

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

MARCHING HAND-IN-HAND THROUGH THICK AND THIN



**Thousands packed the streets to celebrate
New Year's Eve in Wuhan.**





Script a New Future Together

After a year of unprecedented difficulties and challenges, we are ushering in 2021 with a firm resolve to overcome all odds and strive forward. It's time for us to acknowledge with gratitude selfless work of countless people who heroically rose to the occasion and scripted new stories of hope and resilience.

In his New Year Eve speech on December 31, Chinese President Xi Jinping aptly encapsulated the quintessence of this exemplary solidarity. "Facing the sudden coronavirus pandemic, we put people and their lives first to interpret the great love among humans. With solidarity and resilience, we wrote the epic of our fight against the pandemic. During the days when we addressed the hardships together, we saw the heroic spirit of marching straight to the frontlines, holding posts with tenacity, taking responsibility to get through thick and thin, sacrifices with bravery and touching moments of helping each other," he said. He also stressed, "Greatness is forged in the ordinary. Heroes come from the people. Every person is remarkable!"

It's also a time for introspection and an honest appraisal of what we did right. China has become the only major economy in the world to achieve positive growth in 2020. Going by latest trends, the economic resurgence of China will be accelerated during 2021, opening new opportunities for national development and help stabilize global economic imbalance. In 2020, China also made the historic achievement of establishing a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieved decisive success in eradicating extreme poverty. 2021 marks the beginning of China's new five-year plan period and the 100th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of China. The new journey of comprehensively building a modern socialist country is about to start. We will implement high-quality development and strive for a better future.

As a country committed to peaceful, open, cooperative and common development, China will continuously inject new impetus to the world's development. China and India face similar development tasks and goals. The top priority for us is to focus on running our own affairs well. The development and progress of China and India will also bring greater opportunities to each other.

COVID-19 has made countries and peoples in the world deeply feel that mankind is a community with a shared future. The pandemic cannot change our people's aspiration for a better life, nor can it interrupt the general trend of exchanges and mutual learning between China and India. As we are faced with challenges, we should open our mind to enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges, communication and dialogue, mutual understanding and trust.

Millennia-long friendly cooperation between China and India is the mainstream and the general trend. We should stand on the right side of history and grasp the general direction of China-India relations. We should unwaveringly stick to the basic judgment of our two leaders that China and India pose no threat but offer development opportunities to each other. We should put differences in an appropriate position in bilateral relations and prevent differences from escalating into disputes. I believe that peaceful development and win-win cooperation serve the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples. Let's work together to take the right path and put China-India relations back on the track of healthy and stable development.

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

Editor-in-Chief : Ji Rong

Associate Editors

Chang Peilin, Cai Xiaotian

Desk

Zu Jian

Su Chen

Han Meng

Shweta Aggarwal

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Website: <http://in.china-embassy.org>

Contact: newsfromchinadelhi@gmail.com

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Consultant

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Website of Foreign Ministry of China

www.mfa.gov.cn

www.fmprc.gov.cn

Contact: webmaster@mfa.gov.cn

Chinese Ambassador's Twitter

[@Sun_Weidong@China_Amb_India](https://twitter.com/Sun_Weidong)

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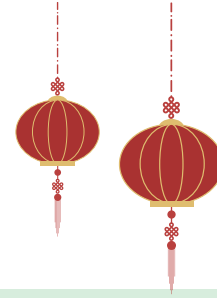


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In New Year Message, Xi Vows Better Life For All Citizens

In his New Year address to the people of the nation, President Xi Jinping has urged them to keep up their momentum in the “great work for national rejuvenation”, reminding them that China is closer than ever before to achieve its cherished dream of building a modern, prosperous nation. He said China will create new milestones even as it overcomes the challenges that get on way.

The following is the full text of President Xi Jinping’ speech on December 31, 2020.

The year 2021 is arriving. From China’s capital Beijing, I extend my New Year wishes to you all! 2020 was an extraordinary year. Facing the sudden coronavirus pandemic, we put people and their lives first to interpret the great love among humans. With solidarity and resilience, we wrote the epic of our fight against the pandemic. During the days when we addressed the hardships together, we saw the heroic spirit of marching straight to the frontlines, holding posts with tenacity, taking responsibility to get through thick and thin, sacrifices with bravery and touching moments of helping each other. From medical workers to the people’s army, from scientific researchers to community workers, from volunteers to those who built the projects, from seniors to youths born after the 1990s and 2000s, numerous people fulfilled their missions at the cost of their lives and protected humanity with sincere love. They pooled their drops of strength into tremendous power and

built an iron wall to safeguard lives. Many figures marched ahead without hesitation, many relays were accomplished hand in hand, many scenes showed touching moments, all these vividly illustrate the great spirit of fighting against the pandemic.

Greatness is forged in the ordinary. Heroes come from the people. Every person is remarkable! Our sympathy goes to all the unfortunate ones infected with the coronavirus! We salute all the ordinary heroes! I am proud of our great motherland and people, as well as the unyielding national spirit. Only in hard times can courage and perseverance be manifested. Only after polishing can a piece of jade be finer. We overcame the impact of the pandemic and made great achievements in coordinating prevention and control and in economic and social development.

The 13th Five-Year Plan has been accomplished in full. The 14th Five-Year Plan

is being comprehensively formulated. We are accelerating the pace to set up a new pattern for development, and are deeply implementing high-quality development. China is the first major economy worldwide to achieve positive growth, and its GDP in 2020 is expected to step up to a new level of 100 trillion yuan. China has seen a good harvest in grain production for 17 years in a row. China has seen breakthroughs in scientific explorations like the Tianwen-1 (Mars mission), Chang'e-5 (lunar probe), and Fendouzhe (deep-sea manned submersible). Construction of the Hainan Free Trade Port is proceeding with vigor. We also defeated severe flooding. With the military and civilians heedless of danger and difficulty, and standing in unity, we managed to minimize the damage of the floods. I inspected 13 provincial-level regions and was glad to see people carefully implementing coronavirus prevention and control measures, racing against time to resume work and production, and sparing no efforts to advance innovation.

Everywhere were vibrant scenes of confident, resilient people making the most of every minute. In 2020, China made the historic achievement of establishing a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieved decisive success in eradicating extreme poverty. We launched the final assault on the fortress of entrenched rural poverty, and cracked this “hardest nut.” Through eight years, under the current standard, China has eradicated extreme poverty for the nearly 100 million rural people affected, and all the 832 impoverished counties have shaken off poverty. These years, I have visited 14 contiguous areas of dire poverty. The unremitting efforts of the folks and the wholehearted contribution of the poverty-eradication cadres often come to my mind. We still need to stay tenacious like a bamboo deeply rooted in the rocks, keep our feet on the ground, and work hard to paint a magnificent picture of rural vitalization, and steadily march ahead towards the goal of common prosperity.

This year, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, among others, and 30 years of the development and opening-up of Pudong in Shanghai. As I stood on the southern coast as the spring tide surged and on the colorful bank of the Huangpu River, my mind was filled with a myriad of thoughts.

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Pilot trials have become models and leading forces, and explorations to innovate have become leading forces of innovation. The opening-up and reform have created miracles of development. In the future, we should further deepen reform and expand opening-up with greater courage, and create more “Stories of Spring.” We are not alone on the Great Way and the whole world is one family. After a year of hardship, we can understand more than ever the significance of a community with a shared future for mankind.



Chinese President Xi Jinping visited an organic farm in Yunzhou District of Datong City, in north China's Shanxi Province on May 11, 2020.



President Xi Jinping visited a farm in Jiansanjiang in northeastern China's Heilongjiang province on Sept. 25, 2018.

We still have a long way to go in pandemic prevention and control. People from all over the world should join hands and support each other to dispel the gloom of the pandemic at the earliest and strive for a better "Earth home."

I had many phone calls with friends from the international community, both old and new, and attended many "cloud conferences." What we discussed most was staying united to combat the pandemic. We still have a long way to go in pandemic prevention and control. People from all over the world should join hands and support each other to dispel the gloom of the pandemic at the earliest and strive for a better "Earth home." 2021 will see the 100th birthday of the Communist Party of China. Its 100-year journey surges forward with great momentum. Its original aspiration remains even firmer one hundred years later. From Shikumen in Shanghai to the South Lake in Jiaying City, the small red boat (where the first CPC congress concluded) bore the great trust of the people and the hope of the nation. The boat has sailed through turbulent

rivers and treacherous shoals and has voyaged across violent tidal waves, becoming a great ship that navigates China's stable and long-term development.

The CPC bears its eternal great cause in mind, and the centenary only ushers in the prime of life. We adhere to putting people at the center, stay true to our original aspiration, keep our mission well in mind, break the waves and sail out for our journey ahead, and we will certainly realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. At the historic crossroad of the "Two Centenary Goals," the new journey of comprehensively building a modern socialist country is about to start. The road ahead is long; striving is the only way forward. We have strived, broken through brambles and thorns, and crossed ten thousand rivers and thousands of mountains. We will continue to strive, march ahead with courage, and create brighter glory! At just this moment, the festive lanterns have been lit, and family members gather for a reunion. The New Year is coming. I wish our land to be splendid, our country to be prosperous, and our people to live in peace. I wish you all a harmonious, smooth, and auspicious year, full of happiness!

Rising Above Virus Test, China Sets Economic Priorities for 2021

China's top leaders formulated the economic priorities for 2021 at the key Central Economic Work Conference held from December 16-18, 2020 in Beijing.

In a speech at the conference, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, reviewed the country's economic work in 2020, analyzed the current situation and arranged the economic work for next year.

Recognizing the country's hard-won economic achievements this year amid effective control of COVID-19, the meeting outlined specific tasks for 2021, a year of special importance as it marks the beginning of China's new five-year plan period and the 100th founding anniversary of the CPC.

Premier Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng, who are members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, attended the conference.



President Xi Jinping at the annual Central Economic Work Conference in Beijing from December 16-18.



The general assembly line of FAW Jiefang, a truck-manufacturing subsidiary of First Automotive Works (FAW) Group Co. Ltd., in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province in September 2020.

Recognizing the country's hard-won economic achievements this year amid effective control of COVID-19, the meeting outlined specific tasks for 2021, a year of special importance as it marks the beginning of China's new five-year plan period and the 100th founding anniversary of the CPC.

New Development Paradigm

This year's conference is especially under the spotlight as global policymakers and investors are watching how the world's second-largest economy will continue to emerge from the pandemic and help restore global economic growth. China has become the only major economy in the world to achieve positive growth in 2020, the meeting said, attributing the achievements to the leadership of the CPC Central Committee and national efforts. Next year, China will work to ensure that its economy runs in an appropriate range with the implementation of targeted and effective macro policies. It will keep its macro policies consistent, stable, and sustainable in 2021, with continued implementation of a proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy, according to the meeting. In 2021, the country will take a solid first step in building the new development paradigm in which domestic and foreign markets reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay. The potential of the domestic

Next year, China will work to ensure that its economy runs in an appropriate range with the implementation of targeted and effective macro policies. It will keep its macro policies consistent, stable, and sustainable in 2021, with continued implementation of a proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy, according to the meeting.



People visited the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai, the main venue for the third China International Import Expo (CIIE), on November 10, 2020.



The meeting listed anti-monopoly supervision as one of the key tasks for next year, vowing to prevent disorderly capital expansion.

A technician at a heating station with clean energy to reduce CO2 emission in Weihai, in eastern China's Shandong Province, on Nov. 12, 2020.

market should be fully tapped, the meeting said, calling for the expansion of consumption and effective investment that are oriented toward improving people's livelihoods. China will strengthen its national strategic technologies in 2021, and step up efforts to resolve major difficulties that constrain national development and security, the conference said. The country will also make efforts to build more independent and controllable industrial and supply chains, as the security and stability of the supply chains is the foundation of forming a new development paradigm, according to the meeting.

Tackling Challenges

As uncertainties still loom over the global economy, the meeting stressed efforts to guard against various risks and challenges. The meeting listed anti-monopoly supervision as one of the key tasks for next year, vowing to prevent disorderly capital expansion. Laws and regulations concerning the identification of platform monopolies, management of data collection and use, and protection of consumers' rights and interests will be improved, it stressed.

Financial innovation must be advanced under prudent supervision, the meeting said. On the financial front, solid efforts should be made to resolve hidden debts of local governments, the meeting said. China will work to solve prominent housing problems in big cities as one of its key economic tasks for 2021. Sticking to the principle that "houses are for living in, not for speculation," the country will adopt multiple policies to promote the steady and healthy development of the real estate market, the meeting said. The country will also strive to tackle problems related to seeds and farmlands next year as part of its efforts to ensure food security, it said.

The meeting also called for efforts to stimulate the vitality of market entities, ease market access, promote fair competition, protect intellectual property rights, build a unified market and create a market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized business environment.

Common Prosperity

While developing its domestic market and addressing potential challenges are among the priorities set by the government, Chinese leaders are also aiming for a more open and inclusive growth that can be shared by all from the world. China will promote reforms and opening-up in an all-around way, the meeting said, calling for strengthened coordination of international macro policies. The meeting also called for efforts to stimulate the vitality of market entities, ease market access, promote fair competition, protect intellectual property rights, build a unified market and create a market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized business environment. China will positively consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and attach importance to the application of international norms to safeguard national security, it said. As part of

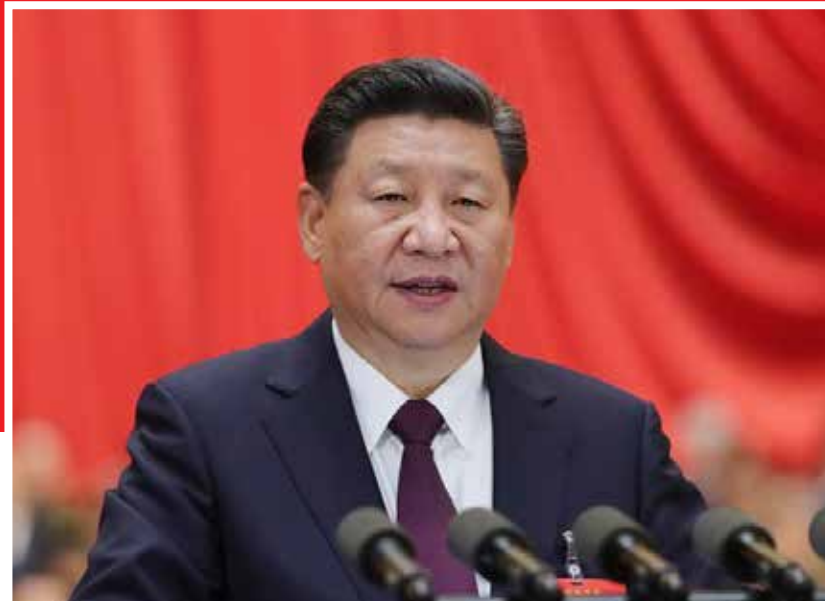
China's commitment to tackling the global issue of climate change, the country will seize the time to formulate an action plan for peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030, and support areas with favorable conditions to peak the emissions ahead of the schedule, according to the meeting. China has previously announced that it will strive to peak CO2 emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Next year will be of special importance in the process of China's modernization drive, the meeting said, calling for efforts to ensure a good start of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) and excellent achievements to celebrate the 100th founding anniversary of the CPC.

The external view of a renovated residential building in Yanta District of Xi'an, in northwest China's Shaanxi Province.



Xi's Economic Thought Steers China Through Challenges

President Xi Jinping submitted a report to the 19th National Congress of the CPC at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on October 18, 2017.



President Xi Jinping's grand vision of a socialist economy with Chinese characteristics has steered the country into a new era of development in a world of uncertainties.

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialist Economy with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has been advancing with the times, steering the Chinese economy ahead amid a changing world full of uncertainties. Xi's economic thought, unveiled at the Central Economic Work Conference held in December 2017, is mainly based on the new development philosophy put forward by Xi in 2015 and features innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

Regarded as the "latest fruit" of socialist political economy with Chinese characteristics, the thought reflects the leadership's growing understanding of the laws of economic and social development and makes clear the key principles to be upheld in promoting economic development for a new era.

Keep Pace with Time

When the new development philosophy was put forward in 2015, China's economy registered a 6.9-percent growth year on year, the slowest annual expansion in a quarter of a century. Two years later at the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress, Xi made an important judgment that the country's economy has been transitioning from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development.

Since then, high-quality development has been made a fundamental requirement for authorities while making economic policies and exercising macroeconomic control, Xinhua said in an opinion piece on December 21.

Remarkable achievements have been made over the years, testifying to the viability and

effectiveness of the thought in guiding China's economic work, the article noted. Despite the challenges from de-globalization, protectionism, COVID-19, and others, the Chinese economy has grown close to 100 trillion yuan (about USD15.27 trillion), with a per capita GDP exceeding USD10,000, contributing around 30 percent of the world's economic growth. China has become the only major economy in the world to achieve positive growth in 2020. It also boasts the world's largest middle-income population and contributes over 70 percent of the global efforts in poverty reduction by lifting hundreds of millions of people out of destitution. President Xi's philosophy featuring five development concepts has guided the drafting of the CPC Central Committee's proposals for formulating the "14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development" and "Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035".

China should focus on promoting high-

However, two years later, at the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress, President Xi made a significant observation that the country's economy has been transitioning from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development. Since then, high-quality development has been made a fundamental requirement for authorities while making economic policies and exercising macroeconomic control, Xinhua said in an opinion piece on December 21.

quality development during the 14th plan period, he said, noting that this view is based on a scientific assessment of the country's development situation. Highlighting innovation

Tourists at a duty-free shopping mall in Sanya City, in south China's Hainan Province, on Oct. 5, 2020.



Highlighting innovation as the “primary driving force”, he said that China needs scientific and technological solutions, more than ever, to boost economic and social development.

as the “primary driving force”, he said that China needs scientific and technological solutions, more than ever, to boost economic and social development. The country will uphold the central role of innovation in its modernization drive and take self-reliance in science and technology as a strategic underpinning for national development, the CPC Central Committee noted in the planned development proposals. Also, the role of opening up is never insignificant. On several occasions this year, President Xi stressed the need to foster a new development paradigm in which domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the local market as the mainstay. “Making the domestic market a mainstay does not mean China is developing its economy with a door closed,” he told a symposium of entrepreneurs in July. “By giving full play to the potential of the domestic market, both domestic and foreign markets can be better connected and utilized to realize robust and sustainable development,” he said. China has signed 201 cooperation deals with 138 countries and 31 international organizations on the Belt and Road Initiative. The country has also established 21 pilot free trade zones. Its global business environment ranking moved up to the 31st position in 2020. The country hopes to pursue a high-level opening up and leverage the advantage of its huge market to promote international cooperation for win-win results during the 14th plan period. The aim is to turn the domestic market into a market of the world, a market shared by all, and a market accessible to all, Xinhua said.

China’s Approach

President Xi’s thought on a socialist economy with Chinese characteristics comprises of a series of principles that must be upheld in promoting economic and social development for the new era. One of them is to remain committed to a people-centered philosophy of development. In line with this principle, China fought an extraordinary



People saluted at helicopters carrying the Chinese national flag over the Huangpu River to celebrate the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China in Shanghai, Oct. 1, 2020.

battle against COVID-19 this year, minimizing loss of life whether infants or the elderly and the economic slump to secure a fast recovery. “We are willing to do whatever it takes to protect people’s lives!” the Chinese leader said.

When it comes to the relationship between government and market, the thought underlines the need to ensure that the market plays a decisive role in the allocation of resources, with the government playing a better role in removing institutional obstacles to economic development.

In the past few years, the government has delegated additional powers, streamlined administration, and improved services. As a result, market barriers have been further eliminated, the vitality of the market entities has been stimulated, and market competition has become fairer. His economic thought also advocates a problem-solving approach in developing new strategies for economic growth. Emphasis has been put on addressing major issues and sustaining economic momentum from a long-term perspective.



Shoppers at a market in Shanghai on October 1, 2020.

The country hopes to pursue a high-level opening up and leverage the advantage of its huge market to promote international cooperation for win-win results during the 14th plan period. The aim is to turn the domestic market into a market of the world, a market shared by all, and a market accessible to all, Xinhua said.

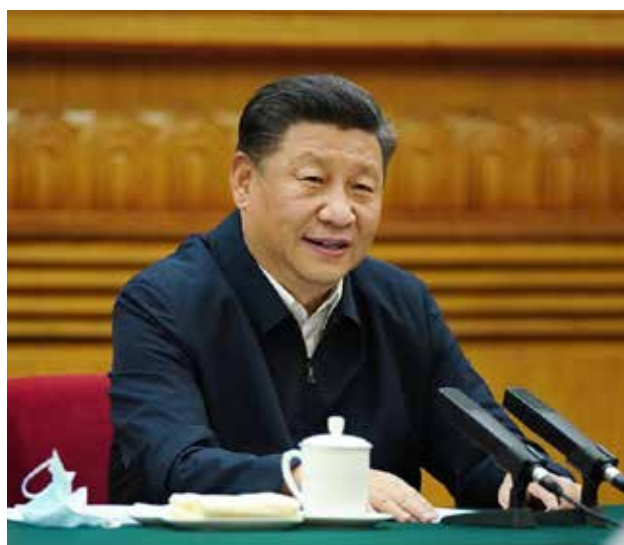
As challenges at home and abroad are getting increasingly complex and more intertwined, the thought stresses the need to strengthen the party's centralized and unified leadership over economic work, adhere to a general principle of maintaining stability while making progress. In its review of the year's economic work last week, the CPC has summed up the country's experience from developing the economy in the face of severe challenges. Faced with major tests, the judgment, decisiveness, and executive capability of the CPC Central Committee have played a decisive role at critical junctures, according to the key Central Economic Work Conference held from December 16 to 18 in Beijing. Regarding putting people first

as the fundamental premise of making correct decisions, the meeting stressed that as long as people's interests are put at the utmost position, correct decisions can be made, the best path should be taken, and all challenges are conquered by relying on the people. For next year, it said China will work to ensure that its economy runs in an appropriate range, and keep its macro policies consistent, stable, and sustainable, with continued implementation of a proactive fiscal and monetary policy. Calling for the country to take "a solid first step" in building the new development paradigm in 2021, the meeting also underlined the need to fully tap the potential of the domestic market, and expand consumption and effective investment that are oriented toward improving people's livelihoods.

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In Unusual Year, China Breaks New Ground in High-Quality Development

In this extraordinary year, President Xi Jinping has charted the course for the country's high-quality development and for the country to eradicate poverty and achieve a moderately prosperous society in all respects.



President Xi Jinping at a business symposium in Beijing on July 21, 2020.

On an ordinary day in December, industrial robots are busy assembling products at a Lenovo plant in Wuhan, capital of China's central Hubei Province, with a mobile phone or tablet rolling off the production line every second on average. Reopened in March, the highly-automated plant resumed full operation in April and launched its first 5G folding screen mobile phones in September. With a maximum daily capacity of over 140,000 units of mobile phones and tablets, the plant's quick restoration of production is an epitome of China's economic resilience and vitality, Xinhua reported on December 16. Hubei Province recovered up to 90 percent of GDP seen during the first three quarters last year after losing nearly 40 percent from January to March.

Only Major Economy With Positive Growth

The COVID-19 epidemic has inevitably dealt a heavy blow to China, with its economy shrinking 6.8 percent in the first quarter. On the day when the statistics were released, President Xi Jinping chaired a leadership meeting and said: "We must stay confident and not be frightened by problems and difficulties." "I have said many times that China is a big country with enormous resilience, huge potential, and great flexibility in development," he added. With the GDP growth reaching 3.2 percent and 4.9 percent in the second and third quarters, the world's second-largest economy completed the upward leg of a V-shaped recovery. China's key economic indicators for the first 11 months unveiled on December 15 showed strengthening recovery as fixed-asset investment by the private sector registered the first growth this year, and the retail sales of consumer goods sustained upward momentum since the major consumption gauge posted its first positive growth in August this year. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development projected that China is expected to post a 1.8-percent growth in 2020, the only major economy to record positive performance. In this extraordinary year, President Xi has charted the course for the country's high-quality development and for the country to eradicate poverty and achieve a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Since February, he has been giving instructions on stabilizing the economy. He visited villages, rural families and businesses on inspection tours to coordinate epidemic

control with economic and social development. In Zhejiang Province, he chatted with workers, asking if their return to work had gone smoothly. In Shanxi Province, he called on businesses to make up for the lost time.

At the “two sessions,” President Xi stressed analyzing China’s economic situation from a comprehensive, dialectical, and long-term perspective, urging efforts to foster new opportunities amid challenges and make new advances amid changes. Hence, China has set no specific target for economic growth this year but made practical plans to ensure more than 9 million new urban jobs give full play to the market entities and improve people’s livelihoods. Data showed that a total of 10.99 million new urban jobs were created in the first 11 months, completing the task for the whole year ahead of schedule. At a symposium with entrepreneurs in July, President Xi urged further efforts to spur the vitality of market entities and motivated them to not only survive but also thrive. He said China will continue with measures to cut taxes, fees, rents and interest rates to ensure the various aid measures benefit market entities directly. To further bolster the economy, the country has increased fiscal deficit by one trillion yuan (about 153 billion US dollars), issued one trillion yuan of special treasury bonds, increased tax and fee cuts by 2.5 trillion yuan, and called on financial institutions to concede 1.5 trillion yuan worth of their profits to companies. Highlighting innovation as the “primary driving force,” President Xi said China needs scientific and technological solutions, more than ever, to boost economic and social development. In the first 11 months, the output of high-tech manufacturing sectors increased 6.4 percent, markedly outpacing the overall growth in industrial output. Under his leadership, as the last nine counties in Guizhou Province were removed from the poverty list in November, “victory is in sight” for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Non-Stop Reform and Opening-Up

On dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on the economy, President Xi stressed creating a new development paradigm in which domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.



A staff member at a store of Hema Fresh in Beijing on Feb. 14, 2020.

By fostering the new paradigm, China is not pursuing a closed-door circulation, but open and mutually reinforcing domestic and international circulations, analysts said. President Xi underlined reform and opening-up at a higher level when he attended the grand gatherings celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone and the 30th anniversary of the development and opening-up of Shanghai’s Pudong. “Our aim is to turn the China market into a market for the world, a market shared by all and a market accessible to all,” President Xi said while delivering a keynote speech via video link at the opening ceremony of the third China International Import Expo. Amid the efforts to open its door wider, the country rolled out a master plan in June on building the southern island province of Hainan into a globally influential free trade port, and subsequently opened three new free trade zones (FTZs) in Beijing, Hunan, and Anhui in September, increasing the total number of FTZs in the country to 21. The signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world’s biggest trade pact, marks a new stride toward regional economic integration among Asia-Pacific economies. Despite unstable and uncertain factors in the external environment, China’s foreign trade of goods rose 1.8 percent year on year in the first 11 months, while foreign direct investment into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, expanded 6.3 percent year on year. With new steps to be taken in reform and opening up, China will further improve its socialist market economy and complete the building of a high-standard market system over the 14th Five-year Plan (2021-2025) period, according to a blueprint passed at the fifth plenary session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee in October.

New Development Philosophy Heralds Economic Miracle

As the year draws to an end, China is expected to become the only major economy to record positive growth in 2020. While much has already been said about China's economic miracle, the country's new development philosophy that guided its resilient and high-quality development this year is noteworthy. Philosophy is the precursor of action, and likewise, certain developments are led by certain concepts. To adapt to the new normal of economic development, China has put forward the new development concepts - innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, Xinhua wrote in a commentary on December 18. Expounding the concepts, innovative development focuses on the drivers of growth while coordinated development aims to solve the imbalance in development. Meanwhile, green development highlights the harmony between humanity and nature, and open development prioritizes interactions between China and the international community. Last, shared development underpins social equality and justice.

These concepts epitomize the leadership's growing understanding of laws governing economic and social development and have proved successful in addressing the country's most critical challenges and problems. Under the development concepts, China has pulled off an economic miracle with its gross domestic product (GDP) expected to exceed 100 trillion yuan (about 15.31 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2020 and its middle-income group already having exceeded 400 million. The development concepts have boosted the country's confidence to meet the current standards for high-income countries by the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan period and to double

the total economic volume or per capita income by 2035.

In a year marred by unprecedented uncertainties and pandemic-induced challenges coupled with headwinds of protectionism and unilateralism, China has adhered to its development philosophy. And the country will remain committed to this philosophy in the next five years or even in the longer term.

China has already pledged a slew of measures to walk the talk. It will uphold innovation as the central role in its modernization drive and strive to achieve major breakthroughs in core technologies in the new development stage. According to a statement released Friday after the annual Central Economic Work Conference, the country will strengthen its national strategic technologies with efforts including giving full play to the state's role in organizing major science and technology innovations.

The country will advance the coordinated development of eastern and western regions, urban and rural areas, and sectors such as manufacturing, services and energy. China aims to reach a carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. The country will support areas with favorable conditions to peak the emissions ahead of schedule. China will enhance the level of opening-up, strengthen trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, cooperate with all countries, regions and enterprises willing to cooperate in return. It has also vowed to promote common prosperity for everyone so that its development outcomes can be shared by all.

Guided by the development philosophy, China is capable of taking the initiative in reacting



An aerial view of Houhai in Nanshan District of Shenzhen, in south China's Guangdong Province on Sept. 17, 2020.

to changing conditions in a flexible and effective way. It is prepared for risks and challenges in any form. For instance, China will intensify anti-monopoly supervision and prevent disorderly capital expansion.

Policies and plans under the new development philosophy will fully tap into China's market potential, create more demand for the world, and forge more development opportunities for the world to achieve all-win results.

China's development philosophy also represents wisdom to dissect critical problems facing the world: lacking robust driving forces for growth, inadequate global economic governance and uneven global development. To steer the global economy out of difficulty, the world needs more efforts than ever to stay open and inclusive, pursue innovation-driven growth, enhance connectivity and promote mutually beneficial cooperation.

Under the development concepts, China has pulled off an economic miracle with its gross domestic product (GDP) expected to exceed 100 trillion yuan (about 15.31 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2020 and its middle-income group already having exceeded 400 million.

In this sense, China's growth under its development philosophy can be a valuable reference.

All roads lead to Rome. No country should blindly follow others' steps or take their development paths as the only viable one, let alone impose its own development approach on other countries.

China's economic development has proved that if a country's development course conforms to its national condition and the trend of the time, a miracle can be created.

China's Economic Growth to Drive Global Recovery from COVID-19, say Experts

Foreign economists have forecast China will register a quick recovery from the COVID-19 slump in 2021 and help stabilize the global economic imbalance on the back of targeted macro-policy reforms carried out by the government.

China's Central Economic Work Conference from December 16-18 has set the course for the country's economic development in 2021, heralding a continuous growth that will help the recovery of the pandemic-laden world economy, overseas experts have said.

Recognizing the country's hard-won economic achievements this year amid an effective control of COVID-19, the meeting outlined specific tasks for 2021, saying that China will work to ensure that the Chinese economy runs in an appropriate range with the implementation of targeted and

effective macro policies, Xinhua reported on December 19.

Noting that China is expected to become the only major economy to register positive growth this year, Fu Xiaolan, founding director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development of the University of Oxford, said that it is of decisive significance for the sustainable development of the Chinese economy. The key tasks outlined by the meeting, such as promoting high-quality development, boosting technology innovations, consolidating

China's rapid economic growth helps build its resilience in the face of the pandemic, said William Jones, Washington bureau chief of the US publication Executive Intelligence Review, adding that when taking preventive measures to avoid the recurrence of the pandemic, China is seizing the opportunity to bring the economy back on the track of sustainable growth.

Containers stacked at the container terminal of the Lianyungang Port in Lianyungang City, in east China's Jiangsu Province.



Workers at a workshop of the Hebei Xinglong Equipment Co., Ltd. in Fengrun, Tangshan City, in China's Hebei Province, Dec. 17, 2020.

the security and stability of industrial and supply chains, and strengthening the domestic market's support for economic growth, all serve a central goal and support each other, which is correct and scientific, said Fu.

China's rapid economic growth helps build its resilience in the face of the pandemic, said William Jones, Washington bureau chief of the US publication Executive Intelligence Review, adding that when taking preventive measures to avoid the recurrence of the pandemic, China is seizing the opportunity to bring the economy back on the track of sustainable growth. Mr Jones said that he believed accelerating technological innovations and developing stable industrial supply chains are the top priorities of China's economic development in the future because the key to economic growth is technological progress and the development of new technologies can ensure sustainable economic growth.

Ke Ding, a researcher at the Institute of Developing Economies of the Japan External Trade Organization, said the conference put forward the strategies of expanding domestic demand, focusing on the demand-side management, optimizing the income distribution structure, and expanding the middle-income group, which are crucial for China to form a strong domestic market and achieve high-quality development. Mao Xuxin, the principal economist at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, a London-based economic think tank, said that while maintaining a reasonable and appropriate monetary policy and controlling financial and debt risks, China has adopted proactive and targeted fiscal policies which

will help promote scientific and technological innovations and optimize income distribution and economic structures.

"Such relatively balanced monetary and fiscal policies will not only help expand domestic demand and maintain safe and sound economic development but will also provide strong support for an independent and controllable supply chain and high-level opening-up," Mr Mao said. Johannes Pflug, a city official of Duisburg, Germany, who is responsible for Chinese affairs, said he concludes from the Central Economic Work Conference that China's economy is expected to continue to play a leading role in driving global economic recovery in 2021.

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Workers at a production line of the Dongfeng Passenger Vehicle Company in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, March 24, 2020.

LOW-CARBON REVOLUTION SWEEPS THROUGH CHINA FOR A GREEN, BETTER FUTURE

China, the world's largest energy producer and consumer, issued a white paper on December 21 on its energy development, elaborating how the country is sailing toward a greener future. Titled "Energy in China's New Era," the paper was released by the State Council

Information Office to provide a full picture of China's achievements in energy development and major policies for energy reform. China has been working on all fronts to reform the ways energy is consumed, to build a clean and diversified energy supply system, to implement



The massive greening project in Kekeya, Aksu, in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on Sept. 20, 2018.

an innovation-driven energy strategy, to further the reform of the energy system, and to enhance international energy cooperation, the document says. "Facing increasingly severe global problems, such as climate change, environmental risks, and challenges, and energy and resource constraints, China embraces the vision of a global community of shared future and accelerates its transformation towards green and low-carbon development in economy and society," Xinhua reported, quoting the report.



An electric vehicle plant of automaker Green Wheel EV, at Rugao base in China's Jiangsu Province, on May 14, 2017.

Go Low-Carbon, Go Green

While securing blistering economic growth since reform and opening up over 40 years ago, China has also realized historic achievements in energy development, with growing energy supply capacity and optimized energy consumption structure. Preliminary calculations show that

Titled "Energy in China's New Era," the paper was released by the State Council Information Office to provide a full picture of China's achievements in energy development and major policies for energy reform.

China's primary energy production in 2019 reached 3.97 billion tonnes of standard coal, making it the world's largest energy producer, the paper said. "Its transition to efficient energy utilization has also been the fastest in the world," says the document, adding that China gives priority to non-fossil energy, and strives to substitute low-carbon for high-carbon energy and renewable for fossil energy. It has been a tough choice for China, especially at a time when the economy is facing headwinds. However, it has stood steadfast in resisting the old way of economic expansion at the cost of the environment as the leadership has repeatedly underscored that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets".

Since 2012, energy consumption per unit of GDP has been reduced by 24.4 percent, equivalent to 1.27 billion tonnes of standard coal. By 2019, carbon emission intensity had decreased by 48.1 percent compared with 2005, which exceeded the target of reducing carbon emission intensity by 40 percent to 45 percent between 2005 and 2020, reversing the trend of rapid carbon dioxide emission growth. In contrast, China's total installed capacity of power generation using renewable energy resources reached 790 million kilowatts as of the end of 2019, accounting for about 30 percent of the global total. According to the white paper, China has invested 818 billion US dollars in new energy power generation since 2010, accounting for 30 percent of the global total over the same period. Last year, clean energy (natural gas, hydropower, nuclear power, wind power) accounted for 23.4 percent of China's total energy consumption, up 8.9 percentage points over 2012, preliminary calculations showed. "With this, China has reached the target of raising the share of non-fossil energy to 15 percent in total energy consumption by 2020," the white paper says, adding that China will scale up its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions while striving to have carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Shared Future for All

Holding that energy matters to the survival and development of humanity, China, as a



The heliostats of a molten-salt solar thermal power plant in Dunhuang, in northwest China's Gansu Province, on Oct. 23, 2019.

staunch supporter of multilateralism, has become an active participant in global energy governance. According to the document, China has set up intergovernmental energy cooperation mechanisms with over 90 countries and regions and established ties with over 30 international organizations and multilateral mechanisms in the energy sector. Since 2012, the country has become a member state of the International Renewable Energy Agency, an observer country to the Energy Charter Treaty, and an affiliate of the International Energy Agency, it says. While engaging in multilateral energy governance, China has greatly eased the market access for foreign investors to enter the sectors of coal, oil, gas, electricity which excludes nuclear power, and new energy, and has built a market-based international business environment that respects the rule of law to facilitate free trade and investment.

Preliminary calculations show that China's primary energy production in 2019 reached 3.97 billion tonnes of standard coal, making it the world's largest energy producer, the paper said.

International energy companies, such as ExxonMobil, GE, BP, EDF, and SIEMENS, are steadily expanding investment in China,

according to the white paper. "The wide application of renewable energy technologies in the Chinese market is helping to reduce the cost of renewable energy and accelerate the green transition process across the globe," it says. With a batch of landmark energy projects, such as China-Russia, China-Central Asia, and China-Myanmar oil and gas pipelines brought into operation and China's power grids connected to the grids of seven neighboring countries, China has given a strong boost to energy infrastructure connectivity and realized optimal

In contrast, China's total installed capacity of power generation using renewable energy resources reached 790 million kilowatts as of the end of 2019, accounting for about 30 percent of the global total.

allocation of energy resources on a larger scale, which facilitates economic cooperation within the region, according to the white paper. China will work together with all countries to expand cooperation on global energy governance, promote the sustainable development of global energy, and protect global energy security. "This is part of our commitment to realizing more inclusive, balanced, and equal development for all, and to building a clean, beautiful, prosperous and habitable world," it says.

Xi's 'Cloud Diplomacy' Helps World Emerge from Pandemic with Enhanced Solidarity



A plane carrying medical supplies donated by a Chinese company arrived in Algiers, Algeria, on March 27, 2020.

President Xi Jinping addressed the Climate Ambition Summit via video link on Dec 12, 2020.

President Xi said China has endeavored to turn the Chinese market into a world market - shared by all and accessible to all - to bring more positive energy to the international community.

In a year shadowed by the onslaught of coronavirus outbreak, the world witnessed glimmers of hope in China's unremitting efforts on rallying global consensus on COVID-19 response and charting the course for future development. In the face of an unprecedented global crisis, Chinese President Xi Jinping engaged in intensive diplomacy, sharing thoughts with world leaders on addressing the fundamental questions of the times, and offering China's proposals to the resolution of global challenges, Xinhua reported on December 26. In 2020, President Xi had 80 phone calls with foreign

leaders and heads of international organizations and attended 22 important diplomatic events in the form of "cloud diplomacy" through the virtual platform. The president's diplomatic engagements have helped build global consensus on COVID-19 and pointed out the way forward for China's foreign policy, said China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Rallying Consensus

The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to wreak havoc across the world. As of December 26, the

The president's diplomatic engagements have helped build global consensus on COVID-19 and pointed out the way forward for China's foreign policy, said China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

virus has infected more than 79 million people and claimed over 1.7 million lives worldwide, with cases continuing to surge. At this crucial time when the world urgently needed its leading players to rise to challenges and act with swiftness, President Xi proposed his solutions in the form of solidarity and cooperation - the most powerful weapon for defeating the virus.

At various international platforms, including the World Health Assembly, the UN high-level meetings, and the G20 Leaders' Summit, the Chinese leader called on countries concerned to step up exchanges on epidemic monitoring, scientific research, and disease control and treatment while opposing attempts to politicize the pandemic. With a strong sense of responsibility, China proposed building a community of health for all and launched the largest global humanitarian campaign since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, China has provided assistance to over 150 countries and 10 international organizations, sent 36 medical teams to 34 countries in need since the outbreak, offered over 200 billion masks, 2 billion protective suits, and 800 million testing kits. China has joined COVAX, a global initiative backed by the World Health Organization (WHO), and promised to make the country's COVID-19 vaccines, once available, a "global public good" to ensure vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

In the face of the invisible virus, no one is safe until everyone is safe, said Ruan Zongze, executive vice president of the China Institute of International Studies, adding that President Xi pointed out the right antidote to uprooting the virus and shed light on the future direction for international anti-pandemic efforts. Thanks to China's advocacies and actions, the construction of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters started this year; war-torn Iraq has its most advanced CT scanners for

cases confirmation, and Laos was equipped with an advanced laboratory to improve nucleic acid testing capacity in the country. Echoing China's proposal, the WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "One thing that we would ask is unity at the national level and solidarity at the global level. More than ever, the human race should stand together to defeat this virus."



A team of Chinese health experts sent to provide assistance to contain the COVID-19 outbreak in Iraq posed for a group photo outside the new PCR laboratory in Baghdad, Iraq, March 25, 2020.

Propelling Economic Recovery

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to the world economy and added to the instability and uncertainty, the overwhelming trend for countries to move toward openness and cooperation remains unchanged, President Xi said. As the economy gradually reopened, China took innovative approaches to establish "fast tracks" and "green lanes" to ensure a smooth flow of personnel and goods and keep industrial and supply chains stable and open. With containment protocols in place, China also hosted a series of global trade events as scheduled, including the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing, the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, and the 17th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, among others.



Members of a Chinese medical team with their Iranian counterparts in Tehran, March 7, 2020.

“This demonstrated China’s sincere desire to share its market opportunities with the world to tide over difficulties,” said Chen Fengying, a researcher at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations. With a population of 1.4 billion and a middle-income group that exceeds 400 million, the huge China market is the most promising one in the world.

“Our aim is to turn the Chinese market into a market for the world, a market shared by all, and a market accessible to all. This way, we will be able to bring more positive energy to the global community,” President Xi said in his keynote speech via video at this year’s CIIE opening ceremony. In its latest Economic Outlook report, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) predicted that China will be the only major economy to record positive performance in 2020 with a growth of 1.8 percent. China is expected to play the role of a “locomotive” powering global recovery in the post-pandemic era, said Rudolf Minsch, chief economist at Swiss national business federation Economiesuisse. Urging a self-revolution for the post-pandemic development, President Xi has called for innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development. China aims to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. “People could make

full use of the green transition as a new economic driver, which also adds decent jobs and boosts sustainable growth,” said Li Zheng, executive vice president of the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Tsinghua University.

Multilateralism the Right Choice

“The baton of history has been passed to our generation, and we must make the right choice, a choice worthy of the people’s trust and of our times,” President Xi said at the general debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September. As the world is caught up in headwinds and setbacks in global governance, the president made clear that China’s stance of upholding multilateralism at various international events, sharing China’s thoughts on global governance reform and safeguarding world peace and stability. Calling on countries to stay true to multilateralism, President Xi said global governance should be based on the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. “To put into practice the principle of multilateralism, we must act, not just talk,” President Xi said, urging all countries to focus on action. At the UN meetings, he announced a series of major initiatives and measures China will take such as providing 50 million US dollars to the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund (Phase III), extending the Peace and Development Trust Fund between the UN and China by five years after it expires in 2025, and donating another 10 million dollars to UN Women in the coming five years, among other initiatives.

Facing one of the most severe public health challenges in recent history, countries across the globe have come to realize that they share a common future and must join hands in building a community of health for all. Actions to promote President Xi’s vision of a community with a shared future for humanity have been well underway, and China’s proposals for building communities with a shared future in various fields, including cyberspace, ocean, and health, have been received warmly. As Foreign Minister Wang Yi envisioned - if all countries truly come together and forge ahead side by side, the world will emerge from the pandemic more prosperous and humanity will embrace a better future.

The wind turbines at the Jiucaiping scenic spot in southwest China's Guizhou Province on August 19, 2020.

China's New Commitments Inject Impetus for Global Climate Actions

Addressing the Climate Ambition Summit via video link, Chinese President Xi Jinping has announced additional commitments to achieve global climate change targets for 2030. He said that China will lower its carbon emissions by over 65 percent per unit of GDP from the 2005 level, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 percent, boost the forest stock by six billion cubic meters from the 2005 level, and raise its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts.

"We will take solid steps to implement the targets just announced, and contribute even more to tackling the global climate challenge," President Xi told the virtual summit on December 12, attended by dozens of leaders of both developed and developing countries, as well as international organizations, representatives of NGOs, and business leaders, Xinhua reported. The summit, which aims to make new commitments to tackling

climate change and delivering on the Paris Agreement on climate change, was co-convened by the United Nations, the United Kingdom, and France, in partnership with Chile and Italy. The Chinese leader said that his country would promote greener economic and social growth while pursuing high-quality development. In September, he had announced to scale up China's "nationally determined contributions and adopt more vigorous policies and measures, with goals to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060".

He urged the international community to pursue a new approach to climate governance that highlights green recovery. Hailing the extensive international support to Paris Agreement since its adoption five years ago, he said COVID-19 is triggering deep reflections on the relationship between man and nature. He made three proposals for future climate governance. First, he called on all parties to close ranks and make

new advances for climate governance that feature win-win cooperation. In meeting the climate challenge, no one can be aloof; unilateralism will lead to nowhere, he said. "Only by upholding multilateralism, unity, and cooperation can we deliver shared benefits and win-win results for all nations." "China welcomes the support of all countries to the Paris Agreement and their greater contribution to tackling climate change," President Xi added.

Second, he called for raising ambition and fostering a new architecture of climate governance where every party does its part. Following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, all countries need to maximize actions in light of their respective national circumstances and capabilities, he said. He also stressed that developed countries need to scale up support for developing countries in the financing, technology, and capacity-building. Third, he urged all parties to boost confidence and pursue a new approach to climate governance.

"Green mountains and rivers are mountains of silver and gold," Xi said, adding that it is vital to encourage green, low-carbon ways of life and production and seek development opportunities and impetus from green development.

President Xi said that China will lower its carbon emissions by over 65 percent per unit of GDP from the 2005 level, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 percent, boost the forest stock by six billion cubic meters from the 2005 level, and raise its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts.

"President Xi's latest pledge showed that China is committed to building a community with a shared future for humanity," said Li Zheng, executive vice president of the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University.

Mr Li said the post-pandemic recovery must be green in response to climate change. "By developing green infrastructures, such as renewable energy, intelligent transportation, and smart grid, people could make full use of the green transition as a new economic driver, which also adds decent jobs and boosts sustainable growth," he said.



A tram car ran past the expansive begonia flower fields in Suzhou, in east China's Jiangsu Province, on March 28, 2018.

China, EU Conclude Talks on Major Trade & Investment Deal

Chinese President Xi Jinping and the European leaders have announced the completion of their investment agreement talks that will boost trade and commerce between the two sides.

China and the European Union (EU) on December 30 sealed a major trade and investment agreement after years of negotiations, ending the Covid-hit 2020 with a positive note.

The announcement was made during a meeting between President Xi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen via video link, Xinhua reported. Calling the China-EU investment agreement as “balanced, high-standard and mutually beneficial,” President Xi said the treaty shows China’s determination and confidence to push high-level opening up. “The agreement will provide greater market access, higher level of business environment, stronger institutional guarantees, and brighter cooperation prospects for mutual investment,” the Chinese leader said. The treaty will also boost world economic recovery in a post-pandemic era, enhance the international confidence in economic globalization and free trade, making significant contributions to the building of an open world economy, he said.

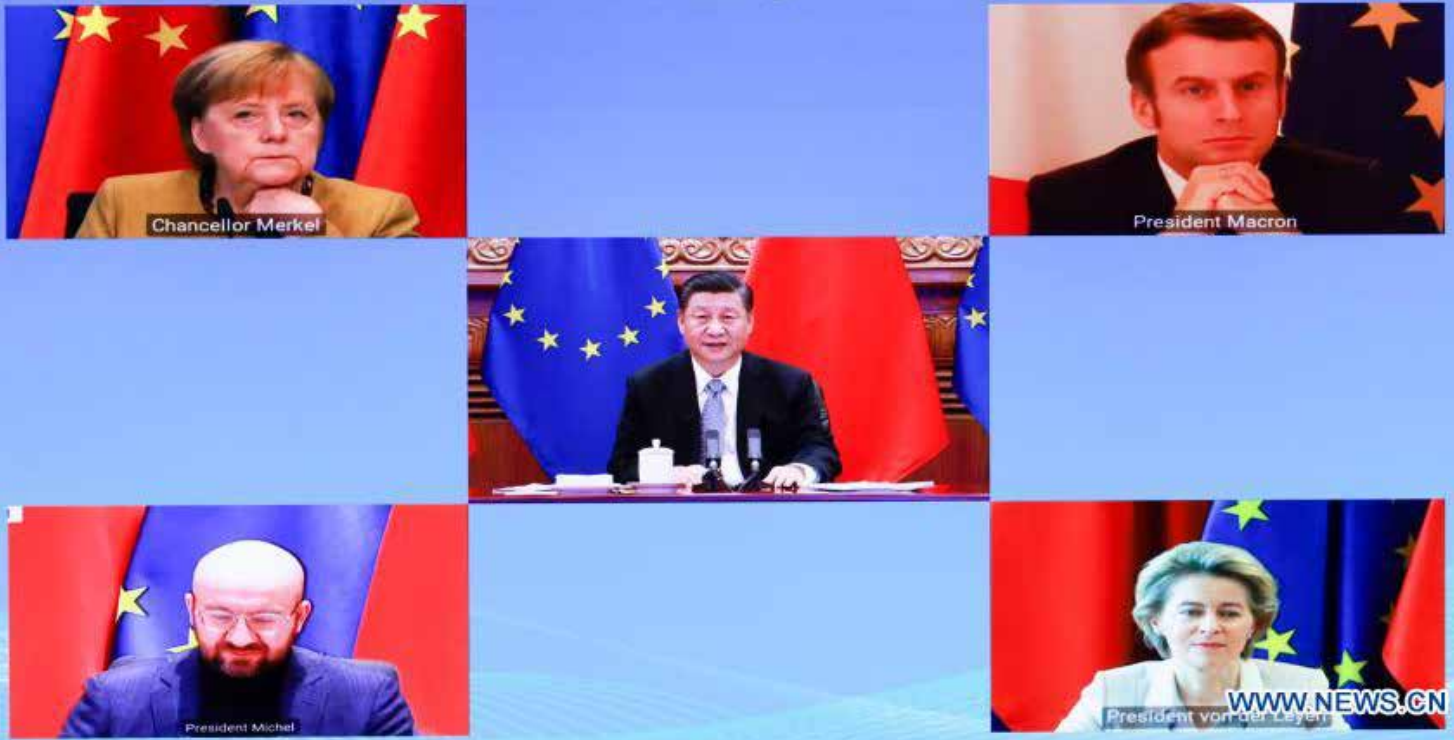
Stressing China’s commitment to fostering a new development paradigm will provide more market opportunities and cooperation potential for the EU and the world at large, President Xi called on the EU to uphold free trade and multilateralism, and provide an open, fair, and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese investors. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and changes rarely seen in a century, China and the EU have made fruitful achievements in advancing ties in 2020, through tiding over difficulties and working hand-in-hand, he added.

In 2021, China and Europe, as two major global forces, markets, and civilizations, should demonstrate a sense of responsibility and take active steps to contribute to global peace and progress, he said. President Xi urged the two sides to enhance dialogue and mutual trust, deepen cooperation, properly manage differences, and work together to nurture new opportunities and open up new prospects. As a first step, he called for coordinated actions in pandemic response to ensure equal distribution of Covid vaccines, especially in the developing countries as global public goods. Second, he urged joint efforts to promote economic recovery. The two sides should step up policy coordination and uphold building an open world economy to bring global industrial and supply chains back on track soon, he added.

Third, he called on the two sides to synergize development strategies, urging intensified efforts in policy coordination, better synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian interconnection strategy, and discussions about cooperation in the digital sector. Fourth, President Xi called for speeding up green development, urging the two sides to give full play to their high-

Stressing China's commitment to fostering a new development paradigm will provide more market opportunities and cooperation potential for the EU and the world at large, President Xi called on the EU to uphold free trade and multilateralism, and provide an open, fair, and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese investors.

习近平主席同德国、法国、欧盟领导人共同举行视频会晤 China-EU Leaders' Meeting via Video Conference



President Xi Jinping with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during a virtual meeting on Dec 30, 2020.

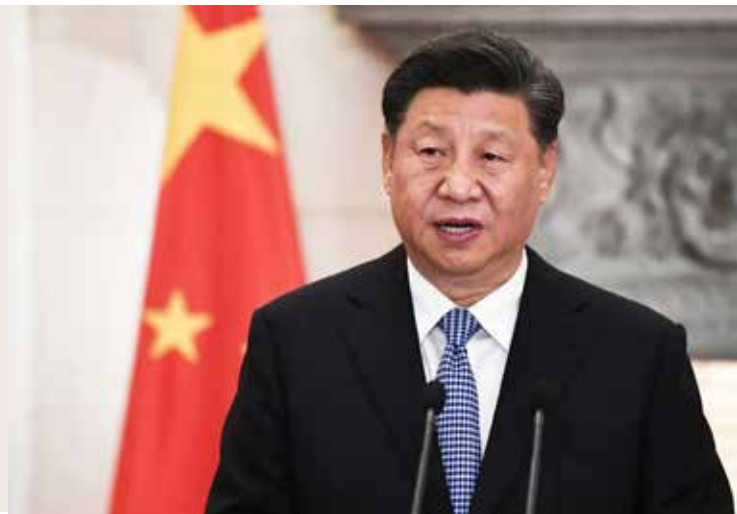
level dialogue mechanism on environment and climate, and give mutual support to each other in hosting international conferences on biodiversity, climate change, and conservation of nature. Fifth, he urged multilateral cooperation, adding China and Europe should enhance coordination and cooperation within the frameworks, including the United Nations, the Group of Twenty (G20), the World Trade Organization, and the World Health Organization, facilitate political settlement of international and regional hotspot issues, actively implement the G20 debt service suspension initiative, and support pandemic response and development in Africa to promote world development and prosperity.

The European leaders said that despite the impact of COVID-19, Europe and China had maintained close high-level communication in 2020 and made important progress on a series of issues, including the agreement on geographical indications. They said the completion of the investment agreement negotiations was an important milestone in the development of EU-China relations which will help promote recovery and growth of the world economy. The achievements once again showed to the world

that although Europe and China have differences on some issues, both sides have the political will to strengthen dialogue and deepen cooperation on the basis of respect to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, they said.

The investment agreement is a high-level one, they said. The European side appreciated China's further opening up and move to promote trade liberalization and investment facilitation. Both sides support multilateralism, and a strong EU-China relationship is conducive to solving global challenges, according to the leaders. The EU also appreciated China's initiatives in addressing climate change and helping Africa fight the pandemic, and expressed hope to continue to coordinate and cooperate closely with China on issues, such as global anti-pandemic, climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and WTO reform. The Chinese and European leaders exchanged New Year greetings and vowed to maintain close communication in 2021, jointly advance the agenda of major exchanges between the two sides, and promote the continuous development of China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership, Xinhua added.

Xi Congratulates International Forum for Role in Anti-Poverty Fight



President Xi Jinping said that China has made notable contributions to the cause of global poverty reduction by lifting its nearly 100 million rural poor out of destitution.

In a letter to the organizers, Chinese President Xi Jinping has congratulated the “International Forum on Sharing Poverty Reduction Experience” for its role in the battle against poverty and said that the Chinese government has made “unremitting and arduous efforts” to ensure a better life for its citizens. The meeting was jointly organized by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development in Beijing on December 14 and was attended by over 200 representatives from more than 60 countries and regions, as well as over 20 international organizations via video.

Calling poverty eradication “a common ideal of humanity”, President Xi said that China has been waging a full-scale battle against impoverishment since 2012, Xinhua reported. “After eight years of continuous efforts, China has lifted the rural poor out of poverty and removed the impoverished counties from its poverty list under the current income standard,” he said, noting that “With nearly 100 million rural people lifted out of poverty, China has made significant contributions to the global poverty reduction cause.”

The country will continue to consolidate and expand the achievements of poverty alleviation, and make progress and improve the well-being and prosperity of the people, he said. President Xi stressed that the fight against poverty is facing stiff challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“After eight years of continuous efforts, China has lifted the rural poor out of poverty and removed the impoverished counties from its poverty list under the current income standard,” he said, noting that “With nearly 100 million rural people lifted out of poverty, China has made significant contributions to the global poverty reduction cause.”

“China is willing to work with all countries to promote international poverty reduction and build a community with a shared future for humanity,” he added. In the letter, he also expressed hope that participants would conduct an in-depth analysis, share experiences on poverty reduction, and build a broad consensus to accelerate the process of international poverty reduction.

President Xi’s letter was read out by Huang Kunming, a member of the Political Bureau and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee. He also delivered a keynote speech at the forum. Mr Huang said the letter expounded the historical process, the achievements, and international contributions made by the CPC and the Chinese government in poverty alleviation. “It also demonstrated China’s unswerving determination in responding to challenges brought by the pandemic, in jointly promoting poverty alleviation, and building a community with a shared future for humanity,” he said.

Serving the Country and Contributing to the World: China's Diplomacy in a Time of Unprecedented Global Changes and Pandemic



State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi addressed the Symposium on the International Situation and China's Foreign Relations in 2020 on December 11.

In a well-crafted speech titled “Serving the Country and Contributing to the World: China’s Diplomacy in a Time of Unprecedented Global Changes and a Once-in-a-Century Pandemic,” State Councilor and Foreign Minister underlined how Chinese diplomacy has helped secure the national interests while concurrently strengthening cooperation with other nations in critical areas such as Covid, economic recovery, multilateralism, trade, and climate change, among others. Wang Yi emphasized that China poses no threat but seeks peaceful development and win-win cooperation for a shared future. He stressed that China is closer than ever before to build a progressive, prosperous, and modern socialist country with Chinese characteristics.

The following is the full text of Wang Yi’ speech at the “Symposium on the International Situation and China’s Foreign Relations in 2020” in Beijing on December 11.

It gives me great pleasure to join you again at the turn of the year to take stock of the international developments and China’s foreign relations. Let me first take this opportunity to thank you for your support for China’s diplomatic work. As always, I look forward to your insights and suggestions.

The year 2020 is a watershed in human history. The sudden onslaught of COVID-19 has triggered a global crisis, putting a halt to cross-border travels and shifting global growth into reverse gear. Anachronistic practices of unilateralism and protectionism have been on the increase, driven by resurgent power politics and Cold-War mentality. Human development is confronted with unprecedented risks and

challenges in an increasingly fluid and changing world. At the same time, the evolution of the international order is speeding up. A new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is gathering momentum. Humankind as a whole has gained a more profound appreciation of the need for health and safety, peace and development, win-win cooperation, and for embracing a shared future. The world will never go back to where it was; humanity is pondering on and exploring the future. All countries must make the consequential choice between solidarity and division, between openness and isolation, and between cooperation and confrontation.

China's Development in 2020

The year 2020 is a milestone in China's national development. Facing the devastating impact of COVID-19 and an increasingly complex international environment, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, the entire nation has rallied together behind a common purpose. China was among the first to contain the virus, to carry out international cooperation against COVID-19, to reopen the economy safely, and to restore economic growth.

The country is on course to fulfill the historic mission of ending extreme poverty within the set time frame, secure decisive achievements in finishing the building of a moderately prosperous society and realize the first centenary goal. The successful Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee set out a great vision for China's development in the coming five years and beyond. It marked the beginning of a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country, provided a strong impetus to overcome challenges on the way forward, and charted the course toward the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The year 2020 is a groundbreaking one for China's external relations. With a global vision and a strong sense of responsibility as a leader of a major country, President Xi Jinping has engaged in intensive state diplomacy. He held 84 meetings and phone calls with foreign leaders and heads of international organizations, and attended 22 important diplomatic events, including "cloud diplomacy" through the innovative virtual platform. This has helped build global consensus on COVID-19 and point the way forward for China's foreign policy. Guided by the President's diplomatic engagements and focusing on a joint response to COVID-19, we in the diplomatic service have forged ahead to meet the challenges head-on. We have taken proactive steps to stay ahead of the changing circumstances, to serve the country, and contribute to the world. We have fought the novel coronavirus and the "political virus" at the same time and made new contributions to safeguarding national interests and global stability. Our efforts and achievements are reflected in the following eight areas:

COVID Fight

First, we have carried out robust international cooperation against COVID-19. Over the past year, we in the diplomatic service have actively contributed to the fight against COVID-19 both in China and globally, promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind with concrete actions as a major, responsible country. Domestically, we have fully engaged in COVID-19 containment. In the early days of the epidemic, we helped secure lifesaving medical supplies globally to address the pressing need back home. With infections rising globally, we worked with fellow Chinese at home and abroad to build a strong line of defense at our borders and preserve the hard-won gains in containing COVID-19. As the economy gradually reopened, we took innovative approaches to establish "fast tracks" and "green lanes" for the flow of people and goods, which has helped to keep industrial and supply chains stable and open and bolster domestic economic recovery and social development.

The year 2020 is a groundbreaking one for China's external relations. With a global vision and a strong sense of responsibility as a leader of a major country, President Xi Jinping has engaged in intensive state diplomacy.

Internationally, we have actively promoted anti-COVID-19 cooperation. Since the very beginning, China has worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the international community in an open, transparent, science-based, and responsible manner. Being the first to report cases to the world, China has since then publicized key information, including the genome sequencing at the first opportunity, firmly supported the leading role of WHO, and provided funding to WHO and the UN COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. We have organized over 100 expert video meetings to share the experience with other countries without reservation. Through opening an online Knowledge Center for China's Experiences in Response to COVID-19, which is accessible to all

countries, we have published eight versions of diagnosis and therapeutic solutions and seven versions of prevention and control protocols. We have launched the largest global humanitarian campaign since the founding of New China. We have provided assistance to over 150 countries and nine international organizations and sent 36 medical teams to 34 countries in need. Leveraging our strength as the largest manufacturer of medical supplies, we have provided countries around the world with over 200 billion masks, 2 billion protective suits, and 800 million testing kits. We have also actively advanced collaboration on the R&D of drugs and vaccines, promoted joint prevention and control with other countries, and called for the enhancement of global public health governance, with a view to jointly building a global community of health for all.

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Reform and Opening Up

Second, we have further expanded opening-up and mutually beneficial cooperation. Over the past year, the global economy has faced the deepest recession since World War II precipitated by the pandemic. As the world's second-largest economy, China has deepened reform and opening-up across the board and actively pursued mutually beneficial cooperation to provide impetus and confidence for the global recovery. China has accelerated reform and opening-up endeavors across the board. The Foreign Investment Law and its implementation regulations came into effect. The items on the national negative list for foreign investment have been further cut to 33, and down to 30 for the pilot free trade zones. A master plan has been drawn up for the development of the Hainan Free Trade Port. Measures for further reform and opening-up in Shenzhen and Pudong have been rolled out. And more pilot programs have been conducted for the creative promotion of trade in services. With these steps, China has opened

its door even wider to the world. We have set out to foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. Our purpose is to vigorously expand domestic demand and form deeper and broader connections between domestic and international circulations. This will provide greater market opportunities for the world and a broader space for international cooperation. This will also open up new dimensions in China's win-win strategy of opening-up and speed up the process toward a new, higher-standard open economy in China.

Despite the challenges, China's mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries has continued to move forward. In the first three quarters this year, China's economy resumed positive growth, with an uptick in total trade in goods and a notable increase in paid-in foreign investment. China is expected to become the first major economy to register positive growth this year. This is a hard-won achievement that will provide an important underpinning for global recovery. The Belt and Road cooperation has shown strong resilience and vitality under COVID-19. In the first eight months this year, China's trade with Belt and Road partners reached RMB5.86 trillion yuan, and Chinese companies made 30 percent more non-financial direct investment in Belt and Road partner countries year-on-year. As of early November, the China-Europe Railway Express had completed more than 10,000 services and transported at least 50 percent more freight than last year. The Express has been compared to a steel camel fleet that vigorously supported joint COVID responses by countries along its routes. The High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation yielded productive outcomes. Participants agreed to work toward a Health Silk Road, adding another building block toward high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. We have successfully held the third China International Import Expo attended by over 3,600 companies from more than 150 countries and regions. By holding the Expo, China has shared with the world the benefits and opportunities generated by its economic recovery and opening-up, and shown itself to be a market for the world, shared by all and accessible to all.

Support for Global Stability

Third, we have provided strong support for global stability. Over the past year, China has made active efforts to develop its relations with other major countries and foster a framework of major-country relations featuring overall stability and well-balanced development. President Xi Jinping has had four phone calls with Russian President Vladimir Putin this year, providing guidance for the continued growth of China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era. The two countries provided each other with anti-epidemic supplies and medical assistance, and jointly promoted international cooperation against COVID-19. Practical cooperation between the two sides has continued to deepen. Steady progress was made in several major projects. The Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation was officially launched. The two sides have worked in concert to defend the victorious outcomes of World War II and uphold international fairness and justice and firmly supported each other against foreign interference and stigmatization, acting as important players in safeguarding global strategic stability. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between China and the EU. Chinese and EU leaders have agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation, deepen strategic mutual trust, firmly uphold multilateralism, and jointly meet global challenges. In the first three quarters, China became the EU's largest trading partner for the first time. The two sides signed the agreement on geographical indications, a demonstration of their shared commitment to intellectual property protection. The two sides decided to establish two new high-level dialogue mechanisms, one on environment and climate and the other on digital cooperation, and build partnerships for green and digital cooperation. A closer partnership between the two sides in these areas will add new dimensions to the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership. Negotiations toward a China-EU investment treaty have entered the final phase, with both sides working to conclude the negotiations by the end of this year. This year has witnessed the most challenging situation facing China-US relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties over four decades ago. As the world needed

solidarity and cooperation the most, the United States headed down the path of unilateralism, which has become the most disruptive factor in the international system. Out of their self-interests and political bias, some people in the United States have sought to smear and suppress China, impose unjustified sanctions, and even stoke ideological confrontation in an attempt to plunge the world into a new Cold War.

These unpopular moves should stop now. Otherwise, they will damage US credibility, jeopardize world peace and stability, and will ultimately be rejected by people of the world and by history. The China-US relationship is showing a complexity that goes far beyond the bilateral scope; it has in fact become a matter of going

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Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) interacted with Burundian Foreign Minister Ezechiel Nibigira in Bujumbura, Burundi, on Jan. 11, 2020.

for multilateralism or unilateralism, progress or retrogression, and justice or hegemony. What China defends is not only its own legitimate rights and interests but also the common and long-term interests of all countries. What China safeguards are not only the political foundation underpinning China-US interactions, but also the basic norms governing international relations applicable to all countries. What China advocates are not only its own legitimate propositions but also fairness and justice of the world.

Diplomatic Outreach

Fourth, we have made solid progress in building a community with a shared future with neighbors. Over the past year, following the neighborhood diplomacy guideline that advocates amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness, China has proactively conducted cooperation with neighboring countries in COVID response and many other areas. Such cooperation has contributed to broader converging interests and closer people-to-people ties, making solid strides in building a community with a shared future. After the new Japanese government was formed, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga reached a new, important common understanding on steadily improving and growing China-Japan relations. The two countries will support each other in hosting the Tokyo Olympic Games and the Beijing Olympic Winter Games, and earnestly build a China-Japan relationship that meets the call of the new era.

China values the peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation with its important neighbor India. The two countries have kept strategic communication. China has resolutely and appropriately handled the boundary disputes, in an effort to steer China-India relations in the right direction. China and the ROK have worked effectively together in various areas, including COVID response and economic reopening, taking the strategic cooperative partnership to a new height. President Xi Jinping paid a visit to Myanmar on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations. The two sides reached an important consensus on building a China-Myanmar community with a shared future, heralding a new chapter in the millennial “pauk-phaw”

ties. China has facilitated substantial progress in Asia-Pacific cooperation. At the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, President Xi Jinping called for joint efforts to build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future, charting the direction for cooperation in the region. Premier Li Keqiang attended the leaders’ meetings for East Asian cooperation and witnessed the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which launched the process of setting up the world’s most promising FTA covering the largest population and biggest economic aggregate. China also announced that it will favorably consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), giving a strong boost to the confidence of countries concerned in building the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. China and ASEAN have made the historic breakthrough of becoming each other’s largest trading partners. The two sides have proposed the establishment of the China-ASEAN Liaison Mechanism for Public Health Emergencies and a medical supplies reserve endeavoring to make China-ASEAN relations a fine example of the most successful and dynamic regional cooperation.

China, Japan, and the ROK have strengthened cooperation in revitalizing regional economic activities and steadily advanced the trilateral free trade negotiations, elevating regional economic cooperation to a higher level. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has deepened cooperation in containing COVID-19, safeguarding regional security, and promoting economic growth. China and the five Central Asian countries have launched the “Central Asia Plus China” (C5+1) foreign ministers’ meetings as a new framework for strengthening China-Central Asia relations. China has been actively exploring approaches with Chinese features in resolving hotspot issues. While firmly upholding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an important accomplishment of multilateral diplomacy, we have joined the international community in opposing US moves inconsistent with Security Council resolutions on the Iranian nuclear issue. China has put forward a constructive proposal of building a new platform for multilateral dialogue for the Gulf region. China has continued to advocate the phased and synchronized approach to achieve the two goals

of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and establishment of a peace mechanism, with the ultimate aim of realizing enduring peace and security in the peninsula. China has facilitated consensus-building on Afghanistan's national reconciliation and among regional players on the Afghan issue and supported advancing the intra-Afghan talks. China has mediated between Bangladesh and Myanmar in addressing their disagreements and assisted in maintaining overall stability in northern Myanmar.

China has facilitated substantial progress in Asia-Pacific cooperation. At the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, President Xi Jinping called for joint efforts to build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future, charting the direction for cooperation in the region.

Building a Shared Future

Fifth, we have protected and expanded the shared interests of the developing world. Over the past year, pursuing the greater good above its own interests, China has worked closely with other developing countries in fighting the virus, bolstering economic recovery, and embracing a shared future. Such solidarity and cooperation have stood the test of the trying time and demonstrated new vitality. President Xi Jinping and African leaders held a successful

Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19, carrying forward and enhancing the fine tradition of mutual assistance. The two sides have accelerated the implementation of the eight major initiatives announced at the FOCAC Beijing Summit, prioritizing programs in the health sector. The ninth Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was convened, during which all sides agreed to build a community with a shared future for China and Arab states, opening up even brighter prospects of Sino-Arab relations. China and Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries held a Special Video Conference of Foreign Ministers on COVID-19, and a China-LAC Special Loan for Combating COVID-19 was launched. Such joint efforts have demonstrated the solidarity and friendship between China and LAC countries.

China has sent medical expert teams to developing countries in need to help them beat the virus and tide over the difficulties. China has pledged to make vaccines a global public good once they are developed and deployed, as a contribution to vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries. China has taken an active part in formulating the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and implemented all debt service suspension requests that are DSSI eligible, ranking the first among G20 members in terms of deferral amount. China has promoted the earnest implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the international community and co-



hosted with the United Nations the High-level Video Conference on Poverty Eradication and South-South Cooperation. We have deepened international cooperation in such areas as agriculture, education, women and children, and climate change. These efforts fully attest to our conviction in supporting the solidarity and progress of developing countries and upholding the shared interests of the developing world.

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Global Governance Reform

Sixth, we have actively participated in the reform of the global governance system. The past year has witnessed headwinds and setbacks in global governance. Against such a background, President Xi expounded China's perspectives on global governance in a comprehensive and systematic way while attending major multilateral meetings and put forward China's proposals on actively tackling global challenges. Together with the rest of the international community, we firmly upheld the international order underpinned by international law, the international system with the UN as the core, and the multilateral trading regime with the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the cornerstone. Following the trend of history, we continued to support the UN's due role in regional and international affairs, stand for greater democracy in international relations, and advocate making economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced, and beneficial for all. China engaged in international cooperation on climate change in a responsible manner. We announced that we will strive to peak CO2 emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, demonstrating our readiness to contribute to global ecological preservation. We have also actively participated in international rule-making in emerging areas.

By releasing the Global Initiative on Data Security, we aim to address international concerns over cybersecurity. We will join other countries to foster international cyberspace featuring peace, security, openness, and cooperation.

Safeguarding National Interests

Seventh, we have firmly safeguarded our national interests and dignity. Over the past year, by staying committed to an independent foreign policy of peace, we have firmly safeguarded the path and system chosen by the Chinese people and upheld our country's sovereignty, security and development interests. We have taken a clear-cut position against any politicization or stigmatization of COVID-19 and held back the global spread of the "political virus". We have pushed back against slanders and smears against China's system and path and resolutely defended the security of political authority and system of the Party and the country. We have forcefully defeated the attempts to interfere in China's internal affairs by external forces through issues related to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Tibet, and upheld the sovereign independence and territorial integrity of our country. With justice on our side, we have denounced various types of disinformation and laid bare the attempts of scapegoating and blame-shifting in a bid to present and put on record an objective and truthful historical narrative. We have taken firm countermeasures against unilateral sanctions and the so-called long-arm jurisdiction in the name of national security and safeguarded our national dignity and the legitimate rights and interests of our companies and citizens.

Eighth, we have wholeheartedly served our people through diplomatic work. Over the past year, we have stayed committed to the people-centered principle in our work and showed every concern for the safety and well-being of every fellow countryman and woman abroad affected by the epidemic. We swiftly mobilized and carried out consular protection across the world in a bid to convey the care and solicitude of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council to all the Chinese nationals living, working, or studying overseas. We urged the governments of host countries to attach importance to addressing

the difficulties encountered by overseas Chinese citizens, offered prompt support to the treatment of those infected, and set up online telemedicine platforms for that purpose. Our diplomats abroad said this to their fellow countrymen, “The embassy will always be here with you. We will get through this together”. By overcoming all kinds of difficulties, we managed to deliver more than 1.2 million health kits to overseas Chinese students, sent emergency medical supplies to overseas Chinese in 100-plus countries, and arranged over 350 special flights to bring home stranded Chinese nationals. In November, when military conflicts broke out in Ethiopia, we successfully evacuated to safe areas all the 630 Chinese nationals there within 17 days. Since the beginning of 2020, our consular protection hotline 12308 has operated 24/7. It has handled three times the calls compared with the same period last year, with more than 10 calls per minute in peak times. The bond of love linking overseas Chinese with their motherland has now extended to every corner of the world.

The year 2021 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China and the launch of our 14th Five-Year Plan. China will embark on a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country and realizing its second centenary goal.

As the CPC reaches a centennial milestone full of youthful vigor, we in the foreign service have important missions on our shoulders. No matter how the international situation evolves, China’s diplomacy will continue to advance under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. We will stay true to our original aspirations to bring happiness to the Chinese people and contribute to human progress. We will hold high the banner of peace, development, and win-win cooperation, stick to the path of peaceful development and pursue friendship and cooperation with other countries in all sincerity. Guided by Xi Jinping’s thought on diplomacy, we will resolutely forge ahead to explore new opportunities and break new grounds amid crises and changes, pursue all-round progress in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era, foster a new type of international relations, and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

China’s Development and Rejuvenation

First, we will make our best efforts to serve China’s development strategies. China remains a developing country. Our primary task is to accelerate development and rejuvenation, and our ultimate goal is to deliver a better life to our people. We will foster a keen awareness of the features of China’s new development stage, promote the new development philosophy, and create a favorable external environment for fostering a new development paradigm and implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan. We will actively support the work for both normalized epidemic control and economic and social development. Efforts will be made to open more “fast tracks” for travel and “green lanes” for shipments of cargo, establish joint pandemic response mechanisms with more countries, and expedite cooperation on economic reopening. We will enhance coordination between the foreign service and other departments handling foreign affairs, support Chinese provinces in leveraging their respective resources and strengths, and actively serve China’s overall foreign policy interests. We will host a new round of events to present Chinese provinces and economically important regions that have emerged stronger from the test of COVID-19, and help build bridges with the world for the opening and development of our country and its different localities.

Second, we will strive to facilitate global economic recovery. China will continue to open its door wider to the world, fully tap into the strength of its enormous market and the potential of domestic demand, and make significant contributions to global recovery with its own economic development. We will oppose and resist all forms of protectionism, promote stable and smooth operation of global industrial and supply chains, and work with all countries to build an open world economy. We will vigorously advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, accelerate the development of the Health Silk Road, the digital Silk Road, and a green Silk Road, and bring benefits to more countries and peoples.

Third, we will advocate a new type of international relations. We will deepen China-Russia comprehensive strategic coordination,



China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met in Moscow on September 10.

enhance bilateral strategic coordination in all areas and at all levels, and jointly build pillars for world peace and security as well as global strategic stability. We will enhance strategic trust between China and Europe, build consensus on safeguarding multilateralism, upholding free trade, and tackling climate change, and expand practical cooperation on the digital economy, green development, and other emerging sectors. China-US relations have come to a new historical juncture. Bearing in mind the fundamental interests of both peoples and the common good of the whole world, the two sides need to review the experience of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic ties, reflect on the lessons from setbacks in bilateral relations in recent years, and rebuild a strategic framework for the sound and stable growth of the bilateral relations. The two countries need to make concerted efforts to achieve this goal. **First, we need to reopen the dialogue.** Dialogue and communication are effective ways to get the right perception of each other's strategic intentions as well as domestic and foreign policies. China stands ready to open up dialogues on an equal footing with the United States at all levels and in all areas to promote sincere, in-depth, and constructive exchanges. The two countries need to seek common ground while

reserving differences, and prudently manage their differences. **Second, we need to restart cooperation.** Mutually beneficial cooperation is the anchor and booster of China-US relations. It is high time for the two sides to coordinate and cooperate on COVID-19 response to defeat the virus. At the same time, both countries are duty-bound to step up communication on the global economy, climate change, counter-terrorism, cyberspace, and other major issues, and provide more public goods for global peace, stability, and economic recovery. **Third, we need to rebuild trust.** Mutual trust is the prerequisite for the healthy and stable growth of bilateral ties, and trust could only be based on objective and rational perceptions. The US side should put China in the right strategic perspective rather than viewing it as a threat, and see China's development in a positive and constructive way. China always believes that as long as both countries adopt an objective and rational attitude, and seek greater mutual understanding and broader convergence of interests, we will surely be able to find a path of peaceful coexistence in this world between countries of different social systems and cultural backgrounds.

We will foster a keen awareness of the features of China's new development stage, promote the new development philosophy, and create a favorable external environment for fostering a new development paradigm and implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan.

Fourth, we will further deepen international and regional cooperation. As we mark the 20th anniversary of the SCO, we will carry forward the Shanghai Spirit, and consolidate and strengthen the positive momentum of stability and cooperation in the region. We will work for the early entry into force of the RCEP agreement, promote mutually beneficial China-Japan-ROK cooperation, and advance the building of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Economic Development Belt. We will take an active part in COVAX, deliver our commitment to sharing Chinese COVID-19 vaccines, once available, as a

global public good, and work to build a global community of health for all. We will contribute our share to the poverty alleviation, debt reduction, and disaster mitigation of developing countries, and actively support fellow developing countries in capacity building for self-generated development.

Fifth, we will proactively engage in the reform of global governance. Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of China's lawful seat at the UN and the 20th anniversary of its accession to the WTO. We will continue to uphold multilateralism, follow the principles of openness and inclusiveness, carry out mutually beneficial cooperation, and move forward with the times. We support bringing into full play the UN's central position and role in international affairs, and enhancing the effectiveness and authority of the WTO. We will actively participate in the reform of the global governance system, and work with all parties in formulating rules on global digital governance and making the global governance system more equitable, reasonable, inclusive, and beneficial for all.

Friendly Ties

Sixth, we will promote mutual understanding between countries. China will enhance friendly interactions with the rest of the world. We call on all countries to overcome differences, seek common development, and facilitate the exchange, mutual learning, and harmony among civilizations. As we celebrate the historic 100th birthday of the CPC, we will better communicate to the world the CPC's track record of governance, the Chinese people's extraordinary journey toward the Chinese dream, and China's commitment to peaceful development. Through better communications, we hope the world will get a more objective view of the CPC and a more accurate understanding of socialism with Chinese characteristics. China will continue to enhance mutual understanding with the rest of the world and increase mutual trust between the Chinese and the peoples around the world.

Seventh, we will make continued efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind. President Xi Jinping has elaborated on the building of a community with a shared future for mankind on many occasions and further laid

Winter can never block the coming of spring, just as night can never prevent the break of dawn. Whatever adversaries may come in humanity's way, the wheels of history will always move forward, and nothing can stop the overwhelming trend of the times.

out the profound connotations of this vision. Actions to promote this community have been well underway. At the national level, China is forging bilateral communities with a shared future with more and more partners. At the regional level, China has reached an agreement with the relevant parties on building communities with a shared future in its neighborhood and the Asia-Pacific, and with ASEAN, Africa, Arab states, and Latin American and Caribbean countries. At the global level, China's proposals for building communities with a shared future in the fields of cyberspace, nuclear security, ocean, and health have been warmly received. The inception and promotion of the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind reflect the development trend of the times and the shared aspiration of people across the world and is winning ever broader understanding and support.

We call on all countries to rise above differences of ideology, social systems, and development stages, jointly protect the planet Earth, our only homeland, uphold the values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom shared by all of us, and work together for an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. Winter can never block the coming of spring, just as night can never prevent the break of dawn. Whatever adversaries may come in humanity's way, the wheels of history will always move forward, and nothing can stop the overwhelming trend of the times. China will, as always, stand on the right side of history and the side of justice in international relations, and work with all countries to make the world a better place. In pursuing its foreign relations, China will continue to shoulder its responsibilities for the country and the world, and make new and bigger contributions to the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

BRICS Launches New Industrial Innovation Center In Xiamen

The BRICS industrial innovation center will explore cutting-edge technologies for the benefit of the member countries in the digital era.

The BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center, proposed at the 12th BRICS Summit, was launched in the port city of Xiamen in Fujian Province on December 8, Xinhua reported.

“The innovation center will provide a foothold for BRICS countries to make use of technological innovation and digital transformation brought by the new industrial revolution,” said Guo Yezhou, president of the China Council for BRICS Think-Tank Cooperation. The center was established after BRICS approved the plan at its November 17 summit. “The far-reaching repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic have

become an unexpected accelerator of the digital transformation,” noted Li Yong, director-general of the UN Industrial Development Organization, in his speech via video link at the inaugural ceremony. Speaking on the sidelines of the forum, Anil Kishora, vice president and chief risk officer of the New Development Bank, said the center will help BRICS countries pool ideas on how to best use technologies, including AI, big data, and blockchain. “The center in Xiamen marks the beginning of a remarkable journey that will nurture the team spirit among BRICS economies, and develop common approaches in the face of universal challenges,” he said.

BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, and is home to over 40 percent of the world’s population and around one-fourth of the global economy.



The launching ceremony of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center in Xiamen City, Fujian Province, on Dec. 8, 2020.

Wang Yi at UNGA: Reinforce Global Cooperation with Renewed Solidarity to Defeat Covid-19



Newly-recruited nurses took oath during a ceremony at Peking University People's Hospital in Beijing, April 26, 2020.



State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi highlighted the need for global cooperation and putting people's lives first above everything else to defeat the deadly coronavirus in his speech at a special session of the UN General Assembly on December 4, 2020. He said that come winter or spring, the international community should walk hand-in-hand and share their resources and experiences until the "dawn of victory" against the virus is in plain sight.

The following is the full text of his speech titled "Reinforce Global Cooperation with Renewed Solidarity to Defeat COVID-19".

China supports the UN General Assembly in convening this special session in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that all parties will focus on the issue at hand, strengthen solidarity, and expand consensus to reinforce cooperation. The year 2020 is truly extraordinary in human history. Confronted by the sudden onslaught of the novel coronavirus, humanity has shown great fortitude and has come together to tide over the trying time, writing a remarkable chapter in history. As the world is braced for a second wave of infections, what lies ahead is a tenuous and uphill battle.

We need to act decisively to contain the spread of the virus. It is important to fully leverage the support of science and technology to strengthen monitoring and early warning, tracking and testing, treatment and quarantine, and information sharing, and to promote collective response around the world to curb the cross-border spread of the virus. As countries take varied approaches with different priorities, what remains central is to respect and protect every life and treat every patient with utmost efforts. Vaccines, a powerful weapon to defeat the virus,

should be a global public good and accessible and affordable for developing countries.

We need to enhance solidarity and cooperation. As the virus sweeps across the world, no place is Shangri-La with absolute safety. Defeating the pandemic requires concerted efforts from all countries. The major ones, in particular, must play an exemplary role in promoting collaboration, which is the right way forward. Public health security should be made a priority on the international agenda, accompanied by efforts to improve the governance system for public health security and strengthen emergency response capacity. It is also necessary to channel more support and input to the World Health Organization so that it can play a critical leadership role.

We need to coordinate COVID-19 control and economic and social development. While the virus is likely to stay for quite some time, we must be prepared for a prolonged struggle. It means that we should reopen the economy and at the same time keep the response measures in place. We should bring out the best in both the government and the market to promote employment, ensure people's livelihoods, and enhance the resilience of development. We should make good use of the new business forms and models that took shape during the pandemic to boost emerging industries and pursue a "green recovery". And we should strengthen international coordination on macroeconomic policies to keep global industrial and supply chains stable.

We need to step up support for developing countries. It means continued help to developing countries through anti-epidemic experience sharing, material and technological support, and medicine and vaccine cooperation, as well as providing greater humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable communities. More resources should be devoted to areas such as infectious disease control, public health capacity-building, and food security. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and others should offer more concessional terms on financing to lessen the burden of developing countries.

We need to foster an enabling international environment for the fight against COVID-19.



A staff member tested samples of COVID-19 inactivated vaccine at a laboratory of China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) in Beijing, on April 11, 2020.

Countries in conflict are the weak links in the global campaign against the pandemic. Conflicting parties should actively respond to the appeal for global ceasefire made by Secretary-General António Guterres, disengage on the battleground, and focus on fighting the virus. It is important to listen to the calls of the international community and remove all forms of unilateral sanctions and other unilateral coercive measures.

Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has all along put the people and their lives above everything else in its COVID-19 response. We have taken the most comprehensive, rigorous, and thorough measures and established a mechanism to coordinate medium to long-term efforts on epidemic control and economic and social development.

We have also launched the largest-ever global humanitarian campaign in the history of the People's Republic of China, engaged in the most intensive virtual exchanges, and stepped up to our responsibility as the largest supplier of anti-epidemic materials. China will continue to provide support and assistance to countries in need.

We are speeding up the phase III clinical trials of our vaccines. Once developed and deployed, we will make them global public goods and provide them to other developing countries as our contribution to building a community of health for all. As winter has arrived, spring is not far away. Guided by the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, let us walk hand in hand, determined and undaunted, to get through this difficult time and embrace the dawn of victory.

Xi Congratulates Space Scientists on Chang'e-5 Mission's Success

In a congratulatory letter to the Chinese space agency, President Xi Jinping lauded the overwhelming success of the Chang'e-5 lunar probe, which he said will deepen understanding of the evolutionary history of the solar system.



Chinese State Councilor Wang Yong read a congratulatory message from Chinese President Xi Jinping at Beijing Aerospace Control Center, on Dec. 17, 2020.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has congratulated the space scientists and administrators involved with the Chang'e-5 lunar mission for their "complete success" in bringing back home the country's first samples from the moon.

On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission (CMC), President Xi extended warm congratulations and sincere greetings to all members who participated in the Chang'e-5 mission, Xinhua reported on December 17. As China's most complicated space project, President Xi said the Chang'e-5 mission has achieved

extraterrestrial sampling and returning for the first time. "It is another major achievement in overcoming difficulties by giving full play to the advantages of the new system of pooling national resources and strength, marking a great step forward in China's space industry. This will contribute to deepening the understanding of the origin of the moon and the evolutionary history of the solar system," he noted.

"Your remarkable feats will always be remembered by our country and people," he said. Noting that there is no end for space exploration, President Xi expressed hope that "those who have participated in the Chang'e-5 mission will carry forward the lunar exploration spirit of pursuing dreams, daring to explore, collaborating in tackling difficulties and win-win cooperation, and start new interplanetary exploration, to contribute more to building China's strength in aerospace, achieving national rejuvenation, the peaceful use of space, and building of a community with a shared future for humanity". The congratulatory message was read out by State Councilor Wang Yong at the Beijing Aerospace Control Center.

Chang'e-5 mission has achieved many breakthroughs, including China's first lunar surface sampling and sealing, first liftoff from the moon, first rendezvous and docking in lunar orbit, and first spacecraft carrying samples to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere. The success of the Chang'e-5 mission marks an accomplishment of China's current three-step lunar exploration program of orbiting, landing, and bringing back samples, which began in 2004.

China's Spacecraft Brings Home Country's First Moon Samples



The return capsule of China's Chang'e-5 probe in Siziwang Banner in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on Dec. 17, 2020.

China's Chang'e-5 moon mission brings home the world's freshest lunar samples in over 40 years, making it one of the country's latest achievements in space exploration.

The return capsule of China's Chang'e-5 probe touched down on Earth in the early hours of December 17, bringing back the country's first moon samples, Xinhua reported.

The spacecraft landed in Siziwang Banner in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, at 1:59 a.m. (Beijing Time), according to the China National Space Administration (CNSA). Zhang Kejian, head of the CNSA, declared the Chang'e-5 mission a success. It marks a successful conclusion of China's current three-step lunar exploration program of orbiting and landing and bringing back samples, which began in 2004. The latest moon specimens are the world's freshest lunar samples in over 40 years. Under the control of the ground station, the return capsule separated from the orbiter about 5,000 km above the Atlantic. It entered the Earth's atmosphere at an altitude of around 120 km with a speed of 11.2 km per second, according to the CNSA.

After aerodynamic deceleration, it skipped out of the atmosphere. The capsule then re-entered the atmosphere to perform aerodynamic deceleration for a second time; at around 10 km above the ground, a parachute opened, and the capsule landed smoothly in the predetermined area, and a search team recovered it, the CNSA said. The capsule is set to be airlifted to Beijing for opening, and the moon samples will be delivered to the research team for analysis and study, it said. China will make some of the samples available to scientists in other countries, Pei Zhaoyu, deputy director of the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of CNSA, said.

Chang'e-5 is one of the most complicated and challenging missions in China's aerospace history. The probe, comprising an orbiter, a lander, an ascender, and a returner, was launched on November 24, and its lander-ascender combination touched down on the north of the Mons Rumker in Oceanus Procellarum, also

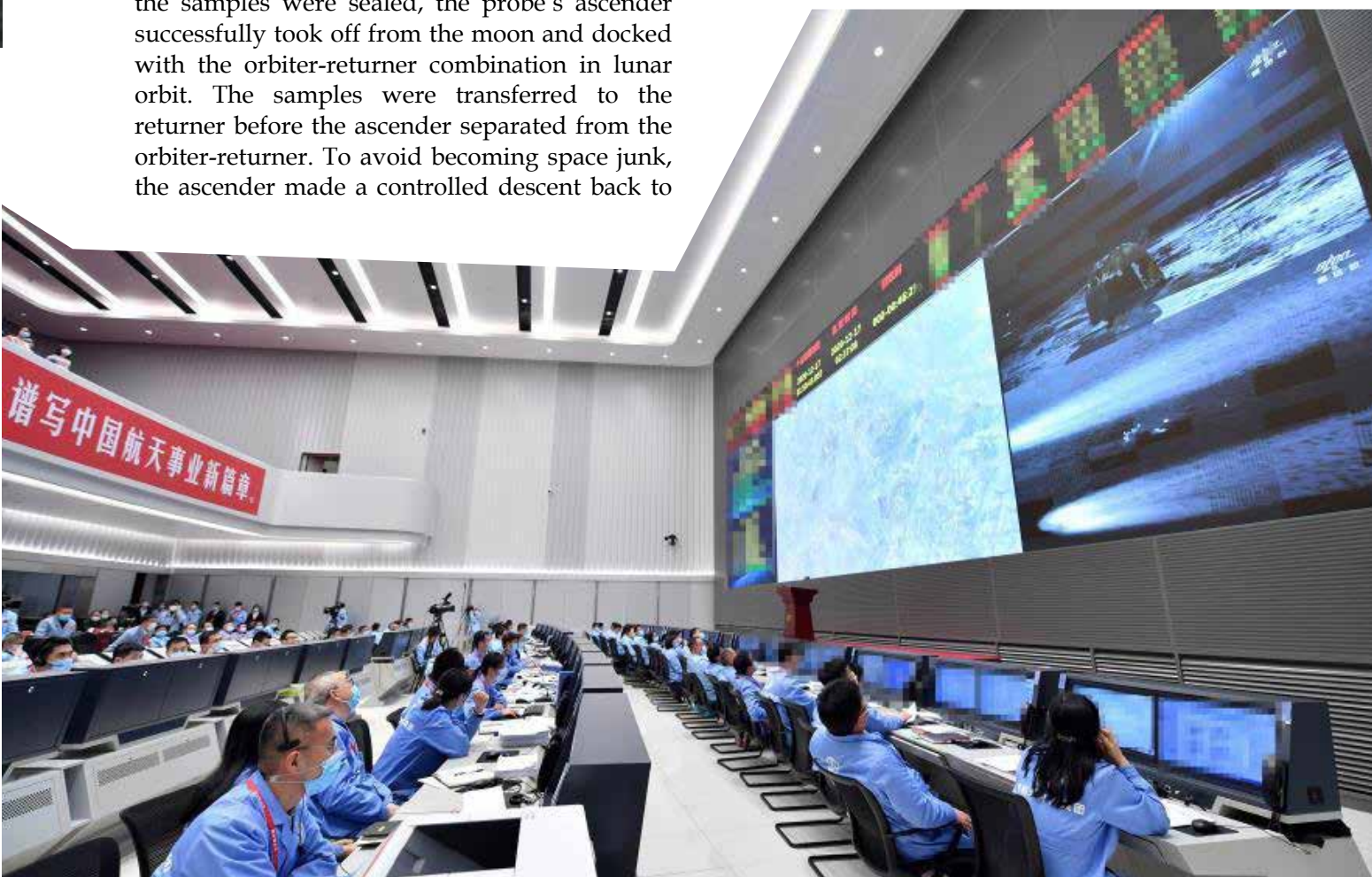
known as the Ocean of Storms, on the near side of the moon on December 1, the Chinese space administration said.

The site was chosen because it had a younger geological age than the sampling areas of the United States and the Soviet Union more than 40 years ago, and had never been sampled. The new samples will be of great scientific value, said researchers. Though lunar samples were brought back in US and Soviet missions, scientists need more samples of different ages to piece together a complete history of the moon. Chang'e-5 drilled into the lunar surface for samples that record evolutionary events and grabbed material on the surface. Using modern analytical technologies, scientists will be able to unravel the mysteries of volcanic activities and meteorite impacts over the past billion years.

The probe has collected material at different sites to ensure the diversity of the samples. After the samples were sealed, the probe's ascender successfully took off from the moon and docked with the orbiter-returner combination in lunar orbit. The samples were transferred to the returner before the ascender separated from the orbiter-returner. To avoid becoming space junk, the ascender made a controlled descent back to

the moon, said the CNSA. The orbiter-returner then carried the precious samples home.

Mr Pei said the Chang'e-5 mission not only represented an end to China's current lunar exploration program but also laid a foundation for future manned lunar and deep space exploration. The milestone mission has accomplished several firsts for China, including the first moon sampling, the first liftoff from an extraterrestrial body, the first rendezvous and docking in lunar orbit, and the first spacecraft carrying samples to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere at high speed. China is drawing up plans for future lunar exploration, including constructing a basic version of a scientific research station, he said. "We hope to cooperate with other countries to build the international lunar scientific research station, which could provide a shared platform for lunar scientific exploration and technological experiments," Pei added.



Personnel monitored the landing of the return capsule of Chang'e-5 probe from Beijing Aerospace Control Center on Dec. 17, 2020.



The recovery crew at the site of the Chang'e 5 return capsule in Siziwang Banner in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on Dec. 17, 2020.

China to Encourage International Cooperation on Moon Research

China to conduct multiple space missions, including Chang'e-6, Chang'e-7, Chang'e-8, asteroid study, Mars sampling returns, and Jupiter explorations in the future.

China will invite more scientists from around the world to join in the country's moon research, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) has said.

"China will solicit cooperation proposals as per the regulations on the management of lunar samples and data," said Wu Yanhua, vice administrator of the CNSA, Xinhua reported on December 17. In the Chang'e-5 mission, China coordinated and cooperated with countries and international organizations, including the European Space Agency, Argentina, Namibia, and Pakistan, in space tracking and control, Xinhua quoted him saying at a press conference in Beijing. Mr Wu said that China would conduct multiple space missions, including Chang'e-6, Chang'e-7, Chang'e-8, asteroid exploration, Mars sampling, and Jupiter study in the future.

"China is willing to cooperate with relevant countries and international organizations to deliberate the basic capabilities for the initial construction of a lunar research station and test key technologies," he said. CNSA spokesperson

Xu Hongliang said that scientists in many countries expressed their willingness to carry out moon research together as the samples brought back by Chang'e-5 are the world's freshest lunar samples in 44 years.

"We warmly welcome that," Xu said, adding that the CNSA has signed more than 140 cooperation agreements with over 40 countries, and is deeply involved in the work of 18 international organizations. "Moon samples are the mutual wealth of humanity, and we are willing to cooperate with our international counterparts on an equal and mutually beneficial basis," he added. Xu also noted that lunar sampling and data-sharing management should follow relevant treaties and United Nations regulations, as well as China's regulations. "The CNSA will specifically issue administrative measures and follow-up policies for lunar samples," Mr Xu said. "We will solicit plans for moon sample analyses, and invite scientists from home and abroad to select plans, conduct research together, and share some of the achievements," Xu added.

A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words: Ambassador Sun at China-India Photo Exhibition



China's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong virtually interacted with the participants of photo exhibition entitled "Beautiful India, Beautiful China - Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-Win Outcomes" in Beijing on December 8, 2020.

In his speech at the inaugural function of an online photo exhibition themed "Beautiful India, Beautiful China - Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-Win Outcomes" in Beijing on December 8, China's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong likened it to a "splendid symbiosis of two civilizations" with diverse landscapes and

culture. Dignitaries from a wide spectrum of the political, the academia, and the business world, and fans of the two countries attended the event. Ambassador Sun said that China and India have "vast and diverse landscapes, a long history with profound civilizations, close cultural links and a tradition of mutual learning". "A picture



The photo exhibition presents us with a beautiful landscape of the splendid symbiosis of the two civilizations. It also allows us to look at China-India relations from a broader historical perspective, and draw inspiration from it.

is worth a thousand words, and this exhibition presents us with a beautiful landscape of the splendid symbiosis of the two civilizations. It also allows us to look at China-India relations from a broader historical perspective, and draw inspiration from it," Ambassador Sun said.

Du Zhanyuan, President of China International Publishing Group (CIPG), Lin Songtian, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Wang Bangwei, Director of the Center for Indian Studies at Beijing University, Sudheendra Kulkarni, politician and former aide to Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Professor BR Deepak and Professor Srikanth Kondapalli from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Atul Dalakot, Executive Director for China of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, were among over 50 people who participated in the opening day of the three-month-long event. **The following is the full text of his speech at the event:**

It is a great honor to attend the virtual opening ceremony of the "Beautiful India, Beautiful China - Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-Win Outcomes" Photo Exhibition. This event is one of a series of celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between China and India. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the convening of the event. Both China and India have vast lands and diverse landscapes. The Yellow River, the Yangtze River, the Ganges, and the Yamuna River run ahead tirelessly. The North China Plain and the Indus-Ganga Plain are both fertile and prolific. Waterfront towns in the south of the Yangtze River of China and the Kerala Backwaters in India attract tourists far beyond with their scenic beauties. The vast and magnificent Taklimakan Desert and the Thar Desert are impressive sights.

China and India have a long history with profound civilizations. We have world cultural heritages, such as The Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, Taj Mahal, and Hill Forts of Rajasthan. Classic works, such as "The Book of Songs", "The Analects of Confucius", "Vedas" and "Bhagavad Gita" are well known worldwide. China's Lantern Festival and Indian Diwali embody people's yearning for light and hope. Both Chinese Qipao and Indian Sari show the beauty of the East. Peking opera and Indian Classical Dance bring people the enjoyment of beauty. China and India are culturally close to each other and have a tradition of mutual learning. The spread of Buddhism has promoted exchanges and mutual learning between China and India in the fields of literature, painting, sculpture, and dance. The Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang and the White Horse Temple in Luoyang have witnessed the interaction and integration of the two civilizations. The two countries have also influenced each other in areas such as astronomy, arithmetic, iron smelting, sugar, and papermaking, and the benefits are still enjoyed by the peoples today. Civilizations are colorful because of diversity, enriched by exchanges, and make progress through mutual learning. Pictures are the carrier of civilization. A picture is worth a thousand words. The photo exhibition presents us with a beautiful landscape of the splendid symbiosis of the two civilizations. It also allows us to look at China-India relations from a broader historical perspective, and draw inspiration from it.

Spirit of Openness

First, friendly cooperation is the mainstream. In the history of exchanges, lasting more than 2000 years between China and India, friendly cooperation has dominated most of the time. The two leaders reached an important



The participants at the photo exhibition “Beautiful India, Beautiful China - Dragon and Elephant Dance Together for Win-Win Outcomes” in Beijing on December 8, 2020.

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

consensus that China and India pose no threat but offer development opportunities to each other. We should grasp the general trend of historical development, fully implement the leaders’ consensus, and push forward China-India relations in the right direction. Second, Cultural and people-to-people exchanges are the foundation. Deepening cultural and people-to-people exchanges is an effective way to remove barriers and suspicions, and promote dialogue and understanding. The cultural exchanges between China and India have enhanced mutual understanding between the two peoples and promoted the development and progress of the two countries. We need to inherit and carry

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

Third, mutual learning is the driving force. President Xi Jinping pointed out that exchanges and mutual learning will sustain the development of civilization. A civilization can flourish only through exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations. We should promote exchanges of civilizations with an inclusive mindset, draw wisdom through mutual learning, and seek nourishment through exchanges and integration. Together, we can achieve continuous development and progress of the two civilizations and make the garden of world civilizations more colorful and vibrant. Fourth, beautiful ecology is wealth. Traditional Chinese culture emphasizes the harmony between man and nature and respects the rules of nature. Indian traditional culture also pursues the harmony between man and nature and regards nature as its mother. Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets. We should work together to protect the rich ecological

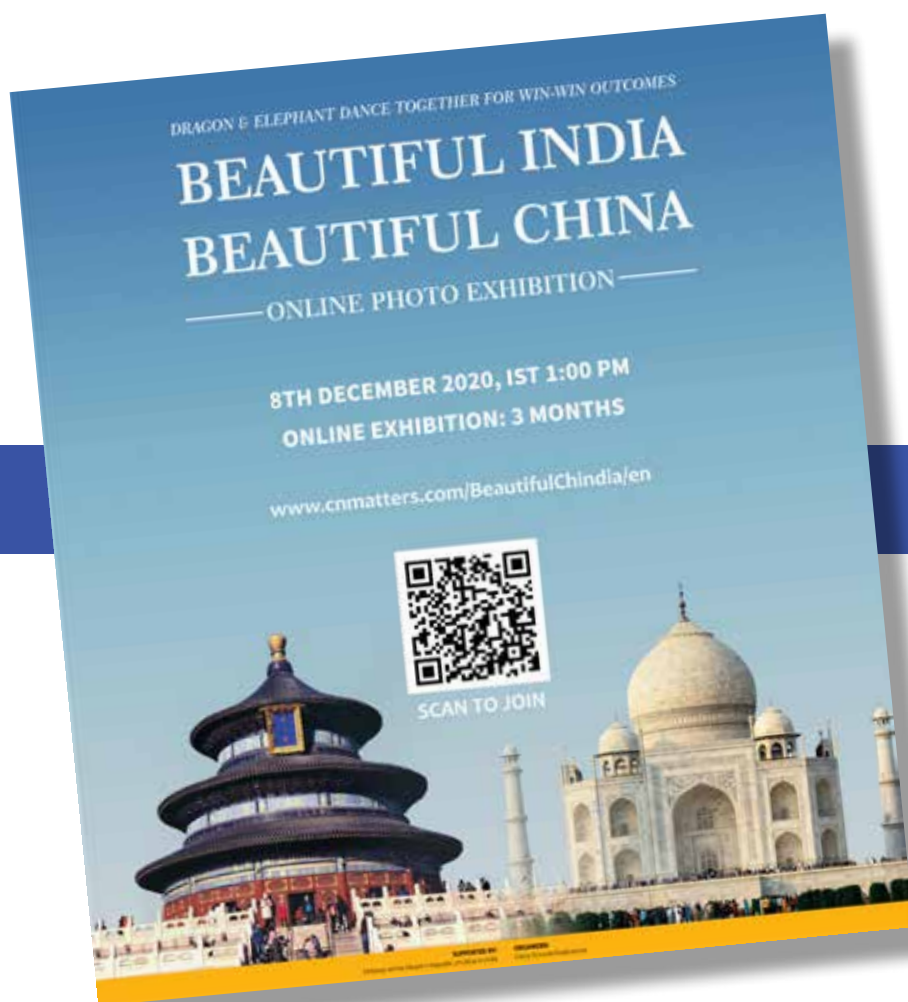
environment. The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, which was concluded not long ago, proposed that China will advance green development and seek a kind of modernization that promotes harmonious coexistence of man and nature. China and India can strengthen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

Follow the Leaders' Guidance

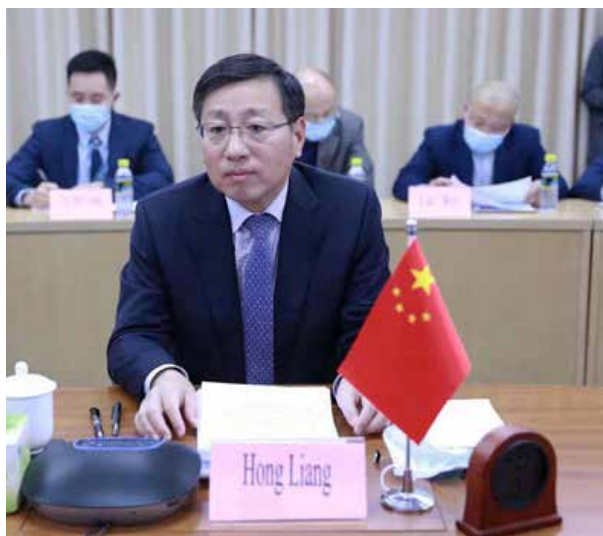
COVID-19 has made countries and people in the world to realize deeply that mankind is a community with a shared future. The pandemic cannot change our people's aspiration for a better life, nor can it interrupt the general trend of exchanges and mutual learning

between us. As we are faced with difficulties and challenges, we should open our minds to enhance communication, mutual understanding, and trust. Today's event is very meaningful and opened up a brand-new mode of communication. It allows the two peoples to better perceive, understand, and appreciate each other.

I would like to express my gratitude to China International Publishing Group (CIPG) and China Pictorial for their elaborate preparations of the event, and extend my respect to all the friends from China and India present today. This year marks the "China-India Year of Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges." We should follow the guidance of the two leaders, redouble our efforts to meet each other halfway, strengthen dialogue and exchanges, and overcome difficulties and challenges, to put China-India relations on the track of healthy and stable development.



China, India Hold Meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on Border Affairs



On December 18, 2020, Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Hong Liang and Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs Naveen Srivastava co-chaired the 20th Meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs. Representatives from both countries' departments related to diplomacy, national defense, and migration attended the meeting.

The two sides had candid and in-depth exchange of views on the situation along the Line of Actual Control in the China-India border areas, and agreed to earnestly implement the five-point consensus reached by the foreign ministers of both countries in Moscow.

The two sides agreed to focus on disengagement of front-line troops, and take

effective measures to deal with the issues on the ground, so as to further de-escalate the border situation.

Both sides spoke highly of the outcomes of the 8th round of Senior Commanders Meeting, and agreed to continue dialogue and consultation via diplomatic and military channels, hold the 9th round of Senior Commanders Meeting at an early date for properly dealing with the outstanding issues on the ground, and jointly maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas.

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A sheltered forest along the Yarlung Zangbo River in Shannan in southwest China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region.

No Need to Read Too Much into Yarlung River Development: Embassy

Allaying India's fears over the likely impact of the hydropower project on the Yarlung Zangbo River in Xizang (Tibet), China has stressed that all aspects of the venture will be scientifically proven to eliminate any threats to the ecology in the neighboring countries downstream.

Responding to a media query on the issue, the Spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India, Counselor Ji Rong said that "China has always taken a responsible attitude towards development and utilization of cross-border rivers, and adopts a policy that (ensures) protection and development goes together." "Any project will undergo scientific planning and demonstration with full consideration for the impact on the downstream areas and the interests of both upstream and downstream countries. At present, the downstream development of the Yarlung Zangbo River is still in the stage of preliminary planning and demonstration. There is no need to over-interpret it," she said in a statement on December 2, 2020. China's plan to build a large hydropower project on the river has raised concerns in India over the potential

"political and ecological threats" as the river passes through China, India, and Bangladesh, but Chinese experts have refuted the claim that it has political objectives, and said "the project could help alleviate power shortage problem in northern India and boost the regional economy," *Global Times* reported.

An official of the local government confirmed with the *Global Times* that it will be built in Medog County in Southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region by Chengdu Engineering

"Any project will undergo scientific planning and demonstration with full consideration for the impact on the downstream areas and the interests of both upstream and downstream countries."

Corp under the Power Construction Corp of China (PowerChina). The Chengdu-based firm is also helping Medog to build a second highway in the county, according to the company website. The head of PowerChina suggested the planned hydropower station, which is expected to have three times as much generating capacity as the world-leading Three Gorges Power Station, aims to maintain water resources and domestic security, according to an article on the WeChat account of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China. However, the news raised India's concerns, with some experts and media worried that Chinese activities in upstream areas may hurt the interests downstream. Some are even concerned that China will use the hydroelectric project as a tool to serve its political strategy in the region, along with the border military conflict in Ladakh, or to curb India's right to explore downstream water resources.

No Reason for Concern

Analysts suggested that India has always been overly sensitive to China's actions in the region, and India tends to make threat-oriented, politicized interpretations. But these energy projects can benefit the entire regional economy if properly coordinated. "Such projects can provide a large amount of electricity for the economic development of neighboring countries, including India," Liu Xiaoxue, an associate research fellow at the National Institute of International Strategy under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the *Global Times*. The facility could provide power to northeast India and boost its economy, which is suffering from power shortages and poor generation equipment, said Mr Liu. "Given that China currently has almost enough power within its borders, it is expected that a large portion of the electricity generated from the project could be exported to neighboring countries." "Based on the power station, we can expect a new economic growth point at the border area and booming cross-border trade between Tibet and northern India," he noted.

India is developing similar hydropower projects upstream of rivers it shares with neighboring Pakistan and Bangladesh, Mr Liu

said. India has been criticized by downstream countries for its control over the water resources for its own sake. "India's concern indeed stems from a lack of political trust in China. India should regard the project as a potential chance for cooperation with China to rationally promote common economic prosperity and enhance mutual trust. But unfortunately, India has let its domestic nationalist sentiment be swept along with the border conflict," said Mr Liu. Moreover, India is opposing the project out of concern that China's hydropower projects may affect the ecosystem downstream. Analysts said that China has always been a responsible country on the ecological and environmental issues of hydropower projects, considering its mature technology and measures to protect animals and plants in the process.

Building Water Conservancy Expertise

China's technological breakthroughs were achieved in building several water conservancy projects in ecologically fragile areas such as Southwest China's Yunnan Province, Zhou Zhanggui, a researcher in non-traditional security and peaceful development studies from Zhejiang University, said. Mr Zhou noted that China hopes to tap the rich hydropower resources of the Yarlung Zangbo River, and the projects won't dam the river and will not cause any water shortage downstream. China and India also have well-established mechanisms to share hydrological information during the monsoon season for each other to prepare for flooding risks.

Experts noted that China has rich experience in exchanging and updating information with downstream countries via multi-level mechanisms set up to resolve potential conflicts and challenges. The Lancang-Mekong cooperation mechanism is one of those successful models from which to learn about more efficient ways to promote comprehensive mutual trust through dialogue, Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University, said.

China Takes Strong Exception to Indian Media Siding with US Stand on Xizang

Strongly condemning America's Tibet Policy and Support Act of 2020, the Foreign Affairs Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), the country's top legislature, on December 30, 2020, voiced its firm opposition to Washington's meddling in China's internal affairs. In a statement the committee said, "People in Xizang know better than anyone else the region's development and religious freedom situations, while the United States is not entitled to be a judge or preacher."

The same day, the legislature of southwest China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region has expressed its strong indignation and firm opposition to the passing of a United States act on Xizang. According to a statement by the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Xizang Autonomous Region, the so-called "Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020" grossly interferes in China's internal affairs and gravely violates the fundamental principles of international laws and basic norms governing international relations. Xinhua reported that the top Chinese legislature in a statement said that the US Act maliciously distorts Xizang's social development, makes groundless accusations, denigrates China's ethnic and religious policies, and interferes in the normal reincarnation procedure of living Buddhas under the pretext of human rights and religion.

Elaborating on the statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NPC, Xinhua reported that "The real purpose of the act is to undermine Xizang's prosperity and stability." The people in Xizang are masters of society: deputies

from the Tibetan and other ethnic minority groups account for 92.18 percent of the region's over 35,900 deputies to the people's congresses at all levels. Today Xizang is experiencing rapid economic and social development, and local people live and work in peace and contentment. The population of Xizang has increased from 1.23 million in 1959 to 3.44 million in 2018, with ethnic Tibetan people accounting for over 90 percent of the region's total. The per capita disposable incomes of urban and rural residents in Xizang grew 10.7 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively, in 2019.





On Feb. 5, 2019, people celebrated Losar, or Tibetan New Year, in Lhasa in southwest China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region.

There are 1,787 sites for the practice of Tibetan Buddhism and more than 46,000 resident monks and nuns in Xizang. Traditional religious activities are held normally. The Chinese government has also promulgated regulations to respect and

The people in Xizang are masters of society: deputies from the Tibetan and other ethnic minority groups account for 92.18 percent of the region's over 35,900 deputies to the people's congresses at all levels.

protect the living Buddha reincarnation, the succession system unique to Tibetan Buddhism, according to the statement. Xizang now enjoys a beautiful ecological environment and owns abundant natural resources. Nature reserves account for one-third of the total area of Xizang, which is among the regions with the best ecological environment in the world. "People in Xizang know better than anyone else the region's development and religious freedom situations, while the United States is not entitled to be a judge or preacher," said the statement.

China to Indian Media

At the same time, the Chinese Embassy in India cautioned the Indian media not to be influenced by “malicious distortion” of the Xizang situation by the US. The Embassy called for Indian media to take an “objective and fair stance” on Xizang issues and avoid meddling in China’s internal affairs. The reaction came after some Indian media establishments wrongly published comments supporting the Trump administration’s Xizang policy, which questions China’s human rights record in Xizang, calling for more measures to rein in Beijing’s so-called civil liberty violations.

In a statement issued on December 30, 2020, the embassy spokesperson, Counselor Ji Rong, refuted the “wrong comments” in the media. She said, “We hope the Indian media take an objective and fair stance on issues concerning China’s sovereignty, grasp the highly sensitive nature of Xizang-related issues, look at Xizang’s economic and social progress objectively, and do more to help China-India bilateral relations move forward instead of advocating against Chinese actions in Xizang.” The spokesperson said the Indian media should not play ‘Tibet card’ to meddle in China’s internal affairs and further damage the bilateral relations. The Counselor pointed out that the US Act “maliciously distorts Xizang’s social development, makes groundless accusations, denigrates China’s ethnic and religious policies, and interferes in the normal reincarnation procedure of living Buddhas under the pretext of human rights and religion. The real purpose of the act is to undermine Xizang’s prosperity and stability.” The spokesperson said, “The US Tibet Policy and Support Act grossly interferes in China’s internal affairs and gravely violates the fundamental principles of international laws and basic norms governing international relations. China expresses its strong indignation and firm opposition to it.”

Ms Ji said Xizang has been part of China since ancient times. Its affairs are purely China’s internal matters that allow no foreign interference. Over the past 60 years or so, after the peaceful liberation, Xizang has enjoyed vibrant economic growth, remained a harmonious and



stable society, and prospered culturally, while maintaining a sound ecological environment, she said. Furthermore, people of various ethnic groups in the autonomous region are united, generous towards each other, and living a better life. All residents, including the Zang ethnic minority, enjoy full religious freedom with their

The Counselor pointed out: The US Act maliciously distorts Xizang's social development, makes groundless accusations, denigrates China's ethnic and religious policies, and interferes in the normal reincarnation procedure of living Buddhas under the pretext of human rights and religion. The real purpose of the act is to undermine Xizang's prosperity and stability.



“The Chinese government is determined to safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests. China firmly opposes any country, organization, or individual supporting anti-China separatist activities or ‘Tibetan independence’ forces in any form or pretext,” the Counselor added.

On the occasion of the commencement of the spring ploughing season in Jiayu village of Lhasa, a villager participated in ceremony on March 16, 2020.

rights fully respected and protected. Therefore, “Xizang-related issues are not about ethnicity, religion, or human rights but a matter of principle concerning China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity”.

“The Chinese government is determined to safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests. China firmly opposes any country, organization, or individual supporting anti-China separatist activities or ‘Tibetan independence’ forces in any form or pretext,” she added. “Reincarnation of living Buddhas as a unique institution of inheritance in Tibetan Buddhism comes with a set of rituals and conventions. The Chinese government implements the policy of freedom of religious belief. The reincarnation system is respected and protected by such legal instruments as Regulations on Religious Affairs and Measures

on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas,” she said in the statement.

Calling attention to the Chinese position that Xizang is a Chinese territory under “the Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation” signed in 2003 and recognized by India, she said that New Delhi does not allow Tibetans to engage in political activities against China in India. “This commitment was reaffirmed in subsequent bilateral documents between the two countries. It is in the fundamental interests of China and India, as two neighboring countries and emerging economies, to enhance political trust, properly manage differences, and strive to return China-India relations to the track of healthy and stable development,” the statement added implying that the Indian media should respect the sentiments of the Chinese government on the issue.

Chinese Embassy Rejects Spying Claims, Urges Media To Uphold Objectivity

The Chinese Embassy in India firmly rejected the claims of some media outlets that CPC members were spying on agencies and companies with Indian affiliation on December 17, stating that the allegations are “groundless” and borne out of “ideological prejudice”.

Reacting to the espionage accusations, the Embassy said that “Such an allegation, hyping up the ‘CPC infiltration’, is groundless, and out of ideological prejudice. The members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) are not ‘monsters or scourges’. They are all ordinary human beings who serve the people with their hearts and souls. Is there really anything to be afraid of? It is absolutely ridiculous and wantonly smearing to maliciously label CPC members as ‘espionage’”.

“The CPC is the vanguard of the Chinese working class, the Chinese people, and the Chinese nation. Thanks to the CPC leadership, the Chinese people have achieved independence, freedom, liberation, and great achievements in national development. The CPC is such a political party striving for the well-being of the Chinese people, the peace of the world, and the progress of humanity,” it said in a statement.

The strong rebuttal comes after a section of the Indian media accused the CPC of engaging in espionage activities by “infiltrating” in the state departments, universities, western banks, companies, the diplomatic mission in China, as well as other entities with India connection.

In a strongly-worded statement, the Embassy said “Hyping up the ‘China threat theory’ and ‘demonizing’ the CPC members by certain anti-China forces is, in essence, intending to provoke

an ideological confrontation, mislead the public with ulterior motives, and attempt to revive ‘McCarthyism’ in the 21st century. Such actions on the basis of ideology are very dangerous. Anyone with reason, conscience, and a sense of justice will not accept it.”

Defending the great works of the CPC members in national development, it said “The 92 million CPC members are outstanding people in all walks of life playing a vanguard and exemplary role. Whenever facing danger and disasters, the CPC members always take the lead to serve the people at the critical moment. When the outbreak of COVID-19 hit China this year, over 39 million CPC members nationwide stepped up to fight the virus on the front line. In the battle against poverty and floods, the CPC members have been the mainstay as well.”

Reminding that the media has a responsibility to uphold objectivity and respect for each other’s systems in reporting, the statement stressed that “When interacting with each other, states should follow basic norms governing international relations and respect each other’s system and national conditions. China respects the system and national conditions of other countries, and hopes the relevant media can also respect China’s system and national conditions, uphold an objective and just position in China-related reports, and stop irresponsible hype.”

When the outbreak of COVID-19 hit China this year, over 39 million CPC members nationwide stepped up to fight the virus on the front line.

CPC Spying Allegations Absurd, Witch-Hunt Against Party



Workers assemble cars at a workshop of FAW-Volkswagen Automobile Co., Ltd. in Changchun, in northeast China's Jilin Province, April 14, 2020.

The allegation that CPC members working in foreign firms are engaged in espionage activities is another witch-hunt, an attack against the party by western media, writes the *Global Times*.

In reports, some western media outlets had claimed that 1.95 million CPC members working in foreign consulates and company branches in China steal high-value information. But seasoned China observers and scholars have rejected the theory as “ridiculous”, saying the western media is “ignorant of Chinese society” in their attempt to malign the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Despite the questionable database, media's pandering to the narrative connecting the CPC members to intelligence work shows an “ideological prejudice,” the *Global Times* reported, citing scholars on December 14. Media outlets, such as the Australian and the UK's *Sunday Mail*, referencing a “leaked document” presented

by an Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, alleged that CPC members have been gathering classified information from foreign consulates in Shanghai and Chinese branches of big companies, including IKEA, Volkswagen, and Pfizer, posing a major security risk for such institutions. The “leaked document” allegedly cites the personal data of 1.95 million Chinese, including their birth dates, positions, ID, and phone numbers. The “newly established ideologically driven group” is believed to comprise of some 150 legislators, including US Senator Marco Rubio, a staunch anti-China backer, according to *Global Times*.

Ignoring the “privacy breach” of Chinese citizens, the media “hyped the list as evidence of CPC-sponsored intelligence activities, despite



Moreover, the unethical publication of their private information is, unfortunately, is seen as a “brave action” to reveal the party’s “infiltration,” with no regard to the serious harm caused to ordinary people, the report added.

Workers at a car assemble station of FAW-Volkswagen Automobile Co., Ltd. in Changchun in northeast China’s Jilin Province on April 14, 2020.

failing to prove that any of the 1.95 million is connected to intelligence affairs,” the report said. Moreover, the unethical publication of their private information is, unfortunately, is seen as a “brave action” to reveal the party’s “infiltration,”

with no regard to the serious harm caused to ordinary people, the report added. “The database may also be fabricated,” Chen Hong, a professor at East China Normal University, whose name is on the list, told the Times, pointing out that he



was never a member of the CPC but a member of another party in the Chinese political system. "I suspect the database is completely erroneous," said Mr Chen. Furthermore, Volkswagen China told the Times that its "employees' affiliation to any political party is a personal decision and it does not interfere". "Volkswagen respects every employee's political affiliation globally; it does

not affect its businesses. Volkswagen has not set up a party branch in China," the report said, citing a company official.

IKEA, one of the companies that said to have CPC members on its payroll, told the Global Times: "We don't have knowledge of, or an interest in, our co-workers' political party affiliations. We respect each other's different views and strive to be an inclusive workplace for all." Employees of companies included in the database also found the "security risk" assessment absurd. "Will your employer in the US ask whether you are a Republican or a Democrat before recruiting you?" an employee of a multinational firm in Shanghai asked, speaking to the Times requesting anonymity. Some people reached by the Global Times pointed out that speculation of CPC members posing security risks is another example of how little anti-China forces know about Chinese society. "I joined the CPC in university and later worked for a foreign cosmetics firm. My CPC membership has nothing to do with my job," said another source.

Even some Twitter users found the reports absurd, and labeled the demonization of CPC "Western fragility". Another shared his experience of working in Shanghai where his colleagues were proud of their membership and openly told others about it, which is obviously not what an intelligence agent should do. "What exclusive story? ... The West paints the party as a monster. For locals, it's an honor to be a member and they openly share it with everyone." Stigmatizing and demonizing the CPC is not a new trick for the anti-China clique.

The US recently announced visa restrictions on CPC members and their families in a move that smacks of McCarthyism. But hyping the threat of CPC members to companies and organizations in China is even more sinister as they are pointing fingers at Chinese nationals working in Chinese territory, Mr Chen said, warning that "such moves aim to sow discord between the CPC and Chinese people." Analysts also pointed out that citing "exclusive sources" and "leaked documents" to hype up a topic and manipulate public opinion to press the government into implementing certain types of policies, in this case, the persecution of CPC members, is a usual trick for Western political forces.

China's Taijiquan Listed as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Chinese martial art Taijiquan has been inscribed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has inscribed Taijiquan, a Chinese martial art tradition, on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Xinhua reported on December 17.

The decision was announced during an online meeting of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held from December 14 to 19 in Jamaican capital Kingston. The Taijiquan martial art was born in the mid-17th century in a small village called Chenjiagou in Central China's Henan province, before it spread to more than 150 countries and regions, attracting more than 100 million practitioners.

Chenjiagou village has dozens of Taijiquan schools and more than 800 masters currently, drawing learners from across the world. "Taijiquan is not just a sport to make people fit, but also contains Chinese culture and philosophy," said Yan Shuangjun, a researcher of Taijiquan. "The application started in 2008, and now we made a victory, which will help this sport to reach more places," he said. "Taijiquan is one of the most important wushu events promoted by the International Wushu Federation. Its inclusion is of great significance to the promotion of wushu, and especially Taijiquan, globally," said Zhang Qiuping, Secretary-General of the International Wushu Federation.

Since 2014, the World Taijiquan Championships have been held every two years by the International Wushu Federation.



Huang Chunying, a sanitation worker, showcased the Taiji (Tai Chi) martial art in Chenjiagou Village of Wenxian County, in China's Henan Province, on Dec. 14, 2020.

It provides a platform for communication and learning between the Taijiquan elites and Taijiquan lovers around the globe. In January 2020, Taijiquan became an official event in the 2026 Dakar Youth Olympic Games.

The decision was announced during an online meeting of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held from December 14 to 19 in Jamaican capital Kingston.

Spring Festival Concert

Program

Huanzhi Li: Spring Festival Overture

Yuankai Bao: Happiness at Sunrise

Yuankai Bao: Pulling a Reed Catkin

Yuankai Bao: Flowing Stream

Yuankai Bao: The Wrangler's Song

Yuankai Bao: Song of Riddles

Yuankai Bao: Going to Watch Yangge Dance

Arr. by Shaosheng Li: AWAARA HOON

Arr. by Shaosheng Li: The theme song of *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*

Johann Strauss: Overture to *Die Fledermaus*

Johann Strauss: Leichtes Blut Polka (schnell), Op.319

Émile Waldteufel: Les Patineurs Valse, Op.183

Suppé: Overture *Pique Dame*



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December 2020

Spring Festival Concert

新春音乐会



Embassy of
the People's Republic of China
in the Republic of India

中华人民共和国驻印度共和国大使馆



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