INDIA AND CHINA AT 70

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On January 29, Chinese Ambassador to India Mr Sun Weidong wrote in The Indian Express in an article titled Peaceful development is China’s strategic choice: At present, the Chinese government is taking firm, effective and scientific measures to prevent and control the pneumonia caused by the coronavirus. Acting with a high sense of responsibility for global health security, China has maintained close cooperation with the World Health Organisation and other international partners and will continue to share information on the virus and epidemic in a timely manner.

The efforts taken by China to battle the virus have impressed the world. China has remained determined to contain the impact of the virus. A program aired by CGTN (China Global Television Network), an international English-language news channel, spoke volumes about China’s strength in face of adversity.

The video was shared on the Indian social media, and appreciated for its content. Here are parts of what was stated in the video.

“As another week draws to a close, the fight against the deadly coronavirus continues. But China is not only battling the virus, but a wave of deeply repugnant and often racist-laden attacks… I’ve been told in these societies people are in general well educated and respectful towards others. But such headlines really call that into doubt. Could the publishers have been serious? The title shows a complete lack of sympathy – even humanity – for China from the writer or whoever decided to put that in print in what is turning into one of its darkest hours in China’s recent history. The article is on the opinion page, but does that exonerate rubbish like this? Why are they giving column inches to such content? Freedom of expression? How about an article saying Slavery is Glorious? Will the publication carry that?

So here is how I understand the situation. In the beginning, the epidemic was not handled properly and promptly. Local officials have acknowledged that on TV. Efforts quickly caught up, but hospitals were overwhelmed, and possibly still are. Without quick and accurate diagnostics, we simply don’t know the true scale of things. Top level experts have said that on national TV – what they know so far and what they don’t.

A doctor just passed away from the virus. He was among the first to warn others about what he believed was the re-emergence of SARS. His warning was leaked on to social media, and he was reprimanded by local police for spreading rumours. The Supreme People’s Court had published an article suggesting his message should have been tolerated, even heeded, instead of cast as rumours. Unfortunately, he had already caught the virus, and perished days later.

Lots of anger and questions poured out on social media. Overnight, the Chinese central government decided to dispatch a team to comprehensively investigate his case. A period of introspection will take place in due course, and China will find answers in its own way, and come out all the stronger for it. Lessons will be learnt – the world should have more confidence in China. Unlike chilling titles and words from some, recognition and support from others are like rays of sunshine warming the hearts of a people in tears. As China and the world continue to fight this virus, let us not point fingers, attack our fellow citizens or spread fear and hate. Let us unite in the face of common adversity, fight the best fight we can and move forward to a healthier and brighter future.”

Editor-in-Chief
Mohammed Saqib
Celebrating hope, courage and unity

Wuhan is the political, economic, financial, commercial, cultural and educational center of Central China. In the last couple of months, though, Wuhan has become synonymous with the Corona virus scare. A group of musicians from Singapore, Chinese music enthusiasts and China’s friends from all over the world decided to battle this fear with *The Power of Love*, a charity song for the COVID-19 battle. The video has been shared globally. It features scores of people in China and abroad singing of hope and strength, and about how love shall prevail and see them through this testing time.

The lyric of the video is in Mandarin, with English sub-titles. It has been penned by Sun Xi. The music is by Lee Yuk Chuan. The video opens with an image of Wuhan, its deep blue waterways and the high-rise structures of a bustling metropolis. The camera cuts to a man in Singapore, singing, *Life is unpredictable, Love is our hope.*

Next, a woman in Tianjin sings: *Fighting against the virus (we stand), love is our strength.* A man in Xianyang takes over: *In unity we stand, let us fight together.* A Chinese woman in Oxford, UK, sings of courage: *Disasters resurrect us, we will prevail.* Next, the video features messages of solidarity from families in Germany, the US, India and the Netherlands.

A girl in Bengbu, China, chimes in: *Don’t fear. Hand in hand, we are with you.* Three men deliver the message of fortitude. *Keep fighting, China,* they say collectively. These men are from India, Kazakhstan and Nepal. The Indian gentleman featured in the video is Dr Faisal Ahmed, an Associate Professor of the International Business Area at FORE School of Management, New Delhi. Dr Ahmed is recognized nationally and internationally as an ace scholar on China.

The video carries forward the message of courage with a man in Bengbu, China, saying: *Stay strong. The spring will soon arrive.* Another man in Nanjing, China, choruses: *The spring will soon arrive.* He holds his mask in his left hand.

The video cuts to images of hospital staff in heavy-duty protective gear as they treat patients. Cut to the song of faith again. A mother sings in Singapore with her two angelic girls: *Life is unpredictable, love is our hope.* In Xi’an, China, a young man sings, *Fighting against the virus (we stand), love is our strength.* Against the waterways of Shanghai, a woman sings: *In unity we stand, let us fight together.* Against the backdrop of a deserted football ground in Binzhou, China, a man sings of hope: *Disasters resurrect us, we will prevail.*

More families from across the world send messages of solidarity – from Philippines, South Korea, Maynmar, Romania, Malaysia, Sweden, Poland, Italy, Thailand, France, Brazil, Belgium, Iran, Russia, Zimbabwe, Mongolia, New Zealand.

In clean, green Singapore, a pretty Chinese woman sings her message of strength: *Don’t fear. Hand in hand, we are with you.* In Shanghai, with trees in the backdrop awaiting spring, a woman sings: *Stay strong. The spring will soon arrive.*

The Chinese staff of Power China chants messages of strength. In Power China’s Pakistan office, staff members hold placards with messages of strength and solidarity. The video ends with a Singapore man saluting the team for staying strong. The video is about three minutes long, and has been extensively shared across the world. It salutes the heroes battling the epidemic, and is dedicated to all those who suffer from the virus.

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Executive Editor
Rajni Shaleen Chopra
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Understanding Sino-Indian Border Dynamics Beyond Rhetoric

In the wake of the Oct 2019 Mammalpuram informal summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping, three important developments have impacted Sino-India bilateral relations. First, after nearly a decade of tough negotiation, India declined to sign the RCEP agreement. India’s refusal came purportedly on the basis that the agreement in its present form will lead to the flooding of the Indian markets with cheap Chinese goods.

India and China bilateral trade is approximately $96 billion, with imports from China as high as $66 billion. Signing of the RCEP agreement would have tilted the scale of trade imbalance in China’s favour. Second, China at the behest of Pakistan had called for another discussion on Kashmir imbroglio on December 12, in the 15-nation UN Security Council. However, gauging the mood of other members who consider Kashmir as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan, China was compelled to withdraw its proposition, thus avoiding a major diplomatic row with India.

The third significant development has been the conduct of the 22nd Round of Special Representative talks between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the decades-old Sino-India boundary issue. During the meet, both sides underscored the importance of maintaining peace and tranquility. Both sides stressed on approaching the boundary issue from the strategic perspective of bilateral ties. They also resolved to intensify efforts to achieve fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solutions to the boundary questions.

There was consensus that both sides should respect each other’s sensitivities and concerns. While the statements sound music to the ears, the harsh reality is that the Sino-India border dispute is the most vexed driver in our bilateral relations, and demands detailed examination.

Dissecting The Border Dispute

The boundary between India and China is approximately 4057 km in length. In the north-eastern region, the boundary runs approximately 1126 km in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, named the McMahan line, which is based on the watershed principle.

The important sectors in this segment are Kameng and Rest of Arunachal Pradesh (RALP). Two important passes, namely Bumla and Tulung la, are of historic and strategic importance. China does not recognize McMahan line and lays claim to 90,000 sq km of territory up to Brahmaputra river.

There are about five disputed pockets and four sensitive areas in this region. Tawang is the most important town that China claims as part of so-called South Tibet. It is another matter that the initial reason for China not to sign at the India-China-Tibet 1914 convention was due to objection to Clause 9 of the document.
In the central sector, the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh (HP) share a 545 km long boundary with China. China’s claims are specious, since the claimed areas are clearly on the Indian side of the watershed and controlled by India. The central sector is seen as low hanging fruit for India and China to resolve the boundary dispute, adopting a segment-by-segment approach that depicted the border between outer and inner Tibet.

From 1914 till 1949, no Chinese document objected to the McMahan line as a bona fide border between India and China till 1960, when Zou Enlai wrote to Pandit Nehru that People’s Republic of China (PRC) does not recognize McMahan line as a boundary. He had then exhorted two independent nations to discard this colonial legacy and renegotiate borders. Since then, the dispute has lingered on.

India shares 220 km of border with the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) along the Indian state of Sikkim. This is the only stretch of border that has been delimited and demarcated. Nathula on the Indian side and Jelepla on the Chinese side are located in this region. The Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 had been arranged mutually between the representatives of the British Crown and the Emperor of China. During this convention, Sikkim was recognized as a protectorate of the British Government. Over the next few decades, it came to be recognized as a princely state in British colonial India.

When India gained independence, Sikkim became its special protectorate. It finally acceded to India in 1975. China recognized Sikkim as an Indian state in 2006, when India as a quid pro quo recognized Tibet as part of China. There are two contentious pockets that witness stand-offs between Indian troops and People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from time to time. In North Sikkim, the boundary has been demarcated with heaps of stones called cairns. The Chinese object to the location of some cairns, particularly Cairn V in the Finger area in north Sikkim plateau area as also assert for driving along some tracks along the rim of the plateau. These overtures are contested by Indian troops, thus leading to sporadic stand offs.

**The Dolam contention**

More serious contention has erupted in the area of Dolam plateau on the tri-
LONG-STANDING DISPUTE ANALYSIS

The conduct of the 22nd round of Special Representative talks between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi ended with the consensus that both sides should respect each other’s sensitivities and concerns. Nevertheless, the harsh reality is that the Sino-India border dispute is the most vexed driver in our bilateral relations.

Junction between India, Bhutan and Chumbi valley of TAR. China claims that the tri-junction rests at the Gyemochen peak, implying that the entire Dolam plateau is part of Chinese territory. Bhutan and India claim that the tri-junction lies at the Batangla pass on the watershed, as is marked in the old survey of India maps. Ipso facto, the entire Dolam plateau is part of Bhutanese territory, including the strategically important Jampheri ridgeline. In 2007, Chinese troops had intruded on the Dolam ridgeline and broken three temporary bunkers.

India chose to exercise restraint in the interest of maintaining peace and tranquillity on the border. The area witnessed a serious stand-off from June to August 2017, when Indian troops stopped PLA from constructing a road across the ridgeline into the disputed area. China blamed India for intrusion into its territory. India and Bhutan, meanwhile, blamed China for violating the spirit of the 1998 Bhutan-China bilateral agreement on maintaining peace on the border. In the boundary talks between India and China in 2012, the understanding reached by the Special Representatives was that status quo would be maintained in the areas, and all issues would be resolved through peaceful negotiations.

It is believed that China has offered Bhutan a package deal, wherein China is ready to forego claims on Bhutanese territory in the east, provided Bhutan cedes 269 sq km of claimed areas in its western region, including 89 sq km of Dolam plateau. Bhutan has cold-shouldered these moves as this has profound strategic implications on the security of Siliguri corridor that lies just 40 km from the China-claimed Gyemochen peak. The three countries will need deft diplomacy to keep the area dormant and settle the dispute amicably.

In the central sector, the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh (HP) share a 545 km long boundary with China. Lipulekh pass in Uttarakhand and Shipki la pass in HP were historically used for trans-border movement. The disputed areas in HP and Uttarakhand are estimated to be 40 sq km and 2086 sq km respectively. China’s claims are specious, since the claimed areas are clearly on the Indian side of the watershed and controlled by India. The central sector is seen as low hanging fruit for India and China to resolve the boundary dispute, adopting a segment-by-segment approach.
Serious dispute in LAC sector
The most serious dispute lies in the western sector of Ladakh region. The boundary, known as Line of Actual Control (LAC), is 832 km long. Another stretch of 523 km lies in Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) that borders China’s Xinjinag Autonomous Region (XAR). India claims the boundary along the Johnson line (1865) which runs generally along the Kunlun mountain range. China, on the other hand, claims that the boundary runs along the Macartney-Macdonald line (1899), generally east of Karakoram pass along the ranges. India claims 5160 sq km of Shaksam valley in the Hunza tract, which was illegally ceded by Pakistan to China in 1963. India also claims 38,000 sq km of Aksai Chin, which China occupied during the 1962 war. China claims another 1702 sq km of Indian territory in this region. The areas of Depsang, Demchok, Chumar, Finger area in Pangong Tsu lake sector have witnessed sporadic stand offs between Indian troops and PLA.

India had objected to the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through Indian territory. Meanwhile, China took offence that India created Ladakh as a new Union Territory. China also objects to maps that show Shaksgam and Aksai Chin as part of Indian territory. China has consistently tried to position itself as a de-facto third party in the Kashmir dispute. In the Ladakh region, the political and military objectives of Pakistan and China coalesce. This nexus has profound and strategic implications for India. Ladakh region will continue to witness military assertions from time to time.

Boundary disputes – a driver of Conflict
After the 1962 war, India and China have shown remarkable restraint in maintaining peace and tranquillity at the border. There have been a number of incidents that could have flared up into another conflict. In 1967, Chinese and Indian troops had exchanged fire in the Sikkim sector, including artillery clashes at Chola pass and Nathula pass. Both sides had suffered heavy casualties.

In 1987, the Chinese incursions in the Samdorong Chu valley led to Indian army airlifting a brigade and ensuing muzzle to muzzle deployment. This led to a serious military situation with real risk of triggering another border skirmish. China has shown propensity towards creeping assertiveness in RALP, Sikkim and Bhutan. This has caused serious
standoffs between Nepal and India on several occasions. A close examination would reveal that China’s assertion at Depsang in 2013, at Chumar in 2014 and at Dolam in 2017 coincided with high level politico-diplomatic signalling. As per recent reports, China disregarded the Wuhan spirit and started constructing tunnels in the Finger 8 area of Pangong Tsu lake in the Ladakh sector. The Sino-Indian border may look relatively dormant vis-à-vis the LoC between India and Pakistan. But the harsh reality is that it remains a potential flash point for another skirmish or regional conflict between India and China.

**Efficacy of Boundary Resolution Process**

After the 1962 war, the first significant rapprochement resulted in India and China signing the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement (BPTA) in 1993. The agreement entailed both sides not to use force, reduce forward deployment of troops, restrict air activity close to the border and give prior notification for undertaking major construction activities, conduct of military exercises or operational alerts. In sequel to BPTA, a number of other agreements were signed. The 1996 MoU laid out military Confidence Building Measures (CBMs). In 2003, the two sides signed a declaration for principles of relations and comprehensive cooperation. The Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising diplomatic and military bureaucrats was elevated to the level of Special Representatives for political dialogue on the border issue. In 2006, the two sides adopted the principles for settlement of the boundary question, which inter alia introduced a slew of military CBMs. It also fostered an understanding that in resolving the boundary dispute, the settled population on both sides of the existing border will not be disturbed.

In 2006, an MoU was signed for commencing a defence dialogue and exchange of defence delegations on a periodic basis. In 2013, the serious stand-off among troops at Depsang was followed by hectic parleys between India and China. The two sides signed a comprehensive Border Defence and Cooperation Agreement (BDCA). The said agreement encompassed salient features of previous agreements. It was reiterated that troops would not trail each other during patrolling, avoid physical contact and shall not use force. It was also decided to open hotlines for communication at various levels including at the Army HQ level, enhance troop to troop engagement during the border meetings and during exchange of military delegations. The conduct of joint military exercises named ‘Hand in Hand’ was yet another means of building trust and bonhomie between the two military forces. While these measures have to some extent mitigated hostility, but the deep seated mistrust between the two countries persists. The Wuhan informal summit in 2018 and the Chennai Connect in 2019 have exhibited the political resolve at the highest level to maintain peace and energize strategic communication. Despite this, the bilateral relations from the boundary question, leaving it for future generations to resolve it, China is likely to drag its feet on the border issue till it has achieved a comfort level on assimilation of Tibet and on the question of succession of the Dalai Lama. India, on the other hand, seeks early resolution of boundary issue. India seeks a status quo and politically cannot afford to cede any territory to the relations between India and China remain fundamentally competitive, mired by disdain and mistrust.

**Options for Resolving Boundary Dispute**

India and China are the two Asian giants, and can ill-afford hostility in perpetuity in the larger interest of making the shared dream of ‘Asian Century’ a reality. The unresolved boundary issue has bedevilled mutual bilateral relations and is potentially destabilizing in nature. The two sides view the border issue from different perspectives. China does not seem to be in a hurry to settle the boundary and is suggestive of delinking the relations between India and China.
China. Chinese strategic thinkers, during the informal discussions, talk about a package deal which implies that India should accept the status quo in the western sector and cede Tawang in the eastern sector to China. Such a proposition is unacceptable to India.

The pragmatists suggest adoption of an incremental approach to border issues; commence with sharing of perceptions, exchange of maps, delineation of LAC, keeping the disputed areas dormant and institutionalization of joint management of disputed pockets. This could be followed by settling border issues segment by segment, starting with the less contentious middle sector and other areas in Sikkim. Once strategic trust is built and the appropriate political climate is created, then India and China can opt for a package deal based on the principles of mutuality and a just solution.

At present, the two sides are at a juncture where mutual trust and faith are missing. A lot more heavy lifting would be needed before the border conflict resolution becomes an achievable goal. In the interim, India needs to build its capacity to effectively defend its northern border with China.

**Way Ahead for India**

Indian policy makers must realize that the Sino-Indian border issue is vexed. This is nationally an emotive and sensitive issue that will need strong political will, deft diplomacy, public perception management and credible military capacity to resolve on favourable or equitable terms. It demands a cohesive policy, coherent strategy and integration and synergy of various instruments of power. The bottom line should be to deter China from changing the status quo by use of military force.

India and China are the two Asian giants, and can ill-afford hostility in perpetuity in the larger interest of making the shared dream of ‘Asian Century’ a reality. The unresolved boundary issue has bedevilled mutual bilateral relations and is potentially destabilizing in nature.

To this end, India will need full spectrum credible deterrence and quid pro quo capabilities. Presently, a multitude of ministries are dealing with border issues, namely Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs. Various border states have their concerns. So do the Army, ITBP, Border Road Organization, and agencies such as central or state works departments. China study groups are involved in strategic assessment. There is need to create a viable overarching organisation to oversee that border development, border security, border defence and related issues are addressed in a holistic manner.

China has developed massive infrastructure in Tibet and Xinjiang region, developed force multipliers and disruptive technology-based systems, created joint military commands and revamped its apex military decision making body – the Central Military Commission. Its defence spending is about four times higher than that of India. In contrast, India’s capacity building endeavour lacks the desired push. A renewed focus is needed to develop border connectivity. There is also need to urgently address redundancy in command, control, communication and logistics nodes. Our combat forces need massive technology upgrades in terms of intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, communication, mobilisation, air defence and precision targeting to enhance their operational effectiveness at the border. There is need to shed off Pakistan centricity and rebalance to defend northern borders.

Presently, several Indian army commanders are responsible to defend the northern borders vis-à-vis the western theatre command of China, which is solely responsible for entire Indian border. There is a need to reconcile this overlap of responsibilities for defending northern borders. China has well-articulated doctrines and concepts of war fighting such as the doctrine of Active Defence under conditions of Informatisation and concept of War Zone Campaign (WZC). India needs to have a de novo look at its military strategy and articulate a well thought-out anti-access and anti-denial strategy encompassing all domains of warfare including land, maritime, aerospace, outer space, cyber space and information space. Finally, India needs to build strategic trust with China albeit heeding what President Roosevelt had said, “Talk softly but carry a big stick and you will go far”.

In the interim, India needs to build its capacity to effectively defend its northern border with China.
INDIA AND CHINA AT 70

Strengthening

Great Wall of Cooperation
India and China are the two key leading states in the contemporary global politics and economy. In the last few decades, both states witnessed the emergence of their economic prowess, and also a rising influence in global politics. The Chinese growth story has established the Dragon as a new and prominent economic power in the contemporary global economic system. India too, given its economic resilience, has established and consolidated its position as a rising economy. The increased recognition of their roles during the global economic recovery substantiated the fact of both being rising economic giants with increased global footprints. As Asia becomes the new center of global geo-politics and economy, the relationship between both will play a decisive role in shaping the emerging global order. The dynamics of bilateral relations between both India and China have the potential to influence the emerging Asian and global politics.

In the last few years, both India and China have been striving for their new role in global politics. China famously made the paradigm shift from its earlier policy since the Deng Xiaoping years of ‘bide your time and hide your capabilities’. In 2018, global political analysts observed that China was done biding its time. The ‘New India’ led by Prime Minister Modi has also undertaken a path for key role as a ‘stabilizing power’ in global affairs. To quote S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India at the Raisina Dialogue 2020, it is important to be global, law abiding, consultative and the decider in global politics. In pursuit of the ‘China Dream’ and the making of ‘New India’, both the countries are willing and also able to define their priorities within the international system.

Over the years, the diplomatic relations between both these states have grown deeper and wider. As we celebrate the 70 years of diplomatic relation between India and China, it is necessary to undertake the historical journey down the memory lane between these two ancient civilizations.

**Civilizational links**

One of the important frameworks to understand the bilateral relations between India and China is the geo-civilizational approach about them. Differing from the liberal and realist approach to India-China diplomatic relations, it tends to look the bilateral set of relations between both from a historical and civilizational framework. This approach aims to examine the complex set of historical linkages between these two ancient civilizations across the Himalayan range. According to this school, rather than drawing on the theory of ‘competing states’ between India and China, both countries need to reflect upon their history, which is regarded as a great civilizational asset for bilateral relations. Both India and China have cherished the commonality of thought and ideas in the past towards greater cause of world peace and humanity. Based on their cultural strength and ancient Buddhist linkages, both states must aspire for greater cooperation in contemporary bilateral relations.

If we look back to the past, among the early references are the role and importance of Chinese travelers Fa Xian and Xuanzang and their accounts for Indian history. Many centuries later, a major reference point is the significance of the early China trade for the making of Mumbai business. The China factor has remained consistently aligned to these developments. In modern times, the role of the Indian medical mission led by Dr Kotnis to China during the anti-Japanese War, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore’s visit to China in 1924, the invitation to Tan Yunshan to set up China Bhavan in Santiniketan and West Bengal in 1937 – these are some notable examples of bonding across the borders between both. Importantly, the nature of dialogue between India and China has remained always significant and constructive.
Much recently, the choice of the historic coastal town of Mamallapuram in the state of Tamil Nadu, India for the second India-China Informal Summit, 2019 between PM Modi and President Xi Jinping was an endorsement for the ‘geo-civilizational framework’ of their bilateral relations. It was a right place given its historical significance for both the civilizations. Mamallapuram boasts a significant role in the trade and commerce links between India and China. These links go back to 2nd century BC. They were forged between the Pallava rulers in south India and imperial China.

Similarly, Buddhism disseminated from India to China and got enriched with the philosophy and values of Taoism and Confucianism in imperial China. Along with it, much literature on astronomy, music, religion, spiritualism, and language from both sides became the medium for mutual exchange of ideas and knowledge. The flow of ancient technology like sugar making, paper etc from China contributed positively to the growth of other civilizations. The flow of people and travelers’ account from both sides became the source of societal dialogue and engagement. All this formed the key link towards the origin and development of the inter-civilizational dialogue between India and China.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the famous Indian poet, play writer, painter and a Nobel Laureate had travelled across the Himalayas, and was perhaps the first of the modern Indian thinkers to cherish the significance of long standing civilizational links between India and China in the early 20th century. As we celebrate the 70th of diplomatic relations between India and China, it is also necessary to highlight the ‘two-way dialogue’ between these two ancient civilizations as we look forward to built and strengthen mutual cooperation and partnership.

**Colonial Cousins**

The colonial intervention in Asia led by European powers injected new dimensions of common exploitation and subjugation in India and China. Both the countries were subjected to huge economic losses and weakening of indigenous industry against profits and industrial gains of Western powers. They were also subjected to loss of their self-esteem and culture heritage by imperial forces. India and China were major economic powers in the region. As argued by British economic historian Angus Madison (2007), the share of India and China in world GDP used to be very high till about 1600 AD. The colonial rule brought about an economic downturn in both countries. The national freedom struggle in both the countries had its examples of solidarity links and cooperation, especially during the anti-Japanese War in China. The nationalists and revolutionaries on both sides made deep contact and established trust in their fight against imperialist forces.

After the political independence of India and China’s liberation led by Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the 1940s, both the states made an enthusiastic effort for pan-Asian cooperation, which found its expression in the Asian Relations Conference (ARC) convened in 1947. On 1 April 1950, India became the first ‘non-socialist state’ to establish diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China.

The India-China border conflict in 1962 was a serious setback to ties. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi’s landmark visit in 1988 began a phase of improvement in bilateral relations. In 1993, during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao’s visit, both countries signed an Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the India-China Border Areas. This reflected the growing stability and substance in bilateral ties.

During Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s visit in 2003, India and China signed a ‘Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation’ and also mutually decided to appoint Special Representatives (SRs) to explore the framework of a boundary settlement. During the April 2005 visit of Premier Wen Jiabao, the two sides established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity’. (MEA, October 2017)

During the State Visit of Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping to India in September 2014, a total of 16 agreements were signed. These agreements were signed across various sectors including, commerce and trade, railways, space co-operation, pharmaceuticals, audio-visual coproduction, culture, establishment of industrial parks, sister-city arrangements etc. The two sides also signed a MoU to open an additional route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathu La and also agreed to establish to set up two Chinese industrial parks in India. The very next year, Prime Minister Narendra
In the last few decades, bilateral relations between India and China have been celebratory yet contained. In present times, both nations have emphasized on building a platform for developmental partnership. This lays emphasis away from competition to cooperation, offering scope for some new areas for mutual engagement and trust building.

Modi’s visit to China in 2015 highlighted the prospects of the 21st century becoming the ‘Asian century’. The reality of this vision will depend in large measure on India and China relations.

**Bilateral issues**
The long pending border dispute is one of the most important and contested issues between India and China in the bilateral relations. Given the historical background, it forms a key source for trust deficit between both the countries. After an agreement in 2005 on the ‘Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement’ between India and China, the Special Representatives (SR) talks on the subject remain more focused on

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A CHEQUERED DIPLOMATIC HISTORY

The expression of Afro-Asian solidarity at Bandung (1955), Sino India rapprochement (1989), shared vision for the 21st century (2008), celebration of 60 years of Panchasheel Declaration (2014), Asian Century (2015) and Wuhan Spirit (2018) are some notable examples in the diplomatic history in the last 70 years between India-China. (Singh, The Pioneer, 15 Oct 2019) Despite these efforts, the border dispute between both led to the 1962 war. It brought about a long pause in the conduct of bilateral relations between both nations and still forms a key source of trust deficit in the conduct of bilateral relations.

If we look back to history, both India and China began their journey as independents states in 1940s. In the year 1950, both the states established diplomatic relations. Since then, they have consistently embarked on widening and strengthening bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural spheres. Over the years, the bilateral relations have been celebratory yet contained. In present times, both the states have consistently emphasized on building a platform for developmental partnership. This lays emphasis away from competition to cooperation, offering scope for some new areas for mutual engagement and trust building.
On the bilateral front, there are challenges towards expanding the scope of mutual economic engagements. Bilateral trade has grown immensely, but the problem of trade deficit remains a big concern for India. The effect of cheap Chinese exports has also caused vulnerabilities to Indian small-scale industries. The 11th Joint Economic Group (JEP) meeting 2018, between both agreed to work out a long-term roadmap to address this problem in economic relations.

Given their economic ability and centrality in the region, both India and China are often competing for their greater role in Asian politics. Patterns of Chinese investments in four countries of South Asia—Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal—all of which are part of the Belt Road Initiative (BRI), display a tendency to obtain control over natural resources and regional markets. This has led to competing strategies between India and China at the regional level. Adding more to this complexity is China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with 46 billion USD investments as a part of China’s ambitious One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. For India, it has serious geo-political considerations with concerns on violation of Indian sovereignty in Jammu and Kashmir.

In addition, China remains suspicious better border management rather its final resolution. The issue continues to form the biggest source of trust deficit between the Dragon and the Elephant. Border incursions like the Doklam standoff (2017) have the potential to affect stability in bilateral relations.
about the growing India-U.S. defense and strategic cooperation. Moreover, the changing geo-politics in the region and developments in Indo-Pacific region are also playing a key role in shaping the nature of diplomatic engagements between India and China.

**Roadmap for future**

India and China have descended from ancient civilizations. They have created splendid cultures and enjoyed a traditional bond of friendship. Both India and China exhibit many similar tendencies for association and interactions at different levels. The two nations, located in the diverse and rich Asian continent, have shown consistent desire for high levels of mutual engagement and cooperation. In the same spirit, it is necessary between both the countries to learn about each other and exchange ideas, enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

As we look towards the future, it is necessary that 'people to people' exchange between India and China in areas like, art and culture, trade and investment, language, education and tourism must be promoted. In the spirit of advancing the people to people exchange, we need to encourage young minds in both countries to draw wisdom and strength from each other's knowledge and become proponents for the Great Wall of Trust and Cooperation.

Over the years, India and China have built upon a series of confidence building measures to maintain peace and tranquility at the border areas. This includes many levels of border personnel meetings, army flag meetings, and meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs. In 2006 during the visit of the Indian Defense Minister to China, both sides agreed and signed a MoU – the first ever between the two defense ministries – calling for high-level military exchanges, joint exercises, counterterrorism and anti-piracy cooperation. As a part of this, India and China were part of 'joint military exercise'

The long pending border dispute is one of the most important and contested issues between India and China. The issue continues to form the biggest source of trust deficit between the two nations. Border incursions like the Doklam standoff (2017) have the potential to affect stability in bilateral relations.
in Kunming (2007) and Belgaum (2008); India’s participation as Observer State in International Fleet Review at Qingdao (2014); joint exercises in Ladakh (2016), and the first India China Meeting on Bilateral Security Cooperation (2018). Much recently, post the Doklam (2017) standoff, both the states agreed upon the understanding of issuing strategic guidance to their respective militaries to enhance communication and make for effective border management.

In contemporary times, with the efforts of both the governments and the film industry, the cooperation in art and cinema between India and China has seen a new and robust growth. In 1993 and again in 2004, an agreement between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, India, and the Ministry of Radio, Film, Television of the PRC was signed for Radio and Television Cooperation. In 2005, both the states signed a ‘Protocol on India-China Film Cooperation Commission’. It aimed to promote cooperation in the entertainment sector, with special focus on films – including features, documentary and animation.

This has contributed to the positive, feel-good factor in mutual understanding and cultural cooperation. Under a new set of mechanism, it also promotes people to people connect and knowledge about each other through the mediums of art and cinema.

Indian cinema is synonymous with diverse styles of art, dances, music and drama. This has found synergy with the Chinese people not just as a source for entertainment but also as a way to promote cultural synergy with India. Given the developments, one can
Given their economic ability and centrality in the region, both India and China are often competing for greater role in Asian politics. Patterns of Chinese investments in four countries of South Asia—Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal—all of which are part of the Belt Road Initiative (BRI), display a tendency to obtain control over natural resources and regional markets. This has led to competing strategies between India and China at the regional level. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor has serious geo-political considerations with concerns on violation of Indian sovereignty in Jammu and Kashmir.

Acknowledging this new link between India and China in the field of arts and cinema. (Singh, China-India Dialogue, July-Aug, 2019)

In the economic domain too, between 2000 and 2010, bilateral trade rose 20-fold, making it the only area where relations have thrived. The India China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) is in place to address concerns of trade deficit and seek wider economic cooperation between both the countries. As major developing economies, both India and China must remain committed to a just and equitable world order and also be the representatives of new trends in contemporary economic order to promote open and fair economic cooperation between states.

A large potential exists for trade in services and investment. Barriers to trade and services need to be addressed systematically to utilize their potential for mutual benefit. Such potential appears to exist in areas such as IT and related services, biotechnology, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, among other sectors. At the recently concluded 11th session of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology, the two countries explored ways to enhance development of bilateral trade and investment cooperation. They also start negotiations on a mutual Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the near future.

In recent years, the big success story has been of the major private investment from China in Indian start-ups, especially those focused on technology and e-commerce. In 2017 alone, Chinese companies such as Alibaba, Fosun, Baidu, and Tencent put in $5.2 billion USD into 30 Indian start-ups. The India-China economic relationship is key asset in the bilateral relations for both countries. India’s industrial advancement and Chinese efforts plans to move up the value chain with respect to its manufacturing sector offer key scope for better economic partnership between both.

At the global level, both India and China are members of multilateral forums like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), Shanghai Cooperation Organization, G20 and Russia-India-China Summit (RIC) sharing common interests in promoting globalization and opposing trade protectionism. These forums provide an added space and the opportunity for high-level engagements between the leadership of both nations to understand each other’s views.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has been able to reorient its China strategy based on pragmatism and coherent policy choices, looking for greater partnership based on mutual respect and equity. This has witnessed the scope of engagement with China based on the model of developmental partnership. Both states recently reached a consensus on cooperation in energy conservation and environmental protection, high technology, energy and medicine. Under the Make in India model, Chinese private investment has been invited to collaborate and create conditions for sustainable foreign direct investment in areas like skill development, and infrastructure creation in India.

**Conclusion**

Global politics remains at the crossroads with rising protectionism and unilateralism, which is affecting stability. To this, add the rise of Asia and other regional disruptions, which have come with their own set of challenges for both India and China. These uncertainties at the international and regional level pose a common concern to both nations. In the given context, bilateral relations between both must seize on every important opportunity to deepen dialogue and to promote mutual understanding. The main task before bilateral relations is how to remain more prudent while strengthening the channels of communication and coordination on a range of issues in the years to come, and transform it into making this period an Asian Century.
solidarity message of strength

Why I have chosen to stay back in Shanghai during these testing weeks

PERSONAL GRIT IN TIMES OF CORONA VIRUS

Amit Waikar

The threat of Corona virus looms large, not only over China in particular but on the world in general. The Indian community in Shanghai is clearly in the midst of all this. As they say, they have many questions and very few answers at this point in time.

The Indian community of Shanghai comprises about 3500 individuals. The virus outbreak took place just before the Chinese New Year (CNY) holidays. This is the time when most expats either go to their respective home countries from China, or at least travel to a third country for a holiday break. Many in the Indian community here in Shanghai had thus already made their travel plans. Quite a few had planned months in advance to be in India for these holidays. Some had decided to take vacations in other countries.

From amongst those who had decided to stay back in Shanghai during this CNY break, the news of this outbreak acted as a trigger. Many among them decided to return to India and wait for further news about their work in China to re-start.

Scramble for the Air India flight

The other trigger came in the form of an announcement from Air India that they were shutting down their Shanghai-Delhi-Mumbai flight service from February 1 due to the Corona scare. This caused panic and last-minute scramble for seats! Some others who were still undecided about their decision eventually gave in to the pressure from family and friends back home and decided to return home through connecting flights – via Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Colombo and Bangkok.

My friend who is the CEO in an Indian enterprise here told me a rather hilarious tale of his subordinate, who till about noon on February 2 was all set on staying back. Two phone calls from his mother-in-law from India made his scramble out of Shanghai on the same evening on a Thai Airways flight!

A rather small portion of Indians now are left in Shanghai. My guess is that about 20 per cent of the total community of 3500. The reasons for us to stay back are varying. For me and a few other close friends, the reason is to assure our Chinese friends and colleagues of solidarity. We are staying back because we believe that our exit from Shanghai at
Our Indian consulate in Shanghai is an amazing team. Not a single person has returned back, and each one is ever present to support our community here. I feel that a flu which can be tackled by a strong immune system is not a good enough reason for me to leave my karma bhoomi – my chosen place of work.

My karma bhoomi is here
We all are aware that about 80 per cent Indians living in Shanghai returned to India after the virus outbreak. But I feel that a flu which can be tackled by a strong immune system is not a good enough reason for me to leave my karma bhoomi – my chosen place of work. I completely understand the impulses that drove my fellow Indians and people of other nationalities living here to go back home. I empathize with them. Nevertheless, I am also mindful that I lead a team here at my place of work. I had pondered deep over the message that it would send to my team if I rushed back to my home country, leaving them here.

All this has helped me make up my mind to stay back – and I have a faint voice coming from my soul that is saying – this was the right thing to do.
THE CORONA CATASTROPHE

SHANGHAI HAS SLOWED DOWN
In the last week of January, celebrations to welcome the Chinese New Year had begun all around. The Chinese New Year was scheduled to begin on January 25. Spring Festival or the Chinese New Year is the biggest festival on the Chinese calendar. It is eagerly awaited, and is celebrated all over this ancient nation with much enthusiasm, aplomb and show. In Shanghai’s Yu Garden, there is very old temple. At the time of the Chinese New Year, hundreds of people visit the temple daily to mark the New Year. The temple is decorated with spectacular lights and highly attractive and colourful floats.

In China, years are marked in cycles of 12 years. There are different signs for each year. Every sign has a meaning. 2020 is the Year of the Rat. The Year of the Rat depicts prosperity and abundance. The entire nation was so excited to celebrate the Year of the Rat. In Hindu mythological terms, the mouse is the vahan (vehicle) of Shri Ganesh, the beloved Indian God, who along with Goddess Lakshmi blesses us with abundance and prosperity. Instead of Goddess Lakshmi, the Hindu deity wealth and abundance, a demon by the name of Corona Virus entered China.

The virus struck China at a highly critical time.

All state and provincial governments as well as private enterprises give a break of 10 to 15 days to their employees to mark the New Year festival. Educational institutions have a holiday break during this time. The Chinese usually travel to their hometowns or go abroad during these holidays. By the time the Corona Virus struck, many people had gone to their respective home towns or out of the country without any knowledge of the virus.

The tragic news from Wuhan

Around this time, the news struck the nation that Corona Virus had struck Wuhan. It started with a large number of people contacting pneumonia there. An investigation into the spike in pneumonia cases led the local authorities to discover that these people were struck by Corona Virus.

By the time people came to know that Corona Virus could be spread by human to human contact, many people had left Wuhan. Nobody knows how many of them were infected, and how many of them were carriers. The authorities managed to trace some of them, and started immediate treatment of those who were found to be infected. Immediately, Wuhan was isolated from the rest of the nation. People were strictly told not to go outstation.

When we heard about all this, we wondered how these instructions would be implemented. We thought everybody would have made plans for the New Year. We wondered whether they would listen to the authorities and cancel all plans of travelling. We kept wondering about all this. The next day, we came to know that all roads leading to Wuhan had been dug up or sealed so that nobody could leave Wuhan or go there. This happened overnight.

This indicated the total and amazing seriousness of the government efforts to contain the virus. We had never thought
that a whole city could be cut off from the nation. But the Chinese government did it within a matter of hours.

We may regard it as cruelty. It may be regarded as a punishment to those who were not infected or had no contact with the virus. But when this measure was regarded with a cool mind, we had to admit that China had effectively managed to stem the transmission of the virus to other cities in the nation.

If this measure had not been taken at that time, the infection would have spread further. China has been very careful not to repeat any mistakes that may have been made at the time of SARS. They are doubly cautious now, and are trying to save as many people as possible from infection, which can possibly be fatal.

1,000-beded hospital constructed, operational within ten days

We heard that the government is going to construct a 1000-bed hospital in Wuhan, and would complete it in two weeks. This again seemed unbelievable – that pace of work could be done on such war footing. People thought that perhaps this was a media hoax, and fake news was being circulated. Many people also wondered about this news circulating on social media, because Wuhan already has hospitals. So what was the need to construct another large hospital so soon. Many people expressed doubts about the government proposal. As they say in India – as many mouths, as much talk.

It was totally amazing to learn that this 1000-beded hospital was actually completed and operational within ten days. Patients were being treated at this hospital February 4 onwards. This hospital is completely dedicated to the treatment of patients infected by Corona Virus. All the patients who were seeking treatment for the virus in other hospitals were shifted here. As a result, it saved patients from other hospitals from being infected by the virus.

The doctors at this hospital are specially trained to treat patients of Corona Virus. These doctors are not just from Wuhan but from other areas too. Given the high quotient of Corona Virus for infection, we know that the job of these doctors is highly risky, but all of them are treating it as frontline duty during a war.

Reaching out to the Indians stuck in Wuhan

A number of Indian students are studying in Wuhan University. Some Indians work there too. All of them were stuck in Wuhan after the town was sealed. There was no way they could come out. This was a major challenge for the Indian community, because we did not know how to reach out to them and help them.

The Indian Consulate was prompt in its response. They started a helpline.
Indians in Wuhan could register on that number, so that an aircraft could be sent their accordingly to evacuate them. Other countries initiated similar measures to save their own nationals in Wuhan. The Chinese government helped each country to identify its people and evacuate them. The Chinese government made sure that all foreign nationals went back to their respective countries.

In China, almost every city is infected by Corona Virus. The flights of many airlines of diverse nations have been closed to China, because they did not want their nationals to have any contact with the virus. The flight of Air India was also suspended.

Schools were initially closed till the end of February because the Chinese government was particular that each and every school must be disinfected. All workplaces had been closed for the Chinese New Year holidays. They were supposed to open on February 3. On the scheduled day, the workplaces did not resume work. At some places, work was resumed on February 10. We learnt at other work places, functioning would resume on February 17. This was done so that all work places were disinfected, and there would not be even a single case of infection in that area.

Recently, we got an email that schools would not open till March 2. We still do not know when they will finally open.

All the people who can manage to work from home are preferring to do so. These are harsh measures, but everybody is cooperating because people know of the extent of damage that any laxity can cause. Schools have started e-learning programs. Many teachers who were working in international academic institutions had gone back home or are on vacation are in different nations. Hence the teachers are in different time zones, and the children are in different zones. The teachers cannot come back because the airlines are suspended. With the e-learning programs, the teachers are giving regular home-work tasks to students and coordinating their study.

Many shops in Shanghai have opened now so that items of basic needs are available. This is a major relief to all those who are staying here. Since these shops are open, they are able to provide for our basic needs of bread, eggs, vegetables, fruits and the like. We may face shortage of our particular Indian groceries, because no supplies are coming from outside. But that's all right. It’s a small price to pay for the overall care being taken by the government to ensure our well-being and good health.

**Times for self-quarantine**

Our family had decided to go for the Ice Festival in Harbaen during the Chinese New Year holidays. We cancelled our...
A number of Indian students were studying in Wuhan. Some Indians work there too. The Indian Consulate was prompt in evacuating them. Other countries initiated similar measures. The Chinese government helped each country to identify its people and evacuate them.

holiday but decided to stay back in Shanghai. Truthfully, we did not feel that the threat here is so high that we need to fly back to India in panic. Some people said that there was a huge risk in sitting in a closed aircraft for about eight hours and travelling in that confined space.

As of now, we go out only once in four to five days, when it is essential to buy groceries. Otherwise we are at home. Children stay busy with their work and play. The house maid had gone to her home town for the holidays, and has not been able to come back. The public transport from all the small towns has been suspended, because the government does not want the people to travel in large numbers. Hence I also have much housework to do.

Even after the maid comes back from her village, she will have to stay at home for 14 days, and then come for work. There are strict government directives in this regard. All the people who come from outside to Shanghai will have to stay in self-quarantine for 14 days. They shall have to fill a form stating the day on which they arrived in Shanghai, and which day they went for work. The form is to be submitted at offices designated by the government for the purpose. These forms have been provided at all bus stations, railway stations and airports. It is mandatory for those coming from outside Shanghai to fill this form.

No visitor or delivery staff is allowed to come in into a residential complex from outside. No visitor from outside is allowed to enter the residential complexes. Every residential complex has followed this routine very strictly. All food parcels or other products ordered by anyone are left at the main entrance of the residential complex. Residents have to collect all such parcels themselves.

Since the end of January, all places of tourist attraction have been closed. All the roads in Shanghai wear a deserted look. It fills us with sadness that nobody could go out and see the amazing decorations and lighting for the New Year. We are also deeply dismayed to see this quiet, deserted Shanghai. This is a city so full of hustle-bustle that it never sleeps. Now, on television, we see images of the empty roads of Shanghai, the deserted markets and tourist places. We are praying for the menace of Corona Virus to be over soon, so that Shanghai and the whole of China can spring back to beautiful life.

The year of the Rat was expected to bring prosperity and abundance. Instead, the New Year began with the tragic pall of Corona Virus, and led to a slowdown of cities, towns and villages, effecting the economy of the nation.

In March, we shall have the Marathi festival of Gudi Padva. I pray that by the time it is time to celebrate Gudi Padva, the threat of Corona Virus is over, and the rest of the year goes by in peace and in prosperity.
Red Land

Yunnan province is located in the warm and moist environment, the iron in the soil was deposited slowly by oxidation, gradually formed a glaring colour. This kind of soil contains more iron and aluminum components, less organic matter, strong acidity, heavy clay soil. The area with nearly hundreds of square kilometres is the most concentrated, typical, and characteristic on laterite plateau of Yunnan. Lined with blue sky, white clouds and the changeable light, it constitutes a spectacular scenery of red land.
The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi to China in the 21st Century

SOME CASES

Mahatma Gandhi’s influences have prevailed over the world in the 21st century, including in China. Among other things, his autobiography, his non-violence, his simple living & high thinking and his pursuit of public good find lovers and adherents in 21st century’s China.
Prof Shang Quanyu

Mahatma Gandhi (1969-1948), the spiritual leader of the Indian National Independence Movement and one of the greatest thinkers in human history, not only had a strong influence in the 20th century world as he lived, but has continued to have an abiding, far-reaching influence in the 21st century’s world after his death. Quite often, many of my Indian friends ask me a question: being a Gandhian scholar, what do you think is the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi to today’s China? With this question in mind, since 2012 I have been researching the topic on Gandhi studies in China. This includes studying over a century-long saga from 1920s to the 21st century.

Here, I would like to share some cases in my research findings to show Mahatma Gandhi’s strong influence on China in the 21st century.

**Mahatma Gandhi’s Autobiography**

Mahatma Gandhi’s autobiography, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, has been the most influential work among all his writings in China since 1930s. In more than 80 years from 1930s to 21st century, Chinese translation of Gandhi’s autobiography witnessed two waves of flourish.

*The first wave of flourish appeared in 1930s, including these translations:*

**Gandhi’s Autobiography**

1) Translated by Ming Yaowu, *Shanghai*: Da Dong Book Company, 1932;
2) Translated by Xiong Da, *Shanghai*: Zhong Hua Book Company, 1934;
3) Translated by Wu Yaozong, *Shanghai*: Youth Association Book Company, 1935;
4) Translated by *Nan Liuru*, *Nanjing*: Zheng Zhong Book Company, 1936; etc.

All these translations were abridged versions, derived from Mahatma Gandhi: His Own Story, translated and edited by C.F. Andrews.

*The second wave of flourish came in the 21st century, including these translations:*

**Gandhi, Autobiography**

1) Translated by *Liu Yulai*, *Changchun*: The Northern Women and Children Press, 2002;
2) Translated by *Ji Li*, *Changchun*: The Time Literature & Art Press, 2003;
3) Translated by *Lu Lianbin*, *Beijing*: International Culture Publishing Company, 2003;
4) Translated by *Ye Li and Jian Min*, *Wuhan*: Changjiang Literature and Arts Press, 2007;
5) Translated by *Zhong Jie*, *Changchun*: Jilin Publishing Group, 2009;
6) Translated by *Zhong Jie*, *Hefei*: Anhui People’s Publishing House, 2012;
7) Translated by *Enlightenment Translation Institute*, *Shanghai*: Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Publishing House, 2015;
8) Translated by *Wu Xiaojing*, *Kunming*: Yunnan People’s Publishing House, 2016;
9) Translated by *Hong Xiaoran*, *Beijing*: China Books Publishing House, 2016;
10) Translated by *Hebai*, *Beijing*: China Industrial and Commercial Joint Publishing House, 2016;
11) Translated by *Xi Cuirong*, *Beijing*: Xi Yuan Publishing House, 2016;
12) Translated by *Shang Quanyu and others*, *Kunming*: Yunnan People’s Publishing House, 2019; etc.

All these translations are full versions, translated from Gandhi, An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth, written by Gandhi in Gujarati, translated into English by Mahadev Desai.
Between the two waves of flourish, we have to mention one historic and far-reaching translation, i.e. *Gandhi, Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, translated by Du Wei and Wu Yaozong, Beijing: Commercial Press, 1959. This was the first full version of Gandhi’s Autobiography in Chinese, written by Gandhi in Gujarati, translated into English by Mahadev Desai. The only one of its kind until 2002, this translation was used as a key source of reference for Gandhi studies for as long as 43 years in China.

Compared with the 1930s, Chinese translation of Gandhi’s Autobiography in the 21st century assumes several striking features. First, all translations are full versions based on the authoritative original version. Second, translations much outnumber the previous period. Third, more importantly, most of these translations fall in a particular genre – they are part of a series of inspirational books.


Through these series, it could be observed that Mahatma Gandhi’s Autobiography increasingly has greater influence on young people in China.

**Mr. Bei Ye: Promoting Mahatma Gandhi’s Non-Violence**

Mr. Bei Ye, a writer, scholar, expert of community issues, under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi’s doctrine of non-violence, put forward “non-violence and cooperation by which to make contributions to the building-up of a harmonious society a slogan for maintaining legal rights in 2006”.

He wrote, “Mahatma Gandhi created miracles by his spirit of pursuing Truth via ‘Non-violence and Non-cooperation’ and defeated the powerful British Empire by using peaceful method. We have derived such an inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi as follows, i.e. in the process of building up a harmonious community, our slogan is to pursue social justice via Non-violence and Cooperation. Thousand years-long Chinese history
Influences of Mahatma Gandhi’s Autobiography on the Chinese

Then what are the influences of Gandhi’s Autobiography? We can search the answers from articles written by Chinese young people about their reflections on the book. There are many such articles published in journals and magazines, such as Liu Yujun’s, He Huaihong’s, Wen Shan’s, to mention a few. From these articles, we can summarize the major influences Gandhi’s Autobiography has made on readers: pursuit for Truth, emphasis on the force of soul, practice of non-violence and love, service of people and country, insistence on high thinking and simple living, experiments with vegetarianism, etc. There are far more articles and comments found online on Gandhi’s Autobiography’s influences, such as forgetting “I” – the self – and merging it with the Universal Self or the Supreme Atman; adhering to the spirit of non-violence; having a strong faith, emphasizing both intellectual and moral education, emphasis on public hygiene and sanitation; cultivating a habit of keeping account and thriftiness; to be honest, to be happy to help others, especially the downtrodden; to be brave to face all frustrations and hardships; to be fearless, selfless, frank and brave; to keep the world in mind with a kind and loving heart and to be a ladder for others, to challenge both oneself and established practice, to practice what you preach, to stick to your beliefs and principles.

In an event held in the sprawling Chaoyang Park in Central Beijing on October 2, 2018, people from all walks of life gathered to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and his popular quotes and bhajans resonated through the park.
tells us that violence brings no winners but only more violence. Our slogan for maintaining legal rights is Non-violence and Cooperation! Because the government is our own government, estate property is our own property, all property owners are the same family members.

We are now in a historic transformation period, so we can only create our new life via mutual understanding and caring, via non-violence and cooperation.”

In Mao’s era, there was no such kind of issues, because at that time all estate properties belonged to state and government and every one lived in his/her own working unit’s apartment by paying very little rental fee. The department of estate properties of the working unit took responsibilities for maintaining it. All people lived in their own working unit’s apartment buildings. But in post-Mao’s era, especially in late 1990s and early 21st century, all working unit’s apartments were sold to employees and many more people bought their apartments in newly-built residence community areas and moved out of their working unit’s apartments. Newly-built residence community areas housed people from different working units. Property management companies took the responsibility of maintaining all estate properties (apartments). So a new kind of conflict appeared between property management companies and property owners.

On March 1, 2006, CCTV made a TV program “News Probe: The Story of Property Owners’ Maintaining Their Legal Rights”. Mr. Bei Ye was one of the three interviewers who were either current or previous heads of three different residence community areas in Beijing. It was said that when it came to the topic concerning property owners’ maintaining their legal rights, one could not help having pictures of contradictions. Conflicts between property owners and property management companies-estate property developers occurred. There were many court cases and some violence incidents. Why did residence community areas became battle fields rather than places to live in peace? How to maintain property owners’ legal rights when violated? What are the ultimate aims of maintaining property owners’ legal rights?

In Mr. Bei Ye's opinion, his act of maintaining property owners’ legal rights is a scholar’s civil experiment. He starts from claims for his own and his neighbour’s legal rights, and gradually moves on to focus on public affairs within his residence community, and finally upgrades to ponder over issues of maintaining legal rights of the whole society. Every week, he organizes a virtue education seminar in his apartment, discussing the topic concerning virtue education. He believes that virtue education is an integral part of civil education, and the cultivation of awareness of civic obligations is the indispensable prerequisite for maintaining property owners’ legal rights.

Through non-violent action (talk, negotiation), the conflict between property management companies and property owners is resolved peacefully. Mr. Bei Ye’s residence community is awarded as an excellent model in Beijing. Nowadays there is seldom news about violent incidents in residence community areas.

Mr. Bei Ye keeps on promoting Mahatma Gandhi’s thoughts. In his article “Recommending a Good Book – Studies on Mahatma Gandhi’s Philosophy of Religion for Readers”, he wrote: “Currently I’ve finished reading a good book, titled Studies on Mahatma Gandhi’s Philosophy of Religion. With the permission of the author, I will...”
Ms. Wu Bei, a previous University lecturer in capital city Beijing, is influenced strongly by Mahatma Gandhi’s thought and act of simple living & high thinking. She gave up living in a big city and moved to a village. Recommended and coordinated by this author, she was interviewed by BBC. In the BBC news report, she was called “A lady who leads a life as Mahatma Gandhi”.

Ms. Wu Bei was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi since 2004 when she participated in a “Han Hai Sha Soul Environmental Protection Project” sponsored by a NGO. One of the tasks of this project is to translate Mahatma Gandhi’s works. In the project proposal, it says that under the impact of blind pursuit of modernization, China’s villages face many problems. The deterioration of the natural environment is originated from one’s soul’s becoming barren. While we are engaged in the work of natural environmental protection, we have to search a radical solution from the level of human beings’ existence philosophy. Oriental philosophy is the road leading us to return to Nature. In Mahatma Gandhi, we find an upgraded new level of the oriental wisdom. He looked at, and reflected on many problems of modernization from a typical perspective of an oriental traditional philosopher. He also travelled in villages himself and solved the practical problems of existence in villages.

Translating Mahatma Gandhi’s ideas have practical and realistic significance. Those who long for soul force will get inspiration from his works. Those who are concerned with rural issues will get elicitation from his action. Those who love nature will get strength from it. Those who search for truth will follow his spirit to walk their own road. The translation focuses on Mahatma Gandhi’s works concerning his reflections on the relationship between human beings and nature, modernization and rural issues, published the book online stage by stage. I believe we can learn a lot of meaningful things from Mahatma Gandhi and India’s modernization road, especially some substantially spiritual things, just like our ancestors’ did when they went to India to get Buddhism.”

In his article “Seven Things to Destroy Human Beings”, he wrote, “Mahatma Gandhi warned us that there are seven things that will destroy us: Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Commerce without morality, Science without humanity, Worship without sacrifice, Politics without principle. Mahatma Gandhi is our mentor, and his spirit is a good remedy for China’s society. Those who are longing for the recovery of humanity and progress of soul can get inspiration and strength from Gandhi’s works.

Here I would like to introduce four books for you all: Ms Wu Bei’s two translations Mahatma Gandhi: Sayings on Morality, Virtue and Health and Mahatma Gandhi: Sayings Selection. Mr. Shang Quanyu’s Studies on Mahatma Gandhi’s Philosophy of Religion, Someone’s Gandhi’s Leadership. I hope to organize a Gandhi Fans’ Club on my website so that we can keep in touch and exchange ideas.”

Ms Wu Bei’s Experiments With Mahatma Gandhi’s Simple Living & High Thinking

Ms. Wu Bei, a previous University lecturer in capital city Beijing, is influenced strongly by Mahatma Gandhi’s thought and act of simple living & high thinking. She gave up living in a big city and moved to a village. Recommended and coordinated by this author, she was interviewed by BBC. In the BBC news report, she was called “A lady who leads a life as Mahatma Gandhi”.

Ms. Wu Bei was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi since 2004 when she participated in a “Han Hai Sha Soul Environmental Protection Project”
MAHATMA GANDHI 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

religion and education, etc.

Ms. Wu Bei is the translator and Mr. Shang Quanyu is the consultant and proof-reader. Her translations were published by New Star Press in 2006 and 2007, the only Chinese translations of Mahatma Gandhi’s works so far in China, except his Autobiography and Hind Swaraj (Home Rule). While translating, she also wrote several articles to promote Mahatma Gandhi’s ideas. Many people are strongly attracted and influenced by these two translation books and her articles.

Influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Ms. Wu Bei undertakes experiments with vegetarianism and leads a life as simple as possible. She refuses to buy and eat meat, refuses to buy and eat anti-season vegetables, refuses to use refrigerator, refuses to use washing machine, refuses to use air-conditioner, refuses to use elevator, refuses to buy newspapers and best-selling books like health care books. Her conviction is that she said she translated Mahatma Gandhi’s booklet Key to Health, from which she will benefit for her whole life. She regards her simple life as a happy life.

Since 2017, she has given up living in a big city and now lives in the countryside. She runs a special school Qingtan Xuetang in Huangtian (Yellow Field) village, Jing County, Anhui Province, where she is trying to make her “Silver Dream” a reality. Her school is open for those children who are excluded by regular schools, who are distorted by the inappropriate way of cultivation of their parents, who are not in conformity with the existing educational criteria, who have some disabilities such as Autistic Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Her dream is to make the faces of such children light up with happy and bright smiles, to make their bodies stretch in nature, to make their hands labour for themselves and others.

In her talks with this author about the influence of Mahatma Gandhi, she summarizes as follows: simple life, non-violence (no-harm in words, actions and thoughts), environmental protection, child education, care about disadvantaged group, equality for all, etc. Ms. Wu Bei emphasizes that in our modern world, humankind’s greed is growing, and with it, the desires. This has brought about many problems. Ms. Wu Bei firmly advocates that Mahatma Gandhi is very important for this increasingly materialized world, because he supplied a spiritual source for us.

Mr. Lin Lusheng’s engagement with Mahatma Gandhi’s Pursuit of the Public Good

Mahatma Gandhi’s life is a life pursuing the public good. Mr. Lin Lusheng, who graduated from Beijing University, follows Mahatma Gandhi’s footprint and has dedicated his life to public good. He was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi in 2008 on reading his Autobiography. A journalist from China Youth magazine who interviewed him in his dorm room in Beijing University when he returned for studying the master program in 2016 wrote, “Lin Lusheng, a very thin guy with a pair of bright and piercing eyes, a determined and stern expression, in a
thick black suit in the cold winter and a pair of worn shoes donated by a friend, was meditating on the dorm room floor. He uses Mahatma Gandhi’s image of meditation as his WeChat profile photo and meditates at dawn and dusk every day. Since the time he first read Gandhi’s Autobiography, he sees Gandhi as his idol. He has read Gandhi’s Autobiography many times, and also watched movies on him multiple times to search for the value of life. He quit his job in Beijing Normal University and engages in the cause of public good, which he regards as a valuable way of life.”

At first, Mr Lin Lusheng pursued his cause in Beijing. He established an NGO named Culture Development Center for Beijing Peasants’ Descendants and led a simple life in the countryside, spending only 150 RMB a month. He helped peasants sell chestnut and organized village tourism programs, but these endeavours failed. Later, Mr Lin Lusheng opened a school named Yanshan Xuetang at the foot of Yanshan Mountain. He opened this school for the children of migrant rural workers. He took lead to build house, to repair toilets and roads, and to grow vegetables. In addition to regular courses, the school also offered courses on skills such as carpentry, and also helping the students find joy in such diverse pursuits like The Book of Songs and The Compendium of Materia Medica. He was happy to see that the children were able to significantly enhance their abilities of manual work and cooperation with nature. Doing public good has brought him not only joy but also honour. In 2014, Yanshan Xuetang was conferred with the Social Enterprise Award by the British Embassy.

Later, Mr Lin Lusheng moved from Beijing to his hometown, a village in Fujian Province. He collected money and organized a group of experts and volunteers to repair and maintain the classic Taoshuilou Buiding, a UNESCO World Heritage. He also put forward and implemented a “good neighbor project”. He opened a school, Taoshu Shuyuan. Besides, he established his own public good enterprise “Meihe Service Center”. Mr Lin Lusheng told a journalist from Paper News Report that he hopes to promote cultural education and environmental protection in rural areas. This endeavour, he said, should start from protecting and maintaining our rural landscapes, also referred to as ‘classic earth building’. Mr Lin Lusheng said that in the process of modernization and urbanization, rural areas are becoming barren in cultural education and environmental protection. He hopes to expand his model to other villages. He is also planning to establish a “Gandhi Farm” to practice Mahatma Gandhi’s ideas.

In all, from the cases above, we can clearly see that Mahatma Gandhi’s influences have had a positive impact on 21st century’s China, as in the whole world. We strongly believe that his influences will last forever in human history.
AN ARGUMENT IN INDIA’S FAVOUR

‘We are relieved this stress is behind us’
The small and marginal dairy farmers supplying milk to organized dairies in both the cooperative and private sectors in India heaved a sigh of relief after India opted out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. Not only the dairy sector but also the textiles, metal and apparel sectors and the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were vocal in their criticism of RCEP, fearing a flood of Chinese goods to India.

In the months leading up to the meeting, dairy farmers had expressed serious reservations over the inclusion of dairy products in the Agreement, which was proposed to be signed with 10 ASEAN countries and six other countries having business collaboration with them. Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia had negotiated very hard with India to reduce duty on dairy products so that they could get access to India – the world’s largest market for dairy products. It is ironical that the officials handling Regional Trade under the Ministry of Commerce had been supporting the proposal for reducing tariffs on milk and milk products by wrongly projecting huge shortage of milk in India in the next ten years. They had also projected shortage of fodders, feeds and water needed for rearing the animals.

In the months leading up to the RCEP meeting, the dairy industry representatives and Indian Dairy Association (IDA) had been pleading with the Ministry of Commerce against the move by presenting some hard facts. IDA has submitted a memorandum against this move to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Even though we were concerned about the proposal to reduce duty on dairy products, the facts spoke in our favour. In its working group report of February 2018, Niti Ayog had estimated that the demand for milk in 2033 would be 291 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT), against which India was expected to produce 330 MMT of milk. Thus, it had been observed that India would be a surplus nation in terms of milk and milk products, and hence the question of imports would not arise.

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and international organizations such as FAO had also projected a similar milk production trend in India. Estimates suggested that stipulated increase in crop production would ensure availability of additional roughages and agro by-products for milch animals in 2033. Hence, it was clear that milk surplus countries like New Zealand and Australia were trying to push their milk products into India at reduced import duties.

Further, dairy farmers apprehended that import of cheaper milk and dairy products under FTA would adversely affect the livelihood of more than 10 crore farming families in India as importers and traders would dominate the market. New Zealand produces 24 MMT of milk and exports 93 per cent of it. About 10,000 New Zealand farmers are engaged in the production of milk. The same holds true for Australia, where 6000 farmers produce 10 MMT milk. Australia exports more than 60 per cent of its total milk production to countries deficient in milk. On the contrary, milk may be termed as the largest agricultural crop of India, with production of nearly 180 MMT per annum. Indian consumers get milk at the cheapest rates in the world. Our milk producers get more than 80 to 85 per cent of consumer rupees as against 30-40 per cent paid in other RCEP countries.

Even in hindsight, it is clear to us that the signing of the RCEP would have been a blow to the dairy farmers. It would have led to reduction in milk procurement prices against the milk powder imported at cheaper rates from the RCEP countries. Even if only 5 per cent of New Zealand’s milk production were allowed to enter India, it would work out to about 30 per cent of India’s production. Knowledgeable
sources informed us that for several weeks, the Government of India had weighed the option of whether to insist on keeping dairying out of the negotiations to protect the interest of the farmers.

Notwithstanding the competitiveness of the domestic industry and self reliance, and also the need for expanding international trade relations for securing a healthy future, the interest of the farmers should remain foremost as far as any pacts or negotiations are concerned. If India had opted for the removal of tariff barriers on dairy and agro products, the consequences would have been disastrous. If large imports in dairy and agro products are allowed, the progress graph of the governmental schemes at the centre and state like doubling farmers’ income will be adversely affected. In the long run, India will be pushed to become dependent on imports for dairy products. India had a trade deficit with 11 of the 16 RCEP negotiating countries in 2018-19. The trade deficit was to the tune of US$ 104 billion in the previous year and more than half of this was with China.

At present, India produces about 180 MMT of milk per annum as against 168 MMT in EU countries and 95 MMT in the United States of America. India in value terms contributes nearly 26 per cent share in total agricultural production, which is amongst the highest in the world. Milk is produced by masses in India and not by mass production as in New Zealand, Australia and EU countries. Milk, as the largest agricultural crop of India, contributes 7 lakh crores per year to the economy.

Dairying provides sustainable livelihood to 70 per cent of the rural households, helps in employment generation and poverty alleviation and ensures nutritional security. In recent years, maximum growth in rural India has come from the livestock sector.

We have about 300 million bovine population, which is the largest in the world. Approximately 10 crore rural households are depend on dairying. It may be noted that 77 percent of India’s total milk production is contributed by small, marginal and landless farmers. While the world milk production of 849 MMT has witnessed a 2 per cent CAGR, India’s milk production has registered a growth of 4.5 CAGR. India’s milk production has been been growing at this rate for the last 20 years.

Dairying in India is rightly regarded as an important instrument for doubling farmers’ income. The proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the 10 member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their six FTA partners — China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Australia with entry of imported milk powder would have played a detrimental role towards the growth of dairying in India.

The dairy industry of the entire nation was closely watching all RCEP-related developments. The meeting of the Trade Ministers in Bangkok had failed to break the logjam in parleys. India had demanded that the base year for tariff cuts under RCEP Free trade agreement should be advanced from 2014 to 2019. India had made this demand because in the last five years, tariffs were increased on thousands of products. To protect the interest of the domestic industry, India had raised the issue of spike in imports.
which could not be settled in the second round of negotiations were discussed by the Heads of States during the third RCEP Leadership Summit which was held in Bangkok.

We are aware that a major reason why India finally opted out of RCEP was because there was tremendous domestic pressure on the government to exit it. Now and also in the coming decades, safeguards shall remain a crucial part of India’s negotiations. The dairy industry had expressed strong fears that subsidized dairy products from New Zealand and Australia would flood the Indian market if India agreed to any such agreement. In this way, the opportunity costs of joining the RCEP would have been much higher for the domestic industry and growth than not joining it.

Milk meets the requirement of animal protein and fat of large proportion of our population that is mostly vegetarian. Milk is a superior food with income elasticity of demand greater than one. This means that as incomes rise, demand for milk goes up, showing upward mobility. With sustained production increases in milk, the country has not only become self sufficient but marginally surplus in a wide range of milk and milk products.

Under this situation, it would have been highly detrimental to the economy if India had allowed members of RCEP nations to have greater access to its markets through phased duty reduction or more liberal tariff rate quotas. This would have adversely influenced not only the production of milk. It would also have diminished the share of profits earned by the milk producers of India. Joining the RCEP would also have resulted in approximately 50 million rural people losing their jobs. These Indians would have been forced to quit dairying because of lower or no profits earned. Women engaged in dairying in rural India would also have got greatly hurt.

It is understandable that access to the large Indian market would immensely benefit exporting dairy countries like New Zealand and Australia. For long, these countries have been eyeing the Indian markets for selling commodities like milk powder, UHT milk, butter fat and to some extent cheese and other dairy products.

There is also the view that we should not accept milk produced by cattle fed on blood meal, bone meal and other non-vegetarian products. It came as a great relief to the dairy industry after Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Shri Giriraj Singh asked the Commerce Minister to keep dairy out of RCEP trade deal. In its meeting held on the issue, the Indian Dairy Association had also opposed the move of the Commerce Ministry to reduce import duties on milk and milk products, and to allow unjustified flow of milk to India.

The opposition of many state governments to the opening up of imports of dairy products to India had given us strength. The Indian dairy industry is committed to the sustained growth of this sector. We shall continue to keep India the global leader in milk production, with higher per animal productivity, greater adoption of modern practices for milk processing and a wider range of milk products.
Bilateral trade between India and China declined by about $3 billion in 2019 while India’s trade deficit continues to be high, amounting to $56.77 billion as both countries experience an economic slowdown.

The trade figures released by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) on January 14 projected that total trade in Chinese currency RMB-Yuan terms registered a marginal increase of 1.6 per cent year on year, but in dollar terms it was down by about USD three billion.

GACC Vice Minister Zou Zhiwu, who released the annual trade figures to the media, said China-India bilateral trade totalled to 639.52 billion yuan (about $92.68 billion) which is 1.6 per cent increase year on year. China’s exports to India increased by 2.1 per cent last year totalling to 515.63 billion yuan while India’s imports to China decreased by 0.2 per cent totalling to 123.89 billion yuan, he said.

The trade deficit for India in 2019 was $391.74 billion yuan, said Vice Minister Zou Zhiwu. However, in dollar terms the trade has declined. The bilateral trade in 2018 totalled to $95.7 billion, raising hopes of India-China trade touching the landmark $100 billion in 2019. But the total trade amounted to $92.68 billion last year, about $3 billion less than 2018.

The Chinese exports in dollar terms to India last year amounted to $74.72 billion compared to $76.87 in 2018. India’s exports to China amounted to $17.95 billion against $18.83 billion last year. In the face of slacking trade, the trade deficit also declined from $58.04 in 2018 to $56.77 billion.

The declining trade was largely attributed to the slowdown of the economies of the two countries.

According to the figures posted on the website of the Indian Embassy in China, from January to November 2019 the total trade between the two neighbours in the 11 months last year declined by 3.72 per cent, amounting to $84.32 billion. The trade deficit for the 11 months stood at $51.68.

Trade deficit has become a major irritant in India-China bilateral relations, figuring high in the bilateral discourse. India has been demanding that China must to open its IT and pharmaceutical sectors to enable it to increase its exports.

**Mamallapuram meeting**

While China has continued to promise to address the concerns, the two countries discussed initiatives in this regard at various levels last year. The issue figured
Trade deficit has become a major irritant in India-China bilateral relations, figuring high in the bilateral discourse. India has been demanding that China must to open its IT and pharmaceutical sectors to enable it to increase its exports.

In the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping during their second informal summit at Mamallapuram in October 2019. The two leaders have agreed to set up new mechanism led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Chinese Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua to discuss trade, investment and services. The meeting under the new mechanism is expected to held this year.

Highlighting India’s concerns over the trade deficit, a note posted on the Indian Embassy in China said while flourishing trade has brought with it all the advantages, it has also led to the biggest single trade deficit India has with any country.

“Our trade deficit concerns are two-pronged. One is the actual size of the deficit. Second is the fact that the imbalance has continuously been widening year after year to reach $58.04 billion in 2018,” the note said.

The note also said growth in bilateral investment has not kept pace with the expansion in trading volumes between the two countries. “While both countries have emerged as top investment destinations for the rest of the world, mutual investment flows are yet to catch up. According to the Ministry of Commerce of China, Chinese investments in India between January-September 2019 were to the tune of $0.19 billion, and cumulative Chinese investment in India till the end of September 2019 amounted to $5.08 billion. Cumulative Indian investment in China until September 2019 is $0.92 billion,” it said. The note added that these figures do not capture investment routed through third countries like Singapore, Hong Kong, etc. especially in sectors such as start-ups etc which has seen significant growth in Chinese investment.
HAPPY HOMECOMING

China was my love at first sight, and remains my beloved second home.
My China story has almost been one of happy home-coming. It is because I have found my second home here.

I was born, brought up and educated at Ajmer in Rajasthan. Before coming to China, I had my business in Muscat-Sultanate of Oman. Earlier, I had also worked in Dubai. I came to China for the first time in 2007 – as a buyer. The city I visited was Guangzhou. I liked it so much that I did not want to leave this place and decided that this is where I would live and work.

Fortune enabled me to fulfill my desire of living in China. I was able to take over the Chinese company from which I had come to make purchases. It was owned by an Indian. Since then, China has been my home. China enabled me to find work in the field that has been my core strength – Trading. We are engaged in export of various products from China to India, Bangladesh, Dubai (UAE), Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Doha and some European countries. Since 2000, I have been involved in various activities like trading, branding, business mergers, sourcing, international trade, Business Networking, infrastructure and various large-scale projects in Oman, Dubai, Hong Kong and China. Apart from Sindhi, Hindi and English, I can speak Chinese and also the Arabic languages well.

China is the country where I earn my bread and butter, and devote some of my time to social causes wherever I am engaged in work.

We have our head office in Hong Kong, and our sourcing offices in Guangzhou and Yiwu, near Shanghai. I am mainly based at Guangzhou.

I am constantly amazed that China’s strength in manufacturing products that are supplied to markets all over the world. In the 13 years that I have lived here, China enabled me to grow from strength to strength. We scout for the right factories, manufacturers and associates in China who can supply to us a vast range of products like furniture, building materials, lighting, gifts, toys, home appliances, clothes, ladies handbags, artificial jewellery, watches, daily use products etc. We export these products to our various clients to different parts of the world.

What is it about China that enamoured me? China is a very beautiful country in terms of landscape. In addition to the delightful environs, I love the neatness and order that I see all around. I also greatly appreciate the Chinese people for their three major qualities. The Chinese are very hard-working, honest and sincere.

From Day One, my company has had Chinese staff. There are staff members who have been working for me since the time I took over the company and started my business here. I have had customers who I have been serving for more than ten years. I also have suppliers from whom I have been buying material for more than ten years. I supply materials of diverse kinds to various big organizations in India, and also all the countries in the Gulf Countries for more than ten years.

My stay in China is not limited to work only. I am happy to state that my second home has given me immense
opportunities for public service. My engagements are multi-faceted, and this work keeps me joyfully occupied.

**Community work**

The number of Indians in China is growing each year. The Indian community in China comprises businessmen, students, yoga teachers, dance teachers, expats working for Chinese and other firms. My company and I are actively involved in diverse projects involving the local community and the larger Indian diaspora.

I believe that the Indian diaspora has the natural duty to create and exchange good and common things with the local Chinese people. We often organize Indian festivals. Our Chinese friends also join us with great enthusiasm. Over the years, one of my key learning has been that such cultural activities are among the best ways to promote mutual understanding.

The number of Indians are steadily increasing in China. It is the law of nature that all of us face happy and difficult situations from time to time. Whenever I come across Indians who are facing any problem, I reach out to them and help them as much as possible.

There are things about China that have inspired me and continue to inspire me. This is perhaps the major driving force behind my living and working in China. I get inspiration in China almost every day. Perhaps my life in China was destined. From economy to culture, each aspect touches my heart. From the local food to the local heritage and civilizational aspects and the friendly local Chinese, so natural in their interactions – everything makes me feel great about this society.

It is thus natural that in about 13 years that I have been here, there is uncountable touching and unforgettable experiences which have been part of my life in China. I admit that my rich experiences in China have benefitted my professional career, and have also added immense value to my personal life.

**The honest Chinese**

When I think of the honesty of the Chinese, I am reminded of the time when I was travelling from Guangzhou to Shantaou for business in 2018. Shantaou can be referred to as Toys City, because the city has huge toys factories, supplying toys all over the world. I had to change train at Shenzhen city. About an hour after I changed my train, I realized that I had forgotten my back pack in the train on the rack above my seat. I know China, so I stayed calm about it. I went to the Enquiry Counter, showed the official my train ticket, and informed them about my bag. Within a few minutes, the staff present there confirmed that my bag is still on the train. They asked me – from where would you like to collect the bag?

It reaffirmed my faith in the honesty and simplicity of the Chinese. The next day, I sent an employee to collect the bag. Thanks to the Chinese, all my credit cards, cash and all important documents were intact. The Chinese also sent me a photograph of my bag before handing it over to my staff.

This is not just my experience. I have heard similar stories many times from our Indian friends who come here for...
business, or students who come here to study. Sometimes they forget bags or passports in the taxi or any other transport. We have observed that most of the times, they get their things back intact.

**Charity work**

I always believe in contributing to the society. As a human being, our greatest responsibility is to help those who are not as fortunate as us, and are needy. So I often engage myself in charity activities, visiting orphanages and spending time with needy people. I do whatever is possible for me. In order to give back to the society, I organize events under the banner of my company.

In this cause, I have received positive support from the local Chinese, and also from the foreigners living and working in China. I am involved with various groups who help people in need. We donate things of daily need to the homeless. We visit orphanages and elderly homes in Guangzhou and nearby cities from time to time.

I am associated actively with many dynamic associations and organisations as such Guangdong Progressive Group, Guangdong Indian Community, Guangzhou Idea Exchange, European-American Chamber of Commerce, Guangdong Chamber of Commerce and various Networking Groups.

What inspires me to do charity work in China? There is a wise saying: Charity begins from home. China is my most revered home after my home back in India. I am a simple, ordinary human being. If I can be of help to others, make their life better in any way even to a small extent, I feel that my life and living worth shall be worthwhile. I always try to do more and more for the needy section of the society. I am involved in charity work in India too. I must make special mention of one of my most dear Indian friends in China, Amit Waikar. He is always ready to help and encourage others who are facing any problem. Such is his zeal to help his fellowmen that he was awarded with the Pravasi Bharatiya Award by the Indian diaspora has the duty to create and exchange good and common things with the local Chinese people. We often organize Indian festivals. The highlight of these events is that even our Chinese friends join us with great enthusiasm. Over the years, one of my key learning has been that such cultural activities are among the best ways to promote mutual understanding.
Indian government in 2019 – the most coveted Indian award for our diaspora worldwide.

Our welfare and charity activities are not possible without local participation. This is why in all our activities, our Chinese friends join actively not only as invitees but as hosts too. They extend their whole-hearted support to us whenever required. Their happy and welcoming response makes our community activities all the more joyful and satisfying. Such a positive response also inspires me to continue such work in future. I pay my humble gratitude to our Chinese friends for their involvement, and look forward to their sustained support and cooperation.

Our sports activities
I am not a cricket player or a sportsman, but I am an enthusiastic fan of cricket. I enjoy watching cricket matches in stadiums. My company, China Trade Forum & Event Management Co Ltd, sponsors various matches and tournaments. Thanks to Mr Jaffer Sadiq, we are among the leading sponsors of the Dongguan Cricket Club. I am also involved with the Shenzhen Cricket Circuit, whose work is mainly done by Mr Lalit Sharma. Likewise, I am associated with Guangzhou Cricket, run by Mr Sunil Ganwani.

Recently, the Guangzhou cricket team won the final match of the GDL Tournament. Cricket is an indigenous sport of India, but it is by far India’s most popular sport. The Chinese are very good at cricket too, though they do not play it officially. They are enthusiastic participants in our cricket activities, and we hope we can create more interest and awareness among them regarding this sport.

Yoga is highly popular in China. It is the gift of India’s cultural heritage to the world, popular in all continents. If we talk of yoga lovers, China may rank second in the world, next only to India. Recently, a Chinese film director made a movie named Yoga Kung fu. Yoga and Kung fu are among the oldest fitness cultures of the world that have survived for thousands of years. We promote Yoga in Guangzhou. It is our sincere endeavour to bring more and more Chinese friends and local netizens closer to Indian culture.

I love playing the role of Cultural Ambassador of India, engaging myself in planning, organizing and hosting activities related to Indian culture, music and festivals in China. To add to the physical, mental and spiritual health of the Chinese people, I promote Yoga. As part of China Trade Forum, we played role of organizing and sponsoring the International Yoga Festival since 2017 in Dongguan.

It gives me great happiness that the new program announced by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi “Make in India” which inspired me to work as bridge between Chinese and Indian Businesses. Apart from bridging private businesses, we are working very closely with many states in India for advancing cooperation with China.

After staying in China for many years, I realized that we should enable Chinese and Indian businesses to work together and secure new commercial
opportunities. In order to promote mutual linkages between our two great nations, we formed the China Trade Forum & Event Management Company Ltd. Through this flagship organization, we focused our attention on events, trade, investments and cultural exchanges between India and China. I am proud to say that our organization has done impressive work in strengthening trade and commerce linkages between India and China.

This organization is my brainchild, and I head it with the assistance of Mr. Mohan J Mulchandani in China, and our partners Mr. Sanjay Rai, Mr Kiran Bawa and Mr. Ankit Patel in India. Our work has been highly appreciated by many states in India. Now, many state governments reach out to us at the time of organizing their investor summits.

One of the major initiatives of our organization was to take a delegation of Chinese delegates and investors to Vibrant Gujarat in 2017 and 2019. We also took Chinese investors to Vibrant Goa and Jharkhand Momentum to explore investment opportunities in these states.

Later, we organized visits and meetings of Chinese investors with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Tripura and Nagaland. Similarly, we organized and hosted the visit of Shri Ram Madhav along with ministers from the north-eastern states of India during their visit to Guangzhou.

We assist Chinese businessmen to achieve success in India through collaborations and partnerships with the right Indian companies. We also help Chinese companies to grow and develop their businesses in India. Our mission is to help Chinese companies of all sizes and sectors – whether they are new entrants or established operations – to access the full potential of India, the fastest emerging market in the world today.

For ensuring the success of our Chinese clients in India, we deliver a range of services to them including advice and consultancy, market research, event management, trade missions and exhibitions. In this way, we bridge the gap between the Chinese and Indian companies, by enabling right connections from both sides. We organize group tours for Chinese Investors to India on a regular basis.

We are currently in negotiation with the Various State Governments for bringing investments in waste management projects to support “Clean India Movement” and e-Vehicle Manufacturers. We shall also enable meetings of Chinese investors with the state governments in India for these projects.

Even as our work is being appreciated in various quarters, I continue to be a dreamer. My dreams and aspirations are never ending. Apart from success in my business, social and professional life, I have a big dream. My dream is to see a Chindia (India-China) Century. Currently the 70th Year of Relationship between China and India is being Celebrated by both sides enabling us to ease bring People to People contacts. China and India are the two largest populated countries of the world, and also the two major emerging economies of the world. We are close neighbours, with linked

From left: Ms Estelle, Mr. Jeswani, Mr. Pramod Ghimire & Ms Echo at Indian Mela in December 2019

We assist Chinese businessmen to achieve success in India through collaborations and partnerships with the right Indian companies. We also help Chinese companies to grow and develop their businesses in India. Our mission is to help Chinese companies of all sizes and sectors – whether they are new entrants or established operations – to access the full potential of India, the fastest growing market in the world today.
I have a big, big dream. My dream is to see a Chindia (India-China) century. China and India are the two largest populated countries of the world, and also the two major emerging economies of the world. We are close neighbours, with linked mountains and rivers, but don’t know each other much. Our understanding and awareness regarding each other is poor.

mountains and rivers, but don’t know each other much. Our understanding and awareness regarding each other is poor. The Chinese know a lot more about other countries thousands of miles away. It is the same for Indian youth. Thus individuals like me must play active roles of cultural ambassadors and messengers.

There are many misconceptions about China in India, and also globally. I have observed the people of other nationalities too have many misunderstandings about the dragon nation. In India, my home country, people think that Chinese eat only meat, they don’t eat vegetarian food. This is absolutely wrong. Chinese are the largest consumer of vegetables on the planet. I have travelled to many countries worldwide. The varieties of vegetables that we find in China, we do not find anywhere. The Chinese cuisine is rich and diverse. It caters to the tastes of all kind of foodies.

There are tremendous opportunities for Indian youth, Indian professionals and businessmen in China. China is advancing and growing in each aspect. Given the size of China’s economy, the picture looks very promising to Indian professionals and businessmen. I must state that it is highly challenging for Indians to successfully establish business in China or build a lucrative professional career here. Talent and hard work flourish everywhere. So it is in China.

Likewise, there are immense opportunities for Chinese youth and Chinese professionals and businessmen in India. All the Chinese who are considering overseas destinations for work, career, investment or education must make India their first choice. In the last few years, many big and midsize Chinese companies have registered successful operations in India. Many young Chinese professionals are employed by them. Incredible India is ready to welcome more and more Chinese professionals, businessmen, investors.
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Chandrika Chunilal, a leading businesswoman of Shanghai of Indian origin, was awarded the globally-coveted International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge in November 2019.
Sometimes it is not the society or the family which empowers, but the self-belief that powers the individual. This self-belief is the positive and affirmative 'I' that all ancient civilisations, whether Indian or Chinese, are familiar with. Such self-belief drives aspiration, ambition and achievement – big, powerful and positive forces that shape human destiny.

In November 2019, Chandrika Chunilal, a leading businesswoman of China of Indian origin was awarded the International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge. This is a coveted award for globally distinguished businesswomen.

Illustrous women from India, Bangladesh, Philippines, China and some African nations were awarded at the International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge 2019. About 250 attendees including delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, Australia and USA attended the 12th Anniversary Conference of FICCI-FLO organized in New Delhi. The theme for the 2019 conference was “Connecting Women Businesses Globally: leading the Way to Innovation and Integration”.

Chandrika Chunilal is the CEO and owner of Capital World Trading Limited, based at Shanghai. She started the business of Textiles and garments Trading in 1997 with her husband Navin Chunilal on a small budget. Due to the good reputation and earlier track record in business, they were able to secure borrowing from a client. They successfully repaid the loan, leading the company into profitability. After graduation in 2005, their son Ravi Chunilal joined the business too, and they decided to establish a factory to manufacture garments. Today, the annual turnover of the company stands at more than 30 million USD and it employs close to 1100 persons.

In her citation for the award, Chandrika wrote: “I believe I have built a formidable business along with my family in a volatile and unpredictable landscape in a set of countries that are foreign to us by nationality, language and culture. I was married at rather young age of 17. I was keen to support my husband in his business during the stressful time that we faced. Soon I realized that as a young, newly married woman, I had to first prove myself in business to my family and also to the business world. My business journey started with managing small jobs at our family-owned firm, and I worked my way up as any other professional would do. This journey taught me many good lessons which I use even today as co-owner of our business.”

Chandrika’s company is currently doing business with Brazil, Italy, Spain, Germany, Poland, Russia, UAE, Mexico and USA. Chandrika’s vision is to expand the business further in the USA, and also to expand to countries like UK, France, Canada, Australia, and Japan. Her strategy as a businesswoman is clear: “We must build a sustainable portfolio of global customers to offset risk in particular market.”

In the next few years, Chandrika wants her company to invest more on professional management in order to make their operations more precise in a process-driven environment. As the CEO, she also anticipates enough growth to be able to invest in a second manufacturing facility. The company’s philosophy, says
Chandrika, is that “the right treatment of employees not only enriches their livelihoods, but also extracts quality of work that is required to stand out in today’s competitive market.” Chandrika’s motto in life and work: One’s attitude determines one’s altitude.

Chandrika was formerly president of the Indian Association at Shanghai. She heads many charities in China and in India, and constantly helps and supports orphanages. She is fluent in English, Hindi, Gujarati, Cantonese and Mandarin.

Chandrika believes that the upbringing given to her by her honest, hardworking parents gave her a strong foundation, and also the right perspective for life. Chandrika was the oldest of three children in a simple, modest Gujarati household in the suburbs of Mumbai. Her father ran a small embroidery business, which perhaps was the inspiration to have a flourishing career in fashion in the future. She married to a Hong Kong businessman at a young age, having not even completed college. That is when she embarked on the colourful journey in which she built a family, raised a son, and became a leading force in the family business that was dealing in textiles and garments. Chandrika lived in Hong Kong for five years, and in Taiwan for 20 years. She and her husband have been residing in Shanghai for the last 17 years.

The International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge was established in Barcelona in 2007, with the goal of connecting small and mid-size women business owners globally – those who are already in the global marketplace and want to expand or are ripe to get into the market and learn from other women leaders. An important aspect of IWEC awardees is their commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility programs in mentoring, board participation, community outreach, sustainability, etc.

The Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Chambers of Commerce in India/FLO (FICCI-FLO) and Manhattan Chamber of Commerce originated this initiative along with The US State Department. Currently, it has representation from chambers in countries such as Spain, US, India, Sweden, Peru, Bolivia, Central Asian countries, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, South Africa and other African countries.

Each chamber may choose up to three awardees to participate annually. The 2019 Annual IWEC Conference was hosted by FICCI-FLO from November 10–13 in New Delhi, India.

**Criteria for Award**
- Must be a woman-owned, for-profit business and must be actively involved in importing or exporting goods or services or be a successful company ready to begin global business
- Applicant must be majority stakeholder of the company (or if handed down through a family, a woman must be the president, CEO or managing director for at least three years) actively involved in the day-to-day running of the business
- Business must be a for-profit entity in services or manufacturing (excluding performing arts)
- Business must be in existence at least three years
- Business must have a minimum annual revenue equivalent to US $1.5 million
CORONAVIRUS IMPACT ON TRADE

Supply routes hit: Trade with China under pressure

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China has disrupted supply chains, which has hit key industries. Crisil expects the impact to subside in China by April 2020. In the worst case, the outbreak might extend through the first quarter of fiscal 2021. The epidemic may have a knock-on effect on the world economy, as per Crisil.

The novel coronavirus epidemic is bad news for Indian importers. Supply disruption in key segments is the biggest threat. Exports to China are taking a hit, too.

Some factories in Hubei province have reopened post Chinese New Year but these units are yet to scale up to their full potential due to labour shortage. Shipping and air transport operations to many Chinese cities remain suspended from and to India, or are operating with low frequency. That’s delaying shipments between the countries.

Besides, some impact on exporters of products such as cotton yarn, sea food, petrochemicals, gems and jewellery is inevitable, given that China is among the biggest markets for these products.

Crisil assesses that some sectors in India have stocks that may last 1-2 months such as auto components and pharmaceutical bulk drugs. Hence, we expect the interim impact of supply disruption to be neutral for these sectors dependent on supplies from China. But, a delay beyond 2-3 months due to continued low production or an extended lockdown would impact Indian corporates much more severely.

Export-import trade between India and China (including Hong Kong) was $115 billion in calendar year 2019.

Consumer durables, electronics, solar panels would be most hit, as these heavily depend on imports from China, with no immediate alternatives available.

Note: 1. Data for calendar 2019; 2. *data is for calendar 2018; 3. Hong Kong considered part of China in the above chart
Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Crisil Research

Note: 1. Hong Kong considered part of China in the above chart; 2. Chart reflects share of India's merchandise exports/imports for calendar 2019
Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Crisil Research
On November 9, the Indian Community of Guangzhou organized its most lavish Diwali Ball ever at Four Seasons Hotel, Guangzhou.

The Diwali Ball is one of the most important community events on the calendar of the Indians living in Guangzhou. The 2019 edition was a mega entertainment show. It surpassed all previous benchmarks, and featured scintillating dance performances by more than 20 artists invited from Mumbai, India. The live musical was performed by famous Indian singer Mr Rahul Pandey, Ms Abhiruchi and their band.

The Diwali Ball was a huge hit among the Indian community of Guangzhou, and also the Chinese guests invited for the show. As Mr Hitesh Amarnani, a member of the Diwali Ball Organizing Committee put it, “It took lots and lots of effort and hard work and planning to organize the grand Diwali Ball. It was the honest effort of a few good men,” he smiled.

The organizing committee comprised (in alphabetical order) Mr Anand Damani, Mr Anil Hotwani, Mr Brij Bihari Phathak, Mr Girish Nagdev, Mr Hitesh Amarnani, Mr Mohan Mulchandani, Mr Nari Buxani and Mr Vashi Lalchandani. The event was supported by GPG.

Mr Amarnani stated that for the last ten years, members of the Indian Community in Guangzhou have been coming together to collectively organize events and other public-related functions and pool in their best despite individual commitments. These are purely community activities and not profit-making ventures. Mr Amarnani said that their purpose is to serve the Indian community, strengthen bonds with the local Chinese and acquaint them with India’s rich history and culture.
Mr Girish Nagdev, Mr Hitesh Amarnani, Mr Brij Bihar Phathak and Mr Anand Damani with other guests at the Diwali Ball

Prominent ladies of the Indian community in Guangzhou

Mrs Rinku Bagri, Mr Anand Damani, Mr Sujit Ghosh, (Consular General of India in Guangzhou), Mrs Ghosh, Mrs Anu Damani, Mr Indra Bagri

Mr & Mrs Nari Buxani, Mr & Mrs Arjan Samtani & Mr & Mrs Kenny Nainani
FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Popular singer Mr Rahul Pandey performing at the Diwali Ball

Prominent members of the Indian community at Guangzhou at the ball

Lead singer at the show, Ms Abhiruchi Singh

Mr Hitesh Armanani and Mrs Neha Armanani

A dance performance at the event
From Left: Rinku Bagri, Hitesh Amarnani, Inder Bagri, Anand Damani & Balraj P.

Rahul Pandey, Hitesh A Leena S, Hina G, Kam G Selfie Moment with Star performer of the Nite., Rahul Pandey

Some ladies and gentleman of the Indian community of Guangzhou at the ball
Unusual delivery methods for unusual times

The video of a food delivery owner in China in times of coronavirus has gone viral. The video, posted by South China Morning Post, has been watched about 5,00,000 times. It is the account of a restaurant owner who has taken “food delivery to the next level to minimize physical contact amid the coronavirus outbreak.” The restaurant owner has been throwing uncooked spicy hot pot ingredients to customers. At one place, he is seen shouting to a customer: “Wait there. Don’t come close to me. I told you not to come close. Why aren’t you wearing a mask?” The restaurant owner then throws the food at him and shouts, “Just go!” Coronavirus scare has shook the world. “We need unusual delivery methods in unusual times,” says the restaurant owner. He says he doesn’t make much of a profit, especially after considering petrol costs. He plans to stop this delivery service when it is no longer in demand. The SCMP report notes that his special delivery has amused many online. The man’s punchline: These days, if you don’t get a little creative, even making a living becomes problematic.
China’s duck troops

In early February, swarms of locusts, measuring about three kilometer in width and about one kilometer in length, entered India through the northern state of Punjab. The insects had already ravaged fields in the neighbouring state of Rajasthan in India. In Pakistan, locusts destroyed crops on a large scale in its Punjab province. The situation became so bad that Pakistan had to declare a national emergency to battle the swarms. Desert locusts are large herbivores which resemble grasshoppers. They are said to have arrived in Pakistan from Iran, and damaged maze, cotton, wheat and other crops. In the second half of February, the Chinese state broadcaster CGTN shared a 15-second video with subtitles in Mandarin and English. The video begins with images of the swarming locusts and the caption: 400 billion locusts are approaching China from the India-Pakistan border. Next: 100,000 “duck troops” are gathering to prepare for the potential emergency. The video shows thousands of ducks moving along the road in a determined manner, as military marching music plays in the background.

End of video, which has been watched close to 160,000 times.
Coronavirus impact: Factories send long-distance buses to fetch workers from home

The biggest difficulty faced by China’s manufacturing houses to fully restore production capacity is the lack of workers. In a report carried by South China Morning Post, the management of some factories said they were hoping to restore full production capacity by the end of February. A lot of thought went into how to get the workers back to work. Some factories sent buses to villages and towns where their workers live, to bring them for work. The management of most factories decided that chartered buses would be safer than public transport, helping to ease the worries of both the workers and their families, and even their village officials.

Small factories and workshops in China’s main manufacturing hubs around the Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta are unable to afford chartered buses, rail travel or even flights to boost their staffing levels back to normal. The period following the Lunar New Year is a traditional time for migrant workers to go in search of new manufacturing jobs, often forming queues outside factory gates. The coronavirus outbreak has made this tradition impractical, said the SCMP report.
The new forceful brand of Chinese diplomacy

In February, The Economist carried an article on the Chinese Ambassador in Beijing with the strap: Shotgun Diplomacy. The article was accompanied by an imposing photograph of Gui Congyou, China’s ambassador to Sweden. It read:

Traditionally, Chinese ambassadors are restrained, colourless figures who emerge from the wallpaper only to object ritually that any criticism of their government is an insult to Chinese people. Gui Congyou, China’s ambassador to Sweden, has taken a different tack. He and his embassy denounce journalists and public figures for perceived slights on an almost weekly basis, a pace so unusual it has been studied by Swedish political scientists. He has been summoned to Sweden’s foreign ministry more than 40 times in two years.

But Mr Gui has only grown more outspoken. Interviewed on Swedish public radio in November, he said: “We treat our friends with fine wine, but for our enemies we have shotguns.” Mr Gui offers a glimpse of a newly forceful brand of Chinese diplomacy, said The Economist.
On December 30, 2019, India-China Economic and Cultural Council (ICEC) hosted delegates from Yunnan Overseas Friendship Association. Mr. Wang Xining, Vice President of Yunnan Overseas Friendship Association, led the delegation that comprised of other senior officials from the association. They came with the intent to gain knowledge about the potential cooperation areas between India and Yunnan and establish linkages with Indian counterparts.

ICEC welcomed the Chinese delegates to India and gave a brief introduction of the Council. ICEC also apprised them about the current economic situation of the country, government policies towards FDI and potential areas of cooperation with China. ICEC briefed them on providing assistance to Chinese companies in India in the field pertaining to approvals, licenses, registrations and other regulatory laws. Both the sides discussed ways to promote culture, trade and investments in India and China. Facilities by ICEC in regards with setting up business in India, assisting Chinese companies, creating partnership link were put forward.

ICEC suggested to the delegation to increase investment in the tourism industry, so that more and more people from India visit China and vice-versa. For this, a joint cooperation between the Buddhist tourism landmarks in China and India to increase pilgrim exchange was proposed. The delegates were hopeful that after the Wuhan and Chennai summit, trade relations between India and China will gradually increase.
India China Economic and Cultural Council hosted a high level delegation from The Academy of Macroeconomic Research (AMR). AMR is affiliated with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), counterpart of India’s NITI Aayog. The delegates included Mr. Chen Donqi, Research Fellow; Mr. Wang Yuan, Division Director & Research Fellow, Institute of Economic Research; Mr. Yao Shumei, Division Director & Research Fellow, Institute of International Economic Research and Mr. Li Shigang, Deputy Division Director & Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Economic Research.

The main objective of this delegation’s visit was to learn the development and policy initiatives of the Indian economy, exchange information on China’s reforms and opening-up achievements, and future development with Indian institutes.

During the meeting with ICEC’s Secretary General Mr. Saqib, both sides exchanged information on FDI policies, government rules and regulations, import-export figures, bilateral trade, reforms and development in India and China.

During their meeting with Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the Chinese invited the Indians to Beijing to celebrate 70 years of India-China relations in 2020. The Chinese economy, rate of growth, policies, future perspectives, investments, real estate sectors and infrastructure were the key areas discussed in the meeting. It was discussed that India can learn many things from China in terms of multilateral cooperation, global trend, restructuring, linkages and connectivity. Some of the core areas of trade comprised of impact of GDP, international balance index, consumption, fiscal deficit, tax revenues, monthly gross income, capital flow, currency exchange and the banking system which has a great influence on Indian economic system.

The deliberations and discussions were in-depth and focused. Many areas of cooperation and joint research emerged, which need to be taken forward by both sides. Cooperation among think tanks, mechanism of improving import-export and promoting culture exchanges were some of the areas proposed in the meetings.
Trade Development Bureau, Ministry of Commerce of People’s Republic of China in association with China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Machinery & Electronic Goods (CCCME) and with the support of India-China Economic and Cultural Council organized the **China Agriculture Machinery (India) Brand Show 2019** on December 11, 2019 during the KISAN Agri Expo in Pune, India.

The focus of the show was to showcase technological prowess of China in the agricultural industry and also share and discuss the cooperation mechanism between India and China. The show provided a platform for both Indian and Chinese companies to meet and discuss collaboration possibilities towards creating win-win situations for both sides.

The Business Show was attended by Mr. Mingming Liu, Commercial Counselor of the Chinese Consulate General in Mumbai; Mr. Shekhar Gaikwad, Sugar & Agriculture Commissioner, Govt. of Maharashtra; Mrs. Jing Zhang, CCCME Deputy Secretary General; Mr. Niranjan Deshoande, CEO of Kisan Forum Pvt. Ltd. and Mr Irfan Alam, Member Secretary, ICEC.

In her welcome address, Deputy Secretary-General of CCCME Ms. Jing Zhang said, “This meeting will open a new chapter in the business association between China and India. India and China are both developing and fastest growing markets and have deep cooperation with each other. There is a lot of scope for further in-depth cooperation between China and India. If both the countries speak together, the whole world will listen. I wish India and China have more cultural and economic association amongst each other,” she said.

Commercial Counselor Mr. Mingming Liu said, “I believe that the economic cooperation between India and China can bring greater business prosperity across the world.” He said that last year, trade volume between two countries crossed 90 billion USD and the way trade is growing, it will soon touch 100 billion mark. He also
said that both sides should explore newer areas of cooperation like artificial intelligence, smart mobility etc.

Mr. Shekhar Gaikwad, Commissioner of Sugar and Agriculture, Govt. of Maharashtra welcomed the Chinese delegates. He expressed his gratitude to the Trade Development Bureau for bringing the Chinese exhibitors. He said that currently, India imports Chinese agri machinery worth approx. 1.21 billion USD. However, these numbers will rise considering the high growth of farm mechanization in India. He added that high growth in population, demand for increased productivity to ensure food security and a thriving export market are some of the drivers of the agricultural machinery market in India, and China should take full advantage of this. He also assured the full support of his government for Chinese investment in the agriculture sector.

Member Secretary of ICEC Mr. Irfan Alam spoke on growing business collaborations between China and India. He said, “Today there is a huge opportunity for Chinese technology coming into Indian agriculture, thus opening doors for the betterment of economy of both the countries. Having a long-term view is the need of the hour to develop a deeper cooperation between the two countries.” Mr Alam said that Indian companies prefer Chinese technologies because they are reasonably priced and suit the Indian working environment. He pointed out that ICEC is one of the oldest associations outside of government, being more than a decade and a half old. “We have strong relationships with different industry associations and trade bodies to facilitate the business exchange between the two countries. We see a huge scope for cooperation. I believe the ICEC can play a very important role in developing India-China agricultural trade relations,” he said.

The show was followed by B2B meetings between Chinese exhibitors and Indian companies, which lasted for more than three hours. More than 100 Indian companies got the opportunity to network and build business ties with Chinese companies.
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