

NEWS FROM CHINA

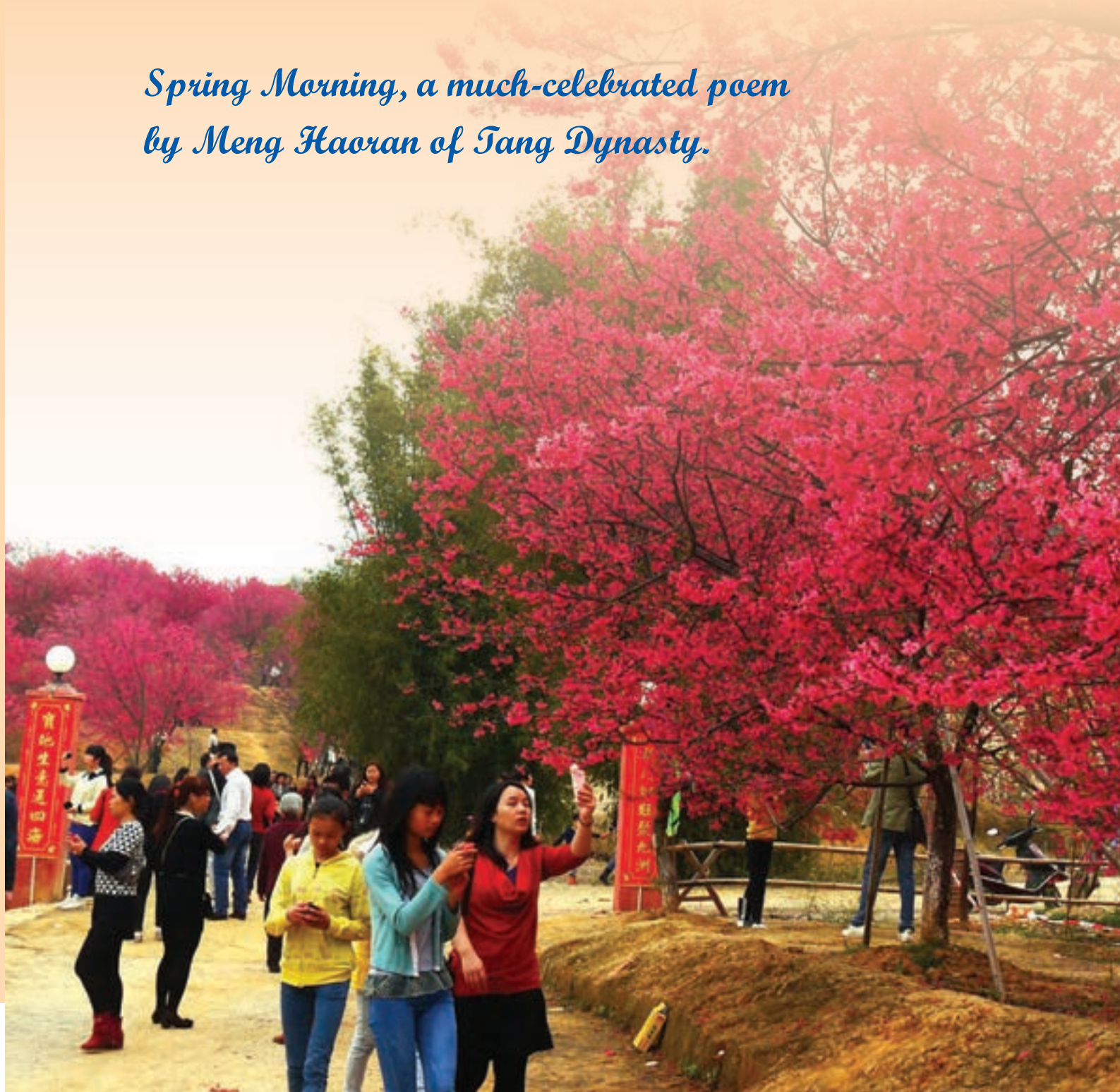
CHINA-INDIA REVIEW



THE CHINA DREAM
MAPPING THE FUTURE

*This spring morning in bed I'm lying,
Not to awake till the birds are crying.
After one night of wind and showers,
How many are the fallen flowers?*

*Spring Morning, a much-celebrated poem
by Meng Haoran of Tang Dynasty.*





H.E. Luo Zhaohui

China's Ambassador to India

China-India ties set to sparkle brighter, in Holi colours

It's a hopeful moment in China-India relations, symbolised aptly in a happy confluence of Holi celebrations in India and the arrival of spring in China. Last month, millions of Chinese in China and around the world celebrated the Spring Festival with joy and gusto. Holi, in many ways, is quite similar to the Chinese Spring Festival. Maybe we could consider it as the "Indian Spring Festival". Within two months, we celebrate two spring festivals. In China, spring represents hope, happiness and life. Holi also symbolises life, joy and colours. In this joyous Holi spirit, we in China and India will paint the canvas of our multi-hued relationship in brighter colours.

Spring is a good season to recharge your spirit, and look ahead. China has just concluded the NPC and CPPCC sessions. This edition of 'News from China' holds a mirror to changes unfolding in a transforming China and steps taken by the top Chinese leadership to address economic and foreign policy challenges. Informative and well-presented reports on the Two Sessions, as the annual gathering of the Chinese parliament and top policy body is called, provides pointers to the future of China.

Chinese people are pursuing the "Chinese Dream" and resolutely moving towards the goal of building a moderately prosperous society (Xiaokang). Indian people are building a "New India". It's my conviction that the "Chinese

Dream" and "New India Dream" are intimately intertwined, and to realise these dreams the two countries need to work closely and partner on an entire gamut of developmental challenges and aspirations. When the people of China and India enjoy a better life, the whole world would become a better place.

Going forward, I am confident that China-India relations will retain positive momentum and go from strength to strength. It's going to be almost a year since President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held their first informal summit in Wuhan, setting out a new blueprint for China-India relations. The Wuhan understanding has helped us to manage differences while widening the arc of cooperation. China will always play a constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability. As our Foreign Minister Wang Yi said recently, we are confident that China and India will work together to expand their cooperation in all areas, specially people-to-people relations so that our friendship and cooperation will surge ahead like the Yangtze and the Ganges.

Let us join hands to make the world brighter, to make China-India relations better and to make our lives as colourful as Holi!

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

C O N

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Published and Printed by

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Embassy of People's Republic of China

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New Delhi- 110021

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Printed at A. K. Printers

S-217, Bank Street, Munirka,

New Delhi-110067

Consultant

TGII Media Private Limited

Website of Foreign Ministry of China

www.mfa.gov.cn

www.fmprc.gov.cn

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RNI No.: 47440/88

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

E-book & PDF version

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

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TWO SESSIONS

- Two Sessions, One Goal: Building a moderately prosperous society 8
- Xi focuses on upgrading China's military for a new era 10
- Focus on implementing rural revitalisation strategy 12
- Xi calls for a complete victory in battle against poverty 14
- Green China: Building ecological civilisation 16
- Nurturing soul of China 17
- Sustaining economic growth top priority: Premier Li 18
- Work Report @2019: Setting robust targets for national rejuvenation 21
- Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy will guide China's foreign relations: Wang Yi 24



SCRIPT A NEW CHAPTER IN CHINA-INDIA TANGO

China's Ambassador to India
Luo Zhaohui

TENTS

BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE



- Second BRF will be much bigger show 38
- BRI fills historic vacuum to boost Africa's development: Expert 42
- Experts extol BRI's role in spurring global growth 44



FEATURES



33

Celebrating Women Power

Colours of Friendship

35



PHOTO FEATURE



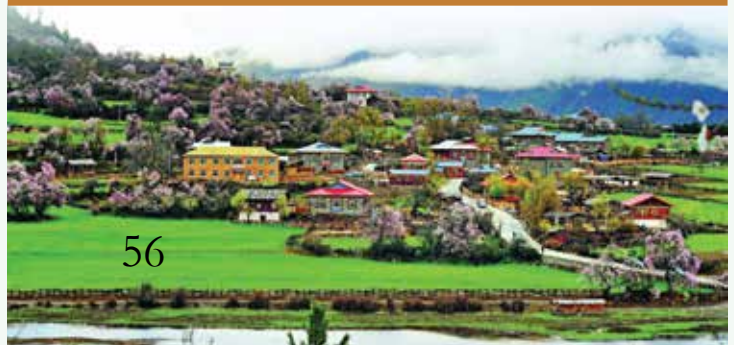
48

REFORMS



**China's Opening Up:
The Journey Continues**

SPOTLIGHT



56

Transforming Tibet: Past, Present and Future

BOOKS & IDEAS 46

Cross-Cultural Connections





TWO SESSIONS



As the curtains came down on “Two Sessions,” a key event in China’s political calendar, on March 15, the message came out loud and clear: The country has created decisive underpinning for navigating through complexities toward its goal to build a moderately prosperous society (Xiaokang) in all respects.





CPPCC



IONS 2019





TWO SESSIONS, ONE GOAL: BUILDING A MODERATELY PROSPEROUS SOCIETY

The second sessions of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) and the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) were convened in a crucial year for China as it has set 2020 as the target year to achieve Xiaokang, with extreme poverty eradicated.

At the closing meeting of the NPC session, nearly 3,000 legislators approved a resolution on the government work report, which set new targets for sustained economic and social development in 2019. They adopted China's first unified foreign investment law as well as an array of other resolutions to deepen reform and opening up.

A New Stage of Opening-up

As a major highlight of the two sessions, the new foreign investment law sends a positive signal of China's resolve to pursue high-level opening up by creating a level playing field where all investors, domestic and foreign, can participate and compete. It is "a fundamental law in lifting China toward a new stage of high-level opening up in the new era," said top legislator Li Zhanshu.

Reflecting new ideas, approaches, and measures in reform and opening up, the unified law, to take effect on Jan. 1, 2020, will replace the three existing laws on Chinese foreign equity joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises and Chinese-

foreign contractual joint ventures. It stipulates that the state shall manage foreign investment according to the system of pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list.

With unified provisions for the entry, promotion, protection, and management of foreign investment, it serves as a fundamental law for foreign investment in China, and will create a more stable, transparent and predictable investment environment.

Over the past decades, China has made substantial achievements in attracting foreign capital. By the end of 2018, about 960,000 foreign-invested enterprises had been set up in the country, with the accumulated foreign direct investment exceeding \$2.1 trillion.

Zhang Yuejiao, a professor at Tsinghua University and former chair of WTO Appellate Body, said this legislation is especially significant against the backdrop that some countries seem to be closing themselves to the world.

“Amid setbacks in economic globalisation and challenges to multilateralism, China is embracing the international trade liberalisation and investment facilitation more resolutely and openly,” she said.

“This is a tremendous contribution to the development of international economic cooperation, the international economic governance, and the international rule of law.”

Final Push for Xiaokang

Amid lingering downward pressure and external complexities imbued with graver risks and challenges, China put forward key development targets for 2019 during the sessions, which Premier Li Keqiang called “ambitious but realistic” when delivering the government work report. China set its GDP growth target at a range of 6-6.5%, consumer inflation target at around 3%, the surveyed urban unemployment rate at around 5%, and the registered urban jobless rate within 4.5%. It aims to create over 11 million new urban jobs, reduce its rural poor population by over 10 million, and cut its sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 3%.

These targets “represent the country’s aim of promoting high-quality development, are in keeping with the current realities of China’s development, and are aligned with the goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects,” according to the government work report.

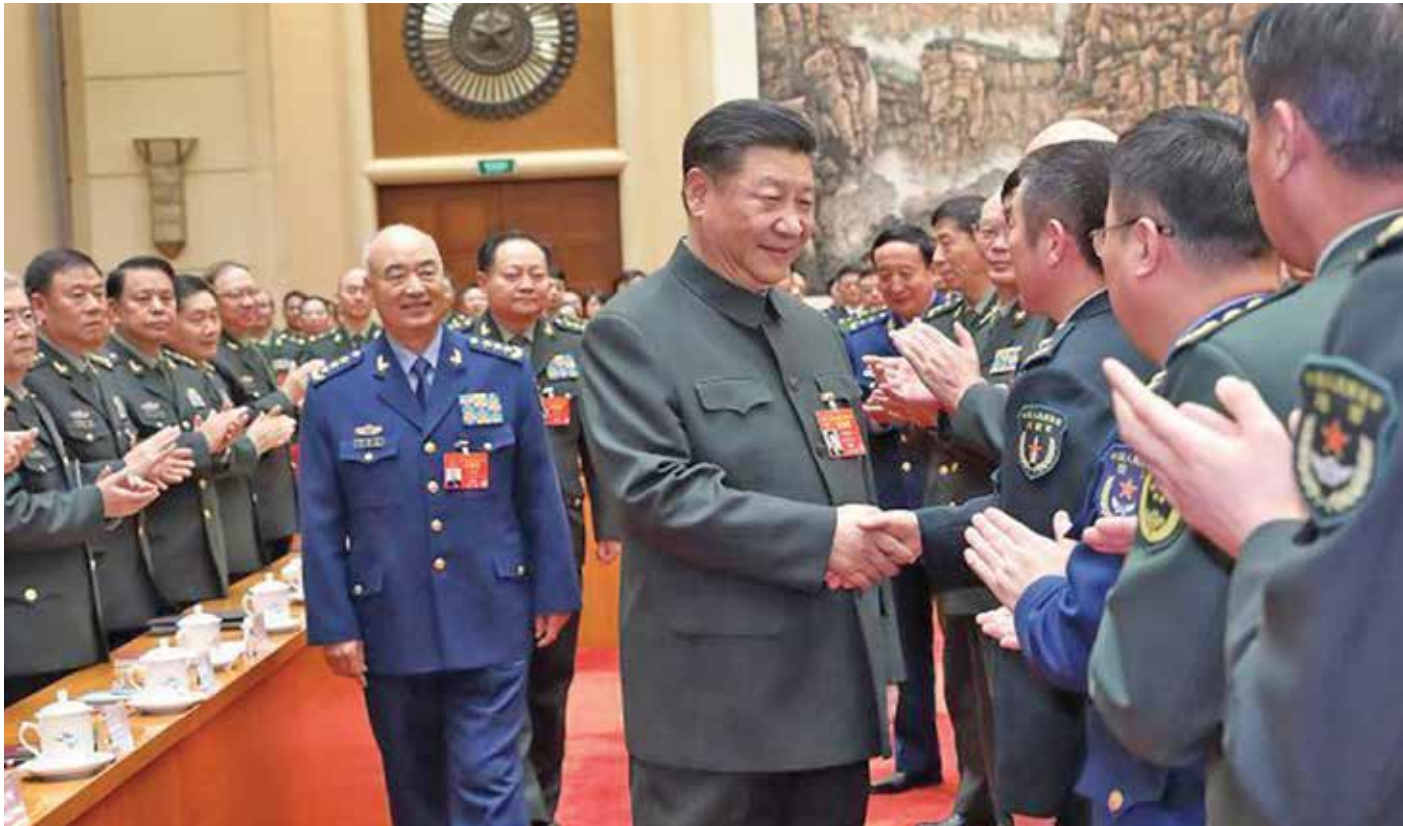
The new foreign investment law sends a positive signal of China’s resolve to pursue high-level opening up by creating a level playing field where all investors, domestic and foreign, can participate and compete.

There are less than two years left for China to meet its goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020, a key indicator of Xiaokang. “There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won,” said President Xi Jinping at a panel discussion during the two sessions, urging perseverance in the fight against poverty.

In a legislation plan unveiled during the sessions, the top legislature promised to support China’s high-quality development with high-quality legislation by moving forward with formulating and revising urgently needed laws for deepening market-based reforms and expanding high-standard opening up. The plan includes deliberation on the Civil Code, formulation of laws on the promotion of basic medical and health care, real estate tax, and export control, as well as revision of the Securities Law in 2019.

“Although China’s GDP growth rate has declined, the quality of growth has significantly improved,” said Lin Yifu, head of the Institute of New Structural Economics at Peking University.

“As long as China follows the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability, promotes high-quality economic development, and continues to pursue supply-side structural reform as its main task, its road to high-quality economic development will become wider and wider,” the economist said.



President Xi Jinping has stressed on fulfilling the set targets and tasks of national defense and military development as scheduled.

XI FOCUSES ON UPGRADING CHINA'S MILITARY FOR A NEW ERA

Unveiling his vision of bolstering China's military for the new era, President Xi Jinping has called for fulfilling the set targets and tasks of national defence and military development as scheduled.

President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made these remarks on March 12 at a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's

Liberation Army (PLA) and armed police force at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress, China's national legislature.

This year is the key year for completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

The entire armed forces must clearly understand the importance and urgency of implementing the 13th Five-Year Plan for military development, firm up their resolve, intensify the sense of mission, forge ahead with a pioneering

HIGHLIGHTS

⇒ Swift implementation of the 13th Five-Year Plan for military development to complete set targets as per schedule.

⇒ Armed forces asked to concentrate on war preparedness, and intensify reform and innovation.

⇒ Military asked to prioritise key projects, including urgent necessities for military preparedness, crucial support for combat systems, and coordinated projects for the reform of national defence and armed forces.

⇒ 14th Five-Year Plan for military development should serve the demands of national development, security and military strategies.

⇒ The military should deepen its reform, foster innovation and present new achievements for the 70th birthday of the People's Republic of China in October.

⇒ Funds should be used where they are truly needed, and the virtues of hard work and thrift should be promoted.

⇒ Make appropriate arrangements for veterans' employment, take good care of military retirees and the family members of military personnel.

⇒ Support for the military's efforts to withdraw from all its commercial activities.

spirit, and go all out to carry out the plan so as to ensure that the set targets and tasks are fulfilled as scheduled, he said.

President Xi called on the whole army to adhere to the guidance of the thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, fully implement the Party's thinking on strengthening the military for the new era and the military strategy for new conditions, concentrate on war preparedness, and intensify reform and innovation. On implementation of the plan, he stressed that it is imperative to strengthen overall planning and coordination, as well as make breakthroughs in key areas.

The Chinese leader pointed out that it is necessary to factor in the overall situation

President Xi called on the whole army to adhere to the guidance of the thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, fully implement the Party's thinking on strengthening the military for the new era and the military strategy for new conditions, concentrate on war preparedness, and intensify reform and innovation.

and coordinate the task plans, resources, and management procedures to ensure orderly advancement of various projects.

Focusing on the overall layout of the plan, the military should give prominence to key projects including urgent necessities for military preparedness, crucial support for combat systems, and coordinated projects for the reform of national defence and armed forces, he noted. He underlined the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for military development should serve the demands of the national development, security and military strategies, and should take into account both the actual condition and long-term development needs.



FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTING RURAL REVITALISATION STRATEGY



Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for more efforts to implement the rural revitalisation strategy to modernise agriculture and rural areas.

Underlining the need for modernising agriculture, Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for more efforts to implement the rural revitalisation strategy to achieve food security for the nation in an ecologically sound manner.

“The top task for implementing the rural revitalisation strategy is to ensure supply of important farm produce, grain in particular,” said President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military

Commission. He made these remarks when joining deliberation with deputies from Henan Province at the second session of the 13th National People’s Congress, China’s national legislature, on March 8.

Efforts should be made to promote the supply-side structural reform in the agricultural sector to achieve food security while building modern and efficient agriculture, President Xi added. He also called for enhanced protection of the ecological environment and the prevention and treatment of pollution in rural areas.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Fast-track implementation of the rural revitalisation strategy.
- ⇒ Top priority is to ensure supply of important farm produce, specially grain.
- ⇒ Promotion of supply-side structural reform in the agricultural sector to achieve food security.
- ⇒ Enhanced protection of the ecological environment and the prevention and treatment of pollution in rural areas.
- ⇒ Strict penalties on crimes involving food safety to ensure safe farm produce for the public.

The Chinese leader stressed strict penalties on crimes involving food safety so as to ensure safe farm produce for the public. Efforts should be made to strengthen the leadership of grassroots Party units in the rural areas, he said, noting that the practices of rural residents' self-governance should be further explored.

President Xi also called for measures to promote a two-way flow and equal exchange of factors, including human resources, land and capital, between the urban and the rural areas.

Implementation of the rural revitalisation strategy and seeking progress in work related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers should be taken into consideration and promoted in the overall economic and social development, President Xi said.

Li Keqiang, Wang Huning and Han Zheng -- members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee -- also separately joined deliberation with NPC deputies.

Premier Li Keqiang stressed building a business environment that is fair and convenient for enterprises under all forms of ownership,

Efforts should be made to promote the supply-side structural reform in the agricultural sector to achieve food security while building modern and efficient agriculture, President Xi said.

when joining a deliberation with deputies from Hubei Province. He called for efforts to fully carry out the reforms of tax and fee cuts and further stimulate the market vitality.

Wang Huning, a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, asked deputies from central China's Hunan Province to take bigger steps in pushing forward high-quality development. He also called for taking a people-centred approach to further live up to people's new expectations for their cultural lives.

Joining the deliberation of the Beijing delegation, Vice Premier Han Zheng underlined the need to accelerate the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region to further relieve Beijing of functions nonessential to its role as the capital.



XI CALLS FOR A COMPLETE VICTORY IN BATTLE AGAINST POVERTY



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, joins deliberation with deputies from Gansu Province at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress in Beijing, on March 7, 2019.

With the clock ticking away for the 2020 deadline for eradicating extreme poverty, Chinese President Xi Jinping has underlined the need for perseverance in the fight against poverty and stressed on a complete victory against this scourge.

“There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won,” said President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission. He made the remarks on March 7 during an interaction with deputies from Gansu Province at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature.

Decisive progress has been achieved in the country's tough fight against poverty over the past years, marking a new chapter in the poverty reduction history of mankind, said President Xi, stressing that the goal to eradicate extreme poverty must be achieved on time. He warned that the tasks ahead remain arduous as those still in poverty are the worst stricken.

Explaining the criteria of lifting people out of poverty, the Chinese leader said they should no longer need to worry about food and clothing while enjoying access to compulsory education, basic medical care and safe housing.

HIGHLIGHTS

⇒ There are only two years left for the country to meet its goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020. There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won.

⇒ Decisive progress has been achieved in the country's tough fight against poverty over the past years, marking a new chapter in the poverty reduction history of mankind.

⇒ Party committees and governments at all levels should shoulder their responsibilities in the critical battle against poverty.

⇒ Special campaigns to target corruption and bad conduct in poverty reduction.

The practice of formalities for formalities' sake and bureaucratism hamper the effective advancement of poverty reduction, he said, while stressing a firm hand in rectifying malpractices in poverty relief.

President Xi asked Party committees and governments at all levels to shoulder their responsibilities in the critical battle against poverty. He called for accelerating efforts to redress undesirable conduct of officials in a timely manner, as well as special campaigns to target corruption and bad conduct in poverty reduction.

Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng -- members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee -- also separately joined deliberation with NPC deputies.



Premier Li Keqiang spoke of the need to replace old growth drivers with new ones and improve people's wellbeing to advance high-quality development.

NPC Standing Committee Chairman Li Zhanshu called for efforts to adhere to green, high-quality development and link poverty alleviation with rural revitalisation strategy.

Wang Yang, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, urged high-quality poverty alleviation work to make sure that nobody is left behind in the course of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Wang Huning, a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, said that he expected Shanghai to continue to lead the reform and opening-up and to elevate the coordinated development of the Yangtze River Delta to a higher level.

Zhao Leji, secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, spoke of the need for Tianjin to take advantage of the period of strategic opportunity, enhance the capacity of innovation, and focus on developing the real economy.

Vice Premier Han Zheng stressed the full implementation of the national strategy of the coordinated development of the Yangtze River Delta.



GREEN CHINA: BUILDING ECOLOGICAL CIVILISATION



Enunciating his vision of high-quality development for China, President Xi Jinping has exhorted people to collectively combat pollution and promote the building of an ecological civilisation, with special focus on protecting the country's natural heritage in the northern border areas.

President Xi made the remarks when attending a panel discussion with his fellow deputies from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress, China's national legislature, on March 5. The president called for intensified protection of the ecological system and urge people to fight resolutely against pollution.

All localities and departments should earnestly implement the Party's arrangement and requirements for building an ecological civilisation, pushing it to a new level, President Xi said.

In the Chinese economy's transition from the phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development, pollution control and environmental governance are two major tasks that must be accomplished, he added.

HIGHLIGHTS

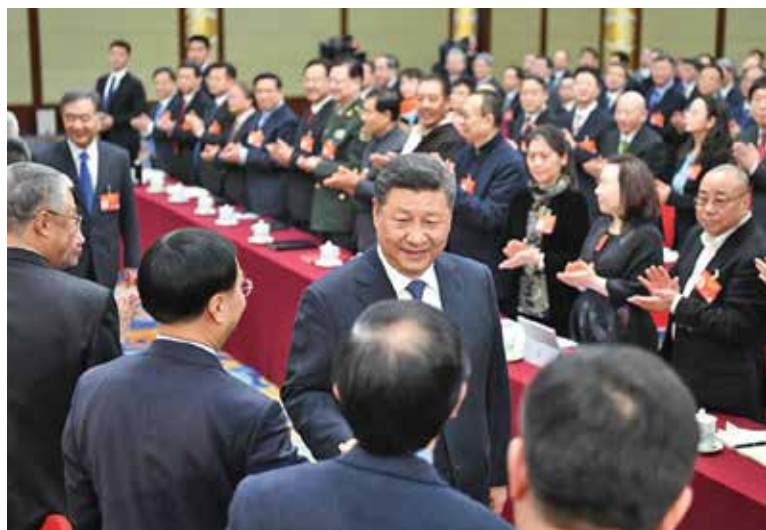
- ⇒ Intensification of efforts for building an ecological civilisation.
- ⇒ Transforming Inner Mongolia into an important shield for ecological security in northern China is a major priority.
- ⇒ Environmental protection and economic development are closely integrated and complement each other.
- ⇒ Pollution control and environmental governance hold the key to the Chinese economy's transition from the phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development.
- ⇒ China should explore a new path of high-quality development that prioritises ecology and highlights green development.

NURTURING SOUL OF CHINA

Putting aesthetics at the heart of China's ongoing transformation, Chinese President Xi Jinping has called on writers, artists and theorists to strengthen cultural confidence and serve the people with fine works which nurture the soul of the nation.

President Xi made these remarks at a joint panel discussion attended by political advisors from the sectors of culture and art, and social sciences in Beijing on March 4. They had gathered in the Chinese capital for the second session of the 13th National Committee of CPPCC. Wang Yang, chairman of the 13th CPPCC National Committee and a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, also attended the discussion.

President Xi made a speech after hearing the opinions and suggestions of eight political advisors. "A country, or a nation, cannot be devoid of soul," President Xi said, adding that the mission of workers in culture, literature, art and philosophy and social sciences is to nurture the root and soul of the nation. He noted that the quality of cultural, literary and art works has constantly improved, and observed that the development of philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics has accelerated.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets political advisors from the sectors of culture and art, and social sciences who attended the second session of the 13th National Committee of CPPCC in Beijing on March 4, 2019.

President Xi called for efforts to undertake the mission of recording, writing about and praising the new era. Stressing the people-centred principle, he said that the people are the source of creation. Cultural, literary and artistic workers should participate in practices, carefully observe people's lives and express people's aspirations, he said. He also urged philosophy and social sciences workers to conduct more field surveys

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ The mission of workers in culture, literature, art and philosophy and social sciences is to nurture the root and soul of the nation.
- ⇒ Cultural, literary and artistic workers should participate in practices, carefully observe people's lives and express people's aspirations.
- ⇒ Philosophy and social sciences workers should conduct more field surveys and research to gain knowledge of people's living conditions.
- ⇒ Practitioners in culture, literature, art, philosophy and social sciences should set an example for society with lofty aspirations, good morals and noble sentiments.



SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH TOP PRIORITY: PREMIER LI



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang addressed a press conference at the conclusion of the second session of the 13th National People's Congress on March 15, 2019, in Beijing. The press conference, held at the Golden Hall on the third floor of the majestic Great Hall of the People, lasted for about 150 minutes and was attended by over 1,200 Chinese and foreign journalists. In this wide-ranging interaction with the media, Premier Li spoke

on a wide gamut of issues, from the country's economic growth and reform plans to its relationship with the US and Russia and the situation in the Korean peninsula. He assured the world that China will provide equal opportunities to domestic and foreign investors. He underlined that despite the Chinese economy facing additional downward pressure, Beijing will not let economic growth slip out of a reasonable range.

Highlights from Premier Li's Press Conference

On Economic Growth

- ⇒ It is true that China's economy has encountered a downward pressure, which is a part of a global trend.
- ⇒ Last year, people across China made a strong united effort to advance our supply-side structural reform and the nation achieved GDP growth goal of 6.6%. This has sent a message of stability to the market.
- ⇒ Our projected target for GDP growth this year is 6-6.5%. It will be a growth on top of a very large base figure. Keeping steady growth of China's economy in itself is important progress.
- ⇒ We will continue to take measures to boost vitality in the market so that China will have a stronger dynamism for development.

On Tax Cuts

- ⇒ In the past several years, China has worked to replace business tax with value-added tax (VAT). The government has cut business taxes worth three trillion yuan in the last three years, which is a fairly large-scale tax reduction.
- ⇒ The government is determined to launch another round of large-scale tax reductions and fee cuts, which will be a key measure for the country to tackle pressures on the Chinese economy.
- ⇒ This year we will make reductions in VAT and social insurance contributions, with two trillion yuan worth of reductions to all companies.

On Reforms and Opening Up

- ⇒ Through 40 years of reform and opening-up, China has made remarkable achievements, delivering benefits to its population.
- ⇒ The government will continue to pursue market-oriented and law-based reforms to

ensure that concrete outcomes are delivered

- ⇒ In carrying out reforms, the government must create an enabling environment for the market to perform its role in resource allocation.
- ⇒ In terms of suspicions among some countries that the Chinese government asks Chinese companies to spy on other countries, this is not consistent with Chinese law. This is not how China behaves, we did not do that and will not do that in future.

On Job Markets

- ⇒ Every year, we see about 15 million people entering the job market, and that growth won't slow down in the near future.
- ⇒ This year, for the first time, we are elevating the status of employment-first policy to a macro policy together with the fiscal policy and monetary policy. It's projected that 11 million urban jobs will be created this year, but in actual fact, the number will go beyond 13 million.

On Foreign Investment Law

- ⇒ The law will offer better legal support to the protection and attraction of foreign investment, as well as regulate government policymaking.
- ⇒ China will introduce a series of regulations and documents in accordance with the foreign investment law to protect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors.

On Services for Elderly & Infants

- ⇒ The supply of nursing services for the elderly and infants in China is insufficient, and this situation deserves the highest attention.
- ⇒ Innovative measures are needed to address the shortages of such services to meet public demand. Developing community based nursing services for the elderly and infants can help as nursing facilities in communities can be more accessible to residents.

On Medical Insurance

- ⇒ Outpatient drugs for chronic diseases, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, will be reimbursable (50%) through China's basic medical insurance programme.
- ⇒ When it comes to serious illness insurance scheme, we will lower the payout threshold.

On New Business Models

- ⇒ China will continue to exercise accommodative and prudential regulations on new business models such as Internet Plus and sharing economy.

On Internet Service

- ⇒ China aims to cut the cost of internet services by another 20% this year, which will involve a total of about 180 billion yuan (\$26.8 billion).

On Micro and Small Enterprises

- ⇒ This year, China will lower financing costs for micro and small enterprises by one percentage point.
- ⇒ Authorities will encourage financial institutions to improve management mechanisms to provide cheaper services for small, private companies.

On China-US Ties

- ⇒ Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 40 years ago, the China-US relationship has been forging ahead and it has achieved fruitful results.
- ⇒ The twists and turns are changing. However, the trend of moving forward has not changed.
- ⇒ Our common interests are far greater than differences. Maintaining a stable bilateral relationship is not only beneficial to both parties, but also beneficial to the world.
- ⇒ China and the US, as the two largest economies, have become closely entwined through years of growing their relationship. It is neither realistic nor possible to decouple these economies.

On China-Japan-ROK Free Trade Zone

- ⇒ A comprehensive, high-standard and mutually beneficial free trade agreement among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea is in the interest of the three countries.
- ⇒ Although Japan and the ROK have pretty large surpluses in their trade with China, we are still prepared to compete with them in an equal manner to bring more options to customers of the three countries.

On Cross-Strait Ties

- ⇒ China upholds the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus and opposes Taiwan's independence.
- ⇒ A total of 31 measures have been introduced last year to promote cross-Strait economic and cultural exchanges.

On China-Europe Ties

- ⇒ China and the Europe are each other's largest trading partners, but there has been cooperation as well as friction between the two.
- ⇒ I hope that both sides will view this relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective and continue to show mutual respect, deepen mutual understanding, and advance cooperation in joint pursuit of sustained healthy growth of our relations

On China-Russia Ties

- ⇒ Bilateral trade exceeded \$100 billion last year for the first time despite the downturn in global trade growth. This development shows that there is still a great deal of untapped potential in China-Russia cooperation.
- ⇒ The two countries could expand cooperation in areas like trade in commodities, cross border e-commerce, aviation and aerospace and also enhance exchanges at the sub-national level and between their peoples.



WORK REPORT@ 2019: SETTING ROBUST TARGETS FOR NATIONAL REJUVENATION

The People's Republic of China will turn 70 this year. It is a crucial year for the country because its eyes are set on the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society.

Keeping this overarching goal in mind, Chinese legislators met on March 5 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing where Premier Li Keqiang delivered the government Work Report during the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature.

The report focussed not just on the state of the economy, but also provided an assessment of the country's employment challenge, the status of its green economy programmes and its reforms process, which aims to provide a level playing field to both domestic and foreign businesses. Importantly, China confirmed that it will promote trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation. The country also committed to safeguarding economic globalisation and free trade, and its active involvement in the reform of the World Trade Organisation.

Highlights of the Work Report

- ⇒ China sets 2019 GDP growth target at 6-6.5% for 2019.
- ⇒ China aims to maintain consumer inflation level at around 3% and create over 11 million new urban jobs.
- ⇒ China's economy outperformed the official 2018 goal of "around 6.5%" by expanding 6.6%.
- ⇒ China will do more to attract foreign investment in 2019.
- ⇒ China will further relax controls over market access, shorten the negative list for foreign investment, and permit wholly foreign-funded enterprises to operate in more sectors.
- ⇒ China will strengthen efforts to protect legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors.
- ⇒ China to prudently advance legislation on real estate tax.
- ⇒ China will address the housing needs of the people and sustain the steady and healthy development of real estate markets.
- ⇒ The government will allocate 25 billion yuan (\$3.73 billion) to prevent and control air pollution, an increase of 25% year on year.
- ⇒ China will expand infrastructure investment in 2019, including 800 billion yuan (\$119 billion) in railway construction and 1.8 trillion yuan in road construction and waterway projects.
- ⇒ China will create over 11 million new urban jobs in 2019.
- ⇒ China aims to achieve a surveyed urban unemployment rate of around 5.5%, and a registered urban unemployment rate within 4.5%.
- ⇒ China lifts fiscal deficit target to 2.8% of GDP for 2019, up 0.2 percentage points compared with 2018.
- ⇒ The budgetary deficit is projected at 2.76 trillion yuan (\$412 billion), with a central government deficit of 1.83 trillion yuan and a local government deficit of 930 billion yuan.
- ⇒ China to reduce the number of rural poor population by over 10 million in 2019.
- ⇒ The central government will specially allocate 126.095 billion yuan (\$18.82), an increase of 18.9%, to fund poverty alleviation programmes.
- ⇒ China will use a variety of monetary policy instruments to effectively mitigate difficulties faced in the real economy, especially by private enterprises and small and micro businesses.
- ⇒ China will improve the exchange rate mechanism and keep the RMB exchange rate stable and at an adaptive and balanced level.
- ⇒ China will issue 2.15 trillion yuan (\$320 billion) of special local government bonds this year, an increase of 800 billion yuan over last year. This is designed to both provide funding for key projects and create conditions for better forestalling and defusing local governments' debt risks.
- ⇒ In a bid to consolidate and expand the gains in its efforts to keep its skies blue, China will cut its sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 3% in 2019.
- ⇒ China will further improve its environment by cutting the energy consumption per unit of GDP by around 3% in 2019.
- ⇒ The Chinese central government will cut its general expenditures by 5%, and reduce spending on official overseas visits, official vehicles, and official hospitality by another 3%.
- ⇒ China to cut average rates for mobile internet services by over 20% and average broadband service rates for small and medium enterprises will be lowered by another 15%.
- ⇒ Loans for small and micro businesses by China's large State-owned commercial banks will increase by over 30% in 2019.
- ⇒ China will use a combination of measures to increase urban and rural personal incomes and boost capacity for consumption.



- ⇒ China will use multiple avenues to increase the supply of quality products and services, and act faster to resolve problems and difficulties blocking the entry of private investment.
- ⇒ The country will take significant steps to develop elderly care, especially community elderly care services, as the number of people in China aged 60 and above has reached 250 million.
- ⇒ China will move faster to develop various types of infant and child care services, encourage private actors to run childcare and early childhood education agencies.
- ⇒ China will also develop and strengthen the tourism industry and maintain steady automobile sale.
- ⇒ China will separate network ownership and operation in natural monopoly industries to make the competitive aspects of their operations fully market based.
- ⇒ Reforms will be deepened in sectors including power, oil and natural gas, and railways.
- ⇒ China will continue to promote China-US trade negotiations.
- ⇒ China will promote trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation. The country is committed to safeguarding economic globalisation and free trade, and is actively involved in the reform of the World Trade Organization.
- ⇒ China is committed to mutually beneficial cooperation, win-win development and settling trade disputes through discussion as equals.
- ⇒ China will strengthen its intellectual property (IP) protection across the board, improve the system of punitive compensation for infringements, and promote invention and creation and their industrial application.
- ⇒ China will reduce tax burdens and social insurance contributions of enterprises by nearly 2 trillion yuan (\$298 billion) in 2019.
- ⇒ China will reduce the current value-added tax rate of 16% for manufacturing and other industries to 13%, and lower the rate for such industries as transportation and construction from 10% to 9%.

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy will guide China's foreign relations



China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has outlined China's foreign policy vision and its strategy of navigating a complex world, which has seen enormous shifts and changes in the last few years. On the sidelines of the Second Session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) on March 8, 2019, Mr Wang Yi responded to questions from the Chinese and foreign media about China's foreign policy and pressing diplomatic issues. These included, among others, the current play of China-US relations, the situation in the Korean Peninsula, the China-India relations, and China's diplomatic efforts to uphold multilateralism amid the rising tide of

protectionism. "Looking back at the past year, we in China's diplomatic service, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, navigated the complex international currents, forged ahead with a clear sense of purpose, and made new and important strides," he said in his introductory remarks. The two-hour press conference was attended by more than 600 Chinese and foreign journalists. (Excerpts from the press conference)

Major Achievements

People's Daily: The year 2019 marks 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). What are the most important achievements and experience of China's diplomacy in these seven decades? How do they inform what you're doing today?

Wang Yi: Indeed, 2019 marks 70 years since the founding of the PRC. Under the strong and correct leadership of the CPC, our people have forged ahead as one in the last 70 years and made

great strides that have truly impressed the world. On the diplomatic front as well, we have broken new ground, overcome many difficulties and travelled an extraordinary journey. As General Secretary Xi Jinping has rightly stated, China is ever closer to the world's centrestage.

Our diplomatic accomplishments are due, first and foremost, to the leadership of the Party, which is the fundamental political guarantee for China's diplomacy. For seven decades, the Party has advanced with the times, developed a

‘China-India relations will surge ahead like Ganges & Yangtze’

Press Trust of India: Last year’s India-China summit in Wuhan is widely regarded as a watershed moment between the two countries. What’s your vision for the relationship?

Wang Yi: Indeed, 2018 was a year of great significance for China-India relations. The historic meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Wuhan created a new model of high-level interactions between our two countries. It not just deepened the trust and friendship between our leaders, but also set the direction for our future relations. As ancient civilisations with a combined population of 2.7 billion, major developing countries and neighbours, China and India should be each other’s partner in pursuing our respective dreams and each other’s important opportunity for growing our respective economies. Collectively, we must make our due contribution to Asia’s revitalisation and prosperity.



Over the past year, government departments on both sides have made considerable progress in following through on the understandings reached by our leaders. The priority now is to see that the strategic understandings of our leaders trickle down to our people and become their common view and conscious efforts. To this end, China will work with India to comprehensively strengthen sectoral cooperation and particularly people-to-people ties, so that our friendship and cooperation will surge ahead like the Yangtze and the Ganges, giving strong and sustained impetus to our relationship.

rich body of diplomatic theories with Chinese characteristics and established a fine tradition with distinctive features. They include: independence as a cornerstone of China’s foreign policy, concern for the common good of humanity, pursuit of equity and justice, commitment to win-win outcomes, the mission of facilitating domestic development, and dedication to serving the Chinese people.

At last year’s Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy was established as our guideline, an epoch-making milestone in the development of New China’s diplomatic theories. It sets the fundamental course for our diplomacy in the new era and points the way for navigating through the complex array of issues in today’s world.

The world is experiencing profound shifts unseen in a century. Chinese diplomacy has reached a new starting point. Led by the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, we will fully implement Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, uphold our founding principles and keep our mission firmly in mind. We will remain committed to the path of peaceful development, work for win-win outcomes, uphold the existing international system and shoulder more international responsibilities. We will both strive to create a better environment for China's rejuvenation and make new and greater contributions to world peace and human progress.



India-Pakistan Relations

Associated Press of Pakistan: The relations between India and Pakistan have become tense following recent escalations. This situation could endanger peace and stability in South Asia. As a neighbour and an important country, what is China's position on this issue?

Wang Yi: The recent events have refocused international attention on Pakistan-India relations. China has stressed from the beginning the need to exercise calm and restraint, prevent escalations, find out what has happened and resolve the matter through dialogue. In the meantime, the countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity should be fully respected. China has followed these principles in its mediation efforts and played a constructive role in defusing the tension. Both Pakistan and India have indicated a desire to de-escalate the situation and start talks. We welcome this.

China has stressed from the beginning the need to exercise calm and restraint, prevent escalations, find out what has happened and resolve the matter through dialogue. In the meantime, the countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity should be fully respected.

Pakistan and India are neighbours that will always live with each other. They are both heirs to a millennia-old civilisation in the South Asian subcontinent. Both countries face important opportunities to realise stability, development and prosperity. China hopes the two countries will get along, help each other and progress together. We sincerely hope that Pakistan and India will transform the crisis into an opportunity and meet each other halfway. We advise both parties to quickly turn this page and seek a fundamental, long-term improvement in their relations. When confrontation gives way to dialogue and disagreements are settled by goodwill, they can create a better future through cooperation.

Afghanistan

TASS: Last year the US government made a decision to pull its troops out of Afghanistan. There is a lot of international attention on the peace and reconciliation process there. Will China step in to fill the vacuum left by the US?

Wang Yi: Afghanistan is at a critical moment. We see both the potential dawn of peace and a buildup of risks and challenges. Pursuing peace requires more courage than stoking conflict. We appeal to all parties in Afghanistan to set store by the greater good of their country and people, seize the major opportunity for political reconciliation, settle differences through dialogue, beat swords into plowshares and join hands to push open

the door to peace. We call on the international community to give firm support for the Afghan-led, Afghan-owned reconciliation process, play a constructive role from the sidelines and build a momentum for dialogue.

There is no vacuum in Afghanistan that needs to be filled, because the land belongs to the Afghan people. This year marks the centenary of Afghanistan's independence. China ardently hopes that this country, after suffering so much, will have a rebirth, take destiny into its own hands from now on, and enjoy genuine independence and lasting peace. Afghanistan should not again become an arena of great-power rivalry, nor should it be subject to incessant conflict and mayhem. As Afghanistan's neighbour and friend, China will, respecting the Afghan people's wish and needs, continue to do its best for reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

China-US Ties

Reuters: There is deep and growing suspicion in the US about China. Do you believe that China and the US are inevitably headed toward confrontation? How do you resolve that?

Wang Yi: Cooperation and rifts have always existed alongside each other in China-US relations, but cooperation has always outweighed frictions. The recent period has indeed seen more problems and rifts in the relationship, but a historical perspective would reveal that what we're witnessing is contrary to the long arc of our relations. We still have a positive outlook on China-US relations and trust that this view is shared by people in both countries. China and America should not and will not descend into confrontation. A return to the outdated Cold War thinking goes against the current trend, is deeply unpopular and has no future.

The interests of China and America are already inseparable. Last year, two-way trade exceeded \$630 billion, the stock of mutual investment topped \$240 billion and visits in both directions

surpassed five million. Almost all major US corporations have business in China and all American states are engaged in cooperation with China. Some individuals vow to decouple our economies. This is just their wishful thinking. Decoupling from China would mean decoupling from opportunities, from the future and, in a sense, even from the world.

Cooperation is still the mainstream of China-US ties. Chinese and American leaders both agree to this description and it is supported by people of foresight in both societies.



China-Russia Relations

RIA Novosti: China and Russia are celebrating 70 years of our diplomatic relations this year. What are the highlights of our bilateral relations and cooperation? Some countries see the close ties between Moscow and Beijing as a threat. How do you respond to this allegation?

Wang Yi: Indeed, China and Russia will mark the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic relations this year. Marked by deep political trust, win-win economic cooperation and mutual support in the international arena, our relationship is held up as a good example of how major countries should interact with one another. A strong Sino-Russian relationship both delivers huge benefits to our two peoples and contributes significantly to peace and stability in our region and globally.

In this important anniversary year, China and Russia will take our comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination to a new level.



In terms of high-level engagement, President Vladimir Putin will attend the second BRF at President Xi Jinping's invitation, and President Xi intends to pay a state visit to Russia at President Putin's invitation. Guided by our presidents, the relationship will stride into a new era.

While consolidating traditional areas of cooperation such as energy, we will explore new areas such as high technology, agriculture, e-commerce and financial services. Upgraded Sino-Russian cooperation will better enable our countries' development and deliver greater benefits to our two peoples.

Multilateralism & Protectionism

Xinhua News Agency: At a time when international cooperation is buffeted by protectionism and unilateralism, China is increasingly seen as a champion of multilateralism and international cooperation. What will China do to uphold multilateralism?

Wang Yi: In the last few years, unilateralism and protectionism has reared its head and returned with a vengeance. Championing multilateralism is the overwhelming consensus of the international community. China sees multilateralism as a cornerstone of the existing international order. The practice of multilateralism will, over time,

make international relations more democratic and our world a more multi-polar one. China will carry the banner of building a community with a shared future for mankind, continue to stand on the right side of history and support the common interests of the majority of countries. China will work with all nations under the principle of multilateralism to resolutely uphold the international system centered on the UN and the international order underpinned by international law.

China-Japan Relations

Asahi Shimbun: There has been a significant improvement in China-Japan relations, though of course there are still some challenges. People are very much hoping that President Xi will participate in the G20 Osaka Summit in June and visit Japan. What's your view?



Wang Yi: Last year, thanks to our joint efforts, China-Japan relations got back on track and showed positive momentum toward improved and stronger ties. This fully meets the common interests of people in both countries. Our experience shows that whenever Japan adopts an objective and rational view of China's development and honours the various political principles already reached, the relationship will steer clear of obstacles and interference and enjoy a stable and bright outlook. In the meantime, we can unleash the full potential of our cooperation and create far greater space for it.

Of course, we are still in the early stage of improving our relations. Looking ahead, we must match our actions to our words, adopt an honest attitude toward history and an objective view of reality, work actively for a better future, and take more solid and determined steps in the right direction. I'm sure as the two sides work together to cement the political foundation of our relations, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and foster greater friendship between our people, China-Japan relations will enter a stage of stable development, where we will have more frequent exchanges in various fields and high-level interactions will come about naturally.



Korean Peninsula

Yonhap News Agency: The second DPRK-US summit did not produce any agreement, making the situation on the Korean Peninsula more complicated and unpredictable. What will China do this year to facilitate denuclearisation and the establishment of a peace regime on the peninsula?

Wang Yi: The Hanoi summit was an important step toward a political settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. The fact that DPRK and US leaders overcame obstacles to meet again for a candid, face-to-face discussion itself represents a positive development that must be applauded. The international community should encourage both sides to have patience and keep moving toward the goal of denuclearising the peninsula and establishing a peace regime. If the parties continue their dialogue and stay the course, the day will come when the denuclearisation of the peninsula will become a reality.

Championing multilateralism is the overwhelming consensus of the international community. China sees multilateralism as a cornerstone of the existing international order. The practice of multilateralism will, over time, make international relations more democratic and our world a more multi-polar one.

China's position on the issue has been consistent. We are committed to achieving the denuclearisation of the peninsula, to solving the issue through dialogue and to maintaining peace and stability on the peninsula. We have been working for these goals for over 20 years and our role has been irreplaceable. China will, along with the other parties, continue to contribute to meeting these goals.

The Paper: Over the past year, President Xi Jinping and Chairman Kim Jong-un had four meetings and opened a new chapter in China-DPRK relations. What is China's expectation for the relationship?

Wang Yi: China fully supports the DPRK in exploring a development path that suits itself and making continuous progress in socialist construction, in implementing a new national strategy and focusing more on economic growth and better livelihoods, and in keeping to the goal of denuclearisation and having its legitimate concerns addressed in this process. China will work with the DPRK to build a strong relationship for the new era, safeguard the fundamental interests of our peoples, move toward solving the issues on the peninsula by political means, and maintain peace and stability in our region.

(The full text of Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's press conference on the sidelines of the annual NPC can be accessed on the website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, www.mfa.gov.cn)



Script a new chapter in China-India tango

H.E. Luo Zhaohui

China-India relations have entered a new stage of rapid development. In 2018, the informal summit between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Wuhan had a far-reaching impact, bringing China-India relations into the fast lane with higher quality and greater speed.

In 2019, China will celebrate its 70th founding anniversary and India will hold the general election. Under the new circumstances, a sustained upturn in China-India relations helps advance our respective major political agendas, boost our respective economies, contribute to the

building of an Asian Century, and provide factors for stability in a world full of uncertainties.

China and India should continue to implement the strategic consensus reached by the two leaders and translate it into the common understanding of all sectors of society and the actions of the two peoples. This will inject strong and lasting vigour into the development of China-India relations. The key is to do the following:

First, keep up the warmth of bilateral relations. The development of China-India relations is like rowing against the current. The two sides

should follow the mega trend and maintain the momentum, fully implement the consensus reached at the four meetings between the two leaders in 2018 and make preparations for the second informal summit. We need to implement the outcomes achieved during the visits of three Chinese State Councilors to India last year and maintain the positive momentum of institutional exchanges and bilateral relations.

Second, raise the speed of cooperation in various fields. We should give positive consideration to signing a free trade agreement and an investment protection agreement between China and India, address trade deficit from an institutional perspective, and realise at an early date the goal of \$100 billion bilateral trade proposed by the two leaders. We should carry out cooperation on major projects such as the Delhi-Agra high-speed railway and industrial parks, and continue to promote connectivity cooperation under the framework of BCIM. These initiatives will make the cake of cooperation bigger and benefit the two peoples. We should expand “China-India plus” cooperation at regional and international levels, extend China-India cooperation in Afghanistan from specific projects to policy dialogues, and conduct “China-India plus” cooperation in such areas as the Indian Ocean, Africa, connectivity and counter-terrorism.

Third, increase people-to-people and cultural exchanges to enhance goodwill. The two sides should implement the outcomes of the first meeting of China-India High-level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism, seize the momentum, maintain the sustainability of P2P exchanges and promote the establishment of cultural centres in each other’s countries. There are only 14 pairs of sister provinces/cities between China and India. About one million mutual visits are made each year and 47 direct flights shuttle between the two countries each week. These are not commensurate with the size of the two countries’ population and economies. The two sides should further strengthen local exchanges and cooperation and increase personnel

exchanges and the number of flights between the two countries.

Fourth, step up efforts to manage differences. The recent tension between India and Pakistan has drawn broad attention from the international community. China has actively promoted peaceful dialogue and played a constructive role in easing the tension. On the issue of listing in the 1267 Committee of the UN Security Council, China attaches importance to and understands India’s concerns and is willing to strengthen communication with India to find a proper solution. We believe that China-India relations are mature enough to see the differences are properly managed, and maintain sound and stable growth.

As the Chinese Ambassador to India, I am deeply aware of the fact that the current momentum in China-India relations has not been achieved easily, and therefore should be cherished more than ever. The relationship has gone from a stormy phase with the Donglang incident, plunging the relations into a low point to the current positive situation ushered in by the Wuhan informal summit, which set out the direction for the future development of the relationship.

From a strategic perspective, the leaders of China and India have always demonstrated tremendous strategic wisdom and vision to guide the development of China-India relations at critical historical junctures. From the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence jointly initiated by Premier Zhou Enlai and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru

In 2019, China will celebrate its 70th founding anniversary and India will hold the general election. Under the new circumstances, a sustained upturn in China-India relations helps advance our respective major political agendas, boost our respective economies, contribute to the building of the Asian Century, and provide factors for stability in a world full of uncertainties.

The development of China-India relations is like rowing against the current. The two sides should follow the mega trend and maintain the momentum, fully implement the consensus reached at the four meetings between the two leaders in 2018 and make preparations for the second informal summit.

to the message of friendship sent by Chairman Mao Zedong to the Chargé d’Affaires of the Indian embassy in 1970, from the “ice-breaking” meeting between Comrade Deng Xiaoping and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 to the “hometown diplomacy” and the Wuhan informal summit between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi-ji, the leaders of our two countries have placed high importance on the relationship with each other and always steered China-India relations wisely, leading the mutually empowering partnership from strength to strength.

From the perspective of development, China and India, as two ancient civilisations, major developing countries and big neighbours, are each other’s partners in realising their respective dreams and serve as important opportunities for each other’s development and economic growth. Both countries are at a crucial stage of economic



development, and are deepening reform and advancing modernisation. In many instances, their development goals overlap in time and provide valuable lessons to each other. China and India should continue to explore a path of coexistence and win-win cooperation between two big neighbours and make due contribution to the rejuvenation and development of Asia and the world at large.

At the international level, China-India relations are taking on a greater global significance as the balance of power in the world is rapidly evolving and the international system is under severe strain. Against the backdrop of anti-globalisation

The recent tension between India and Pakistan has drawn broad attention from the international community. China has actively promoted peaceful dialogue and played a constructive role in easing the tension. On the issue of listing in the 1267 Committee of the UN Security Council, China attaches importance to and understands India’s concerns and is willing to strengthen communication with India to find a proper solution.

and rampant trade protectionism, China and India are working together as two major emerging markets to promote economic globalisation and free trade. This proactive cooperation between China and India on pressing global economic issues will not only benefit the two partners, but will also strengthen solidarity and cooperation among developing countries and foster a just and equitable international order.

China-India relations have a rare historic opportunity to take their relations to a new level, which will make them vital partners in shaping an Asian Century. We should make joint efforts to make China-India friendship and cooperation surge forward like the Yangtze river and the Ganges, write a new chapter in the tango between the “dragon” and the “elephant”, and enable the “Peacock” and “Phoenix” to fly in unison.

CELEBRATING WOMEN POWER



Riveting dances, fashion show and uplifting talk of women empowerment marked celebrations on the eve of the International Women's Day at the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi on March 7. Hosted by Dr Jiang Yili, the wife of China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui, the celebrations were attended by, among others, Mrs Uma Suresh Prabhu, the wife of Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu, and Vandana Gokhale, the wife of India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale. Chinese female diplomats and spouses presented an enthralling cheongsam show, sporting traditional Chinese women's dress.



China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui with Vandana Gokhale, the spouse of India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.





Dr Jiang Yili with Mrs Uma Suresh Prabhu, the spouse of India's Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu.



Colours of Friendship

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India
&
Confederation of Young Leaders (CYL)



HOLI SPIRIT: Notes of Harmony

It was literally a splash of colours at the Chinese Embassy on a pleasant Sunday morning. Exuberant beating of drums, singing and dancing marked the Holi Milan celebrations on the lawns of the embassy on March 17. Organised in collaboration with Confederation of Young Leaders (CYL), the Holi celebrations, co-hosted by China's Ambassador Luo Zhaohui and his spouse Dr. Jiang Yili, saw Chinese diplomats playing Holi with guests, including journalists, academics and prominent personalities. The festive atmosphere at the embassy was simply contagious as guests let their hair down, enjoyed delicious snacks and exchanged Holi greetings. MP Udit Raj was also present at the celebrations.



Comparing Holi to the Spring Festival in China, the Chinese envoy said: “My colleagues and I feel lucky for living in India. It also shows many similarities between China and India.” “Celebrating Holi is a good chance to learn Indian’s long history and colorful cultures. India is an ancient civilisation with a lot of gods, goddess and festivals. There is a story behind each festival. Holi has its own legend,” he said.

Extending Holi greetings, the Chinese envoy also struck an upbeat note on the future of China-India relations and underlined the commitment of both countries to implement the Wuhan consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their first informal summit in Wuhan in April last year.

“I wish China-India relations continue to maintain the positive momentum. We hope to further enhance the friendly exchanges and concrete cooperation between the two countries,” he said.





**BELT & ROAD
INITIATIVE (BRI)**



Second BRF will be much bigger show

Xi, world leaders to attend



China is poised to host the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in late April in Beijing, which will be attended by a record number of world leaders. Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony of the second BRF and deliver the keynote speech, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in Beijing ahead of the summit.

Terming it as “the most important diplomatic event China will host this year,” Mr Wang underlined that this international gathering “will capture the world’s attention.”



Mr Wang made the remarks at a press conference on the sidelines of the country’s annual legislative session, on March 8.

President Xi will also chair a leaders’ roundtable, he said. Outlining the major highlights of the second Belt and Road Forum, Mr Wang said that the number of foreign heads of state and government expected to attend will be much larger than that of the first BRF and stressed that it will be a much bigger gathering with thousands of delegates from over 100 countries.

“There will be more side events including 12 thematic forums focusing on practical cooperation and, for the first time, a conference organised specifically for the business community,” he said.

With the theme of “Belt and Road Cooperation, Shaping a Brighter Shared Future,” the second BRF aims to bring about high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Mr Wang said. “China looks forward to a full exchange of views on our future cooperation plans,” he said.

“China will build consensus with the parties on high-quality development, follow the principle of consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, champion an open, transparent and inclusive approach to BRI cooperation, and strive for green and sustainable development.”

Putting ordinary people at the heart of BRI projects, Mr Wang stressed on the role of BRI projects in promoting the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Outlining major highlights of the second Belt and Road Forum, Mr Wang said that the number of foreign heads of state and government expected to attend will be much larger than that of the first BRF and stressed that it will be a much bigger gathering with thousands of delegates from over 100 countries.

Putting ordinary people at the heart of BRI projects, Mr Wang stressed on the role of BRI projects in promoting the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“China and the participating countries will seek greater complementarity between the BRI and their development strategies, agree on a line-up of key cooperation projects, promote the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and pay more attention to improving the lives of the ordinary people as we deepen our cooperation,” he said.

“As President Xi has said, the BRI originates in China, but its benefits are shared by the world. We have reason to hope and believe that the second BRF will be a great success and



another milestone in BRI cooperation,” the Chinese Foreign Minister said.

BRI not debt trap, but economic pie

In response to a question from China Daily, Mr Wang rejected allegations of BRI becoming a “debt trap” or “geopolitical tool” for subjugating recipient countries. He described the BRI as “the most welcomed global public good,” and stressed that the BRI “follows the sound principle of



A China-funded railway line between the port city of Mombasa and the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.



consultation and cooperation for shared benefits.” He listed enormous opportunities in BRI for all participants. “Thanks to the BRI, East Africa now has its first motorway, the Maldives has built its first inter-island bridge, Belarus is able to produce passenger vehicles, Kazakhstan is connected to the sea, Southeast Asia is constructing a high-speed railway, and the Eurasian continent is benefiting from the longest-distance freight train service.”

“In Kenya, the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway, built with Chinese assistance and dubbed a project of the century has created nearly 50,000 local jobs and boosted Kenya’s economic growth by 1.5 percentage points.”

“Plenty of facts like these are proof that the BRI is not a debt trap that some countries may fall into, but an economic pie that benefits the local population; it is no geopolitical tool, but a great opportunity for shared development,” the Chinese Foreign Minister said.

“In Uzbekistan, Chinese construction workers in collaboration with the locals have, in just 900 days, built a 19-kilometer railway tunnel through high mountains, cutting travel time to only 900 seconds.”

“Plenty of facts like these are proof that the BRI is not a debt trap that some countries may fall into, but an economic pie that benefits the local population; it is no geopolitical tool, but a great opportunity for shared development,” the Chinese Foreign Minister said.

“Signing up for the BRI has enabled countries to grow at a faster pace, improve their people’s lives and reap win-win outcomes,” he stressed.

Expressing optimism that “with everyone pitching in, the BRI will reinvigorate the ancient Silk Road in the new era,” Mr Wang stressed that it will be “a great help to nations and countries who are joining together to build a community with a shared future for mankind.”

“To date, 123 countries and 29 international organisations have signed BRI agreements with China. They have cast a vote of support and confidence in the BRI.”



The China Railway Tunnel Group built the Qamchiq Tunnel, the longest tunnel in Central Asia, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in June 2016.

INTERVIEW

BRI fills “historic vacuum” to boost Africa’s development, says Nigerian expert



CHARLES ONUNAIJU

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) can help Africa, the world’s second largest and second most populous continent, to be better engaged in the international system, a Nigerian expert has said.

In a recent interview with Xinhua in Abuja, Charles Onunaiju, director of Center for China Studies in Nigeria, said the all-inclusive initiative offers the most concrete features of development to the African continent.





Leaders from several African countries attended the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September 2018.

Since Africa began to decolonise 60 years ago, Pan-Africanism has been gaining momentum and one of the calls of the movement is to build a continent that engages with herself, trades with herself and make it more convenient for African people to reach out to each other, said Onunaiju.

Unfortunately, these dreams did not come true because of existential difficulties in geographical and institutional connectivity, he said.

The BRI offers what has been missing to make Pan-Africanism a reality, he said, adding that the initiative has provided regional connectivity so that the local people are more engaged with each other.

“It will fill the historic vacuum that has existed since decolonisation,” he added. “The BRI is most essential to Africa, and for the continent’s development. Africa has a unique opportunity to key into the international system through this BRI,” Onunaiju said.

Last September, over a dozen African countries signed up to become formal BRI partners at the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, including Nigeria, the continent’s largest economy.

The Nigerian expert said that he expects to see a stronger partnership between China and Africa, and the rest of the world, through cooperation around the initiative.

“I believe that Africa has been marginalised out of the international system. As a unique opportunity (for Africa) to enter into the international system as a key driver, not as an onlooker, the Belt and Road Initiative offers a new governance system of international relations that is participatory and inclusive,” he said.

The BRI, first proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, which aims to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe, Africa and beyond.

Onunaiju said that the essence of this initiative is recognising the universal aspiration of humanity for a peaceful world, sustainable and inclusive development, building a community with a shared future for mankind, as well as fulfilling the aspiration through building a network of infrastructure, ensuring people-to-people contact and generating an inclusive global village.

Experts extol BRI's role in spurring global growth

As China held its annual meeting of parliament this year, experts around the world struck an upbeat note on the evolution of the Belt and Road Initiative into a potent platform for international cooperation.

The Two Sessions refer to the annual gathering of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, and that of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which is China's top political advisory body.

"Their annual meetings are important because they shed light on the future direction of the country's economic and social policies," said Khairy Tourk, an economics professor at the Stuart School of Business of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He said the new policies matter much to China's growth as well as its economic ties with both Western and developing nations.

BRI: Inclusive Growth

Much attention was also paid to the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), an international cooperation platform for common development that has brought tangible benefits to many other countries since 2013.

"The Belt and Road Initiative is inclusive and offers the greatest opportunity for both investment and development in decades," commented Keith Bennett, vice chairman of

Britain's 48 Group Club, an advocate for closer Britain-China business relations.

"Its emphasis on infrastructure and connectivity lays the best possible foundations for promoting all-round, comprehensive economic development and improvement of people's livelihood in the future," he said.

Recalling his visit to Pakistan a year ago to study the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a major BRI cooperation initiative, he said, "I could see how the many projects in Gwadar and elsewhere were already benefiting the local people and how well Chinese and Pakistani people were working together and respecting each other."

According to Tourk, "the Chinese style of growth is an inspiration to many developing nations." "Through the BRI, many of these nations are fortunate to enjoy the Chinese funding and know-how for the building of modern infrastructure and industrial economic zones," he said.

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Ayad Al-Manaa, a political analyst and political science professor at Kuwait University, said BRI cooperation projects will support Kuwait’s urban development and transformation into a financial and economic centre, which are planned in Kuwait Vision 2035.

Shared Growth

China, said Tourk, “is a major contributor to global growth” and a country “that has made the development of poor countries one of its top priorities.”

“A growing Chinese economy is crucial to the prosperity in other regions of the world, especially in Asia and Africa,” he added.

“The Chinese development has fascinated the world. It has made the country the workshop of the world,” he said, noting that many developing nations “are grateful to China for its willingness to share its developmental expertise,” he said.

That view was shared by Mohammed Saqib, an Indian economist and secretary-general of India China Economic and Cultural Council, a nonprofit organisation that works to enhance economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

“China will continue to play a very, very important role for industrialisation of other backward or developing countries,” said Mr Saqib.

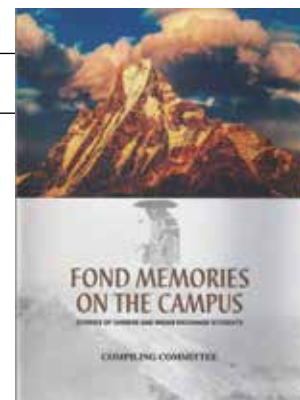
“China is such a large, big economy and it has become an intrinsic part of so many countries’ life that if China grows, everybody grows,” he added.

“China will continue to play a very, very important role for industrialisation of other backward or developing countries,” said Mr Saqib.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (C, front) meets with Chairman of British 48 Group Club Stephen Perry (5th R, front), Vice Chairman Keith Bennett (3rd R, Back) and representatives of “Young Icebreakers”, in London, Britain

Cross-cultural Connections Winning hearts and minds



China and India have a long history of people-to-people association, spanning over almost 2,000 years. As two important nations on the ancient Silk Route, which once crisscrossed across the challenging Himalayan terrain, linking the East with the West and providing a passage for not just merchandise but also new thoughts and ideas, China and India have been fortunate enough to have had a steady exchange of envoys, merchants and religious leaders.

The people-to-people exchange fortunately continues even today, enriching both nations and their citizens. Take for example, the education sector: There are around 20,000 Indian students studying in China and 2,000 Chinese students studying in India. Even though the numbers are miniscule, considering both nations have huge populations, they are not entirely insignificant and the experiences of both cohorts can go a long way in establishing stronger connections between the two countries.

What kind of experiences did their predecessors have? Varied, one may say. If you are keen to know more about the range and quality of experiences of these Chinese and Indian students, then do pick up the book, *Fond Memories on the Campus: Stories of Chinese and Indian Exchange Students*, published by GBD Books.

Beyond Campus Nostalgia

At first glance, the 179-page book, a collection of lucidly written essays by students and academic professionals about their experiences as exchange students, may seem like just nostalgic remembrance. But if you go through each of these carefully-documented experiences, you will find stories that are not just illuminating and heartwarming but educative as well. In fact, many readers will identify with many of these stories since we all have had our share of campus nostalgia.



The book is divided into two sections. In the first segment -- ‘The Beautiful Scenery, Lovely People, and Memorable Life in India’ (19 chapters), Chinese scholars and students talk about their myriad experiences in India; and in the second part -- ‘The mountains and rivers travelled and friendship forged in China’ (6 chapters) -- their Indian counterparts share their experiences of China.

The interesting aspect of the book is that these accounts are not just from one era, it spans across at least three decades and, therefore, the articles don’t just capture how students viewed their host country, its citizens, food, weather and infrastructure, but also the larger social and economic situation of their time in the host nations. “It [the book] vividly describes the joys and sorrow of life, shows all sorts of flavours in life they experienced,” writes scholar-diplomat Dr Jiang Yili in the preface.

In one of the chapters, Dr Jiang writes movingly about her days in the Delhi University campus and her trips to Rajgir, Gaya and Sarnath. Then there is an article by Master Ji Zhao on his life and times as a foreign student at Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University and how he negotiated the charged political atmosphere on the campus. There are several pieces that remark on India’s cultural diversity, its urban decay and even anecdotal pieces on different cities of India and their larger social environment. In an interesting piece, Zhang Wenjuan, who teaches law at a private university in India, talks about how young students at the university easily criticise the government. Ms Zhang makes an important point on the Indian way of dealing with diversity.

Cultural Diversity

From the Indian side, there are several articles about how many of them took Chinese though it’s a difficult language and how their visits to China have completely changed their view about the country.

Shikha Pandey’s piece (My China Story) has

From the Indian side, there are several articles about how many of them took Chinese though it’s a difficult language and how their visits to China have completely changed their view about the country.

an interesting anecdote on food: how it was a big challenge to find vegetarian food in China? Finally, she let go of her inhibitions and took to non-vegetarian food. In her article, she talks about how friends helped her to start eating non-veg. In his article, academic B. R. Deepak talks about his early connection with China, and how in school he devoured almost all things connected with China. Another sub-chapter is on China’s transformation of the Mao-era planned economy to Deng’s socialist market economy. But the most remarkable part of the chapter is the note on the journey of this transformation and how the relationship will pan out in the coming decades.

These are just a few examples of the experiences shared by the students, but as one delves deep into the book, one can actually visualise the different stages of bonding that students have to cross as they imbibe local culture and become effective cross-cultural connectors between the two countries.



CHINA'S OPENING-UP: THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

At the conference of celebrating the 40th anniversary of China's economic reforms on December 18, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that reform and opening-up is a great awakening of the CPC (Communist Party of China) as well as a great revolution in the history of both Chinese people and Chinese nation. The reform and opening-up has greatly changed the face of China, the Chinese nation, the Chinese people and the Communist Party of China. The Chinese nation has ushered in a great leap forward from standing up and getting rich to becoming strong. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has ushered in a great leap forward from its founding and development to its perfection. Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee in December 1978, the reform and opening-up has provided bright prospects for other developing countries on their way to modernisation. It is the key to the fate of contemporary China, and is also the key to achieve the Two Centenary Goals and to realise the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China-India Review encapsulates China's reform journey in pictures...



The Party's first generation of central collective leadership with Comrade Mao Zedong at its core established the People's Republic of China and the basic socialist system, laying a solid foundation for all the development and progress in contemporary China. The picture shows Mao Zedong solemnly proclaiming the founding of the People's Republic of China to the world on the Tiananmen Square at 3 pm on October 1, 1949 and personally raising the first five-star red flag.



In October 1978, Deng Xiaoping visited Japan. He visited three enterprises including Nissan Motor and experienced the modernisation of industrial production. Two months later, the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was convened in Beijing to make the strategic decision of implementing the policy of reform and opening-up. The picture shows Deng Xiaoping visiting Nissan Motor.

From December 18 to December 22, 1978, the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CCCPC (Central Committee of Communist Party of China) was held in Beijing. The Plenary Session made the decision of shifting the focus of work to socialist modernisation and of implementing reform and opening-up, which marked a far-reaching turning point in the Party's history since the founding of New China and opened a new age of reform and opening-up and of socialist modernisation. The picture shows Deng Xiaoping and Chen Yun at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CCCPC.

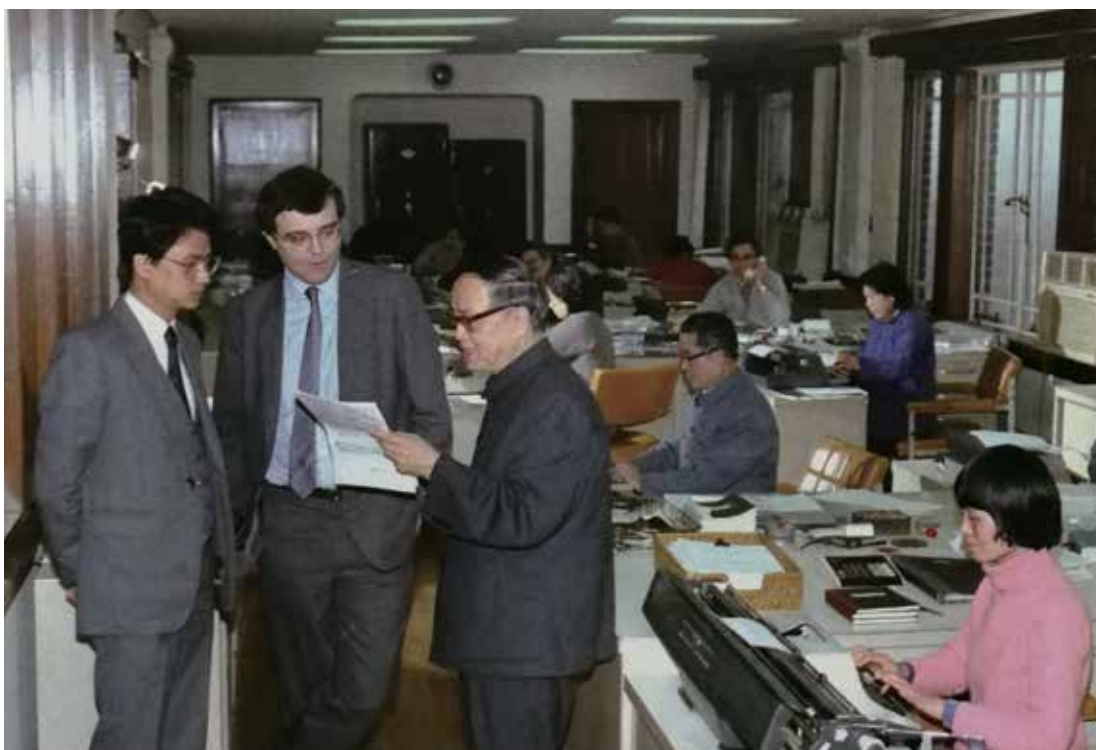


In 1970s, there was a farmer's market at the southwest corner of Dongdaqiao, where the one-story Dongdaqiao Department Store was built in 1978. In the autumn of 1989, the department store together with the nearby local products sales store, grain and oil sales store, Chaowai inn, Guangji Nunnery and poorly built houses were simultaneously dismantled to broaden the road and build the Blue Island Building. On January 18, 1993, the East Area of Blue Island officially opened and later the Kuntai Building was built. In 2016, a new modern mall was built in Dongdaqiao. The left picture shows the Dongdaqiao Department Store hidden in the Hutong in Beijing in 1981; the right picture shows the new modern mall with shopping, relaxation and art show functions.



In April 1979, after listening to the head of Guangdong Provincial Party Committee, Deng Xiaoping agreed on the suggestion of setting up export-processing zones near Hong Kong and Macao in Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou. He also suggested that special zone might be a better name. In August 1980, Shenzhen Special Economic Zone was established. In 40 years, Shenzhen has transformed from a small fishing village to a big modern city, becoming the most influential, the best developed special economic zone in China, and also the earliest to implement the policy of reform and opening-up. The picture shows the scene when Guangdong Shenzhen Special Economic Zone was first set up in May 1981.

In 1979, the Export-Import Bank of Japan set up its first representative office in Beijing, marking the opening-up of China's banking industry. After joining the WTO in late 2006, China announced the opening of domestic RMB business for foreign banks. Until 2018, dozens of foreign banks including BEA (Bank of East Asia) and HSBC (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) entered China. The picture shows the offices set up by foreign banks in Shanghai at the beginning of reform and opening-up.





At the beginning of reform and opening-up, TV sets began to appear in ordinary households. In 1990s, TV sets became popular in China with one TV set in each household. The picture shows the bustling crowd before the first black-white TV set in Shangzhangjiafen village of Zuoyun county in Shanxi province in 1980.

In late 1978, eighteen farmers from the Xiaogang production team of Liyuan commune in Fengyang county of Anhui province pressed their red fingerprints on the all-round contract to practise the system of fixing farm output quotas on the household basis. By late 1983, a dual management system basing itself on the family contractual operation became a fundamental management system for the countryside in China. Chinese farmers' incentive to produce had been unprecedentedly released in agricultural productivity. In 1984, China's grain output reached its highest peak, historically solving the big problem of food and clothing. The picture shows the float of "good system of contract responsibility" in the parade for the 35th anniversary of China's National Day in 1984.



In September 1986, ICBC (Industrial and Commercial Bank of China) opened its first stock brokers business and sold over 1000 Feile Audio shares on the first day. On November 14 of the same year, Deng Xiaoping offered a share of Feile Audio as a gift to John Verlin, the president of New York Stock Exchange in the US. Verlin himself immediately came to ICBC for transfer procedures. The international society claimed that "China was shaking hands with stock market". The picture shows Deng Xiaoping offering John Verlin the share of Feile Audio as a gift.



In April 1988, both Hainan province and Hainan Special Economic Zone were established, making it the largest Special Economic Zone in China. For 30 years, Hainan has been transformed from a remote island to an international resort area and developed into one of the most dynamic regions in China. In 2018, the CCCPC announced the establishment of the pilot free trade zone and the free trade harbor on Hainan Island. Hainan once again became an innovation window of reform and opening-up for the next decade. The picture shows people celebrating the establishment of Hainan province in 1988.

In April 1988, the First Plenary Session of the Seventh National People's Congress determined the legal and economic status of private economy. Some individual businessmen started their own private enterprises and became the "10000 yuan persons" of that time. For 30 years, entrepreneurship has changed the fate of countless Chinese while making more fortune possible on the land of China. The picture shows the self-employed Xu Yueying in Urumqi of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region taking the lead in displaying the "on sale" signboard.





In November 1990, SSE (Shanghai Stock Exchange) was founded and became the first one to open after 1949 in inland China. The majority of people took a wait-and-see stance at that time. However, after Deng Xiaoping's South Tour Talks, all stock trade prices at SSE soared into the sky like rockets on May 21, 1992-- which marked the true birth of China's stock market. The picture shows citizens lining up in front of the door of SSE for stock account registration in October 1991.

On October 11, 1992, the State Council approved the establishment of Shanghai Pudong New District. After more than 20 years of development, Pudong's "muddy-crossing road" has already changed into the world famous Lujiazui Financial Development Zone. Several hundred regional headquarters of transnational companies, over 10 factor markets such as SSE (Shanghai Stock Exchange), SHFE (Shanghai Futures Exchange), CFFE (China Financial Futures Exchange) and CFETC (China Foreign Exchange Trading Center), and several thousand new high-tech enterprises, made Pudong the epitome of Shanghai's modernisation and the symbol of China's reform and opening-up. The picture shows the Pudong New District, under construction, in the 1990s.



After the reform and opening-up, businessman Nian Guangjiu's enterprise "Fool Melon Seeds" was continuously expanding, triggering the debate on whether private enterprises belonged to "socialism" or "capitalism". At the beginning of 1992, Deng Xiaoping mentioned the "Fool Melon Seeds" for the third time in his South Tour Talks and stressed that the fundamental policies of urban and rural reform should remain stable for a long time. Deng's words set the minds of private entrepreneurs at ease. The picture shows Nian Guangjiu, the founder of "Fool Melon Seeds".

From January 18 to February 21, 1992, Deng Xiaoping inspected Wuchang, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shanghai and made important speeches, in which he pointed out that reform as well as revolution meant the emancipation of the productive forces, that reform and opening-up should be more daring to experiment, and that one should try and act daringly if certain. The picture shows Deng Xiaoping's inspection in Guangdong province.



From the midnight of June 30, 1997 to the early morning of July 1, 1997, China and Britain held the Hong Kong Handover Ceremony in Hong Kong, declaring that the government of China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, and that Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of PRC (People's Republic of China) was then officially established.

On December 19, 1999, China and Portugal held the Macao Handover Ceremony in the newly built Garden Pavilion of Macao Cultural Center. China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Macao. After the handover ceremony, the Macao Forum had another ceremony for the establishment of Macao Special Administrative Region and for the swearing-in of its government, declaring the formal establishment of the government of Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.



中国加入世界贸易组织签字仪式 SIGNING CEREMONY ON CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO

11 November 2001, Doha



In November 2001, the Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO was held in Qatar's capital Doha. After China joined the WTO, its total foreign trade has been increasing substantially and surpassed US in 2013 to be the number one world trader of goods, with a value of export as much as 10 percent of the whole world's. The picture shows the representatives of the Chinese government signing the Protocol for China's entry into the WTO.

From 2013, China has set up pilot zones for free trade in 12 provinces or cities such as Shanghai, Guangdong, Liaoning and Hainan. The Shanghai Free Trade Zone now created three-quarters GDP of Pudong New District with one tenth of its area, or one-quarter GDP of Shanghai city with one fiftieth of its area. The picture shows the Shanghai Free Trade Pilot Zone.



On the New Year's Day in 1979, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress issued the Letter to Taiwan Compatriots, clearly proposing a series of policy measures for developing cross-strait relations and progressing the peaceful unification. In almost 40 years since its issuance, many policy proposals have come true. On December 15, 2008, the cross-strait direct flight, direct voyage and direct postal were realized, marking the significant progress in the "three direct links" between both sides of the strait. The picture shows Zheng Jian, a Taiwan compatriot living in Beijing, mailing books to Taiwan at the ceremony of cross-strait direct postal service held in Beijing.

On April 10, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the 2018 annual meeting of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) and delivered a keynote speech on "Opening-up Creates Co-prosperity and Innovation Leads the Future," which stressed that economic globalisation is an irreversible trend of times. President Xi's speech signalled to the world China's unbreakable will and firm determination to deepen reform and expand opening-up in the new era.



In forty years of reform and opening-up, several million foreign experts have come to work in China and played an important role in promoting Sino-foreign scientific and technological exchanges and in cultivating high-level talented persons. The picture shows Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting the foreign experts before the Foreign Experts Symposium on May 22, 2014.



TRANSFORMING

TIBET

Past, Present

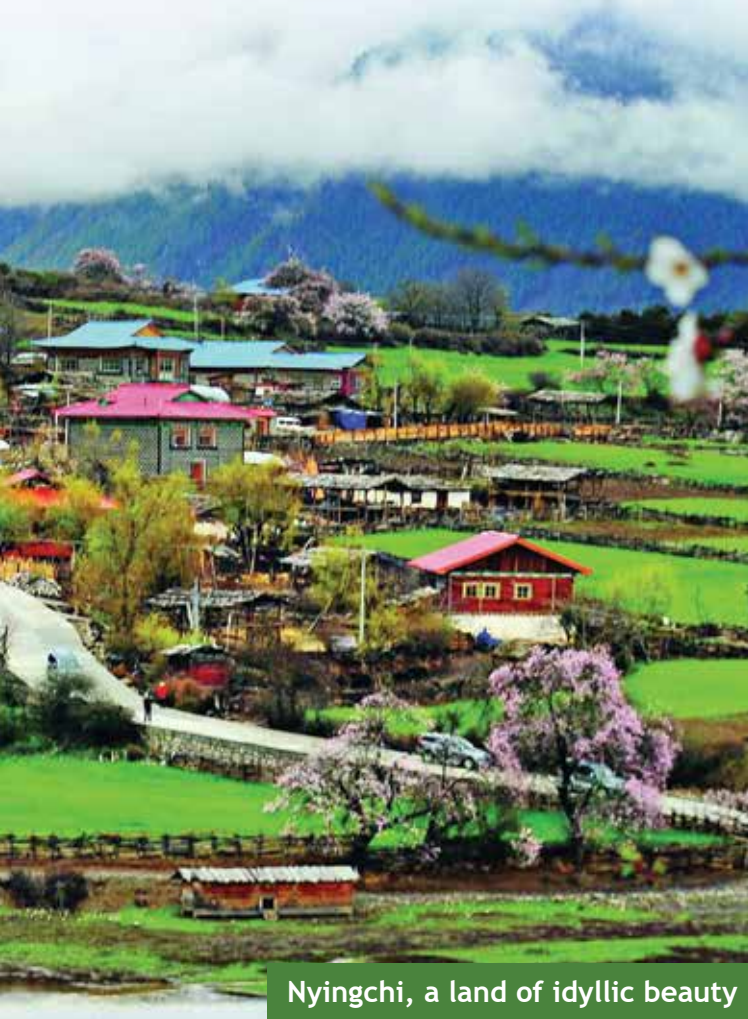


A Brief Introduction

The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) is one of China's five ethnic minority-autonomous regions. Its administrative districts comprise six prefecture-level cities: Lhasa, Shigatse, Qamdo, Nyingchi, Shannan, Nagqu, and the single prefecture of

Ngari. There are 74 counties (districts) and 697 townships under its administration. There are more than 40 ethnic groups, including the Tibetan, Han, Hui, Monba, Lhoba and Naxi. By the end of 2017, the number of permanent residents in Tibet was 3.3715 million. Tibetan and other ethnic groups comprised 91.81%.

and Future



Nyingchi, a land of idyllic beauty



Tibetans, along with 55 other Chinese ethnic groups, have created the splendid Chinese civilisation that is centuries old and spans across a vast landscape. The Tibetan culture is an inalienable part of the Chinese culture, which provides the former with a home for the soul and a hearth for the spirit. Tibet was peacefully liberated in 1951 and democratic reforms were undertaken in 1959. In 1965, the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) was established, ushering in a socialist development trajectory.

Tibet is situated in southwest China and the southwestern part of Qinghai-Tibet plateau, with the maximum north-south width expanding up to 900 kilometres, and the maximum length from the east to the west stretching over 2,000 kilometres. The region covers an area of more than 1.2 million square kilometres, the second largest in

China. Tibet is the highest region on Earth, with 85.1% of its total area over 4,000 meters above the sea level. It is often referred to as the “Roof of the World” and the “Third Pole of the Earth”.

The region’s complicated topography and atmospheric currents have given rise to its distinctive plateau climate. The southeast is warm

and humid while the harsher northwest is frigid and arid. This leads to a stark contrast in the climate between the southeast and the northwest, forming distinct vertical climate zones. Tibet is generally characterised by its long hours of sunshine, strong ultraviolet (UV) rays and low oxygen content (35%-40% less than that at sea level). Tibet experiences low temperatures and a low accumulated temperature, with marked difference in temperature between day and night.

Tibet ranks top nationwide in renewable energy (solar and wind power), natural resources (water, grassland and cultivated land, forest, wildlife, wetland), and mineral resources.

Politics: Winds of Change

Tibet has been an inalienable part of China's territory since ancient times.

During the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the central government included Tibet under its administrative jurisdiction and made it an administrative district. Official appointments, resident checks, taxes collection,



post establishment, army station and law implementation were carried out there. The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) followed the Yuan administrative system for Tibet and the central government conferred titles on multiple local political and religious leaders, and promoted tea and horse trade to ensure stability.

During the Qing Dynasty (1636-1912), the central government strengthened the administration of Tibet through several policies, including the appointment of a Grand Minister Resident in Tibet, issuing the Imperial Ordinance for Better Governance of Tibet (the "29 Articles"), stationing a standing army, establishing the Kashag (local cabinet), conferring the titles of Dalai Lama and Panchen Erdeni, and adopting the principle of drawing lots from the golden urn to authenticate living Buddhas. These steps ensured peace in Tibet.

By the 1950s, slavery and serfdom had been discarded by modern civilisation but Tibet still remained a society of theocratic feudal serfdom, with absolute supremacy held by religious power. The three major feudal lords — local officials, aristocrats and monks of upper class



Female deputies casting their vote at the 9th People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region.



Yunnan-Tibet Highway

— constituted 5% of the population but owned all the land, grasslands and most livestock, and ruled and enslaved the vast majority of people. Serfs and slaves, who made up 95% of the population, had no land ownership or personal freedom. They had to endure laborious work and were excessively taxed. US Tibetologist Tom Grunfeld and French traveller Alexandra David-Neel wrote: “Tibetans were ruled by an unusual form of feudal theocracy...Serfs were ‘tied’ to their masters...So powerless were they that they required permission even to marry.” These poor people can only stay on their sterile land forever. They lose all human freedom, and become poorer and poorer each year.”

The founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 marked Tibet’s entry into modern civilisation. After a series of important historical stages, from its peaceful liberation and democratic reform to the establishment of the autonomous region and the reform and opening-up drive, Tibet has steered itself into a fast lane of development, along with the rest of China. Tibet today is a world totally different from what it was before the 1950s. The Tibetan people have gained freedom, equality and dignity, and are fully

enjoying the fruits of modern civilisation. They are working hard to build a united, democratic, affluent, culturally advanced and ethically harmonious socialist society in the TAR.

The TAR was formed in 1965, and the systems of the People’s Congress and Ethnic Regional Autonomy were finally established. These events marked the leap forward for Tibet’s society from feudal serfdom under theocracy to socialism, with the people becoming their own masters.

Since 1965, the People’s Congress of TAR and its Standing Committee have enacted more than 300 local regulations and resolutions, and decisions of a regulatory nature. The implementation measures of several national laws have been formulated in accordance with local conditions.

In 2017, there was a 95% turnout rate for the general elections for people’s congresses at the regional, prefecture, county (district), and township levels. Of the 35,249 deputies elected directly or indirectly to the people’s congresses at the four levels, 32,778 or more than 93% were from Tibetan or other ethnic minorities.

Economy: On Fast-Track

The economy of old Tibet was outdated and stagnant. Wooden ploughs were used for farming and yaks for threshing. In some places, slash-and-burn, a primitive cultivation method, was used. The area had very poor roads, necessitating the transport of goods and delivery of mail by humans or pack animals. People lived in extreme poverty and misery due to the poor economy and the ruthless exploitation by serf owners. Lhasa, with a mere population of 20,000, had nearly 1,000 households of paupers and beggars. There weren’t any modern medical facilities, and the average life span was just 35.5 years.

For the last 25 years, Tibet has a double-digit growth rate, ranking top in China. Its GDP soared to 131.06 billion yuan in 2017, with year-on-year growth of 10%. The per capita disposable income of urban and rural residents reached 30,671 and

10,330 yuan respectively, up by 10.3% and 13.6%. The growth rates top the nationwide ranking.

The production capacity of agriculture and husbandry sectors has been constantly improving, with the total grain output surpassing 1 million tonnes for the first time in 2017. The total output value of enterprises processing agricultural and livestock products reached 3.6 billion yuan in the same year.

Infrastructure has improved remarkably. The regional road mileage has reached 90,000

kilometres, of which high-grade highways account for 660 kilometres. Every county is now accessible by asphalt roads and every village has access to road transportation. There are now 79 domestic and international air routes to the region.

The Comfortable Housing Project for farmers and herdsmen of Tibet, which was launched in 2006 and was successfully completed at the end of 2013, helped 2.3 million farmers and herdsmen realise their dreams of living in new houses.

A medical health network, which comprises traditional Chinese, Western and Tibetan medicines, has been established, covering all cities and villages, with Lhasa as the centre. The healthcare system in the agricultural and pastoral areas provides free medical services to farmers and herdsmen. In 2017, the average life expectancy in Tibet reached 68.17 years.

Tibet has made livelihood promotion, infrastructure improvement, ecological and environmental protection, and industrial

More than 70% of Tibet's fiscal spending is allocated to livelihood promotion, especially for farmers and herdsmen, grassroots communities and disadvantaged groups so that they can build a well-off society by 2020 along with other parts of China.



development as priorities in the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), promising to pay more attention to employment, medical care, social security, housing, elderly care and education. More than 70% of Tibet's fiscal spending is allocated to livelihood promotion, especially for farmers and herdsmen, grassroots communities and disadvantaged groups so that they can build a well-off society by 2020 along with other parts of China.

Culture: Blending Old & New

In old Tibet, few monks of the upper class and aristocrats monopolised productive materials and cultural and educational resources, and enjoyed exclusive access to cultural and art activities. In contrast, a large number of serfs lived in extreme poverty and were denied the right to education. Because of low productivity and lack of social fortune, cultural relics gradually withered, and there wasn't any form of modern science and technology, culture or education.

At present, with the full support of the State, the impressive traditional culture of Tibet is well preserved.

The learning and using of the Tibetan language is protected by the law. It has been developed in a comprehensive way, becoming China's first ethnic minority script. TAR publishes more than 100 book titles in Tibetan language every year, and the total number of Tibetan books published in 2017 was 586,005. The State has established education centres and research institutes such as Tibet University, Tibetan Traditional Medical College, China Tibetology Research Center, Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences, and the Tibetan Institute of Astronomy.

The Tibetan People's Broadcasting Station has 59 programmes and columns in the Tibetan language, including in Kham dialect, broadcasting in Tibetan 49 hours and 15 minutes per day. The Tibet Television Station has a Tibetan-language channel broadcasting 24 hours a day.

The central government has set a budget of more than 40 million yuan for the revision and publication of the Tibetan-language Chinese Tripitaka (Kangyur and Tengyur), a 20-year project entailing the efforts of more than 100 experts. This has satisfied the monks and laymen in Tibet and Tibetan-inhabited areas in other four



A scene from the stage drama Princess Wencheng.

provinces (Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu and Qinghai Province).

In 2006, the State launched the largest survey of Pattra-leaf scriptures in Tibet, and to date, more than 1,000 volumes with nearly 60,000 leaves have been identified and catalogued. The Tibetan-language Chinese Grand Canon, which includes more than 1,000 volumes of works of eminent monks, nuns and scholars of generations, will be published by the State within the next 15 years. Some of the works have already been published. Ninety four experts have spent over 10 years finishing *A General History of Tibet* (eight volumes and 13 copies), a brilliant work of Tibetan studies.

Since 2001, the central government has invested nearly three billion yuan for the conservation and restoration of more than 100 key cultural relics in Tibet, including the Potala Palace and the Jokhang Temple. A total investment of 160 million yuan has been spent for the restoration and protection of intangible cultural heritage, a very important scheme for the Chinese government.

Tibet now has 671 protected sites national and provincial cultural relics. Epic Gesar, Tibet opera and Lum Medicinal Bathing of Sowa Rigpa are included in the List of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Besides, 89 Tibetan traditional cultural items -- Thangka paintings and Tibetan paper -- are on the national intangible cultural heritage list. There are now 1,125 inheritors of intangible cultural heritage. A batch of cultural industry programmes, including theatre Princess Wencheng, has become a unique brand of Tibetan cultural tourism.

Modernisation of Education

Prior to 1951, there was no modern school in Tibet. Instead, there were old-style government-run or private schools meant only for 2,000 monks and children of aristocrats. The enrollment rate was less than 2%, and the illiteracy rate among the young and middle-aged population was as high as

95%. Millions of serfs and slaves were deprived of the right to education.

Tibet is the first region in China to provide 15-year free education from preschool to senior high school, and has covered tuition, food, and boarding expenses for students from farmers and herdsman communities and also those from poor urban families. The annual standard subsidy for each student has been raised to 3,480 yuan. A nutrition improvement plan has been implemented for students under the compulsory education plan in agricultural and pastoral areas with 100% coverage in terms of both policies and funds. By 2017, Tibet had approximately 2,200 schools, 662,420 students and 44,130 full-time teachers. A relatively modern education system is in place, covering pre-school education, basic education, vocational schools, higher education, adult education, and special education.

Tibet has its own cohort of postgraduate and Ph.D. students, renowned experts and scholars, 30 scientific research institutions, and an army of around 70,000 professionals.

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Students toss their trencher caps at the Potala Palace Square to celebrate their graduation.

Tibet tops China in areas such as Tibetan studies, plateau ecology, and Tibetan medicine, and boasts of world class academic achievements.

Ecology: Green Growth

In old Tibet, productivity was low. The region would only extract natural resources unsustainably because it had no scientific knowledge of ecological and environmental rules, let alone environmental protection.

The State has invested a lot of fiscal, material and human resources for Tibet's ecological and environmental protection to build an ecologically sound civilisation. Tibet strictly rejects any programme that may bring high level of pollution, emissions and energy consumption. It attaches equal importance to ecological protection and livelihood promotion and implements a reward and subsidy mechanism for ecological protection. Tibet also promotes innovation in management system, coordinating the systemic governance

of mountains, rivers, forests, lands, lakes and grasslands, and enhancing construction of national parks of the Third Pole with emphasis on Qomolangma mountain, Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon, Siling Lake and Zada Soil Forest.

Tibet has set up 61 natural reserves with a total area of 412200 square kilometres (33.55% of the land area of the entire region), which ranks first in the whole country. Bio-diversity has been increased in Tibet. There are 125 types of rare wild animals, including the Tibetan antelope, wild yak and black-necked crane, and 1,200 species of indigenous plants that enjoy State protection.

The number of Tibetan antelopes has grown to more than 200000, and black-necked crane to around 8,000. Tibet is one of the five major forest zones in China, with 14.91 million hectares of forest, covering 12.14% of the total area of Tibet. Tibet has 6.529 million hectares of wetland, which is at number two in the country.

The waters of the main rivers and lakes such as



the Yarlung Zangbo River and Nujiang River meet national class I or II standards. As the surveys and evaluations of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and relevant departments show, various ecological systems in Tibet are stable. The region's water, air, noise, soil, radiation, and ecological and environmental quality are in good condition. Most parts of the region have maintained their original natural state. Tibet is one of the places in the world with best ecological and environmental quality.

Religion: Diversity & Plurality

Old Tibet was ruled by a feudal serfdom under theocracy, which enforced theocratic rule and religious autocracy on the Tibetan people, and there was no freedom of religious belief. At that time, conflicts were constantly seen among different religious sects.

At present, various religions including Bonism, Tibetan Buddhism, Islamism and Catholicism

coexist harmoniously in Tibet and are respected and protected by the law. Traditional festival activities in different religions are celebrated in the same way they always were, including 40 large-scale religious activities, such as circumambulation around holy mountains and lakes, the Saga Dawa Festival, the Buddha Painting Showing Festival, the Lamaist Devil Dancing Festival and Pilgrimage.

Every year, around one million pilgrims visit Lhasa. Today, there are more than 1,700 religious sites for different religious activities in Tibet, with 46,000 resident monks and nuns. Apart from Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, there are 88 Bonist monasteries, four mosques, and one Catholic Church. Tibetan people, along with other ethnic minorities, lead their religious lives and engage in social activities in accordance with religious traditions.

The High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China has been set up in Beijing and Tibet



A mosque in Lhasa;
Yanjing Catholic Church, located in Naxi ethnic township, Mangkam county, Qamdo city, Tibet.

Buddhism College in Lhasa. As training bases for senior religious talents of Tibetan Buddhism, both systematically train teaching personnel. Monasteries in Tibet have been carrying out traditional religious activities, including sutra learning, sutra debate, initiation into monkhood or nunhood, abhiseca and self-cultivation, and implementing the degree system of examination-and-promotion for monasteries' sutra learning.

Reincarnation of Living Buddha

The Reincarnation of Living Buddha, created by Karma Kargyu sect in the late 13th century and

learned by other sects gradually, is an inheritance system unique to Tibetan Buddhism. The Qing central government conferred the title on the 5th Dalai Lama and 5th Panchen Erdeni of Gelug Sect in 1653 and 1713 respectively, which officialised their titles, political and religious status in Tibet.

Since then, every Dalai Lama and Panchen Erdeni needs to acquire conferment and approval from the central government, and their reincarnation systems have become the most influential ones. In 1793, the Qing government promulgated the Imperial Ordinance for Better Governance of Tibet (the "29 Articles"),



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and regulated that all grand Living Buddha reincarnations should be identified through drawing lots from the golden urn and approved by the central government. For the past 200 years, these have become the traditional religious rituals and historical conventions of Tibetan Buddhism.

The 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyaltso, born in Qinghai Province in 1935, was sent to Tibet in 1939 as a candidate of the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama. The process of lot-drawing from the golden urn for the 14th Dalai Lama was cancelled only after getting the permission from the central government of the Republic of China.

On February 22, 1940, Tenzin Gyaltso was enthroned in the Potala Palace and became the 14th Dalai Lama under the host of Wu Zhongxin, Chief of Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission and special representative of the central government. The 11th Panchen Erdeni, born in Tibet in 1990, was identified as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Erdeni through lot-drawing from the golden urn in Jokhang Temple on November 29, 1995, and approved by the central government of the People's Republic of China. He was enthroned in Shigatse on December 8, 1995.

In 2007, the then National Religious Affairs Administration issued the Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living

In 2016, the Living Buddha Checking System went online simultaneously on the websites of the Buddhist Association of China, the then National Religious Affairs Administration and China Tibet Online, and published information on 1,331 Living Buddhas within China. Currently, Tibet has 358 incarnated Living Buddhas.

Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism, indicating that reincarnation activities in Tibetan Buddhism are respected and protected by law. Since 2010, the Buddhist Association of China has started to issue credentials for Living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism.

Most of the Living Buddhas, identified through traditional religious rituals and historical conventions and approved by the central government, have received their credentials.

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On December 8, 1995, the 11th Panchen Erdeni was enthroned under the host of Li Tiejing, the then representative of the State Council, Member of the Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee and State Councilor. (Right) The golden seal of the 7th Dalai Lama



LEARN EVERYDAY CHINESE

问候 (2)
GREETING

02 你身体好吗

HOW ARE YOU

一 句子 Sentences

005 你早! ^① Good morning!
Nǐ zǎo!

006 你身体好吗? How are you?
Nǐ shēntǐ hǎo ma?

007 谢谢! Thanks!
Xièxie!

008 再见! Good-bye!
Zàijiàn!

二 会话 Conversations

1

李老师: 你早!
Lǐ lǎoshī: Nǐ zǎo!

王老师: 你早!
Wáng lǎoshī: Nǐ zǎo!

李老师: 你身体好吗?
Lǐ lǎoshī: Nǐ shēntǐ hǎo ma?

王老师: 很好。谢谢!
Wáng lǎoshī: Hěn hǎo. Xièxie!

2

张老师: 你们好吗?
Zhāng lǎoshī: Nǐmen hǎo ma?

王兰: 我们都很好。
Wáng Lán: Wǒmen dōu hěn hǎo.

您^②身体好吗?
Nín shēntǐ hǎo ma?

张老师: 也很好。再见!
Zhāng lǎoshī: Yě hěn hǎo. Zàijiàn!

刘京: 再见!
Liú Jīng: Zàijiàn!

新词 New Words

① 你早! Good morning!
问候语, 只在早上见面时说。
It is an everyday greeting that is used only when people meet each other in the morning.

② 您 (The respectful form of “你”)
第二人称代词“你”的尊称。通常用于老年人或长辈。为了表示礼貌, 对同辈人, 特别是初次见面时, 也可用“您”。
It is a respectful form of the second person pronoun “你”. It is normally reserved for old people or elders. To show politeness, one may extend its use to people of his own generation, especially at the first meeting.

生词 New Words

1	早	zǎo	①	early
2	身体	shēntǐ	②	body
3	再见	zàijiàn	③	to thank

会话自练 301

4	再见	zàijiàn	④	to say good-bye
5	老师	lǎoshī	⑤	teacher
6	您	nín	⑥	you (respectful)

专名 Proper Nouns

1	李	Lǐ	Li (surname)
2	王	Wáng	Wang (surname)
3	张	Zhāng	Zhang (surname)

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

R.N.I. No. 47440/88

March 2019



Yulan magnolia herald the arrival of spring in China. *Magnolia denudata* is named for its region of origin in China. This may be one of the first flowering tree used ornamentally, as Buddhist monks have grown it to adorn their temples for the past 1300 years.