



Result-oriented Approach

Looking ahead, the Chinese Foreign Minister called for a result-oriented approach to strengthen bilateral people-to-people and cultural exchanges. He spoke about the need to translate the consensus of the two leaders into reality and transmit traditional friendship to the common people of the two countries. Rejecting theories of the clash of civilisations, Mr Wang stressed on promoting inclusiveness and resolving differences through dialogue to script a new chapter of mutual respect and harmonious coexistence between the two major civilizations.

“It is crucial to constantly enrich the new framework of people-to-people and cultural exchanges, with multiple players from both the government and non-government sectors. It should be oriented towards all members of society, and encourage more young people to devote themselves to our cause of friendship,” said Wang Yi. He stressed on the need to develop new ways of thinking and make unremitting efforts to consolidate the popular and social foundation for the healthy development of China-India relations.

CHINA INDIA@70

2020 is set to be a landmark year for China-India relations. The discussions between the foreign ministers of China and India culminated in the signing of an action plan for exchanges and cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of China and India in 2020 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The two countries agreed to organise 70 commemorative activities to further strengthen bilateral exchanges and cooperation.



Cultural Connect: From museums to traditional medicine

Four pacts in areas of cultural exchanges, traditional medicine, sports and museum management were signed in the presence of the two ministers. The agreements included:

(i) Promote cultural exchanges for preservation of intangible cultural heritage, organization of cultural activities and management of archaeological heritage sites.

(ii) Enhance cooperation in the field of traditional medicine, where the two countries have a rich knowledge accumulated over centuries, with the objective of promoting the development of Traditional Medicine in two countries' healthcare systems.

(iii) Promote exchanges between National Sports Associations, sports persons and youth for strengthening cooperation on international sports events, and

iv) Cooperation in Museum Management for promoting collaboration between Hubei Provincial Museum, Wuhan and the National Museum, New Delhi, in the field of exhibitions, protection and restoration of collections and archaeological excavations for museums.



Solidarity of Emerging Markets



Amid the shifting international landscape, the foreign ministers of China and India focused on enhancing their coordination on the international stage and jointly upholding multilateralism. In his remarks, China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi observed that China and India need to cooperate as the current international situation is undergoing significant changes. "Each with a population of more than 1 billion, China and India are the two major developing countries and representatives of emerging economies, and both are at a new stage of development," he said.

Wang Yi underlined that the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, agreed upon by both countries, fully conforms to the fundamental and long-term interests of the two peoples, and will also make new contributions to world peace and human progress.

The two ministers agreed that they should continue to promote solidarity and cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries. Both sides should work together to uphold multilateralism and the multilateral trading system, safeguard the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms governing international relations, and safeguard the status of China and India as developing countries, as well as the rights of development and legitimate interests that both sides are entitled to in the World Trade Organization.

Mr Jaishankar, too, highlighted the importance of closer partnership between China and India for regional and global stability. "There is mutual agreement that as two of the largest and fastest growing developing countries, representing almost one third of the global population, stable and balanced development of our relations will not only be beneficial for our two peoples, but also a factor of stability in this uncertain global environment," he said.

"Our two countries have similar goals in terms of providing better opportunities for our peoples," he added.

Enhancing Media Communication: Focus on Positive Stories

The 4th China-India Media Forum, held in Beijing on August 12, enabled journalists and opinion-makers to exchange views on promoting a better and nuanced understanding of this crucial partnership.

With the overarching objective of enhancing mutual understanding among journalists of the two countries, the 4th China-India Media Forum was held in the Chinese capital Beijing on August 12. China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the closing ceremony of the forum.

In his address, Mr Wang stressed that the development of China-India relations lies in the





“President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi attach great importance to the media exchanges between the two countries and encourage the media to make more coverage on the positive aspects of China-India relations and create an objective and friendly public opinion environment.”

people and derives from communication. “The media serves as an important bond to enhance the understanding and friendship between the two peoples. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi attach great importance to the media exchanges between the two countries and encourage the media to make more coverage on the positive aspects of China-India relations and create an objective and friendly public opinion environment,” he said.

“We should fully implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, further strengthen media exchanges and cooperation, and make China-India friendship the mainstream in public opinion, in a bid to inject positive energy into China-India cooperation”.

“It is hoped that the media of the two countries will grasp the mainstream and direction of China-India relations and serve as the messengers and facilitators of the China-India friendship. We hope that they will report in an objective and balanced manner, and tell the true stories of China and India, so as to make positive contributions to promoting the development of China-India relations,” he said.

Closer Development Partnership

Mr Jaishankar, on his part, focused on the media’s role in promoting closer development partnership between the two countries. “The Media Forum provides a very good platform to discuss and explore ways as to how our respective media can contribute towards the objective of Closer Developmental Partnership between our two countries by enhancing appreciation and understanding of each other’s standpoints and core interests,” said India’s external affairs minister.

“Regular exchanges of media persons and institutionalised cooperation among our media houses could be a good step forward. Such exchanges are especially important because both our countries have each their own system of governance. Another area to look at would be to examine the role and impact of social media,” he said.

Since 2013, the China-India Media Forum, as the largest institutionalized platform between the two countries for media exchanges, has paved the way for mutual understanding and become an important link for China-India cultural cooperation.

The forum, organized by the China Public Diplomacy Association and sponsored by China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and India’s Ministry of External Affairs this year, had three sub-forums, focusing on promoting mutual trust in political and economic cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and cooperation through new media platforms. Media personnel, experts, scholars and diplomats from both countries took part in the exchanges.

Liu Zhonghua, a senior editor of *People’s Daily*, said there should be more exchanges among journalists from the two countries and they should report on each other’s articles in a faithful and objective manner. The forms of media exchanges should be innovated with more attention given to new media platforms as China has 800 million Internet users and India has 500 million, he said.



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In an exclusive interview with Xinhua in Beijing, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar underlined the global character of the China-India partnership and the need for enhancing cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

The China-India relationship got a renewed push with the recent visit of India's Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to Beijing (August 11 to 13). This was his first visit to the country as India's external affairs minister since he assumed office in May. He served as India's ambassador to China from 2009 to 2013, making him the country's longest-serving envoy in Beijing.

As the two largest developing countries and emerging economies, cooperation between India and China is of great importance to the world, Mr Jaishankar said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

Mr Jaishankar called on the two countries to find stronger areas of convergence, respect each other's core concerns, find ways of managing differences, and keep a strategic view of the direction of bilateral ties.

India-China relations have global dimensions: Jaishankar

Describing the world as "more multi-polar" with a changing global order, India's foreign minister said that both countries need to enhance communication and coordination to contribute to world peace, stability and development.

"Our relationship is so big that it is no longer a bilateral relationship. It has global dimensions," Mr Jaishankar said. The two nations are the world's only two emerging economies that boast a population of more than one billion, he said.

Mr Jaishankar called on the two countries to find stronger areas of convergence, respect each other's core concerns, find ways of managing differences, and keep a strategic view of the direction of bilateral ties. He said that he was glad to visit China at the beginning of his tenure as India's external affairs minister. "I feel in this responsibility I can contribute once again to building India-China relations. For me, that's a huge part of my overall foreign policy responsibility."

Building Popular Support

As China and India gear up to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations, Mr Jaishankar focused on enhancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges. “When we look back (at the past 69 years), there are many lessons that both of us can take from it. The primary lesson is that it is important for India and China to cooperate closely if we are to realize the Asian century,” he said.

“A lot of people, including young people of both countries, really don’t have a good understanding of how much our two cultures of civilizations have affected each other,” said Mr Jaishankar. Promoting a greater awareness of that history through more cultural exchanges is an important task for the two countries, he said.

Alluding to the inaugural meeting of the High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism in New Delhi in December 2018, Mr Jaishankar said he considers the mechanism as “taking the bilateral relationship from the narrow

“A lot of people, including young people of both countries, really don’t have a good understanding of how much our two cultures of civilizations have affected each other,” said Mr Jaishankar. Promoting a greater awareness of that history through more cultural exchanges is an important task for the two countries, he said.

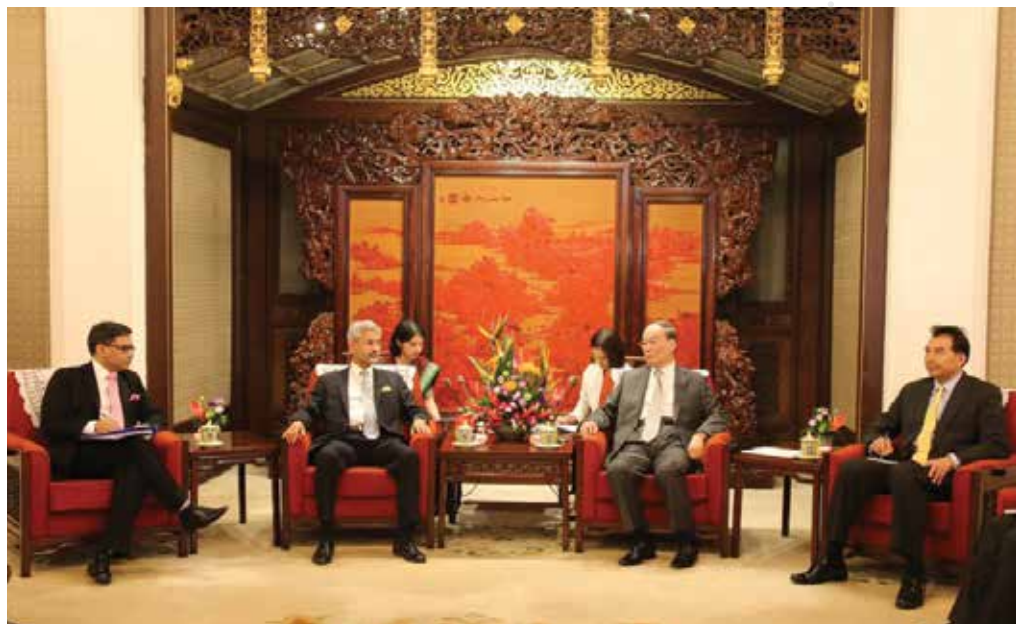
diplomatic field to a larger societal interaction,” and added that the more people see each other first hand, the more their sense of relating to each other will grow.

Senior Indian officials from sports, tourism, and culture sectors accompanied Mr Jaishankar to China. “It’s important for our relationship to build popular support. Our people must feel good about each other,” he said.

GOOD MOMENTUM IN CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS: WANG QISHAN

China’s Vice-President Wang Qishan has struck an upbeat note on the trajectory of China-India relations. This optimism came through in his interaction with India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at Zhongnanhai in Beijing on August 12.

“Under the leadership of the two heads of state, China and India have deepened and broadened practical cooperation and bilateral relations have maintained good momentum,” Mr Wang said.



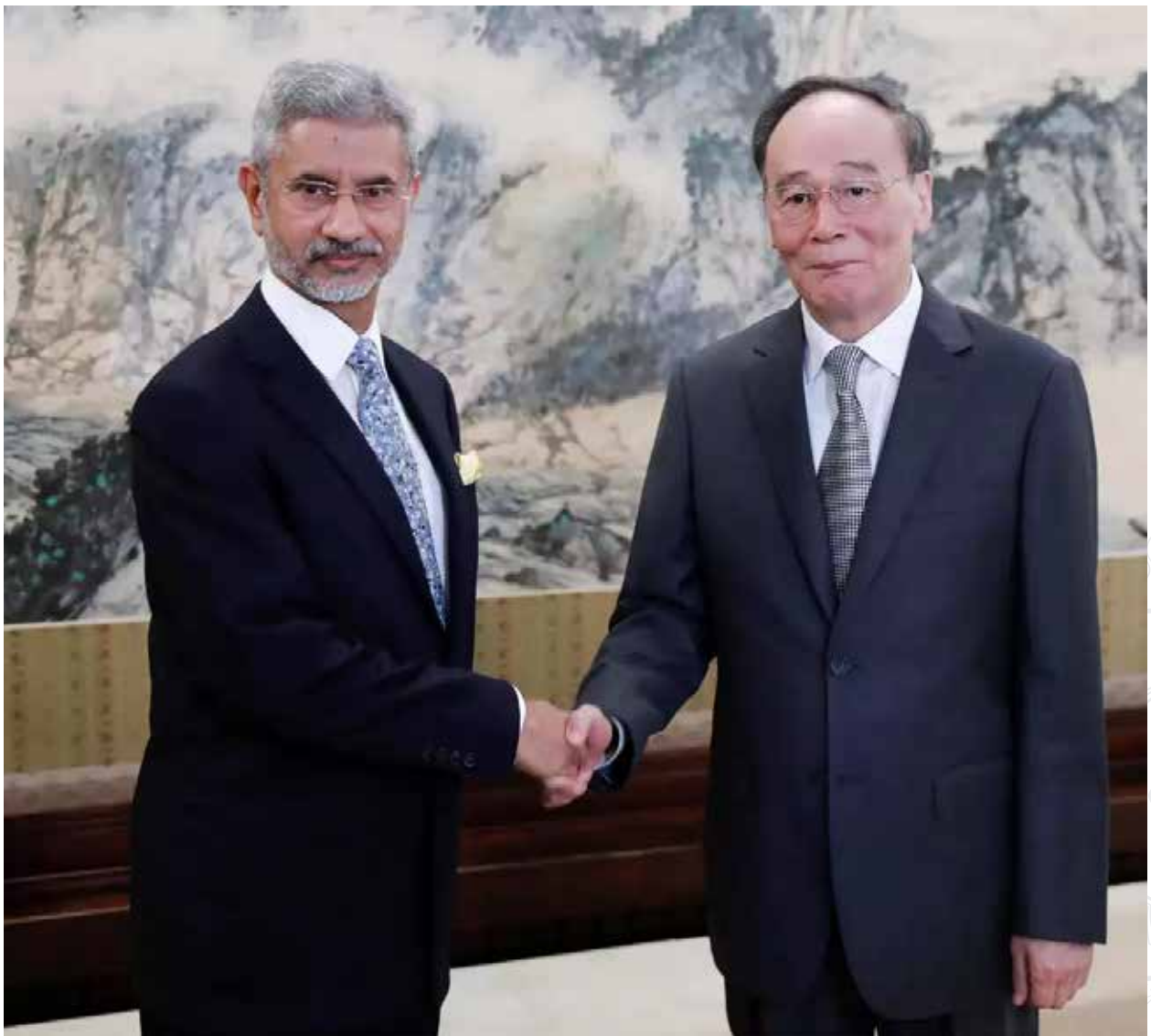
Underlining the importance of P2P exchanges between China and India, the Vice-President called for intensifying efforts to make good use of the High-level People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Mechanism to win public support for deepening bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Echoing Mr Wang's stance on China-India ties, Mr Jaishankar said India is willing to strengthen cooperation, properly manage disagreements and expand practical cooperation in various fields with China.

Alluding to the second meeting of P2P Mechanism, co-chaired by the foreign ministers

of the two countries, the Vice-President said that both sides should leverage this forum to build a more solid foundation of public opinion for the sustained and healthy development of bilateral relations.

“Under the leadership of the two heads of state, China and India have deepened and broadened practical cooperation and bilateral relations have maintained good momentum,” Mr Wang said.



China's Vice-President Wang Qishan with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at Zhongnanhai in Beijing on August 12.

Wang Yi States Clear Position on the Kashmir Issue

In the wake of the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian government early August and escalating India-Pakistan tensions, China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has expressed concern and urged India to play a constructive role in maintaining regional peace.

China's concern over India's unilateral move in the India-administered Kashmir was conveyed by Wang Yi to India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Beijing on August 12. Wang Yi said that the Chinese side follows closely the current situation in Kashmir and the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. He expressed concerns that the constitutional amendment by the Indian side will change the current situation in Kashmir and give rise to tensions in the region. He made it clear to his Indian counterpart that the Chinese side opposed any unilateral action that complicates the situation. It is hoped that both India and Pakistan will resolve disputes through peaceful means and work together to maintain peace and stability in the region.

It is hoped that both India and Pakistan will resolve disputes through peaceful means and work together to maintain peace and stability in the region.

Mr Wang Yi pointed out that the Indian side's measures also challenge the sovereign rights and interests of the Chinese side and go against the agreements between the two countries on safeguarding peace and stability in border areas, about which the Chinese side is seriously concerned. Such practice of the Indian side is neither valid in relation to the Chinese side nor will it change the status quo that the Chinese side exercises sovereignty and effective administrative jurisdiction over the territory, he said. It is hoped

that the Indian side will make more efforts to promote mutual trust and contribute to safeguarding peace and stability in border areas, so as to avoid unnecessary disturbances in China-India relations.

Such practice of the Indian side is neither valid in relation to the Chinese side nor will it change the status quo that the Chinese side exercises sovereignty and effective administrative jurisdiction over the territory.

India's Response

Responding to Mr Wang Yi's concerns, Mr Jaishankar explained the position of the Indian side. He stressed that the amendment to the Indian constitution will not result in a new claim of sovereignty, will not change the Line of Control, and will not change the Line of Actual Control along the China-India border. India hopes to improve its relations with Pakistan, and is willing to exercise restraint and safeguard regional peace and stability, he said. In the meantime, the Indian side stands ready to, together with the Chinese side, continue to properly address the China-India boundary questions through consultations and abide by the consensus reached by the two countries on safeguarding peace and stability in border areas.



CHINA REVISES LAW, OPENS DOOR TO CHEAP GENERIC INDIAN MEDICINES

China has approved a revision in drug laws that will no longer treat foreign drugs unapproved by the drug administration law, including generic drugs from India, as “fake medicines,” allowing for greater leniency to people importing such drugs in small amount.

China’s top legislature, the Standing Committee of National People’s Congress, on August 26 adopted the revised drug administration law, which will come into effect from December 1, 2019.

The revised law removes drugs that are unapproved in China, but sold legally overseas from the category of fake medicines. According to previous laws, people caught importing unapproved medicines were considered “drug smugglers” and faced heavy penalties.

The latest revision states that people who take these drugs without an official approval into China can be granted leniency if the amount of the drug is small. They will be exempt from punishment if the drug does not cause health problems or delay anyone’s treatment.

Welcoming the revision in the law, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong termed it as “a move which will help facilitate import of legal generic drugs from India to China.” “Hope to see more Chinese patients and Indian exporters benefit from it,” he tweeted.

Advantage India

The move is seen by some analysts as a sign of China opening up its market to cheaper generic medicines, especially from India, following the immense

popularity of the movie *Dying to Survive* last year which highlighted the need for affordable medicines in China.

The Xu Zheng-starrer Chinese black comedy is based on the real-life case of a Chinese leukemia patient-turned-drug dealer who was jailed for smuggling a cheaper alternative from India and selling it to fellow Chinese patients who couldn’t afford the exorbitantly priced official medication.

Dying to Survive went on to become China’s third highest-grossing movie in 2018 with a box office collection of over \$453 million. More importantly, the movie prompted intense online debate about the cost of medical care in China and called for action from the leadership. “I think it is definitely a response to society’s concern over

Welcoming the revision in the law, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong termed it as “a move which will help facilitate import of legal generic drugs from India to China.” “Hope to see more Chinese patients and Indian exporters benefit from it,” he tweeted.

the issue,” Reuters quoted Yuan Jie, an official at the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of National People’s Congress, as telling a press conference when asked about the change in the law.

Echoing Yuan’s remarks, Liu Changqiu, a health law expert and research fellow at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, told



the *Global Times* that the revised clause addresses patients' needs. "Different countries may apply different standards to drugs, but patients should be allowed the right to buy legal foreign drugs as long as they are effective," he said.

Liu added, however, that the revision does not mean that China is ready to relax management on imported generic medicine. People who want to import generic drugs for business and profit would still require to register and get a pre-approval under the current laws. Experts warned, however, that legal risks still remained for distributors who buy drugs abroad.

Besides tightening supervision to ensure drug safety, the newly revised law also encourages innovation in the research and development of new drugs, reported Xinhua news agency. "The law underscored China's commitment to pharmaceutical research and development in the general rules section, and added or improved over 10 clauses to encourage innovation," the agency quoted Liu Pei, a senior official with the National Medical Products Administration, as saying.

Reducing Trade Deficit

The intense public reaction to *Dying to Survive* coincided with China eliminating tariffs on 28 drugs including anti-cancer drugs from India, which have a substantial demand in China due to cheaper pricing than their Western variants.

Former Chinese ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui (and currently China's Vice Foreign

Minister) said it would "help reduce trade imbalance" between the two countries.

In a message to the first-ever meeting of drug regulators from China and India in Shanghai on June 21, India's Ambassador to China Vikram Misri called for a "clear roadmap" for increasing the share of Indian medicines in the Chinese market.

He also called for regular interactions between Chinese and Indian officials on the matter. India supplies 20% of global generic medicines in terms of volume, making the country the largest provider of generic medicines globally. Most generic medicines which applied for registration in China from 2016 to 2018 were reportedly from India and Switzerland.

New Delhi has been pressing Beijing to open its huge pharmaceutical market for Indian pharma exports to address a widening trade deficit which rose to \$57.8 billion in 2018 from \$51.7 billion in 2017, according to official Chinese customs data.

The latest figures available from India's Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL) show the country exported drugs and pharmaceuticals worth \$230 million in the 2018-19 financial year, a 15% jump over the \$200 million it posted in the previous fiscal year.

Former Chinese ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui (and currently China's Vice Foreign Minister) said it would "help reduce trade imbalance" between the two countries.



Chinese and Indian drug regulators hold their first-ever meeting in Shanghai.



H.E. Sun Weidong

LETTING THE PEARL ON THE SILK ROAD SHINE BRIGHTER

Dunhuang is a witness to interactions and learning between China and India over centuries

Recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping came to the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang City of China to inspect cultural relics protection and research work. Some Indian friends may have heard about Dunhuang, but not many know about its unique beauty, history and culture. Here I wish to share with you stories about Dunhuang that I know.

Dunhuang is a land that has gone through vicissitudes of history with ancient legacies and magic beauty. Around 2,000 years ago, a Chinese geographer of the Eastern Han dynasty Ying Shao said: "Dun, means grand; Huang, means splendid." So Dunhuang means the land of grand splendor. Historical changes over the millennium shaped the magnificent landscape of this frontier region, west of China's Gansu province, and left colorful and gorgeous cultural treasures.

Indian-style sculptures can be seen in the Mogao Grottoes built during the 4th to 6th centuries. The moves of the most commonly seen Apsara figure in Dunhuang murals are similar to those in Indian classical dances.

A Treasure Trove

The Mogao Grottoes, located in a desert oasis surrounded by water and mountain, have stood quietly for over 1,650 years, and is the most exquisite Buddhist art relics in China and beyond. Mogao Grottoes are a treasure house of art, architecture, sculpture and painting, with 735 grottoes, over 45,000 square meters of murals and 2,000 painted sculptures. These works of art are

exquisitely crafted, with unique craftsmanship, vivid charm, and combination of form and spirit. Like an amazing and colorful movement, they tell a beautiful and touching legend of magic charm lasting a thousand years.

A Testimony of Friendship

Dunhuang is a witness to interactions and learning between China and India, two ancient civilizations. The Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang



remind me of Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves in India, which I visited before. Other than being world-famous, the murals and Buddha figures in these caves tell the historical and cultural ties between Chinese and Indian civilizations, and witness the light of inter-civilizational exchanges and mutual learning.

Indian-style sculptures can be seen in the Mogao Grottoes built during the 4th to 6th centuries. The moves of the most commonly seen Apsara figure in Dunhuang murals are similar to those in Indian classical dances. Dunhuang also keeps many ancient Buddhist sutras written in Sanskrit and Pattra-Leaf Scripture, a wealth of information for China-India cultural exchanges.

Cultural Hub

Dunhuang is a classic example of convergence of oriental and western civilizations. President Xi Jinping said that Dunhuang is an important hub where the Orient met the West in history, and different cultures met and mingled here, shaping the unique charm of the Dunhuang culture.



The rich and colorful painted sculptures and murals at the Mogao Grottoes absorb the strength of ancient Eastern and Western art. The splendid Dunhuang culture is a fusion of the best of cultures of various nations. Ji Xianlin, a master scholar on culture in China, said that there are only four

The rich and colorful painted sculptures and murals at the Mogao Grottoes absorb the strength of ancient Eastern and Western art. The splendid Dunhuang culture is a fusion of the best of cultures of various nations.

cultural systems in the world with long history, vast territory, self-contained system and far-reaching influence, i.e. Chinese, Indian, Greek and Islamic, and these four cultural systems converge in Dunhuang and Xinjiang of China.

The Silk Road

Being an important hub city, Dunhuang is known as the “Pearl on the Silk Road”. For thousands of years, envoys and officials, merchants and caravans, monks and scholars, capital and technology, integrated and communicated through this road, nourishing the development and prosperity of countries along the route.

China and India have also developed close economic, trade and cultural exchanges along the ancient Silk Road of both land and sea. China’s paper

making, silk, porcelain and tea were introduced to India, while Indian songs and dance, astronomy, architecture and spices were introduced to China, which became the historical witness of the mutual exchanges between the two sides.

Zhang Qian was sent on a diplomatic mission to the western regions. Zheng He sailed to the western ocean seven times and visited India six times. Xuan Zang, Kumarajiva, Bodhidharma and other great monks made the expeditions by crossing over mountains and sailing the deep sea. All of them left touching stories.

The Silk Road spirit is about openness, exchanges and inclusiveness. It reveals the truth that there will be no progress without openness, no development without exchanges and no strength without inclusiveness.

Open & Inclusive

The Silk Road is not only a road of trade, but also a road of friendship, cooperation and mutual learning among civilizations. It will certainly further promote the deep inter-connectivity and cultural exchanges between countries along the route.



The Silk Road spirit is about openness, exchanges and inclusiveness. It reveals the truth that there will be no progress without openness, no development without exchanges and no strength without inclusiveness. Facing challenges of today's world, we should draw wisdom from the history of the Silk Road, unleash strength from the win-win cooperation today, and create a bright future of common development.

In August, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar co-chaired the second meeting of China-India High Level People-to-People (P2P) and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism in Beijing. The mechanism was set up under the joint initiative of President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Since the first meeting, bilateral people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation have seen a fresh boom. At this meeting, China and India agreed to host more colorful P2P and cultural events, work for new progress in P2P and cultural exchanges and consolidate the popular support for the sound development of China-India relations.

Build Common Ground

In the long course of history, China and India, two ancient oriental civilizations, have engaged in exchanges and mutual learning, created two vigorous and charming civilizations, and made great contributions to the development of human civilization.

In the new era, China and India should also adhere to inclusiveness and resolve differences through building common ground. We should transcend civilizational barriers through exchanges, rise above "civilization conflicts" by mutual learning, and overcome the sense of superiority by promoting coexistence of civilizations. Let's polish the ancient "Pearl on the Silk Road" Dunhuang, paint a new picture of dialogue and harmony and write a new chapter of mutual respect and harmonious coexistence between Chinese and Indian civilizations.

(This article was first published in *The Hindu*)



IN MANASAROVAR, CHINESE LEND A HELPING HAND TO INDIAN PILGRIMS

By Radhika Santhanam

For Indian pilgrims on the difficult trek to the high-altitude Kailash Manasarovar, the Hindu holy site in Tibet, things might have just got easier from this year. Accommodation facilities, called reception centres, have been built at various points of the pilgrimage, thanks to an initiative by the Chinese government to improve the material comforts of the pilgrims undertaking the arduous journey.

The reception centres, each with about 150 beds, have rooms with charging points, a common kitchen and a common washroom, and provide food for the yatris. According to Awang Chering, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ali Prefecture, all the four new reception centres have similar facilities.

“The Chinese government has spent 36.8 million RMBs (\$5.21 million) in building these centres,” he said. While two are open this year, the other two will be open to yatris from 2020.

China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the pilgrimage has “increasingly become a pathway of friendship”.



Jitendra Singh Rautala, 43, a pilgrim from Uttarakhand who has been on the yatra several times, said the new facilities are great. “They have ensured that a difficult trek has been made easier and comfortable,” he said.

A private tour operator, who did not wish to be named, credited both the Indian and Chinese governments for this change. “Earlier yatris used to stay in tents; now they stay in buildings with attached bathrooms,” he said. “Even those aged 70 can now go on the yatra,” he said.

Besides the facilities that have already been made available, Mr. Awang said the government is planning to set up oxygen bars along the

We will maintain this policy and do what we can to make Indians visiting Tibet feel at home, said Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Tibet Autonomous Region Sun Xiaobo.

high-altitude route. However, several pilgrims complained that the toilet facilities continue to be very poor. Vandana Neelkumar from Mumbai said inadequate toilet facilities inconvenienced women particularly.

During his visit to China (August 11-13), India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said after meeting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi that both countries are considering expanding the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra. "Some suggestions were made by the Chinese side to expand Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and we are deeply appreciative of these initiatives," Mr Jaishankar said. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the pilgrimage has "increasingly become a pathway of friendship".

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is important for Tibet, said Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Tibet Autonomous Region Sun Xiaobo.

"We all understand the significance of providing better service for Indians, who undertake the pilgrimage in Tibet," Mr Sun said.

"We will maintain this policy and do what we can to make Indians visiting Tibet feel at home," he added. Tibet can play an important role in promoting relations between China and India, Mr Sun added. "China's relationship with India is on the priority of Chinese diplomacy and Tibet has a very long history of exchanges with India in terms of culture and religion," he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Ali prefecture Ge Qingmin said while the Chinese government is committed to improving facilities for the yatris, there were some expectations from India too.

"We hope the yatris are always adequately prepared for the drastic climate conditions in Tibet. We hope they can come and leave in a healthy state. Two, we hope the Indian side can improve road conditions near Lipulekh Pass. The yatris travel four to five days to get to the Pass. If conditions are improved, their journey could be made less exhausting. And three, we hope that the yatris always abide by the laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China when they're in Tibet," he said.

(This article was first published in *The Hindu*)





OXYGEN BARS, MEDICAL FACILITY ALONG THE ROUTE

By Sachin Budhaliya



The Tibet Administration plans to set up oxygen bars on the circumambulation route of Mount Kailash for travellers going to Kailash Mansarovar and provide medical facilities in Darchen and Taklakot or Purang near the border of India and Nepal.

Organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, around 1,500 pilgrims from India visit Lord Shankar's shrine every year while thousands of pilgrims arrive via Lhasa or Hilsa Simikot with the help of private tour operators in Nepal. Most of the travellers are from the plains and many of them fall ill due to lack of oxygen at an altitude of about 15,000 feet above the sea level.

During an interaction with a delegation of Indian journalists visiting the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to review the expansion of passenger facilities, the Director General of the Foreign Department of Ali Prefecture, Mr Awang, in the Tibet Autonomous Region said that it has been decided to install oxygen bars at some places along the route. He said it is being studied in a scientific manner that at which point they should

be put so that any passenger can avail immediate oxygen facility. He also said that oxygen bars have been provided in some hotels.

Asked about the demand of Indian travellers for medical facility in Darchen and Purang, he said that the Central government of China and the Tibet Administration are constructing four guest houses and providing other facilities, including medical treatment, in the Kailash Mansarovar region at a cost of about Rs 380 crore. He said that oxygen bar and medical facility will be available from next year.

The Central government of China and the Tibet Administration are constructing four guest houses and providing other facilities, including medical treatment, in the Kailash Mansarovar region at a cost of about Rs 380 crore.

Mr Awang also informed that four guest houses have been built near Darchen, Derapuk, Zuturpuk and Mansarovar which have modern toilets and kitchen. He showed the newly built guesthouse in Zooturpuk and Derappuk to the journalists, who stayed there for night rest.

He mentioned that the ban imposed on bathing in Mansarovar lake was partially lifted last year. According to him, travellers are not allowed to enter the lake, but they can take water from the lake in buckets for bathing.

Happier Pilgrims

The visiting journalists met the 13th batch of Indian travellers who came through the Lipulekh Pass and the ninth batch through the Nathu La Pass. Nearly every passenger appeared satisfied with travel arrangements and development work being carried out by the Chinese administration in the region.

The Chinese officials also took the journalists from Purang or Taklakot to Lipulekh Pass where the road construction work was progressing rapidly. On the way, they met 42 passengers of the 12th batch of Indian passengers returned from the Chinese border to the Indian border, while 58 passengers in the 14th batch entered the Chinese border. Officials of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police were also present on the border on this occasion.

Sun Xiaobo, an official of China's Foreign Service in Lhasa and Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Tibet Autonomous Administration, told reporters that relations with India were a priority in Chinese diplomacy and Tibet's religious and cultural links have a very long history. He said that the leaders of both countries, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping, are paying attention in this direction and implementation of many steps are awaited. He believed the efforts of both governments will lead to a better future. (UNI)

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TIMELY SATELLITE DATA FROM CHINA HELPS INDIA COMBAT FLOODS



CHINA'S DATA HELPED INDIA TO PLAN ITS RESCUE EFFORTS.

Sitamarhi in India's eastern state of Bihar is one of the 12 worst-affected flood-hit districts. In the first two weeks (beginning July 15), 40 people, including a minor, died in this district out of the 130 in the state due to raging floods. The main cause of floods in the low-lying areas of Bihar is the overflowing of several rivers that originate in the neighbouring country of Nepal.

A Xinhua correspondent, who travelled to the areas devastated by floods in Sitamarhi, reached Dhaaptola village in a rescue boat and found the village had 200 houses. Most of the houses, which are built with mud and have thatched roofs, had been submerged by the overflowing Bagmati

river for eight to 10 days, beginning the night of July 14-15. The inhabitants had to spend several days on roof-tops or places above the water-level, even as it rained, sometimes heavily.

Flood waters also inundated agricultural fields, and boats provided by rescue teams, belonging to the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), were the only mode of transport for them to go to the nearby markets to buy daily necessities.

Similar rescue teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Indian Army were also pressed into service in nearby areas to extend relief and work to the flood victims.

The only pathway, a 100-meter-long bridge built with bamboo sticks, was washed away in flash floods, and the village had remained cut-off from the rest of the state for at least five days before the relief and rescue teams arrived with rescue boats, relief material and medicines.

Sharing Satellite Data

China was the first country to share satellite data and images of the flood-affected areas with the Indian government, particularly in Bihar and in the north-eastern state of Assam. The satellite images were received from the Chinese satellite Gaofen-2 on July 18.

India's Ministry of External Affairs acknowledged China's help and also the help of seven other nations including the United States, Russia and France. The satellite data was received as a part of a multilateral mechanism for sharing space-based data for countries affected by natural or man-made disasters.

On July 26, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong tweeted "Following ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization)'s request for international disaster relief support, China has provided India with satellite data on India's flood-hit regions to assist its flood relief efforts. Hope all gets well soon."

The Process of Sharing

India raised the request on July 17 and China is said to be the first country to send a set of satellite data. Other countries' space agencies gave information as and when their satellites passed over the area, said Indian media reports.

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Reacting to this development, Sachindra Kumar Dubey, a SDRF rescue worker, praised China's help. "It is like a good neighbour's help. It was a very timely help that came from China, which actually helped India in deciding its course of action for rescuing the flood-hit victims and providing them with much needed relief," he added.

Besides the loss of human lives, a large number of cattle died in flash floods, even as standing crops, including rice, sugarcane, and vegetables, in several thousands of hectares of agricultural land were destroyed. Apart from Bihar, more than 80 deaths have been reported from India's north-eastern state of Assam due to similar flash floods.



CNSA RELEASES DATA TO INDIA TO DEAL WITH FLOODS



Three earth observation satellites – Gaofen-1, Gaofen-2 and Gaofen-3 – captured the images of flood-hit regions in India.



The China National Space Administration (CNSA) said on July 24 that it has provided satellite data to assist India with its recent flood relief efforts. The CNSA launched the satellite emergency response plan early on July 18, following a request from the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) for international disaster relief support, under the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, said the Chinese space agency.

The China Center for Resources Satellite Data and Application (CRESDA) scheduled three earth observation satellites – Gaofen-1, Gaofen-2 and Gaofen-3 – to capture the images of flood-hit regions in India, the CNSA said in a press release.

The CRESDA also sent 14 pre- and post-disaster satellite images to ISRO for flood monitoring, said the CNSA.

The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, which is designed to aid emergency and relief efforts, began its operation in 2000. The CNSA signed onto the charter in 2007, and so far have provided international relief to more than 30 countries and regions.

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Wider opening-up attracts more FDI into China



FDI has been hard earned since the global flows have declined for three consecutive years.

In the first seven months of the year, China has seen a spike in foreign direct investment (FDI), a key yardstick to measure an economy's potential. This has been happened thanks to the government's policy to open up its economy.

The FDI into the Chinese mainland expanded 7.3% year on year to 533.14 billion yuan in the January-July period, the Ministry of Commerce announced recently. The growth rate for the first six months of the year was 7.2%.

In US dollar terms, the FDI inflow grew 3.6% year on year to \$78.8 billion during the period, up from 3.5% in the first half of the year.

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These FDI have been hard earned since the global FDI flows have declined for three consecutive years. Meanwhile, the quality of the FDI inflow was optimized with more capital flowing into the high-tech sector.

Investment in high-tech industries climbed 43.1% year on year to account for 29.3% of the total FDI.

The FDI in the high-tech service sector surged 63.2% year on year between January and July, while that in the high-tech manufacturing sector rose by 19% year on year.

A Popular Destination

These figures conclusively prove that China is a popular investment destination for overseas companies. According to a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, 80% of the US-funded enterprises are optimistic about their development prospects in China over the next five years.

A recent survey conducted by the Germany Trade and Invest showed there are more than 5,200 German enterprises in China, and more will invest in the country as it continues to open up to the outside world.

Overseas companies still love doing business in China and their confidence in the nation can be increased by the nation's new round of opening-up measures.

For example, on August 6, China announced the expansion of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone. On July 10, a State Council executive meeting

discussed how to further lower the country's overall import tariff level, refine export tax rebate policies and speed up the tax rebate process.

On June 30, China rolled out the revised negative lists for foreign investment market access, introducing greater opening-up and allowing foreign investors to run majority-share-controlling or wholly-owned businesses in more sectors.

"Amid protectionist headwinds, an open China is in itself most attractive," said Lui Kwok-fai, general manager of ASM Pacific Technology Ltd., a provider of equipment and materials for the semiconductor assembly and packaging industry. "We are not going to give up the huge consumer market and the quality technical personnel here solely for lower costs in other countries," he said.

The FDI inflow into China has been stable in the past, is stable now, and will continue to be stable in the future, said Chu Shijia, director of the general affairs department of the MOC.

Looking ahead, China's opening-up will be strengthened and accelerated. It has the conditions for higher level and higher quality in using FDI, said Zhang Yansheng, a researcher with the China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

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CHINA'S CONSUMER INFLATION TO REMAIN MILD IN H2: ANALYSTS

The Chinese Government aims to keep the CPI increase at around 3% this year.

Although China's consumer prices increased in July, analysts expect inflation pressure to remain mild in the second half of 2019. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), a critical gauge of inflation, was at a 17-month high of 2.8% in July, up from an increase of 2.7% registered in June, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The increase was mainly attributed to higher food prices, which accounted for a large proportion in the CPI calculation. This happened because of high pork prices due to the African swine fever, and the impact of adverse weather on vegetable supplies.

The government aims to keep the CPI increase at around 3% this year. The country's overall consumer prices would remain stable as the impact of structural factors would gradually fade with rising supplies, said Yue Xiuhu, an official with the National Development and Reform Commission.

With the outbreak of the African swine fever being effectively controlled, quarantine has been lifted in the most-affected regions, and cross-region transportation of pigs has gradually resumed, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Measures that the government had put in place would gradually take effect and help ensure market supply and stabilize pork prices, said Wang Zuli, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

As the low base effect passes, the upside risk of the CPI may lessen in the third quarter, and the overall CPI may hold flat or edge down in Q3,



China vowed to keep its prudent monetary policy “neither too tight nor too loose” and make counter-cyclical adjustments in a timely and moderate manner, the central bank said in its second-quarter monetary policy report.

according to analysts of the China International Capital Corporation Limited (CICC).

The CICC expected the central bank to loosen monetary policy on the margins, further inject liquidity via open market operation instruments, and lower the open market operation rates, and reserve requirement ratio during the rest of the year. China vowed to keep its prudent monetary policy “neither too tight nor too loose” and make counter-cyclical adjustments in a timely and moderate manner, the central bank said in its second-quarter monetary policy report.

Consumer Trend Index remains at high level

Latest data highlight the resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy.

An index measuring China's consumer confidence remained at a high level in the second quarter of 2019, said a research report prepared by global measurement and data analytics company Nielsen. The country's Consumer Trend Index stood at 115 points in the second quarter, similar to that of the last quarter, the report added.

Index levels above and below the baseline of 100 indicate consumer optimism and pessimism, respectively. The index measures perceptions of local job prospects, personal finance and willingness to spend.

Justin Sargent, president of Nielsen China, saw a continuously optimized economic structure and an enhanced endogenous power of the economy as China's supply-side structural reform advances and the implementation of the policy to ensure stability is accelerated.



“It highlights the resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy and effectively facilitates the long-term stable development,” he said.

The sub-index for the personal finance climbed to 71 points from 70 points, a historical high, and that for the willingness to spend stood at 61, the same as the previous quarter. The job prospects’ sub-index came in at 77 points.

“The Chinese government has implemented measures to further cut tax and lower fees, reduced the cost of corporate taxes and fees, and enhanced the vitality of enterprises,” Sargent noted. “In the meantime, the tax reform has led to a simultaneous increase in household income, which drove social consumption growth.”



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RURAL E-COMMERCE REGISTERS RAPID GROWTH



The e-commerce sector grew rapidly in rural areas of China in the first half of 2019, official data showed. The total online retail sales in rural areas were about 777.1 billion yuan (about \$113.6 billion) in H1, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The 21% year-on-year growth was 3.2 percentage points higher than the nationwide growth rate. Meanwhile, online retail sales of agricultural products also saw a notable increase in the period. The sales hit 187.4 billion yuan, up 25.3% from last year.

Snacks were the most popular product, accounting for 25.8% of the total sales, followed by tea products and nourishing foods, the statement said.



HarmonyOS 鸿蒙

基于微内核的全场景分布式OS

HarmonyOS

A microkernel-based, distributed OS
for all scenarios

< HDC 2019 >

HUAWEI LAUNCHES OS FOR MOBILE PHONES

HarmonyOS is a lightweight, compact system with powerful functionalities.

Huawei launched its open-source operating system, HarmonyOS, on August 9, as a potential alternative to the Android system, to ensure that there is no crisis if the Google's operating system is banned from using in Huawei mobile phones.

HarmonyOS, or Hongmeng in Chinese, is a microkernel-based and a distributed operating system designed for various devices and scenarios, said Richard Yu, CEO of Huawei's Consumer Business Group, at the Huawei Developer Conference held in Dongguan, south China's Guangdong Province. "It will be very fast and convenient to transfer the Android operating system to HarmonyOS if Android is not accessible anymore. It takes only one to two days." However, Huawei mobile phones will give priority to Android considering the ecosystem and partners, he added.

A Compact System

Mr Yu said HarmonyOS is a lightweight, compact operating system with powerful functionalities, and would first be used in Huawei's smart screen products. In the next three years, the system will be used in more smart devices such as smart watches and in-vehicle systems.

"We're entering a day and age where people expect a holistic intelligent experience across all devices and scenarios. To support this, we felt it was important to have an operating system with improved cross-platform capabilities," Mr Yu said. "We need an OS that supports all scenarios, that can be used across a broad range of devices and platforms, and that can meet consumer demand for low latency and strong security."

A Dynamic Ecosystem of Apps

Mr Yu said the development of HarmonyOS will depend on a dynamic ecosystem of apps and developers. "To encourage broader adoption, Huawei will release HarmonyOS as an open-source platform worldwide," Mr Yu said.

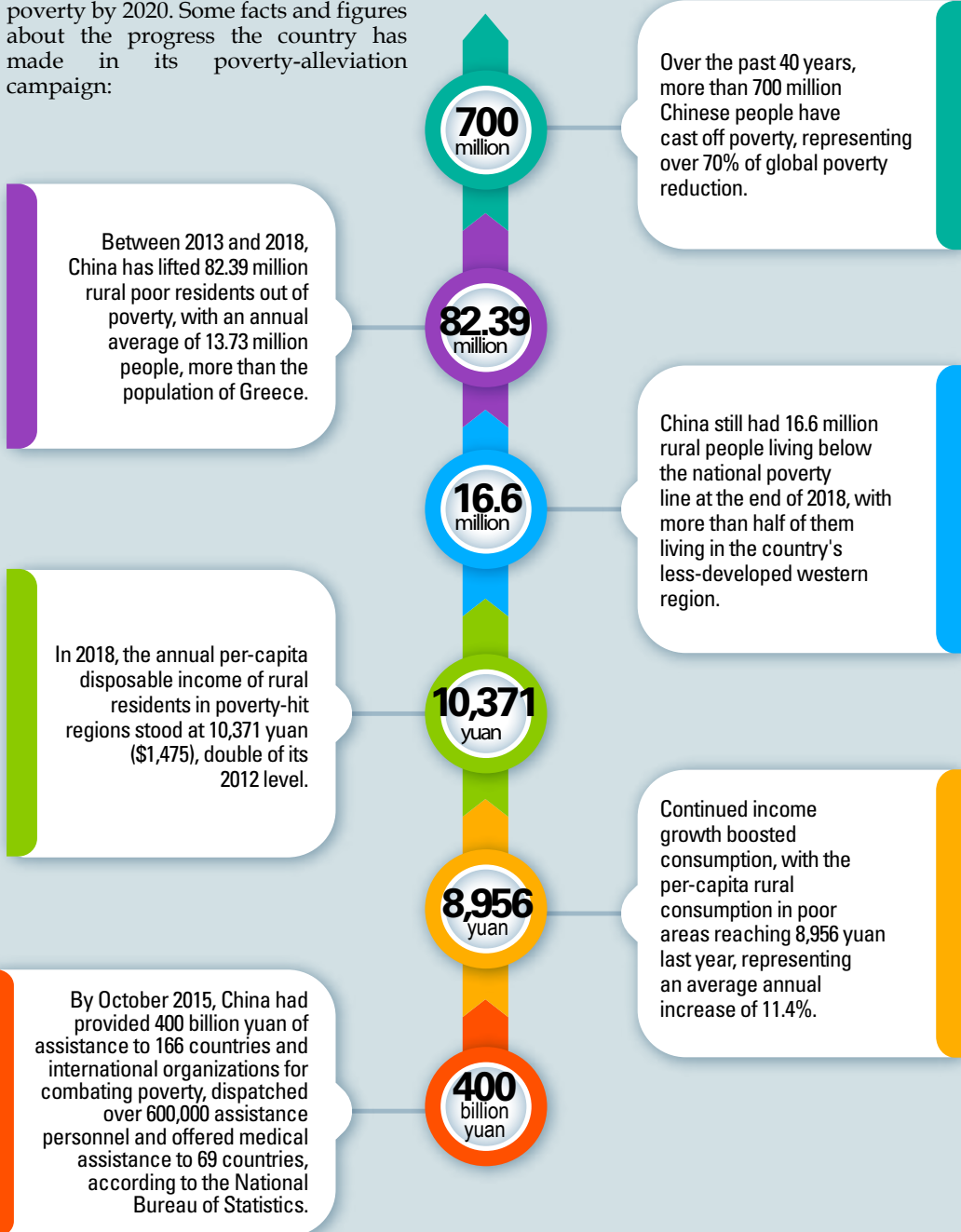
Huawei will also establish an open-source foundation and an open-source community to support more in-depth collaboration with developers, he added.

"We're entering a day and age where people expect a holistic intelligent experience across all devices and scenarios. To support this, we felt it was important to have an operating system with improved cross-platform capabilities," Mr Yu said.

China's Victory Over Poverty: In Numbers

Between 2013 and 2018, China has lifted 82.39 million rural poor residents out of poverty.

China has made historic achievements in fighting poverty over the past decades, making the country a major contributor to the world's poverty reduction endeavors. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and also a crucial stage for the country's poverty-alleviation campaigns as it vows to eradicate poverty by 2020. Some facts and figures about the progress the country has made in its poverty-alleviation campaign:



US Documentary Explores China's Heroic War on Poverty

Eminent China expert Robert Lawrence Kuhn is impressed by the sheer scope and determination of China's poverty alleviation programme, and the humanitarian intention behind it.



Hosted and written by well-known China expert and investment banker Robert Lawrence Kuhn of the Kuhn Foundation, and directed by award-winning director Peter Getzels, *Voices From the Frontline: China's War on Poverty* was premiered on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) on July 31.

Through SoCal, the Los Angeles-based PBS flagship station which reaches 19 million diverse viewers across Southern California, the documentary gives Western audience a rare glimpse into the internal workings of the poverty alleviation program, one of China's most important government programs.

"The documentary provides a textured and intimate portrayal of China's historic anti-poverty campaign by following six cases that highlight China's poverty alleviation strategy," said the Kuhn Foundation in a statement.

A First for US Network

The PBS premiere marks the first time a major American network has covered the inside story of China's ambitious race to eradicate extreme poverty by 2020.

A renaissance man, Kuhn is an investment banker and longtime writer and host of PBS's



Since China's targeted poverty initiative began, three million cadre officials have been mobilized and, today, 775,000 are still hard at work. As of 2019, through their efforts, China's poverty level has dropped to less than 20 million.

hit *Closer to Truth* series in which he interviews the world's greatest minds in science, philosophy, religion and more.

He is also a China expert and 30-year advisor to China on matters of high finance, corporate strategy and international policy. Besides, he is a recipient of "China Reform Friendship Medal," China's highest international honor awarded to only 10 foreigners in four decades.

As the host of over 400 hours of in-depth television interviews, Mr Kuhn is known for his dry, self-deprecating humor, and for asking deep and probing questions that cut straight to the heart of the matter.

"To truly understand China, one has to recognize their genuine commitment to eradicate poverty," Mr Kuhn told Xinhua after the premiere.

"Today, in the Western world, especially in the United States, there is concern about China's actions and suspicion of China's motives," Mr Kuhn explained. "But one of the things I wanted this film to do was to undermine the stereotype of China as a ruthless giant out to dominate the world. It's just not the case. Their focus is still inward on eradicating poverty, something the U.S. has yet to do."

He explained that while China's economic stimulus package was an unprecedented success, it had become clear by 2013 when President Xi Jinping took office, that there were still millions of intractably poor that no amount of economic stimulus could reach such as those in extremely remote mountain villages and with no education.

Unique Plan

Mr Kuhn was fascinated that China's solution was to create a massive, highly targeted, individual poverty alleviation program. Like no other nation, China's program was based on crafting an individual plan for every single family below the poverty line, then having them visited every month by a young party member who helps them implement new strategies to increase their income.

Mr Kuhn was impressed by the sheer scope and determination of China's poverty alleviation program, and the humanitarian intention behind it.

"Since China's targeted poverty initiative began, three million cadre officials have been mobilized and, today, 775,000 are still hard at work. As of 2019, through their efforts,



CHINA CAN MEET 2020 TARGET

Liu Yongfu, Director, State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, is confident that China can cross that finish line in time.

“Our goal is explicit, our targets are clear, our determination is great. We are serious about getting results,” he said.

China’s poverty level has dropped to less than 20 million,” he affirmed.

Different Perspectives

The film’s director Getzels, an award-winning documentary filmmaker and two-time Emmy nominee, found shooting the film a profound experience.

“What you learn as a documentary filmmaker is that there are so many different ways to understand things. Everyone has their own fascinating perspective,” he told Xinhua.

“For the film, we decided to take a more observational approach, not a journalistic one that would be mired in journalist arguments,” he explained. “We wanted to tell the story from the different perspectives of everyone we met, from high-ranking officials all the way down to the families of the poor themselves.”

“It turned out to be much more personal and nuanced,” he added with satisfaction.

The film’s striking cinematography, with its images of steep mountain passes shrouded in mist, flickering cookfires, steaming tea kettles, and slanting sunsets over tranquil ponds, was an arresting counterpoint to the fierce struggle it takes to survive in rural poverty in China. Mr Getzels concurred with



Mr Kuhn’s assessment that China’s genuine desire to address poverty has prompted it to come up with its current ambitious and visionary approach.

Mr Kuhn was fascinated that China’s solution was to create a massive, highly targeted, individual poverty alleviation program. Like no other nation, China’s program was based on crafting an individual plan for every single family below the poverty line.



China expert and investment banker Robert Lawrence Kuhn.

WHITE PAPER OUTLINES CHINA'S DEFENCE PRIORITIES IN NEW ERA



China has issued a white paper to expound its defensive national defense policy in the new era and explain the practice, purposes and significance of China's efforts to build a fortified national defense and a strong military.

The white paper, entitled *China's National Defense in the New Era*, released by the State Council Information Office on July 24, 2019, aims at helping the international community better understand China's national defense policy and priorities.

The main body of the white paper was divided into six sections: the international security situation; China's defensive national defense policy in the new era; fulfilling the missions and tasks of China's armed forces in the new era; reform in China's national defense and armed forces; reasonable and appropriate defense expenditure; and actively contributing to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

It is the 10th white paper on national defense the Chinese government has issued since 1998



and the first comprehensive one since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012.

A number of figures were also used in the 27,000-character white paper, and 10 tables on topics such as the breakdown of China's defense expenditure and international cooperation activities were added as appendices.

Defensive Defense Policy

China adheres to a national defense policy that is defensive in nature, said the white paper. This is determined by the socialist system of China, the strategic decision to follow the path of peaceful development, the independent foreign policy of peace, and the best of cultural traditions that considers peace and harmony as fundamentals, said the white paper.

The fundamental goal of China's national defense in the new era is resolutely

The white paper, entitled *China's National Defense in the New Era*, released by the State Council Information Office on July 24, 2019, aims at helping the international community better understand China's national defense policy and priorities.

The fundamental goal of China's national defense in the new era is resolutely safeguarding China's sovereignty, security and development interests, said the white paper.

safeguarding China's sovereignty, security and development interests, said the white paper. Never seeking hegemony, expansion or spheres of influence is the distinctive feature of China's national defense in the new era, the strategic guidance for which is implementing the military strategic guideline for a new era, according to the white paper.

The path forward for China's national defense in the new era is continuing to strengthen the military in the Chinese way, and its global significance is in the service of building a community with a shared future for mankind, it said.

'CHINA PURSUES NUCLEAR STRATEGY OF SELF-DEFENSE'

China pursues a nuclear strategy of self-defense, the goal of which is to maintain national strategic security by deterring other countries from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against China, said the white paper on defence.

China is always committed to a nuclear policy of no first use of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances, and not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones unconditionally, said the white paper.

China advocates the ultimate complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. China does not engage in any nuclear arms race with any other country and keeps its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security, according to the white paper.

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ASIA-PACIFIC: A COMMUNITY WITH SHARED DESTINY

China's new paper on national defence highlights the dangers of growing hegemonism, power politics, unilateralism and constant regional conflicts and wars to the international security system.

The white paper observed that the world is not yet a tranquil place and underlined that peace, development and win-win cooperation remain the irreversible trends of the times. The pursuit of peace, stability and development has become a universal aspiration of the international community with forces for peace predominating over elements of war, said the white paper.

According to the white paper, Asia-Pacific countries are increasingly aware that they are members of a community with shared destiny. Addressing differences and disputes through dialogue and consultation has become a preferred policy option for regional countries, making the region a stable part of the global landscape.

But as the world's economic and strategic center continues to shift towards the Asia-Pacific, the region has become a focus of major country competition, bringing uncertainties to regional security, it said. The white paper stressed that China continues to enjoy political stability, ethnic unity and social stability, adding that there has been a notable increase in China's overall national strength, global influence, and resilience to risks.

China is still in an important period of strategic opportunity for development. Nevertheless, it also faces diverse and complex security threats and challenges, the white paper said. Peace, development and win-win cooperation remain the irreversible trends of the times.

MISSIONS AND TASKS OF CHINA'S ARMED FORCES

China's armed forces endeavour to provide strategic support for consolidating the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the socialist system, safeguarding national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, protecting China's overseas interests, and promoting world peace and development, said the white paper.

The missions and tasks of China's armed forces were laid out in seven aspects:

- Safeguarding national territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests;
- Maintaining combat readiness;
- Carrying out military training in real combat conditions;
- Safeguarding interests in major security fields;
- Countering terrorism and maintaining stability;
- Protecting China's overseas interests;
- Participating in disaster rescue and relief.

US is paying price for launching trade war with China



Chinese President Xi Jinping with US President Donald Trump.

The United States is paying the price for launching a trade war, as China is forced to announce the levy of new additional tariffs on US goods.

China has announced that it will slap additional tariffs on US imports worth about \$75 billion, covering 5,078 US products with additional tariffs of 10 or 5%, in two batches starting on Sept 1 and Dec 15, respectively. The new tariffs will cover vehicles, auto parts and farm produce such as soybean and corn. US farmers and manufacturers will soon feel the brunt.

Through more than a year of trade friction between the two countries, China never faltered. When the US side tried to intensify trade bullying and exert maximum pressure on China, it only strengthened China's resolve, making China

stand more firmly against the US bullying, and defend its legitimate rights and interests.

China has always believed that cooperation is the only means of resolving trade issues with the US side, but such cooperation comes with preconditions. China strongly opposes US trade hegemony and will never compromise on its fundamental principles. The further some people in the United States go on their dangerous road of hegemony and bullying, the stronger the pushback they will encounter.

Right Way Forward

In terms of counter measure, China means business. There is no winner in a trade war. Companies from both sides have paid prices. Farmers in some parts of the US have suffered "devastating impacts" from the trade war with China, according to US media reports.

Tariff escalation has put a significant strain on the US economy, raising costs, undermining investment and sending stocks plunging. The US economy will not be stronger without China.

Any discussion of severing ties between US and Chinese companies is ridiculous at best. Companies from both countries have been ambassadors for positive changes to the two economies. Despite the current impasse, constructive engagement is still the right way forward.

Some people in the US had imagined their trade war would be "easy to win." They have been proved wrong. The only way to end the trade war is for the US to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state, meet China halfway, and find a solution through consultations on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

China is not a currency manipulator: Central bank

Instead of unfairly labeling China, the US should resolve trade disputes, says Deputy Governor of People's Bank of China.



The Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), Chen Yulu, has said that the United States Treasury's decision to label China "a currency manipulator" is totally wrong. The label, he added, not only violates the common sense of economics and international consensus but fails to meet the quantitative criteria for the so-called "currency manipulator" set by the US Department of the Treasury.

China has never resorted to competitive devaluation and will not use currency as a tool for competition, Mr Chen said.

During the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2008 global financial crisis, China was committed to keeping the currency stable, which contributed tremendously to the global economic recovery and stabilization of the international financial market, the deputy governor explained.

Since China's currency reform in 2005, the yuan's nominal exchange rate and real exchange rate have appreciated around 40%. Meanwhile, the country's current account surplus declined to 0.4% of the GDP of 2018, down notably from 9.2% in 2005, he said.

Market-led Devaluation

The yuan's depreciation since the beginning of August should be attributed to market fluctuations caused by the changes in the global economic climate and escalation of trade frictions, Mr Chen said. He stressed that the devaluation, which is decided by market forces, is unrelated to so-called currency manipulation.

The trade disputes provoked by the US have triggered fluctuations in the global financial market and at the same time brought volatility to both the US financial market and the US dollar index since 2018, Mr Chen said.

"We hope that the US side should show respect for the truth and resolve the economic and trade disputes with China in a more reasonable and pragmatic way before it goes too far on the wrong path," he added.

China has never resorted to competitive devaluation and will not use currency as a tool for competition, Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), Chen Yulu, said.

IMF report bats for early US-China trade deal

The IMF praises steps taken by China to reduce the financial sector fragilities and advance the economic reform process.



“The IMF report makes clear that there has been absolutely no currency manipulation and that China’s external balance has been appropriate,” said Jeffrey Sachs, a senior United Nations advisor and renowned economics professor at Columbia University.

China’s real effective exchange rate (REER) in 2018 is estimated to be at the same level as warranted by fundamentals and desirable policies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reiterated on August 10. The average REER in 2018 appreciated by about 1.4% relative to 2017, driven by the appreciation in the nominal effective exchange rate (NEER) (1.5%), the IMF said in a staff report after concluding the annual Article IV consultation to review the Chinese economy.

China’s current account surplus fell by around 1 percentage point to 0.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018, and it is projected to remain contained at 0.5% of the GDP in 2019, the report noted. “The external position in 2018 was assessed to be broadly in line with the level consistent with medium-term fundamentals and desirable policies,” the IMF said, consistent with its earlier conclusion in its annual *External Sector Report* released in July.

No Currency Manipulation

“The IMF report makes clear that there has been absolutely no currency manipulation and that China’s external balance has been appropriate,” Jeffrey Sachs, a senior United Nations advisor and renowned economics professor at Columbia University, told Xinhua via email.

In response to the IMF estimates through May 2019 which show the REER has depreciated by about 0.2% relative to the 2018 average, Mr Sachs said the unilateral tariff action by the United States “surely has caused some depreciation” of the equilibrium REER.

“The US Treasury action declaring China a currency manipulator was blatantly arbitrary, capricious and political, based on Trump’s tweets rather than on objective analysis,” Mr Sachs said.



Welcoming China's commitment to multilateralism and a rules-based trading system, the executive directors agreed that trade tensions between China and the US should be quickly resolved through a comprehensive agreement that avoids undermining the international system.

Mark Sobel, non-resident senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and US chairman of the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, told Xinhua that the Article IV report also notes that China's current account surplus is "small", around half of a percent of GDP, and "that estimates suggest China has not been intervening in the foreign exchange market."

"As such, the Article IV clearly rebuffs the recent US assertion that China is 'manipulating' its currency to gain unfair competitive trade advantage or prevent effective balance of payments adjustment," said Mr Sobel, who was the US representative at the IMF, and once served as deputy assistant secretary for international monetary and financial policy at the US Department of the Treasury.

Gary Hufbauer, non-resident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told Xinhua that "there's no chance" that the IMF will change its assessment (on currency manipulation) unless the United States threatens to withhold support from the European Union's

nominee for the managing director, conditioned on a "fresh evaluation" of the IMF's criteria for assessing exchange rates.

Support for Reforms

In the IMF report, the executive directors also commended the Chinese authorities' recent reform progress in reducing financial sector fragilities and continuing opening-up of the economy, while underscoring the importance of structural fiscal reforms that can enhance medium-term growth.

Welcoming the country's commitment to multilateralism and a rules-based trading system, the executive directors agreed that trade tensions between China and the US should be quickly resolved through a comprehensive agreement that avoids undermining the international system.

The directors also concurred that greater exchange rate flexibility and deeper and better functioning foreign exchange markets would help the financial system prepare for greater capital flow volatility.



US charges on agricultural items wrong: NDRC official

In response to the US' accusations that China has not taken concrete action in purchasing US agricultural products, an official with the country's top economic planning agency said "such accusations are groundless."

In an interview, Cong Liang, secretary general of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said that China has displayed sincerity in cooperation and made good progress in purchasing US agricultural products after the Osaka meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump.

From the conclusion of the Osaka meet to the end of July, 2.27 million tonnes of US soybeans were shipped to China, and another two million tonnes of soybeans are expected to be loaded in August, said Mr Cong.

Of the 14 million tonnes of US soybeans signed in the agreement by enterprises of both countries, only 300,000 tonnes are left to be loaded in September, Mr Cong added.

Since July 19, Chinese companies have made enquiries about purchasing US soybeans, sorghum, wheat, corn, cotton, dairy products, hay, ethyl alcohol, soybean oil, wine, beer, fresh and processed fruits and other agricultural products.



By the evening of August 2, a number of deals had been concluded, including 130,000 tonnes of soybeans, 120,000 tonnes of sorghum, 60,000 tonnes of wheat and 40,000 tonnes of pork and pork products, according to Mr Cong.

Several Similarities

"China and the US are highly complementary in the agricultural sector and the trade of agricultural products is in line with mutual interests of both sides," said Mr Cong. He said the reason that some US products, including ethyl alcohol and corn, failed to enter the Chinese market is because their prices are less competitive. "We hope the US will do more to clear obstacles and create conditions for China's purchase of US agricultural products," said Mr Cong.

US Fentanyl Claim a ‘Distortion of Facts’

The United States’ accusation that many of its citizens have died because China failed to prevent fentanyl from entering the country is not true, a senior Chinese anti-drug official said recently.

“It is true that the US has a high death rate from the proliferation of fentanyl-related substances, but the US has only itself to blame for the fentanyl abuse crisis and China is not the main source of fentanyl in the country,” Liu Yuejin, deputy director of the National Narcotics Control Commission, China’s leading drug enforcement body, said in an interview with the China Central Television. “It is a complete distortion of facts and is totally unacceptable to the Chinese people”.

US President Donald Trump recently claimed China had not fulfilled its promise to stop sales of fentanyl to the US, resulting in many deaths from drug abuse. Substances related to fentanyl, a potent opioid painkiller, were approved for medical use in the US in 1968. In recent years, a large number of US citizens have died from fentanyl-related substance abuse.

China strictly controls fentanyl-like substances, and, from May, 25 fentanyl analogues were put on China’s list of controlled substances, more than the 21 on the US list.

“The control of fentanyl in China is long-term, covering all kinds of fentanyl substances,” Mr Liu said. “In contrast, the regulation in the US is temporary and not as complete”.

“The international community, including the US Drug Enforcement Administration, commended China’s move,” he said. Mr Trump had also praised the measure on several occasions, he added.

Strong Measures

Since the control took effect, China had made unprecedented efforts in addressing the fentanyl issue in terms of issuing laws and regulations,

conducting an overall market inspection, and stepping up police investigation.

According to data provided by the US DEA, only four cases of fentanyl trafficking from China were reported by the US Customs and Border Protection in the second quarter of this year, Mr Liu said. “This indicates that the measures we have taken have shown great results. However, deaths caused by fentanyl abuse in the US remain high. Thus it is impossible for China to be a major source of fentanyl in the US,” he added.

Mr Liu also said that the Chinese government has always attached great importance to drug control and maintained a zero-tolerance attitude toward drugs. “It will keep its promise to strictly control substances related to fentanyl and promote global drug control.”

Since the control took effect, China had made unprecedented efforts in addressing the fentanyl issue in terms of issuing laws and regulations, conducting an overall market inspection, and stepping up police investigation.





Li Bijian
Minister & Deputy Chief of Mission,
Embassy of PRC in India

Hong Kong: Law and order must be upheld

R

Recently, a series of protests and violent incidents took place in Hong Kong, China, drawing wide attention from the international community. I noticed that most of the news in the Indian media on the situation in Hong Kong is sourced from the West and little is from China. One can only find truth after listening to all sides of the story. To lay out the facts and tell the truth, I wish to share with Indian friends what I know about what's happening in Hong Kong and China's perspective.

On the face of it, the protests were triggered by the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill proposed by the Hong Kong government. The amendment was meant to solve individual criminal cases and plug legal loopholes to uphold fairness and justice. To end disputes and maintain stability, the Hong Kong government later suspended the bill.

Primacy of Law

However, instigated by certain forces, some people took to the streets illegally without required approval. Some protesters blocked the streets for long hours and impeded traffic; some radical ones even stormed the Hong Kong Legislative Council building, destroyed public facilities, attacked the police with petrol bombs and damaged the national flag of China. These activities are way beyond the scope of peaceful protest and seriously undermine the rule of law and social order in Hong Kong. These flagrant

violent activities are by no means "defense of democracy and freedom".

Laws must be followed and lawbreakers must be brought to justice, this is the basic norm in any society under the rule of law. The most important task for Hong Kong now is to punish the violent criminal acts according to the law, restore social stability as soon as possible and safeguard law and order. The Hong Kong government has strictly enforced the law, acted decisively, ensured the safety of life and property of Hong Kong people and upheld the sanctity of the rule



of law in Hong Kong. Their efforts should not be smeared. People from all walks of life in Hong Kong have launched large-scale gatherings to safeguard Hong Kong and call for the rule of law; they represent the real mainstream public opinion in Hong Kong.

Don't Destabilise Hong Kong

Instigation and interference by certain external forces is a major cause for disorder in Hong Kong. Some countries sympathize with and tolerate the violent activities, but criticize the Hong Kong government and the Hong Kong police for preventing violence and disorder according to law. This is equating violence to protest and law enforcement to repression. This shows that certain forces are attempting to destabilize Hong Kong and hamper China's development. What happened in Hong Kong is China's internal affair, and no country or organization has the right to interfere. China will resolutely safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

Some say the recent disorder in Hong Kong is a serious setback for the "One country, Two systems" policy. In fact, the opposite is true. Since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, the Central Government of China and government

What happened in Hong Kong is China's internal affair, and no country or organization has the right to interfere. China will resolutely safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

of Hong Kong have firmly implemented the principle of "One country, Two systems".

Hong Kong's business environment and international competitiveness have been widely recognized by the international community. Hong Kong residents enjoy unprecedented democratic rights and broad freedom. Hong Kong is a front-runner in the world's rule of law index. All facts indicate that "One country, Two systems" is the best institutional arrangement to maintain Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.

Common Prosperity

Disorder in Hong Kong not only hurts China. The favorable business environment has made Hong Kong the largest receiver of foreign direct investment. Nearly 7,000 foreign companies operate in Hong Kong and 600,000 foreigners live there. Hong Kong's prosperity is the result of its own efforts as well as contributions of all countries, including India. Tolerating the rampage of violent activities means burdening those who care for Hong Kong with the costs of violence and destruction.



India and Hong Kong have close economic and trade ties. A large number of Indian citizens do business and live in Hong Kong. We believe India can understand and support the decisions made by the Chinese side and make an independent judgment.

We hope that Indian friends can uphold fairness and justice, and look at the situation in Hong Kong in a rational light and come to an objective and correct conclusion.

(This article was first published in Hindustan Times)



Rising Violence Paralyzes Asia's Financial Hub

Timely end of chaos in Hong Kong holds the key to protecting its economic and social foundations.

Radicalized protests and escalating violence in Hong Kong have weighed down the Asian financial hub and compromised the well-being of its seven million residents. The Hong Kong International Airport, which handles nearly 200,000 passengers a day, has been hit by unauthorized protests, leading to cancellation of flights. The illegal gathering has also caused serious traffic jams along the expressways around

the airport and affected the commutes of local residents.

The scenes in the city - people carrying weapons, smashing facilities, setting fires, blocking main streets and harassing passers-by, closed shops, and deserted roads - bear little resemblance to the dynamic and cosmopolitan Hong Kong.



China Urges US to Stop Interfering in Hong Kong Affairs

China has urged the United States to stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs. The remarks came as Hua Chunying, a spokesperson with the Chinese Foreign Ministry, responded to a query about the "color revolution" label in Hong Kong.

The US side has frequently made irresponsible remarks on Hong Kong affairs, which confused black from white and incited trouble, Ms Hua added.

Some key politicians and diplomatic officials from the US, who have interacted with pro-democracy rioters and unjustly accused the

Chinese central government, are conniving in violence and illegal acts, jeopardizing prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, the spokesperson said. With all facts, Ms Hua wondered "what the real intention of the US is" and "what the US is using Hong Kong for."

Urging the US to abide by international law and basic norms governing international relations, and promptly stop meddling in China's internal affairs, Ms Hua reiterated that Hong Kong belongs to China and its affairs are purely China's internal ones.



Economy Hit

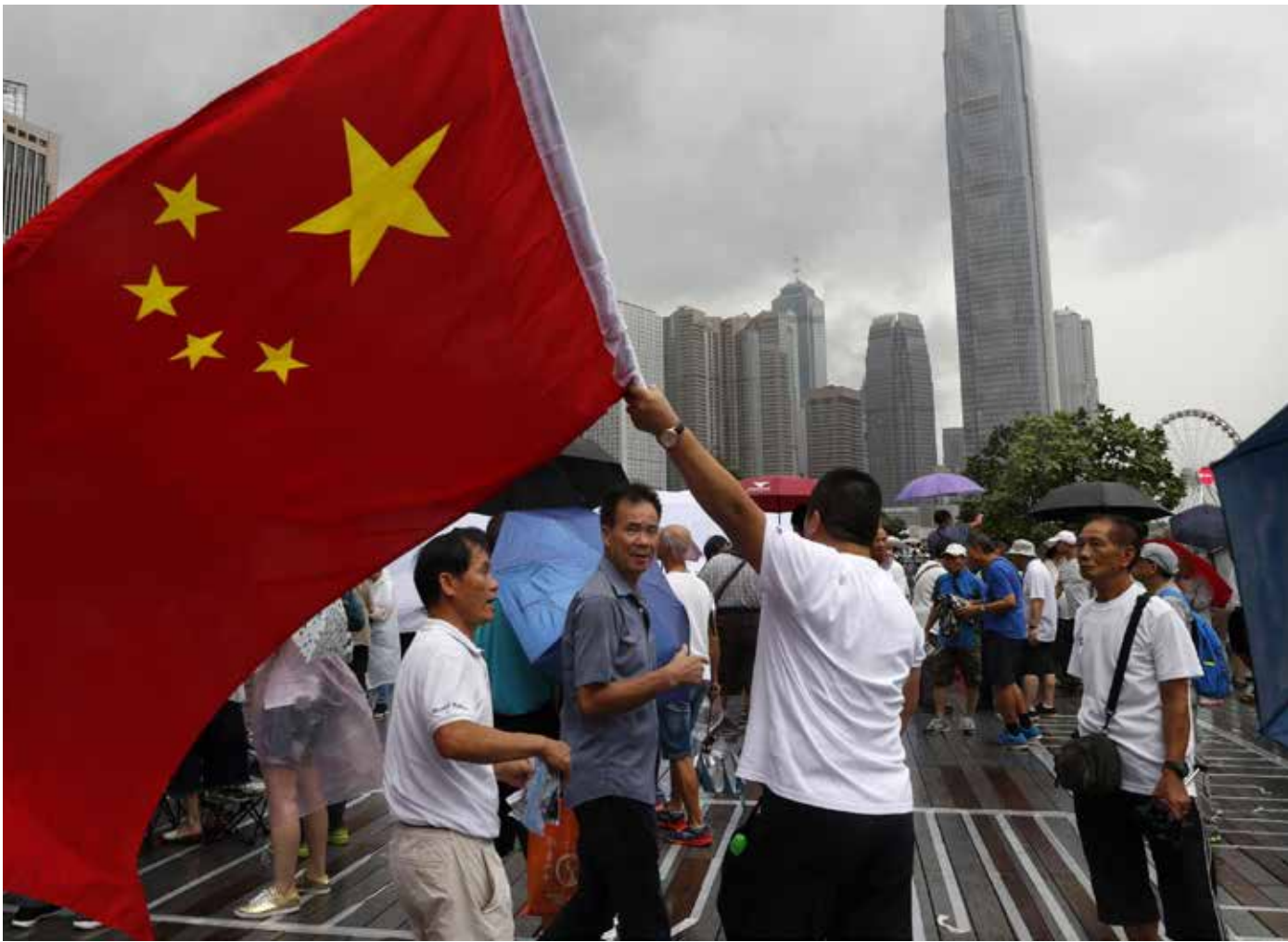
Hong Kong's gross domestic product in the second quarter increased by only 0.6% in real terms year on year with the three sectors of catering, tourism and retailing hit the hardest. Visitor arrivals and the hotel occupancy rate reported double-digit reductions in July and tourism business operators had their average revenue drop by almost 80% in the past two months, year on year.

By taking a look at the regions around the world that underwent "color revolutions", instigated by the western forces, one sees case after case of civil war, social disorder, ethnic conflict and human suffering. This cannot become the future of Hong Kong.

Breaking their Silence

An increasing number of Hong Kong residents have broken their silence by standing against violence and voicing their support for the rule of law. They have expressed the Hong Kong people's common will that the chaos can last no longer.

It is the common aspiration of the Hong Kong people to stop violence and the chaos, so that Hong Kong can restore order and return to prosperity and harmony. Anyone who harms the city will surely be severely punished by law and condemned by the people.



We Won't Allow Anyone to Tarnish our National Image

Hong Kong residents gather to express reverence to Chinese national emblem and flag.

A group of Hong Kong residents gathered at a pier of the Victoria Harbor on August 8 to express their reverence to the Chinese national emblem and flag.

"We were all furious over the recent incidents of insulting our national emblem and flag. These kinds of acts should never be tolerated," said a participant.

To the music of *Ode to the Motherland*, they unfurled several Chinese national flags and waved banners that read "safeguarding the national dignity." Later, they sang the national anthem of China, drawing attention and acclaim from a large crowd of passers-by in a luxury shopping district in Tsim Sha Tsui of the Kowloon Peninsula.

“As Chinese, we were all saddened by recent acts of insulting the national emblem and flag,” said the organizer of the gathering, who only gave his surname Lim. “We won’t allow anyone to tarnish our national image.” Over the past several days, radical protesters twice removed the Chinese national flags from the flagpole at the pier and flung the flags into the water.

“A national flag represents the dignity of a country. These insulting acts drew an outpouring of anger from all Chinese,” said an elderly participant named Hsui Kit Fan.

During a demonstration in July, some radical protesters attacked the building of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and defaced the national emblem.

“We were all furious over the recent incidents of insulting our national emblem and flag. These kinds of acts should never be tolerated,” said another participant surnamed Wong.

Ms Wong said many of her family members are working in the police force and she felt sad to see them work day and night to keep public order.

“I hope the chaotic situation will subside and we can get back to our normal days as soon as possible,” she said.

Punish the Protesters

In a statement issued by the participants, they called on the law enforcement agencies of Hong Kong to swiftly bring the perpetrators who insulted the national emblem and flag to justice. “The perpetrators must face severe punishment. This is the only way to prevent the situation from getting worse,” said the statement.

Over the past two months, protests in Hong Kong have escalated into a spate of violent incidents, threatening social order and endangering public safety. Hong Kong is facing the most severe situation since its return to the motherland, said Zhang Xiaoming, Director, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, said.

“The most pressing and overriding task at present is to stop violence, end the chaos and restore order, so as to safeguard our homeland and prevent Hong Kong from sinking into an abyss,” Mr Zhang said.



To the music of *Ode to the Motherland*, they unfurled several Chinese national flags and waved banners that read “safeguarding the national dignity.” Later, they sang the national anthem of China, drawing attention and acclaim from passers-by.

A TIP OF THE HAT: HORSEING AROUND IN TIBET

To experience the Tibetan culture in all its glory, there is no better opportunity than to watch a horse-racing festival at Nagqu City in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Sporting hats, made mainly from lamb skins and artificial leather, riders display breathtaking skills as horses gallop in the sky.



The Horse Racing Festival is not only a gathering of farmers and herdsman in Tibet, but a place to exchange experiences and products.

Pictures in this feature show people wearing hats during a horse racing festival in Nagqu City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. People in Amdo County of Nagqu City have an age-old tradition of wearing hats, which are now mainly made from lamb skins and artificial leather. The hat usually has an antenna-like stripe of fabric at the top.





Women sporting colourful hats at a horse racing festival in Nagqu City.





The annual Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha, known in China as the Corban Festival, was celebrated with much fervour and enthusiasm in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the northwestern provinces such as Gansu, Qinghai and Shaanxi on August 11. China has more than 20 million Muslims living in various regions.

On the day of the festival, people gathered to watch Shaman dance performances outside the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, Xinjiang, after the morning prayers. The cheerful music and sounds of rhythmic drums attracted many tourists also. "We came here early just to feel the festive atmosphere," said Liu Bo, a tourist from southwest China's Sichuan Province.



Corban Celebrations Sweep Xinjiang

With living standards improving, people have much more variety on their plates, making the Eid holiday even more colourful.







It's the peak season for the local tourism industry. The Grand Bazaar of Xinjiang in the regional capital of Urumqi is packed with visitors who came to buy souvenirs, and enjoy the traditional musical instrument called dutar.



Thriving Tourism

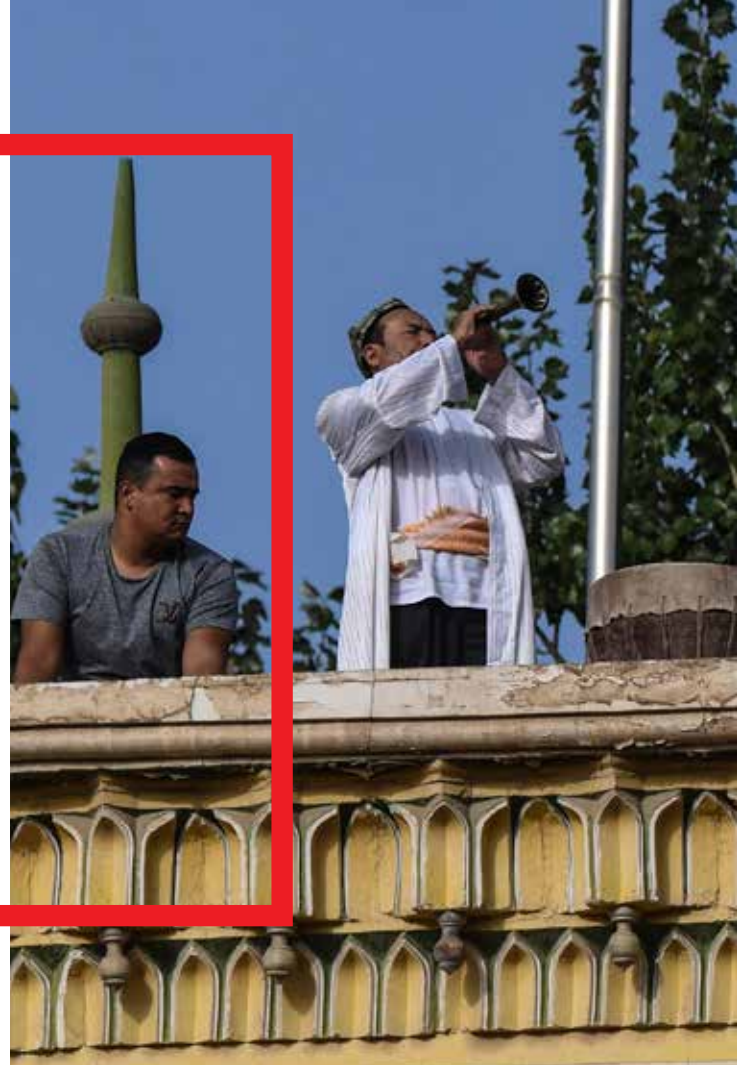
It's the peak season for the local tourism industry. The Grand Bazaar of Xinjiang in the regional capital of Urumqi is packed with visitors who came to buy souvenirs, and enjoy the traditional musical instrument called dutar.

"I used to think earning 10,000 yuan was a long way off, but now it happens every single day. I heard that the daily average number of tourists in the Grand Bazaar has reached 100,000. I need to prepare more ingredients, or the supply won't meet the growing demand," said Mohammadtuersun Wuji who runs a snack bar at the Grand Bazaar. The daily turnover of his shop exceeded 10,000 yuan (\$1,416) recently.

Many villages in southern Xinjiang also held performances, including traditional folk songs and dances as well as tightrope walking, also known as Dawazi, for local residents. "Thanks to the great performers, I can enjoy the wonderful show at home," said Aymraguri, a local villager.

Railway authorities in the region increased the number of trains to meet the public demand during the festival. A total of 157 trains will be added so that transportation will be easier for the people of various ethnicities.

Railway authorities in the region increased the number of trains to meet the public demand during the festival. A total of 157 trains will be added so that transportation will be easier for the people of various ethnicities.





During the festival, people slay livestock to share with their family and visit relatives and friends.

Better Standard of Living

In northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, home to over 2.5 million Muslims, Ma Chongli, 66, an ethnic Hui, works as a custodian in a mosque in Yinchuan, the regional capital. He got up at around 4:30 am to prepare for the mosque's prayer ritual.

Muslims shook hands and wished each other well during the ritual. After the prayers, some rushed home to prepare the feast, while others visited markets around the mosque, buying deserts and fruits. Mr Ma also prepared a dish, a must-have dish during the festival, at home.

"Every festival, we set up two tables for dinner. Sometimes, about 15 people come to have dinner with us, and each will be served with a bowl of beef stew. We will eat and chat through the night. It's such a great fun," he said.

"As people's living standards have greatly improved in the country, we have enough to eat and more choices during the festival, making the holiday even more colorful and interesting," Mr Ma said.



Vocational Education Counters Terrorism in Xinjiang: White Paper

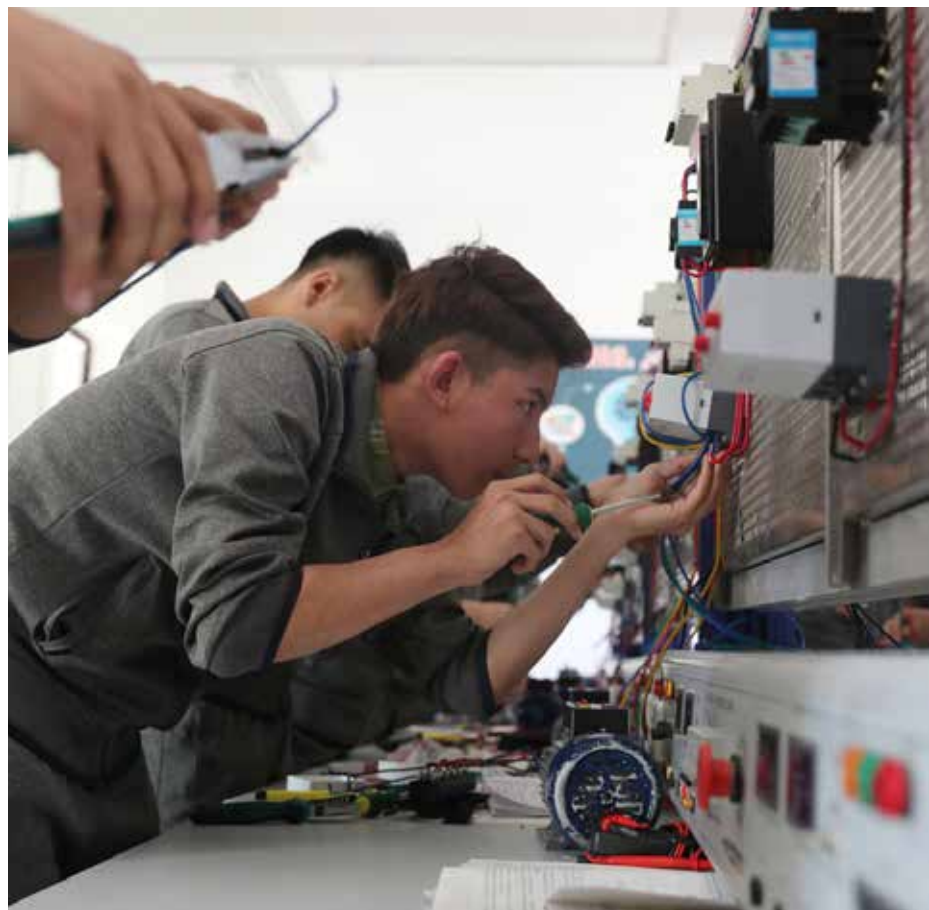
A new white paper released by the Chinese Government entitled, *Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang*, has described the province as a key battlefield in the fight against terrorism and extremism in the country and outlined the role of vocational education in this battle.

There are six chapters in the white paper: urgent needs for education and training, law-based education and training, content of education and training, protection of trainees' basic rights, remarkable results in education and training, and experience in countering extremism.

The white paper, published by the State Council Information Office on August 16, said that terrorism and extremism are the common enemies of humanity, and the fight against terrorism and extremism is the shared responsibility of the international community.

It is a fundamental task of any responsible government, acting on basic principles, to remove the malignant tumour of terrorism and extremism that threatens people's lives and security, to safeguard people's dignity and value, to protect their rights to life, health and development, and to ensure they enjoy a peaceful and harmonious social environment, according to the white paper.

Over the years, to ensure public safety and wellbeing, the international community has spared no effort and made tremendous sacrifices in preventing and combating terrorism and extremism. Many countries and regions, in light



of their own conditions, have developed effective measures and drawn valuable lessons from these efforts.

The white paper stated that Xinjiang is a key battlefield in the fight against terrorism and extremism in China. For some time, Xinjiang has been plagued by terrorism and religious



extremism, which pose a serious threat to the lives of the people in the region.

Addressing both the symptoms and root causes and integrating preventative measures and a forceful response, Xinjiang has established vocational education and training centers in

accordance with the law to prevent the breeding and spread of terrorism and religious extremism. This has effectively curbed frequent terrorist incidents and helped in protecting the rights to life, health, and development of the people of all ethnic groups, the white paper said, adding that worthwhile results have been achieved.



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The Way Ahead: Power of Education

Practice has proved that vocational education and training in Xinjiang can effectively eradicate the conditions that enable terrorism and religious extremism to breed and spread; it can protect the rights to life, health and development of the various ethnic groups of the region. It ensures social stability in Xinjiang and regional security and stability. The practice conforms to the basic principles of international efforts in countering terrorism and extremism, and accords with the fundamental interests and needs of the peoples all around the world.

The goal of Xinjiang's efforts in vocational education and training is to eliminate the sources of terrorism and religious extremism. This is an action that aims to respect and protect human rights. Some people, for reasons of ideological prejudice or other ulterior motives, are doing all they can to blacken the reputation of Xinjiang's vocational education and training centers. Their censure of Xinjiang's huge effort in countering terrorism and extremism will be firmly rejected by the Xinjiang people. A number of countries, organizations and individuals apply double standards in their approach to terrorism and extremism, which will in effect shield and incite terrorism and extremism. Such acts go against international morality and human conscience, and are scorned by all just people of goodwill.

Terrorism and extremism have caused widespread human suffering, posing an intractable challenge to the whole world. Assuming the responsibility of responding to this great challenge, governments at all levels in Xinjiang have learned from the experience and practices of other countries and initiated their own efforts. Through measures such as vocational education and training it has achieved important victories in countering terrorism and extremism. This deserves the understanding and respect of the international community.

Xinjiang still has much to do in the fight against terrorism and extremism, and improvements can be made in this regard. In the context of local conditions, and complying with the spirit of documents such as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, Xinjiang will put prevention first while taking resolute action against terrorism and extremism. We will make unremitting efforts to improve vocational education and training, protect the people's basic rights, and ensure long-term social stability and security in Xinjiang.

(This is the 'Conclusion' of the White Paper entitled "Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang.")



LEARN EVERYDAY CHINESE



xúwèn
询问 (2)
MAKING AN
INQUIRY

07 你家有几口人

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN YOUR FAMILY

一 句子 Sentences

- 031 你家有几口人?^①
Nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?
How many people are there in your family?
- 032 你妈妈做什么工作?
Nǐ māma zuò shénme gōngzuò?
What does your mother do?
- 033 她在大学工作。She works in a university.
Tā zài dàxué gōngzuò.
- 034 我家有爸爸、妈妈和一个弟弟。
Wǒ jiā yǒu bàba, māma hé yí ge dìdi.
There are my father, mother and a younger brother in my family.
- 035 哥哥结婚了。My elder brother is married.
Gēge jié hūn le.
- 036 他们没有孩子。They haven't any children.
Tāmen méi yǒu hái zi.

3

- 王兰: 你家有谁?^②
Wáng Lán: Nǐ jiā yǒu shéi?
- 玛丽: 爸爸、妈妈和姐姐。
Mǎlì: Bàba, māma hé jiějie.
- 王兰: 你姐姐工作吗?
Wáng Lán: Nǐ jiějie gōngzuò ma?
- 玛丽: 工作。她是职员, 在银行工作。你哥哥做什么工作?
Mǎlì: Gōngzuò. Tā shì zhíyuán, zài yínháng gōngzuò. Nǐ gēge zuò shénme gōngzuò?
- 王兰: 他是大夫。
Wáng Lán: Tā shì dàifu.
- 玛丽: 他结婚了吗?
Mǎlì: Tā jié hūn le ma?
- 王兰: 结婚了。他爱人是护士。
Wáng Lán: Jié hūn le. Tā àiren shì hùshi.
- 玛丽: 他们有孩子吗?
Mǎlì: Tāmen yǒu hái zi ma?
- 王兰: 没有。
Wáng Lán: Méi yǒu.



二 会话 Conversations

1

- 大卫: 刘京, 你家有几口人?
Dàwèi: Liú Jīng, nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?
- 刘京: 四口人。你家呢?
Liú Jīng: Sì kǒu rén. Nǐ jiā ne?
- 大卫: 两人口^②, 妈妈和我。
Dàwèi: Liǎng kǒu rén, māma hé wǒ.
- 刘京: 你妈妈做什么工作?
Liú Jīng: Nǐ māma zuò shénme gōngzuò?
- 大卫: 她是老师。她在大学工作。
Dàwèi: Tā shì lǎoshī. Tā zài dàxué gōngzuò.

2

- 大卫: 和子, 你家有什么人?
Dàwèi: Hézi, nǐ jiā yǒu shénme rén?
- 和子: 爸爸、妈妈和一个弟弟。
Hézi: Bàba, māma hé yí ge dìdi.
- 大卫: 你弟弟是学生吗?
Dàwèi: Nǐ dìdi shì xuésheng ma?
- 和子: 是, 他学习英语。
Hézi: Shì, tā xuéxí Yīngyǔ.
- 大卫: 你妈妈工作吗?
Dàwèi: Nǐ māma gōngzuò ma?
- 和子: 她不工作。
Hézi: Tā bù gōngzuò.



生词 New Words

1	有	yǒu	动	there to be, to have
2	口	kǒu	量	a measure word for people in a family
3	和	hé	连	and, as well as
4	结婚	jié hūn		to marry
5	了	le	助	used after a verb or an adjective to indicate the completion of an action or a change
6	没	méi	副	no, not
7	孩子	háizi	名	child, children
8	两	liǎng	数	two
9	学习	xuéxí	动	to study
10	英语	Yīngyǔ	名	English (language)
11	职员	zhíyuán	名	employee, clerk
12	银行	yínháng	名	bank
13	爱人	àiren	名	spouse, wife or husband
14	护士	hùshi	名	nurse
15	汉语	Hànyǔ	名	Chinese (language)
16	日语	Rìyǔ	名	Japanese (language)
17	韩语	Hányǔ	名	Korean (language)
18	上课	shàng kè		to go to class
19	上网	shàng wǎng		to surf the net
	网	wǎng	名	Internet
20	电脑	diànnǎo	名	computer

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Patriotic residents wave the Hong Kong flag as a symbol of their devotion to the motherland.