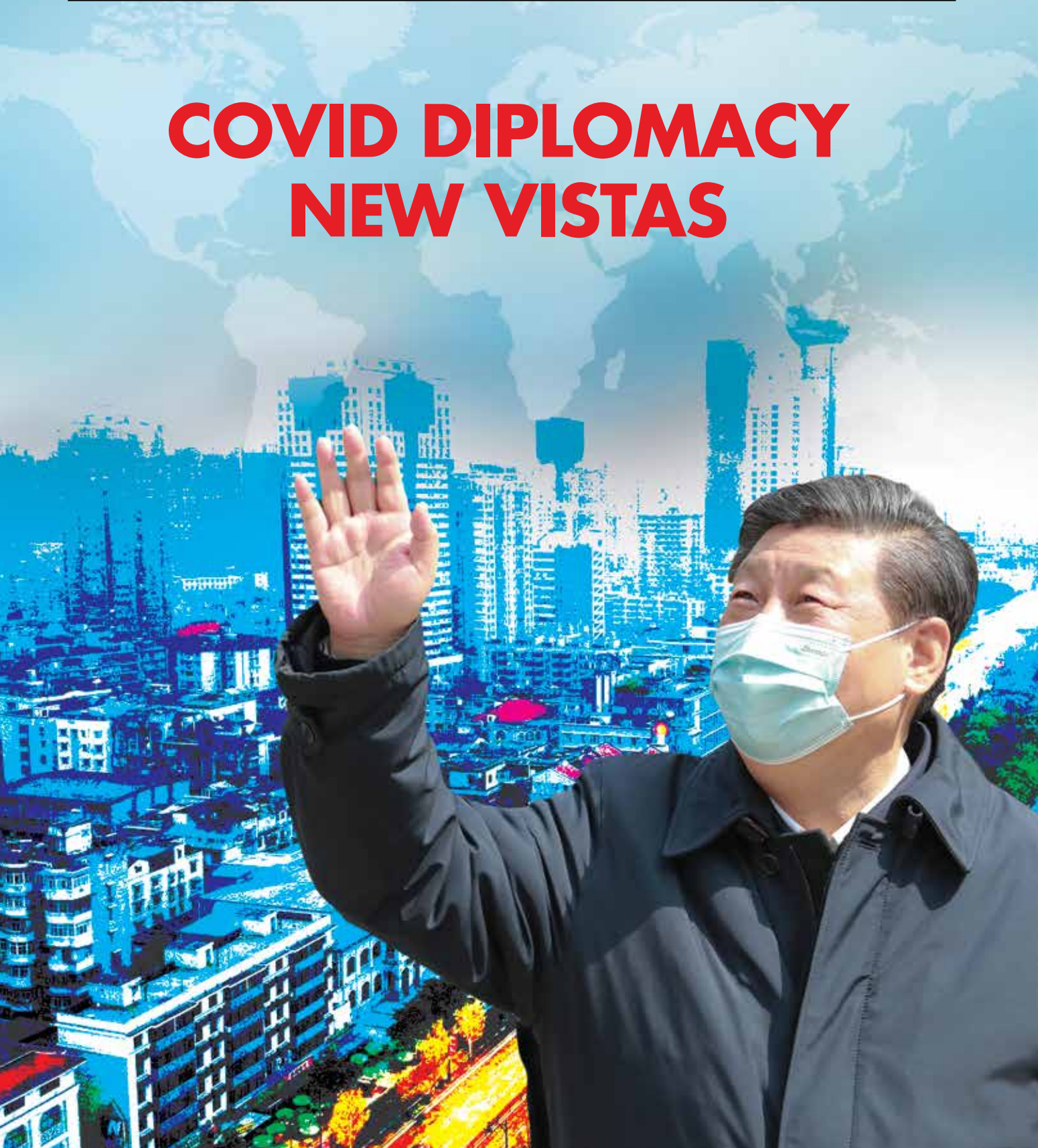


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CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

COVID DIPLOMACY NEW VISTAS





RESILIENT CHINA
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China-India Ties: The Way Forward

In any relationship, there are ups and downs. The recent border issue and unfortunate incident between China and India should not detract from the forward-looking vision of the bilateral partnership charted by our two leaders, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

As our frontline troops disengage and the border situation de-escalate, it's important to underline basic principles that should guide the development of China-India relations. First, China and India should be partners rather than rivals. Since the 1990s, China and India have reached an important consensus that the two countries pose no threat to each other. During the Wuhan Informal Summit in 2018, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again stressed that the two countries provide each other with development opportunities instead of posing threats. This fundamental principle should guide the course of China-India relations in the future.

Second, China and India need peace rather than confrontation. We should take a long-range view and not allow our differences to become disputes. China and India need to find a fair and reasonable solution to the boundary question which is mutually acceptable. Pending an ultimate settlement, we should renew our pledge to work together to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas. In this regard, the understanding reached between the two Special Representatives on July 5 should be followed conscientiously.

Third, China and India, the two largest developing countries and emerging economies, need to pursue win-win cooperation instead of zero-sum game. In the face of Covid-19 virus,

we should strengthen cooperation on curbing the epidemic and jointly overcome difficulties.

Some people have been trumpeting the so-called "decoupling" of China-India economic and trade relations which is erroneous thinking. The business community and people of India are the beneficiaries of China-India economic and trade cooperation. Any self-protection, non-tariff barriers and restrictive measures against China are unfair to everyone concerned. In this regard, we should focus on implementing the high-level economic and trade dialogue mechanism, which was agreed between the two leaders during their second informal summit in Chennai in October last year.

Fourth, China and India need to build trust rather than suspicion. We need to respect and accommodate mutual core interests and major concerns and adhere to the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Fifth, China-India relations should move forward rather than backward. This year marks the 70th anniversary of China-India diplomatic ties. With wisdom and painstaking efforts, we should cherish what we have achieved so far. As a Chinese saying goes, we have no fear of the clouds that may block our sights as we are already at the top of the height. We should take a broader and far-sighted view, work together to expand positive dimension of cooperation, narrow down negative factors, and bring the bilateral relations back on the right track for a sound and steady development. This will be our shared effort in days to come.

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

Editor-in-Chief : Ji Rong

Associate Editors

Chang Peilin, Cai Xiaotian

Desk

Yao Yuanmei

Zu Jian

Han Meng

Shweta Aggarwal

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

Contact: newsfromchinadelhi@gmail.com

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Consultant

TGII Media Private Limited

Website of Foreign Ministry of China

www.mfa.gov.cn

www.fmprc.gov.cn

Contact: webmaster@mfa.gov.cn

Chinese Ambassador's Twitter

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

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WANG-DOVAL TALKS SET THE STAGE FOR RESTORING BORDER PEACE

China and India have agreed to disengage troops at the border and follow on the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries after talks between State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi with India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in New Delhi in 2019.

On the evening of July 5, the Chinese Special Representative on the China-India Boundary Question, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held telephonic conversation with the Indian Special Representative, Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and discussed developments around the border situation.

Lowering of Tempers

Wang Yi noted that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India. Our bilateral relations have withstood tests and made hard-won progress. The right and wrong of what recently happened at the Galwan Valley in the



Indian and Chinese military officers at the Chinese New Year celebrations.

western sector of the China-India boundary is very clear. China will continue firmly safeguarding our territorial sovereignty as well as peace and tranquillity in the border areas. As Wang Yi stressed, for both China and India, achieving development and revitalization is the top priority in which we share long-term strategic interests. Both sides should adhere to the strategic assessment that instead of posing threats, the two countries provide each other with development opportunities. Both sides should pay great attention to the current complex situation facing China-India bilateral relations, and work together to overcome and turn it around as soon as possible. We hope India can work with China to guide public opinion in the right direction, keep and advance bilateral exchanges and cooperation, and avoid amplifying the differences and complicating matters so as to jointly uphold the big picture of China-India relations.

Understanding and Agreement

Both sides had candid and in-depth discussions over easing the current border situation and reached positive common understandings. First, both sides agreed to follow the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries. Both believed that maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas matters significantly to the long-term development of bilateral relationship, that the boundary question

Second, both sides reiterated adherence to the agreements signed by the two countries and making joint efforts to ease the situation in the border areas.

should be placed properly in the bilateral relations, and that an escalation from differences to disputes should be avoided.

Second, both sides reiterated adherence to the agreements signed by the two countries and making joint efforts to ease the situation in the border areas.

Third, both sides agreed to strengthen communication through the mechanism of the Special Representatives' Meeting, hold Meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs without interruption, consistently improve and strengthen confidence-building measures, and prevent more incidents that undermine peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

Fourth, both sides welcomed the progress achieved in the recent military and diplomatic meetings, agreed to stay in dialogue and consultation, and stressed the importance of promptly acting on the consensus reached in the commander-level talks between Chinese and Indian border troops, and complete disengagement of the front-line troops as soon as possible.

WANG, JAISHANKAR AGREE ON PEACE & STABILITY AT LAC

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar agreed to act on the consensus reached by the leaders and to strengthen communication to properly address the border situation through existing channels, including the SRs Mechanism and border personnel meeting.



China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in 2019.

China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar exchanged views on each other's positions to deescalate the border tensions and peacefully resolve their differences under the agreement reached by the leaders of the two countries.

On June 17, 2020, the two foreign ministers held a telephonic conversation and discussed their respective positions with a view to finding a solution to the Galwan border impasse.

Need for Galwan Probe

Wang Yi noted that on the evening of June 15 the Indian frontline border forces openly broke the consensus reached at the commander-level meeting between the two sides. When the situation in the Galwan Valley had deescalated, the Indian forces crossed the Line of Actual Control again, made deliberate provocations and even violently attacked the Chinese soldiers who went for negotiations. This subsequently led to fierce physical clashes and resulted in casualties.

The adventurism of the Indian Army seriously violated agreements on border issues between the two countries and severely violated basic norms governing international relations. China once again lodged its strong protest to the Indian side. We urge the Indian side to conduct a thorough investigation, hold the violators accountable, strictly discipline the frontline troops and immediately stop all provocative acts to ensure such incidents will not occur again. The Indian side must not misjudge the current situation and must not underestimate China's firm determination to safeguard our territorial sovereignty.

We urge the Indian side to conduct a thorough investigation, hold the violators accountable, strictly discipline the frontline troops and immediately stop all provocative acts to ensure such incidents will not occur again.

Mutual Respect & Support

Wang Yi stressed that China and India are both emerging powers with more than one billion people, and both have the historic mission to speed up the realization of our own development and revitalization.

Therefore, mutual respect and support is a sure way and meets the long-term interests of both countries; suspicion and friction is a wrong path and goes against the fundamental aspiration of the two peoples.

Both sides should act on the important consensus reached by the two state leaders, strengthen communication and coordination to properly address the border situation through existing channels, including the China-India Special Representatives' Meeting and border personnel meeting mechanism, so as to jointly preserve peace and tranquillity in the border area.

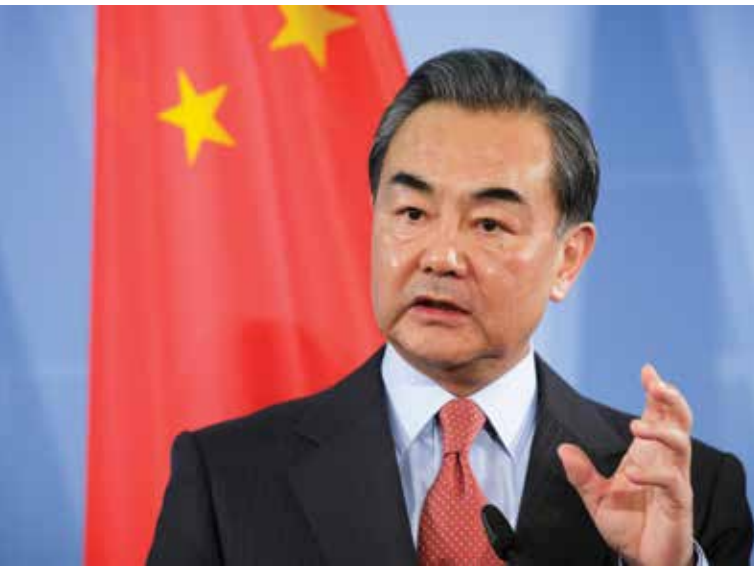
Wang Yi stressed that China and India are both emerging powers with more than one billion people, and both have the historic mission to speed up the realization of our own development and revitalization.

Implementing Consensus

Mr Jaishankar shared India's position and expressed India's readiness to act in the interest of bilateral relations, implement the consensus reached by the two leaders together with China, peacefully resolve disputes in the border area through dialogue, and reduce tensions in the border area.

The two sides agreed to fairly address the serious situation caused by the conflict in the Galwan Valley, jointly observe the consensus reached at the commander-level meeting between the two sides, cool down the situation on the ground as soon as possible, and maintain peace and tranquillity in the border area in accordance with the agreements already reached between the two countries.

RIC NEEDS TO ENHANCE SYNERGY TO PROTECT COMMON INTERESTS: WANG



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed greater synergy between Russia, India, and China (RIC) to increase collaboration and protect the common interests, such as multilateralism and global governance, during a video conference with his Russian and Indian counterparts, Mr Sergei Lavrov and Mr S. Jaishankar, respectively, on June 23. Mr Wang suggested that the three countries should set up a ministerial-level mechanism in fields like trade, energy, transportation, education, culture, and health for stronger trilateral cooperation.

Mr Wang noted that COVID-19 is bringing a host of complex changes to the world. On the one hand, unilateralism, protectionism, and practices of bullying are on the rise, with some countries and forces trying to scapegoat others, clamoring for decoupling, and exiting from international groupings and treaties. These moves are causing disruptions to international cooperation against

COVID-19 and aim to provoke confrontation over ideology and social system, putting the world in jeopardy.

On the other hand, peace and development remain the theme of the times. The trend towards the rise of emerging economies, a multi-polar world, and globalization amidst twists and turns remain unchanged. Shaping a post-COVID-19 world featuring peace, stability, openness, diversity and win-win cooperation serves the shared interests of all and responds to the call of the times.

Safeguarding Multilateralism

First, the three countries should adhere to multilateralism and work to improve global governance. It is necessary to resolutely safeguard the outcomes of the victory of World War II and advocate greater democracy and rule of law in international relations. The purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be upheld, the authority and effectiveness of the United Nations defended, and communication and coordination at the UN enhanced. Efforts must be made to build an open world economy, uphold the WTO-centered multilateral trading regime, and ensure the safe and smooth operation of global industrial and supply chains. And more needs to be done to take cooperation under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to a higher level and maintain solidarity and cooperation among BRICS countries.

COVID Cooperation

Second, the three countries should step up cooperation in winning the fight against

Mr Wang stressed that as major countries adhering to strategic independence, China, Russia, and India should maintain the overall momentum of cooperation as partners and seize opportunities they can offer to each other.

COVID-19. It is important to draw on each other's experiences, share information, and conduct joint R&D of drugs and vaccines. The three countries should continue to implement effective measures for the protection of the health of each other's nationals and explore the possibility of setting up joint response mechanisms as well as "fast-track lanes" for travel and "green lanes" for logistics. It is imperative to jointly promote international cooperation on the epidemic, firmly reject stigmatization of the virus, and resolutely oppose any attempt to exploit the disease for political aims. The three countries should support the World Health Organization and help improve global public health governance in an effort to build a community of health for all.

Forging Greater Synergy

Third, the three countries should improve cooperation mechanisms to forge greater synergy. China suggests that the three countries set up a trilateral ministerial-level dialogue mechanism in such fields as economy and trade, energy, transportation, education, culture and health, and establish an eminent persons' group to contribute wisdom for stronger trilateral cooperation. China supports Russia in hosting the first RIC defense ministers meeting, with a view to enhancing defense and security cooperation.

Mr Wang stressed that as major countries adhering to strategic independence, China, Russia, and India should maintain the overall momentum of cooperation as partners and seize opportunities they can offer to each other. Committed to the shared interests in advancing domestic development and upholding world peace and prosperity, the three countries should approach the sensitive issues in their bilateral relations in the right way in order to maintain sound relations on the whole.



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at their first virtual Trilateral talks in June 2020.

CHINA, INDIA ARE PARTNERS, NOT RIVALS, SAYS AMBASSADOR SUN

Taking a long-range view of bilateral relations, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong has said that China and India are partners in development, and provide development opportunities to each other. Some people are trying to provoke confrontation, but those actions neither serve any good to the two countries nor the world, the Ambassador said in a video message on July 10, 2020.



It was a situation neither China nor India would like to see. On July 5, the Special Representatives of the China-India Boundary Question, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had a conversation over the phone, and reached a positive consensus on easing the current border situation. Currently, our frontline troops are disengaging on the ground in accordance with the consensus reached by the Military Corp Commander talks.

The full transcript of the video remarks of the Chinese Ambassador is as follows:

On June 15, there was an incident causing casualties at the Galwan Valley in the western sector of the China-India border.

In the backdrop of what recently happened at the Galwan Valley, some quarters in India raise doubts about the consensus reached by the two leaders, and have wrong perception of the



Chinese President Xi Jinping with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the ninth BRICS summit in Xiamen, on September 5, 2017.

Currently, our frontline troops are disengaging on the ground in accordance with the consensus reached by the Military Corp Commander talks.

direction of China-India relations. These have brought disruptions to the bilateral relationship. In this regard, I believe it is imperative for us to clarify some fundamental points.

Partners, Not Rivals

First, China and India should be partners, rather than rivals. China and India have a history

of friendly exchanges for more than 2,000 years. Friendly cooperation has dominated most of the time. For both China and India, achieving development and revitalization is the top priority where we share long-term strategic interests.

Since the 1990s, China and India have reached an important consensus that the two countries pose no threat to each other. During the Wuhan Informal Summit in 2018, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again stressed that the two countries provide each other with development opportunities instead of posing threats, which the two sides should adhere to. This is the fundamental judgment on China-India relations, charting the course for the development of our bilateral relations.



I have noticed some emerging opinions in recent days, which repudiate the essence of China-India friendship due to the border-related incidents, make false assumptions about China's intentions, exaggerate conflicts and provoke confrontations, and regard a close neighbor over thousands of years as "enemies" and "strategic threats". It is not the fact. It is harmful indeed and not helpful.

China and India have jointly advocated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and upheld independent foreign policies. We should naturally see each other as positive factors in the changing global landscape as well as partners in realizing our respective dream of development. China hopes it will develop well and wishes India the same. Only through the correct view of each other's intentions with a positive, open and inclusive attitude, we can ensure a stable and

I have noticed some emerging opinions in recent days, which repudiate the essence of China-India friendship due to the border-related incidents, make false assumptions about China's intentions, exaggerate conflicts and provoke confrontations, and regard a close neighbor over thousands of years as "enemies" and "strategic threats".

long-term development of bilateral relations and avoid any strategic miscalculation.

Peace, Not Confrontation

Second, China and India need peace rather than confrontation. Cooperation benefits both while confrontation serves neither. As two major

neighboring countries, it is natural that China and India may have some differences. We have been holding dialogues and negotiations to manage differences. We should always bear in mind the overall bilateral relations, put differences in an appropriate place, and not allow differences to interfere with bilateral relations.

China and India have the boundary question left over by history, which is sensitive and complicated. We need to find a fair and reasonable solution, mutually acceptable through equal consultation, and peaceful negotiation. Pending an ultimate settlement, we both agree to work together to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

We should always bear in mind the overall bilateral relations, put differences in an appropriate place, and not allow differences to interfere with bilateral relations.

We have so far established a number of mechanisms such as the Special Representatives talks on the China-India Boundary Question, and maintained smooth communication through diplomatic and military channels. During the recent phone conversation between the two Special Representatives, both sides agreed to follow the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries. Both believed that maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas matters significantly to the long-term development of bilateral relationship, that the boundary question should be placed properly in the bilateral relations, and that an escalation from differences to disputes should be avoided. Both sides reiterated adherence to the agreements signed by the two countries and making joint efforts to ease the situation in the border areas.

China has all along advocated that peace is of paramount importance. We are neither a warlike state nor an assertive country. The right and wrong of what recently happened at the Galwan Valley is very clear. China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas.

We are neither a warlike state nor an assertive country. The right and wrong of what recently happened at the Galwan Valley is very clear. China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and ensure the peace and tranquility in the border areas.

I believe China and India have the wisdom and capability to properly handle differences and not fall into the trap of conflict. We should seek common development as partners rather than opponents or adversaries. Why should we fight against each other that will only hurt those close to us and gladden the foes?

Cooperation, not Antagonism

Third, China and India need to pursue win-win cooperation instead of zero-sum game. China and India are the two largest developing countries and emerging economies. Development is our common goal and the most important convergence of interests. Now we are facing the common enemy that is COVID-19. Virus knows no borders. In the face of this great test for humanity, we should fight side by side in the same trench. We should strengthen cooperation on curbing the epidemic and jointly overcome difficulty.

As China and India boast huge market potential and high economic complementarity, we are fully capable of achieving win-win results through cooperation. China has been India's largest trading partner for many years in a row, with cumulative investment in India exceeding \$8 billion. China-India economic and trade cooperation has not only boosted the industries such as mobile phones, household appliances, infrastructure and automobile making in India, but also created a large number of local jobs.

Some people have been trumpeting the so-called "decoupling" of China-India economic and trade relations, with an attempt to completely exclude "Made in China". One basic fact they ignore is that the current global industrial and supply chains are formed in a process of natural



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds delegation-level talks with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Brasilia in November 2019

selection by market optimization over the past decades.

The business community and people of India are the beneficiaries of China-India economic and trade cooperation. Any self-protection, non-tariff barriers and restrictive measures against China are unfair to Chinese enterprises, unfair to Indian employees who lost their jobs as a result, and unfair to Indian consumers who cannot get access to the products and services they deserve. It will only harm others without benefit to oneself, and it will eventually hurt oneself as well.

Our two leaders have decided to set up a high-level economic and trade dialogue mechanism, strengthen the synergy of economic development strategies and explore the establishment of a "manufacturing partnership". There is broad prospect for our practical cooperation. We should transmit and implement consensus reached

Some people have been trumpeting the so-called "decoupling" of China-India economic and trade relations, with an attempt to completely exclude "Made in China". One basic fact they ignore is that the current global industrial and supply chains are formed in a process of natural selection by market optimization over the past decades.

by the two leaders, keep and advance bilateral exchanges and cooperation, and avoid amplifying the differences and complicating matters. Only through openness and cooperation can we get out of the shadow of COVID-19 and find a way to revive economy at an early date.

Building Trust, Discarding Doubt

Fourth, China and India need to build trust, rather than suspicion. As President Xi Jinping pointed out, the key to China-India relationship is mutual trust, which is the foundation for stability and development of bilateral relations. If China and India wish to speed up the realization of our own development and revitalization, mutual respect and support is a sure way and meets the long-term interests of both countries. Suspicion and friction is a wrong path and goes against the fundamental aspiration of the two peoples.

To build mutual trust, we need mutual respect and treat each other as equals. We need to be open and inclusive. We need to respect and accommodate mutual core interests and major concerns, adhere to the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs. We need to seek convergence while putting aside differences and not impose one's will on the other. We should honor our commitment, walk the talk, and ensure implementation of the leaders' consensus in letter and in spirit.

The two sides should conduct timely strategic communication, enhance mutual understanding and cooperation, manage differences through dialogue, and firmly grasp the direction of bilateral relations. During their telephonic conversation, the two Special Representatives agreed to strengthen communication through the mechanism of the Special Representatives talks, hold Meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs without interruption, consistently improve and strengthen confidence-building measures and prevent more incidents that undermine peace and tranquility in the border areas. All these will strongly promote the strategic mutual trust between our two countries.

We need to seek convergence while putting aside differences and not impose one's will on the other. We should honor our commitment, walk the talk, and ensure implementation of the leaders' consensus in letter and in spirit.

Making a Difference

Fifth, China-India relations should move forward rather than backward. This year marks the 70th anniversary of China-India diplomatic ties. The bilateral relations have withstood test and made hard-won progress. With wisdom and painstaking efforts of generations, we should cherish what we have achieved today rather than repudiate it. At the backdrop of the current international landscape, China-India relations have gone far beyond the bilateral scope and have global strategic significance.

As a Chinese saying goes, we have no fear of the clouds that may block our sights as we are already at the top of the height. Now the China-India relations are facing a complex situation. We should take a broader and far-sighted view, work together to overcome and turn it around as soon as possible.

We should meet each other half way, expand positive dimension of cooperation, narrow down negative factors and refrain from doing harm to mutual trust and cooperation. In face



Chinese President Xi Jinping and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at their second informal summit in the heritage town of Mahabalipuram in October 2019.

of the epidemic, we may explore new ways and channels to promote communication and understanding between the two peoples to create a favorable atmosphere for the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic ties. The media outlets of our two countries should also make their efforts in an objective, rational and responsible manner; avoid inciting antagonism in an effort to contribute positive energy to the steady and sound development of China-India relations.

China-India relations should move forward rather than backward. This year marks the 70th anniversary of China-India diplomatic ties.

It is even more important to firmly grasp the consensus reached by our two leaders when the bilateral relations are overshadowed. I believe as long as we follow the guidance of our two leaders, implement the consensus reached by the Special Representatives, focus on friendship and cooperation, defuse suspicion and misgivings, and properly handle differences and sensitive issues, we will be able to address challenges we are facing and bring the bilateral relations back on the right track for a sound and steady development.

CHINA IS READY TO WORK WITH INDIA TO JOINTLY UPHOLD BORDER PEACE, SAYS AMBASSADOR SUN

Looking back at the events that led to the clashes in the Galwan Valley, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong underlines that the overall situation in the China-India border areas has now become stable and controllable. He said that China is ready to work with the Indian side to properly deal with the current situation, jointly uphold peace and stability in the border areas, and ensure sound and steady development of bilateral relations.



Recently, the Chinese and Indian border troops engaged in fierce physical conflicts in the Galwan Valley in the western section of the China-India border, causing casualties. This is the situation the Chinese side would not like to see. The incident was completely instigated by

the Indian side and the responsibility does not lie with the Chinese side. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our position and opinion: First, the incident happened on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and the Indian side crossed the LAC first. The Galwan Valley is

located on the Chinese side of the LAC, where the ground situation of control and management is very clear. The two sides basically have kept the peace for decades. However, since the beginning of this year, the Indian side has continuously built facilities at or crossing the LAC in the Galwan Valley, constantly changing the status quo of ground control. On May 6, the Indian border troops crossed the LAC in the Galwan Valley by night and trespassed into China's territory. They resorted to violent means to create a standoff between the two sides and built infrastructures in an attempt to maintain a permanent presence.

Second, the Indian side violated the consensus and started provocation, which led to the escalation of the situation. Since the beginning of

facilities, and so they did. On June 6, the border troops of both countries held a commander-level meeting. The Indian side promised that they would not cross the estuary of the Galwan river to patrol and build facilities, and the two sides agreed to build observation posts on either side of the Galwan river mouth. However, after the commander-level meeting, when the situation on the ground was already easing, the Indian border troops copped out on the consensus reached in the commander-level meeting, demanded that



the standoff in early May, the Chinese side has lodged representations on multiple occasions to the Indian side through military and diplomatic channels. The Indian side agreed to withdraw the personnel who crossed the LAC and demolish the

China dismantle its observation post, and once again crossed the line for provocations, which triggered the conflict.

Third, the Indian side started the fight, and violently attacked the Chinese people. On

the evening of June 15, the Indian border troops violated the consensus reached in the commander-level meeting and crossed the LAC once again to dismantle a Chinese tent. The Chinese side went for negotiation as they used to do while handling border incidents. However, the Indian army suddenly and violently attacked the Chinese officers and soldiers who went for negotiation, causing fierce physical conflicts and casualties between the two sides.



Chinese and Indian soldiers participated in the “Hand-in-Hand” counter-terrorism exercise at Umroi, Meghalaya, in December 2019.

Fourth, the Indian side violated a series of agreements reached between the two countries. China and India have agreements and protocols to follow in maintaining peace in the border areas. Article 1 of the Agreement, signed in 1993, is on the maintenance of peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control, and Article 2 of the Agreement, signed in 1996, is on confidence-building measures between the militaries along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) that clearly stipulate the activities prohibited. Actions taken by the Indian side are not in consonance with the spirit of the above-mentioned agreements.

Resolving Dispute, Managing Differences

If one analyses this incident carefully, it's quite clear that the onus is not on China. The Indian side crossed the LAC for provocation and attacked the Chinese border troops. The Indian forces seriously violated agreements on border issues between the two countries and severely violated basic norms governing international relations. We urge the Indian side to conduct a thorough investigation, hold the violators accountable, strictly discipline the frontline troops, and immediately stop all provocative acts to ensure such incidents will not occur again.

China and India have agreements and protocols to follow in maintaining peace in the border areas. Article 1 of the Agreement, signed in 1993, is on the maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LAC, and Article 2 of the Agreement, signed in 1996, is on confidence-building measures between the militaries along the LAC that clearly stipulate the activities prohibited.

Currently, China and India have stayed in communication through military and diplomatic channels to defuse the situation. Not long ago, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi had a telephone conversation with Indian Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar. The two sides agreed to fairly address the serious situation caused by the conflict in the Galwan Valley, jointly observe the consensus reached at the commander-level meeting between the two sides, cool down the situation on the ground as soon as possible, and maintain peace and tranquility in the border area in accordance with the agreements already reached between

Currently, China and India have stayed in communication through military and diplomatic channels to defuse the situation.

the two countries. On June 22-23, the two sides held the second round of commander-level meeting to continue consultations on the current situation. On June 24, the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs led by the competent Director Generals of the two foreign ministries also held a meeting to communicate on relevant issues.

The Road Ahead

China and India are willing and able to properly manage differences. At present, the overall situation in the China-India border areas is stable and controllable. We hope the Indian side meet the Chinese side halfway, avoid taking actions that may complicate the border situation and take concrete actions to maintain stability in the border areas. China and India are both large developing countries and emerging economies with more than one billion people, and both

have the historic mission of realizing our own development and revitalization. As Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke with Indian Minister of External Affairs Jaishankar on the phone, mutual respect and support is a sure way and meets the long-term interests of both countries; suspicion and friction is a wrong path and goes against the fundamental aspiration of the two peoples. Under the guidance of the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, we are ready to work with the Indian side to properly deal with the current situation, jointly uphold peace and stability in the border areas, and ensure sound and steady development of bilateral relations.

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BAN ON CHINESE APPS BY INDIA CONTRARY TO WTO AND FAIR TRADE: CHINA

China has expressed serious concerns over the banning of 59 Chinese apps by the Indian government, saying such a move violates the WTO rules and goes against the general trend of international trade and E-commerce.



On June 29, the Ministry of Information Technology of India issued a notice, citing relevant laws and regulations, to block certain Chinese mobile applications in India on the so-called grounds that 'they are engaged in activities which are prejudicial to

sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order'.

The Chinese side is seriously concerned with and firmly opposed to such action, said Spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India Counselor Ji Rong.



“India’s measure, selectively and discriminatorily aims at certain Chinese apps on ambiguous and far-fetched grounds, runs against fair and transparent procedure requirements, abuses national security exceptions, and suspects of violating the WTO rules,” said Mrs Ji Rong.

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“It also goes against the general trend of international trade and E-commerce, and is not conducive to consumer interests and the market competition in India,” said the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India.

“Related apps have a large number of users in India, have been operating strictly in accordance with Indian laws and regulations, and provide efficient and fast services for Indian consumers, creators and entrepreneurs,” she said.

“The ban will affect not only the employment of local Indian workers who support these apps, but also the interests of Indian users and the

employment and livelihoods of many creators and entrepreneurs.”

“We expect India acknowledges the mutually beneficial nature of China-India economic and trade cooperation, and urge the Indian side to change its discriminatory practices, maintain the momentum of China-India economic and trade cooperation, treat all investments and service providers equally, and create an open, fair and just business environment, while bearing in mind the fundamental interests of both sides and the overall interests of bilateral relations.”

“The ban will affect not only the employment of local Indian workers who support these apps, but also the interests of Indian users and the employment and livelihoods of many creators and entrepreneurs.”

In a separate statement, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said: “The Indian government has the responsibility to protect the legitimate rights and interests of international investors in India, including Chinese businesses, in accordance with market principles.” “Practical cooperation between China and India is mutually beneficial. Deliberate interference in such cooperation will not serve the interests of the Indian side,” Mr Zhao said.

BELT AND ROAD

Can Make A Big Difference to Our Shared Problems: Xi

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged a virtual meeting of 25 countries to strengthen collaboration in the Belt and Road project, which would help address multiple problems from poor health services to lack of development.



Chinese President Xi Jinping with world leaders, who participated in the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing in May 2019.

President Xi Jinping, giving a fresh push to reinvigorate the Belt and Road initiative, emphasized that China's BRI could make a "big difference" in tackling global crises arising from underdevelopment. "The right approach to realizing long-term development is through connectivity, openness, and inclusiveness, and this is where the Belt and Road can make a big difference," he said in a message to a meeting of the representatives of 25 countries to discuss the project on June 18.

President Xi stressed that Belt and Road is a model to unlock the development potential, protect the well-being of the people, and restore economic activity. "Be it in taming the virus or economic recovery, we cannot succeed without solidarity, cooperation, and multilateralism. China will work with its partners to develop the Belt and Road into a model of co-operation," he said.

The General Secretary of the Communist Party of China said the sudden attack of Covid-19

"Be it in taming the virus or economic recovery, we cannot succeed without solidarity, co-operation, and multilateralism. China will work with its partners to develop the Belt and Road into a model of cooperation," said President Xi.

has dealt a heavy blow to the world economy, especially in developing nations. "Countries have taken robust measures, but at the same time struggling to resume economic activities," President Xi said.

The video conference was attended by foreign ministers and officials from 25 countries. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and UN Development Programme Administrator Achim Steiner also participated in the meeting.

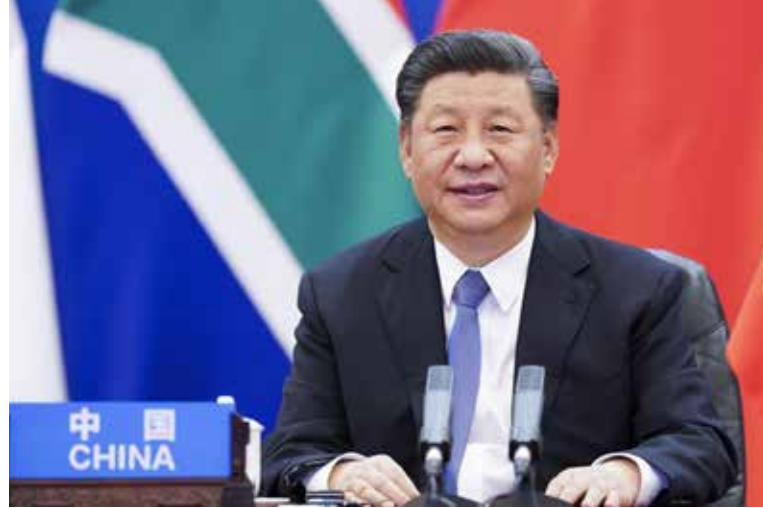


CHINA-AFRICA SUMMIT

Xi Pledges Debt Relief, Calls for Deepening Solidarity

In a virtual address to the African leaders on June 17, President Xi Jinping outlined a roadmap for engagement in a post-Covid-19 world, covering multiple areas of collaboration, as well as debt relief.





President Xi Jinping has called for greater collaboration to defeat the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa and said China is ready to waive-off the interest component of the loans to countries to help mitigate their debt burden. Both sides withstood the challenges posed by Covid-19 and as they work together to build a cohesive community, China will rework on its investments that are due to mature in 2020 to convert them into interest-free loans, President Xi said at the virtual China-Africa Summit on June 17.

Additionally, the hardest-hit countries will have the option to extend the repayment period. China will also work with the G20 members to expedite their debt service suspension initiative in Africa, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said. Besides, China will speed-up the construction of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) headquarters and the China-Africa Friendship Hospitals to bolster Africa's defence against the disease. "We pledge that once the development and deployment of Covid-19 vaccine are complete in China, African countries will be among the first to benefit," the Chinese leader maintained.

Bolstering Partnership

President Xi underlined the need to ramp up collaboration in livelihood and economic projects, stressing that China's Belt and Road initiative would help accelerate that process. "Additional priority is required in public health, economic reopening, and livelihood," he added. As Africa embarks on its path to develop a free trade area, boost connectivity, and strengthen supply chains, China will explore further areas of cooperation such as digital economy, smart city, clean energy, and 5G to boost Africa's development, the Chairman of the Central Military Commission said.

President Xi, also the General Secretary of CPC, criticized the "politicization and stigmatization of Covid-19", underscoring that solidarity and cooperation is "the most powerful weapon" that can prevail over the disease. "We also oppose racial discrimination and ideological bias, and stand firm for equity and justice," President Xi stated, urging Africa to stay committed to upholding multilateralism. Likewise, supporting each other on issues of interests, they would further bolster their partnership, he said.

As Africa embarks on its path to develop a free trade area, boost connectivity, and strengthen supply chains, China will explore further areas of cooperation such as digital economy, smart city, clean energy, and 5G to boost Africa's development, the Chairman of the Central Military Commission said.

Countries that participated in the conference included South Africa, the current chair of the AU, Senegal, co-chair of the AU, Egypt, DRC, Algeria, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia. Top officials of regional and international organizations such as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also attended the meeting.

XI'S COVID DIPLOMACY BOOSTS CHINA'S TIES WITH WORLD, SAY EXPERTS

China's proactive diplomacy led by President Xi Jinping for Covid-19 support has earned her more friends around the world, say experts.



The Covid-19 pandemic may have pressed the “pause” button on the interaction between countries, but China’s diplomacy led by President Xi Jinping in the form of phone calls, mails, and video-conferences has helped to enhance its relations with the rest of the world, officials and experts said. The exchanges between President Xi and other world leaders in the first half of 2020 have helped find ways to effectively respond to the crisis and offset its impact on the world economy.

Diplomatic Outreach

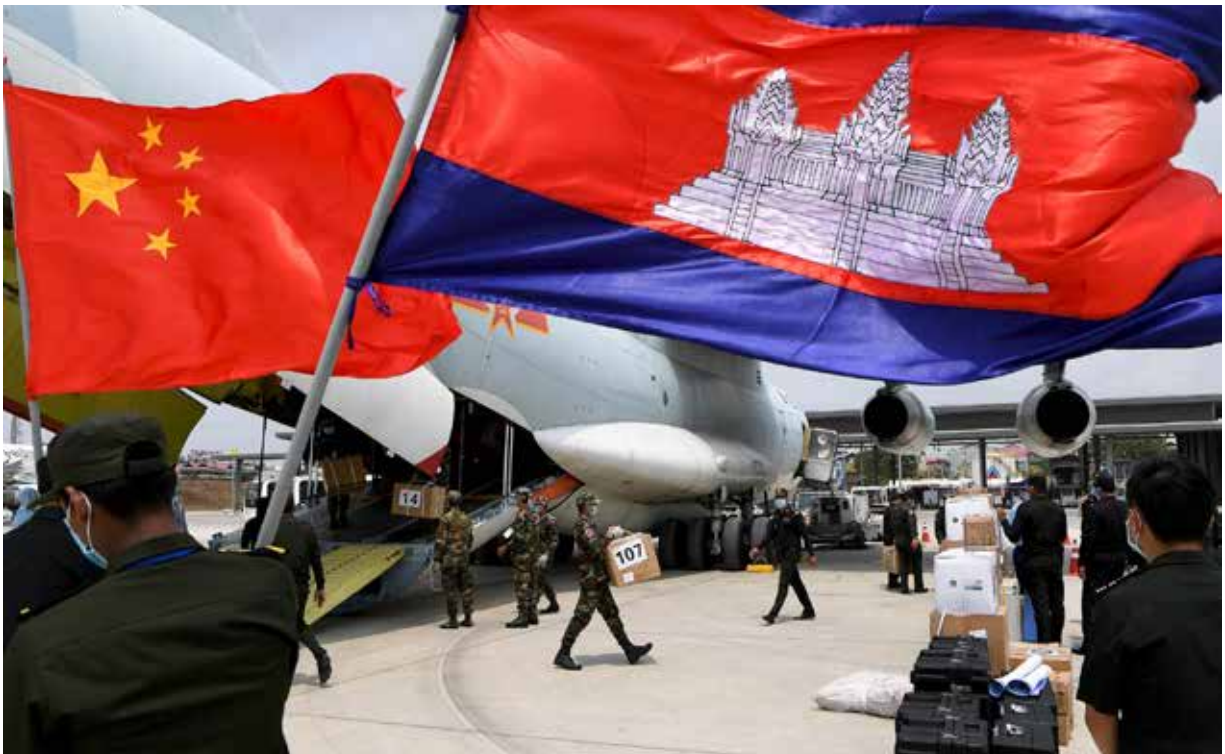
Since the start of the outbreak, President Xi has engaged with more than 50 foreign leaders and heads of international organizations through phone calls and meetings, and advanced international cooperation in fighting the novel coronavirus. On June 22, he met the European Union's new leadership – European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen – via video link to strengthen China-EU cooperation. He also attended a series of virtual multilateral events, including the G20 Summit and the opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly, and hosted the China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against Covid-19.

In addition, President Xi sent letters to foreign leaders to extend his sympathy to the people of epidemic-affected countries, express China's support to them for their efforts in curbing the virus, and strengthen bilateral ties. Speaking at a news conference on the

Since the start of the outbreak, President Xi has engaged with more than 50 foreign leaders and heads of international organizations through phone calls and meetings, and advanced international cooperation in fighting the novel coronavirus.

sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress, the nation's top legislature, on May 24, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that in all of President Xi's diplomatic engagements, he underscored China's unequivocal commitment to global solidarity and cooperation against Covid-19.

More than 170 foreign leaders, 50-plus heads of international and regional



Chinese military offloads medical equipment from an aircraft in Cambodia.



organizations and more than 300 political parties or organizations have expressed their sympathy over the outbreak and their support for China's efforts to curb the virus through phone calls, letters or statements, the Foreign Ministry said. China has also provided medical supplies and expertise to other countries while sharing information and anti-epidemic experience with them. By the end of May, China had exported anti-epidemic materials such as masks and protective clothing to over 200 countries and regions, the ministry said.

Larger Circle of Friends

Vice-Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu said at a news conference in June that China's relations with the majority of countries have been improved and strengthened amid the epidemic and its circle of friends has been expanded. China's cooperation with

the international community in the fight against the virus has significantly enhanced its ties with other countries and promoted pragmatic cooperation with them, Mr Ma said. Addressing the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit, the CPC General Secretary called on the international community to be resolute in fighting a global war.

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MULTILATERALISM, THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST COVID-19

When delegates from 50 nations signed the UN Charter at the San Francisco Conference on June 26, 1945, the international community was well aware of the necessity and significance of safeguarding world peace and stability through multilateralism, a key principle enshrined in the UN Charter. Since the end of World War II, multilateralism has been the bedrock of the post-war international order, while global cooperation within the UN framework has become increasingly instrumental in delivering disaster relief supplies, responding to infectious outbreaks, reducing poverty, mediating regional conflicts, and promoting sustainable development around the world.



Threats to International Order

Today, 75 years after the signing of the UN charter, the spirit of multilateralism and global cooperation are more relevant than ever as the world battles a deadly pathogen. Unfortunately, even before the Covid-19 outbreak, multilateralism has been under vicious assault, while protectionism and isolationism have been on the rise in recent years.

Fanning Xenophobic Sentiments

It has been widely acknowledged that the victory over the ravaging Covid-19 pandemic depends on how well countries around the world can work together. Yet, it is sad to see that some US politicians, instead of joining the rest of the world in forming a united front to beat the virus, have been busy smearing others, fanning xenophobic sentiments, and taking advantage of the pandemic for personal political interests. Washington has also undermined the leading role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in fighting Covid-19 by deciding to depart from the UN agency. Those acts are threatening to derail the much needed global cooperation on containing the outbreak.

Covid-19 Crisis

As global Covid-19 cases are expected to hit 10 million in the coming days, the world has learned the hard way that it needs more, rather than less, multilateral cooperation and global solidarity. The virus knows no borders or ethnicities, and stronger global coordination holds the key to prevailing over the coronavirus. In the coming months, countries around the world should jointly coordinate their prevention and control measures, speed up the research and development of vaccines, and offer help to nations with fragile medical systems.

Today, 75 years on since the signing of the UN charter, the spirit of multilateralism and global cooperation are more relevant than ever as the world battles a deadly pathogen.

Multilateralism Still Relevant

The Covid-19 pandemic is also taking an economic toll. The International Monetary Fund on June 24 predicted that the global economy would shrink by 4.9 percent this year. Though many countries have carried out monetary and fiscal interventions, given the colossal hit on economies and the highly interrelated global financial system, saving a globalized economy will entail even stronger international collaboration.

Even when the human race emerges victorious against the pandemic, multilateralism will remain imperative as the international community still has to cope with daunting non-traditional security challenges such as climate change and terrorism, which no country can handle alone. "We the peoples ..." the three words with which the UN Charter begins, should serve as a reminder amid the unprecedented health crisis that multilateralism and global solidarity are the best and last line of defense for humanity.



China's First Virtual AI Event Attracts Projects Worth \$12 Billion, 392 Million Visitors

The popularity of the World Intelligence Congress is an indication of the growing preference of the industries and service providers for digital technologies whose immense potential is still being explored, say industry experts at the 4th WIC in China.

China has organized the popular World Intelligence Congress (WIC), a major artificial intelligence (AI) event, in a virtual world this year, broadcasting live from the northern Tianjin city. The two-day annual event drew 392 million online visitors from around the world, and 145 teams from over half-a-dozen countries, including the United States, Japan, Germany, Australia, South Korea, and Singapore.

The 4th WIC was held in a cloud-based virtual world to eliminate the risk of Covid-19 virus but that didn't deter the visitors from conducting business or participating in the competitions. A total of 131 domestic investment projects worth 80.9 billion yuan (USD 11.4 billion) and 17 foreign projects worth USD 1.6 billion were signed online during the two-day event, the organizers said. Jin Xiangjun, the vice mayor of Tianjin, said at the closing ceremony on June 24 that 40 websites and online platforms broadcast this year's WIC, drawing viewers from around the world.

China AI Comes of Age

According to the Chinese Institute of New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Strategies, China had 797 AI enterprises in 2019, accounting for 14.8 percent of the world's total and home to the second-highest number of AI firms after the United States. "The Covid-19 has grounded trips, but WIC has provided the global AI industry players a platform for exchanges at this time," said Zhou Hongyi, the founder of the internet security firm Qihoo 360. The

Zhou Hongyi,
CEO of 360 Security
Technology



Ren Yuxin,
COO of
Tencent



society more resilient amid the epidemic. Tencent and the United Nations in March announced to form a global partnership to hold an online public debate on new technology to mark the 75th anniversary of the global organization.

Liu Qingfeng, chairman of the Chinese tech firm iFlytek, said at the WIC that the company's telephone robots have helped with the survey of millions of people in China on Covid-19. The robots were introduced in South Korea as well to help survey public health conditions. First deployed during the anti-epidemic fight in Wuhan city, the previous epicenter of the

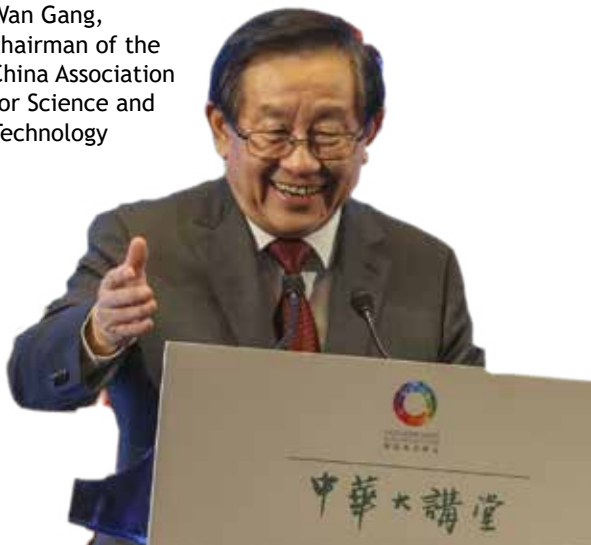
experts and entrepreneurs at the congress said the pandemic has put off many international AI events but helped the world embrace a faster development of intelligent technology. However, China has come up with new solutions for online communication. The 127th China Import and Export Fair, the country's oldest and largest trade expo, was also held online for the first time and concluded on June 24, drawing some 26,000 domestic and foreign companies, which exhibited 1.8 million products.

Tencent has been one of the Chinese tech companies empowering the trade fair and online WIC. Ren Yuxin, COO of Tencent, said that the application of digitalization, networking, and intelligence has made China's economy and



Liu Qingfeng, chairman of the Chinese tech firm iFlytek

Wan Gang,
chairman of the
China Association
for Science and
Technology



outbreak in China, the robots completed a survey of one million people in just six hours. As of October 2019, China's AI industry helped register 440,000 Covid-19 patents, making it the world's highest coverage through the use of this technology, according to the China Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team. "The Covid experience shows that every industry has more or less started with the digital process," Mr Ren said.

Shared Future

China launched the last satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) during the WIC, equipped with big data and AI technologies. The BDS system is used by over half of the countries around the world, reinforcing China's philosophy of sharing resources and building an integrated global community. "Covid-19 knows no borders, and AI should go beyond the national boundaries to equip the public in the fight against the virus," said Wan Gang, chairman of the China Association for Science and Technology, in his speech at the WIC.

Chinese internet medical platform WeDoctor launched its global anti-epidemic online service on March 14 in five languages, serving 3.49 million users in 220 countries and regions. A total of 11,225 Chinese medical experts have rendered free services, offering over 14 million consultations on the platform around the world so far. Health services have stepped into the digital era; all resources should be used to build a healthy global community, said Liao Jieyuan, the chairman of WeDoctor.



Liao Jieyuan, the chairman of WeDoctor

XI UPBEAT ABOUT CHINA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, PLEDGES WIDER OPENING-UP

Chinese President Xi Jinping has reassured global CEOs of a better business environment and deeper economic reforms while stressing that the country's long-term economic growth hasn't been affected by the pandemic.

The fundamentals of China's long-term sound economic growth have not changed and will not change, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a reply letter to global CEOs on July 15. China will keep deepening reform and expanding opening-up, and provide a better business environment for the investment and development of Chinese and foreign enterprises, he said.

President Xi was replying to a recent joint letter from 18 CEOs of the Global CEO Council, which groups 39 multinational companies that are global leaders in their respective industries. In his reply to top business leaders, President Xi said he appreciates their firm confidence in China's peaceful and open development, their commitment to staying rooted in China, and their constructive suggestions on China's economic development.

Six Priorities

In his reply, the Chinese leader underlined that China is dealing with the COVID-19 epidemic and socio-economic development in a coordinated manner, while striving for a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eradicating poverty.





President Xi pledged that China will keep deepening reform and expanding opening-up, and provide a better business environment for the investment and development of Chinese and foreign enterprises.

He added that China will comprehensively implement major policies and measures aimed at ensuring the six priorities of employment, people's livelihoods, development of market entities, food and energy security, stable operation of industrial and supply chains, and smooth functioning at the community level, and ensuring stability in the six areas of employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment and market expectations.



China will foster new opportunities and create new prospects for Chinese and foreign enterprises, the Chinese leader said, adding that the CEOs have made the right choice to stay rooted in China.

In today's world, the interests of all countries are highly integrated, he said. The human race is a community with a shared future that shares weal and woe, and win-win cooperation is the trend of the times, stressed the Chinese President.

China will be unwaveringly committed to pursuing the path of peaceful development, making economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all, and promoting the building of an open world economy, said President Xi.

President Xi expressed his hope that those CEOs will adhere to the principle of win-win cooperation and common development, strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Chinese companies, and contribute to the world economic recovery.

Praise for China

The CEOs spoke highly of the fact that China, under President Xi's strong leadership, has rapidly contained the coronavirus epidemic,

taken the lead in resuming work and production, and played a positive role in supporting the global COVID-19 fight and maintaining world economic stability.

They added that Xi's proposition on creating new opportunities out of crises and opening up new prospects in changing circumstances, as well as his resolve to promote economic globalization in a manner that will be more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all, have further consolidated their confidence in China and commitment to staying in and serving China.

In their letter, the business leaders also offered suggestions on China's economic development and international cooperation in the post-pandemic era.

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CHINA'S ECONOMY LEAPS OUT OF THE RUT AS CPC ACCELERATES REFORMS

At a time when the world is plagued by uncertainties and recession in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, China is taking firm steps to open up its market and revitalize the economy. A high-level meeting of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on June 30 approved a series of reforms for a wide spectrum of sector-specific areas such as state-run enterprises, manufacturing, new-generation information technology, rural housing, media



development, education, and art. Concurrently, the State Council has announced favorable credit facilities for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises for the smooth adoption of high-technology to boost industrial development and supply chains. These policy decisions demonstrate China's resolve to push reforms and tackle emerging economic reality.

Better Governance, Better Output

While some economies have introduced high stimulus packages or resorted to protectionism as a way out of the pandemic-driven economic crisis, China has focused on optimizing governance to expand the economy, enhance market vitality, and address institutional problems that impede growth. In all these efforts, the thrust is on enforcing the law to create a positive

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China remains one of the top three investment destinations in the European Business Confidence Survey 2020, in which 63 percent of the participants responded positively about the Chinese market. The report was jointly released by the EU Chamber of Commerce in China and the global consultancy firm Roland Berger.

environment for business and investment. Because of these measures, the government has been able to restore market confidence and accelerate the production process, contributing to the increased economic momentum. Official figures show China's manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) climbed to 50.9 in June from 50.6 in the previous month. Likewise, the nonmanufacturing PMI, a measure of services and construction activity, jumped to 54.4 in the same period from 53.6 in May, rising for a fourth straight month.

Market Optimism

Furthermore, most overseas enterprises are optimistic about the Chinese market. China remains one of the top three investment destinations in the European Business Confidence Survey 2020, in which 63 percent of the participants responded positively about the Chinese market. The report was jointly released by the EU Chamber of Commerce in China and the global consultancy firm Roland Berger. "The Chinese market remains attractive to a majority of the European companies, which remain firmly committed to China's development," said

Joerg Wuttke, president of the EU Chamber of Commerce. China's experience shows that the greater the difficulty, the more important the need to stick to reforms. The world has reasons to believe that China will continue with its reforms that are sustainable and broad-based, which will inject vitality into the global economic recovery.



China's Economic Upswing Gives World Reasons For Hope

As the Chinese economy springs back to life from the trenches of the Covid-19 war, the world heaves a sigh of relief in the hope that a broader recovery could be within its reach.

China, the world's second-largest economy, has seen an upswing in its economic activity in the second quarter of 2020-21, offering the first signs of a revival amidst a deep global recession. The 3.2 percent

year-on-year growth in the second quarter against the 6.8 percent contraction in the first quarter demonstrated that China's economy has a solid base for further expansion.



An aerial view of the Wuhan City, where the outbreak of the coronavirus started, is an important industrial hub of China.



Workers at a factory in central China.

China has rolled out a raft of measures, such as additional fiscal spending, tax relief, and job creations, to revive the economy. Consequently, there has been a positive impact. The recovery will continue in the second half of the year, powered by new industries, business models, and support from macro policies. China remains an important engine for global growth, while its large and open market provides foreign enterprises every reason to stay rooted and seek further development.

Mantra for Economic Revival

The dark moment is passing, but the full recovery could take time. China needs to deepen reforms, expand opening-up, and improve its business environment to achieve high-quality development. The government will make further efforts to expand domestic demand as consumer retail sales dropped by 11.4 percent in the first half of the year. Additionally, the policies for employment generation, livelihood, and market development will bring new opportunities for Chinese and foreign businesses.

In an inter-connected world, cooperation between countries is paramount, and China will remain committed to peaceful development and international solidarity and building an open economy. The year 2020 has been a difficult period for the world. Besides the pandemic, there has been rising protectionism, and other uncertainties. However, China will stand on the right side of history, no matter how the domestic and international economic situation evolves.

The government will make further efforts to expand domestic demand as consumer retail sales dropped by 11.4 percent in the first half of the year. Additionally, the policies for employment generation, livelihood, and market development will bring new opportunities for Chinese and foreign businesses.

CHINA ADOPTS NATIONAL SECURITY LAW FOR HONG KONG

China's top legislative body has passed a new law for Hong Kong that will empower the federal government to rein in anti-China activities aimed at undermining the country's security and sovereignty.

Chinese lawmakers on June 30 adopted a new national security law for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), giving the authorities more power to deal with separatism, terrorism, and foreign interference that could endanger the country's safety and sovereignty.

The legislation was passed unanimously during the 20th Session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress, China's top legislature. President Xi Jinping signed the presidential order to promulgate the law, which went into effect on the date of promulgation. The legislation is spelled out in 66 articles with their corresponding penalties covering six chapters and includes offenses such as secession, subversion, terrorist activities, and conspiracy with a foreign country.

The law empowers the federal government to set up a bureau in Hong Kong to oversee security matters. It also requires the local authorities to establish a security committee to be presided by the chief executive of the HKSAR that is accountable to the federal government. As per the law, the Hong Kong police will also need to set up a separate department to manage national security issues.



The voting took place following a consultation between the NPC Standing Committee and the Hong Kong government. The HKSAR has published the new order in its official gazette after its adoption. Welcoming the law, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said in a statement, "I am confident that after the implementation of the law, the social unrest, which has troubled Hong Kong for nearly a year, will cease to exist and stability will be restored, enabling Hong Kong to focus on economic development."

Wide Support Among Party Ranks

NPC Standing Committee Chairman Li Zhanshu said the law reflects the general will of the Chinese people and their compatriots in Hong Kong. Security, social stability, and the rule of law are significant for Hong Kong's development, Mr Li said while addressing the Standing Committee session.

Expressing its support, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council called the law a "milestone" event that will end the chaos and bring back order in Hong Kong. In a separate statement, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in HKSAR said the promulgation of the law, which coincided with the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China, is worth celebrating. During a campaign in May, nearly 2.93 million Hong Kong residents had signed a petition in support of the law.

"Sword" And "Guardian"

The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council said the law would act as a "sharp sword" or deterrent against a small group of people bent on endangering national security. But for the vast majority of Hong Kong residents, including foreigners, the law will function like a guardian that protects their rights and freedom, said the office. According to the law, those convicted under its provisions could face up to life imprisonment. Also, convicted people would not qualify for running a public office, and those in public office found guilty of the crimes will be removed from their posts.

The law upholds constitutional order and the rule of law in HKSAR, deters external interference, and safeguards Hong Kong's fundamental, long-term interests, said top legislator Li Zhanshu.

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Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam with officials after a meeting in Hong Kong.

NEW LAW DOES NOT ALTER HK'S TWO-SYSTEM PRINCIPLE

The new national security law promulgated in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is to uphold and improve the “one country, two systems” principle, and not to alter it, said Zhang Xiaoming, the deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, rejecting the scepticism raised by some countries over the legislation’s draconian power and the corrosion of HKSAR’s autonomy.

Mr Zhang said the law complies with the “one country, two systems” principle. “If we were to make one system, it would be far simpler. We could have imposed our laws straightaway. Why would we take on so much work to tailor-make a law for Hong Kong?” he asked. He said some foreign powers have misunderstood China and wrongly accused us of eroding Hong Kong’s autonomy. “No country could turn a blind eye to crimes that endanger its security. No one cherishes the ‘one country, two systems’ principle more than we do, and no one has more power to define our policy than we do,” Mr Zhang said.

The National Security Law

China unveiled the national security law on June 30 that stipulates penalties up to life imprisonment for crimes such as secession, subversion, terrorism, and plotting with foreign forces. It is the second major law designed for Hong Kong after the Basic Law to improve its legal and enforcement system. “Hong Kong’s status as an international financial center is owing to the support of the mainland China, and in turn, it has leveraged its strengths to support the mainland’s modernization,” Mr Zhang said. If the criminals are given a free-hand, Hong Kong would lose its status; the law serves as a high-hanging sword over them, who are in small numbers, and to deter the foreign enemies, the official said.

Different Legal Systems

The law empowers the Hong Kong government to set up a national security office and adjudicate criminal cases. The office will analyze the security situation in Hong Kong, collect intelligence, suggest policies, and oversee, guide, and support the region in handling security issues.

Article 55 of the law gives three instances under which the office will exercise its jurisdiction: cases involving a foreign country, situations in which the SAR government is unable to enforce the law, and threats to national security.

Mr Zhang said the office is empowered to investigate and make arrests with a prosecutor’s warrant. The law also makes it clear that the trial will be conducted by prosecutors and courts designated by the Supreme People’s Procuratorate and the Supreme People’s Court. It outlines the jurisdictions of the authorities to probe, prosecute, and conduct trial and ruling. “It helps draw a clear line in the jurisdiction and makes it easier for them to cooperate,” Mr Zhang said.

The law also exempts the actions of the personnel from being subject to the local authority’s scrutiny while performing their duties. Mr Zhang said it is to guarantee that the office can perform their duties well.

Additionally, the cases investigated by the office may involve state secrets and maybe compromised if handled by the local authorities, he said.

The adoption of the law coincided with Hong Kong’s 23rd handover anniversary on July 1. Since Hong Kong’s return to China in 1997, the NPC has been exercising its constitutional powers on matters concerning the Basic Law, the SAR’s mini-constitution.

Hong Kong Celebrates 23rd Anniversary with Pomp and Gaiety: Flotillas, Singing...

Hong Kong celebrated the 23rd anniversary of its return to China from the British rule with pomp and gaiety on July 1. At the Golden Bauhinia Square, the national flag of China and the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) were hoisted. And at the nearby Victoria Harbor, helicopters and a fireboat joined the function displaying the flags and spraying a water-column as a salutation.

In her speech at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, which is next to the Bauhinia Square, Chief Executive Carrie Lam spoke on the significance of the anniversary and the adoption of new national security law in Hong Kong, which was passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislative body. Ms Lam called it a turning point to take Hong Kong out



Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam addressed guests at the Convention and Exhibition Centre after the flag-raising ceremony to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Hong Kong handover to China on July 1, 2020.



of the political impasse. “Hong Kong will remain steadfast in its duties and implement the law in letter and spirit,” Ms Lam declared.

Luo Huining, the director of the government’s Liaison Office in Hong Kong, highlighted the “one country, two systems” principle in his address. He said the withdrawal of the extradition ordinance from the SAR last year posed grave security risks. “In future, the law will prove significant for Hong Kong’s stability and the continuation of the ‘two systems’ principle,” Mr Luo added. Similar celebrations were also held in other parts of Hong Kong, where flotillas and fishing vessels took out pageanties while people sang the national anthem of China in the chorus.

On June 30, the National People’s Congress unanimously passed a national security law to curb the anti-China activities in HKSAR, which had witnessed months of violent protests against the extradition ordinance last year. The continued unrest had threatened the rule of law and national security.

Residents Welcome Law with Patriotic Chants

The Hong Kong residents have welcomed a significant national security law with street processions, patriotic chants, and flag-hoisting activities on July 1, just hours after the federal government announced its promulgation in the special administrative region (SAR).

For Ms Ada Wong and her friends, like many others in SAR, it was an occasion for celebration as they trooped to the Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, and Kam Tin areas of the city to erect the national flag and partake in the street festivities.

Ms Ada believes that the law will improve Hong Kong's protection and help retain its status as the world's leading financial capital since peace is a prerequisite for people's wellbeing and prosperity. By 7:00 am, Ms Ada and her friends finished erecting several dozen red flags across a stretch of the shoreline. "It was our contribution to the 23rd-anniversary celebration of Hong Kong's return to the

The law's adoption, which coincided with the SAR's handover anniversary, gave its residents a rare occasion to commemorate the milestones concurrently.



People celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the Hong Kong handover to China on July 1, 2020.

motherland,” said Ms Ada, noting that she and her friends had made their plans 10 days ahead and even got wide support from the locals in their endeavor. The law’s adoption, which coincided with the SAR’s handover anniversary, gave its residents a rare occasion to commemorate the milestones concurrently.

March, Chanting, Boat Rides

On June 30, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress unanimously passed the law that seeks to rein in anti-China activities in the autonomous province, which has been the site of bloody political unrest since last year. Like Ms Ada and her friends, many other Hong Kong residents spontaneously joined the celebrations, taking out processions and chanting to let the “Pearl of the Orient” shine again. People marched on the streets carrying the national flags and banners to welcome the federal law. The processions finally converged at the Central Ferry Pier 9 before breaking away.

According to the state-run Xinhua, hundreds of residents joined the early morning parade.

Hon Yeung Kwong and his friends rented a boat to sail to the outlying islands to celebrate the twin occasion. “I was looking forward to it (the promulgation of the law), and so were a lot of others,” Mr Hon told Xinhua.

Hong Kong is one of the most livable places on earth, where one could get almost everything they want and enjoy visa-free travel. However, over the past one year, it has been plagued by chaos. Hopefully, the law would help restore order, he said.

Another resident and popular-singer Mr Cheung Ming-man said it is a significant day for Hong Kong; the beginning of a new era in SAR. Mr Yu Kwong Ching, who lives in Tuen Mun, said he lived a quiet life, but the unrest shook his peaceful world.

Civil society organizations, such as The Friends of Hong Kong Association, have voiced their strong support for the law as well. The organization had set up a stand at Wan Chai to collect signature support. “Hong Kong will become normal again,” said Mr Wan, who participated in the signing campaign.



The Chinese national flag (front) and the flag of Hong Kong SAR were unfurled during a flag-raising ceremony in Wan Chai to mark the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to China on July 1.

CHINA-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS: WHAT'S FALSE AND WHAT'S TRUE

Full of ignorance of and bias against China, some people from the US and other Western countries have recently made groundless accusations and disseminated many fallacies about China's human rights conditions concerning Hong Kong, COVID-19, and Xinjiang. In this context, it's important to remember that even a small discrepancy will lead to a great error. Malicious lies will, still worse, result in huge misconception and misunderstanding.

In this connection, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China compiled "What's False and What's True on China-related Human Rights Matters," with the purpose of setting the record straight with facts. Falsehoods find no market among the fair-minded, as China is confident that people will tell right from wrong!

FALSE

The national security law in Hong Kong will undermine human rights and basic freedom of its residents, and violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

TRUE

The law stipulates for respect and protection of human rights in Hong Kong. Freedom of speech, press, association, assembly, procession, and demonstration remain intact under the Basic Law and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It targets four types of offences: secession, subversion, terrorism and plotting with a foreign country. It is to sanction a small minority of people who are involved in serious offences. It is spelt out in the constitutions of over 100 countries that basic rights and freedoms shall not endanger national security.



✗ FALSE The legislation vaguely defines offences, and could be abused to oppress people.

✓ TRUE It sets clear limits on law enforcement. It requires all law enforcement efforts to adhere to the legal provisions, mandates and procedures, without prejudice to the rights of any individual or organization. It also provides that the Office for Safeguarding National Security shall perform its mandate in strict compliance with the law and be subject to supervision in accordance with the law.

✗ FALSE The law will make it difficult for foreign businesses in Hong Kong to fulfill their responsibility to respect human rights under the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights of the UN.

✓ TRUE It only targets four types of offences that endanger national security. These offences are not what law-abiding businesses and residents in Hong Kong would engage in.

✗ FALSE Police could get away with excessive use of force (chemical use against protesters, sexual harassment and assault on female protesters).

✓ TRUE The police dealt with offenses in accordance with the law. They only used force correspondingly to stop violent attacks threatening the life and safety of other people, which is in line with international practice. Not a single protester has died due to police action.

✗ FALSE The government suppressed protests and democracy in Hong Kong.

✓ TRUE Freedom of speech, press, association, assembly, procession, and demonstration is protected by law. Actions of some protesters were beyond the scope of peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression. Such acts violated laws, threatened safety and challenged the sovereignty

of the state. The rule of law is the core value of Hong Kong and the cornerstone for its long-term stability and prosperity.

✗ FALSE It violates China's obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

✓ TRUE The government's legal basis to govern Hong Kong is the Constitution and the Basic Law of the HKSAR. The Joint Declaration is not relevant in this regard. As China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, all provisions concerning the Declaration had been fulfilled. The UK has no sovereignty, jurisdiction or right of supervision over Hong Kong after its return. The stated obligations in the Declaration are not commitments to the UK, but assertion of China's policies.



✗ FALSE The law unilaterally imposed on Hong Kong.

✓ TRUE The national security law is under the purview of the Central authorities. The government assumes primary responsibility to safeguard the country's security. Article 23 of the Basic Law empowers HKSAR to enact laws to safeguard national security, but it is yet to be realized. Macao passed the law in 2009.

✗ FALSE No public consultation was held prior to its implementation, hence, lacks support.

✓ TRUE The legislative process demonstrates the shared will of all Chinese people, including compatriots in Hong Kong. Central authorities solicited suggestions from the HKSAR government, the Legislative Council, the legal community, the Basic Law Committee, NPC, CPPCC, etc., as well as organized symposiums. The views of HKSAR and the public were studied and accepted as much as possible. Nearly three million people in Hong Kong have signed a petition in support of the Law.

✗ FALSE It marks the end of “One country, Two systems” and deprives Hong Kong’s autonomy.

✓ TRUE The State resolutely implements the policy of One Country, Two Systems. This commitment was reaffirmed in Article 1 of the legislation. The law does not affect the rights of the people of Hong Kong.

✗ FALSE It will jeopardize Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability.

✓ TRUE It will contribute to Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability. The protests dealt a heavy blow on Hong Kong’s rule of law, economy, and livelihood. The legislation is designed to reverse that situation.

COVID-19

✗ FALSE China tried to cover up Covid-19, resulting in its spread across the world.

✓ TRUE The Chinese government adopted the most comprehensive, stringent and thorough measures in the shortest possible time. The infections were largely controlled within Wuhan. A report published by the journal Science estimated that China’s rigorous measures resulted in about 700,000 fewer infections, or 96% of cases. A report released on 8 June by Oxford, Edinburgh University and Cog-UK, an academic research organization, detected

1,356 transmission cases based on 20,000 genome sequencing in the UK. Only 0.08% of the transmissions could be traced to China, a negligible impact.

✗ FALSE The Wuhan lockdown violated citizens’ right to personal liberty.

✓ TRUE Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province, was the first to report novel coronavirus cases. At the most critical moment against the virus, it enforced temporary travel restrictions in accordance with the law. These important measures contained the infections at the source, and effectively forestalled huge spread of the disease. What China did was widely recognized by the science community. In contrast, the US government has ignored science, played down the threat of the virus, and even resorted to blame shifting. This resulted in massive domestic outbreaks that cost the lives and health of many Americans, plunged the economy into recession and led to social turbulence.

✗ FALSE The government cracked down on journalists and medical workers, resulting in lack of information transparency.

✓ TRUE Countries have strict rules on confirmation and release of information on infectious diseases. It is an international practice. Open and transparent information is key to tackling epidemics. China’s National Health Commission collects and releases data of confirmed cases on a daily basis. Any cover-up or under-reporting is strictly held accountable. In China, no one gets punished simply because of making remarks. The criminal law clearly stipulates what actions constitute crimes.

✗ FALSE China detained Dr Li Wenliang and other whistle-blowers.

✓ TRUE Li Wenliang was an ophthalmologist. He was not a whistle-blower and was not detained. Dr. Zhang Jixian, a respiratory doctor, was the first to report Covid-19 cases, and was

awarded for his contribution. Dr. Li was named a “national model healthcare worker. He was honored as a martyr. On April 28, he was awarded the 24th “May Fourth Medal”. Labeling Dr Li as an “anti-establishment hero” is to disrespect him and his family. It is political manipulation without decency.

✗ FALSE China took advantage of Covid to conduct big data surveillance, violated citizens’ privacy.

✓ TRUE China has harnessed big data, artificial intelligence, 5G and other technologies, and devised an app called “health code” for virus containment. The app helped avert the risk of infection, and facilitated transportation and reopening of the economy. The app has been used in other countries as well. The government attaches great importance to protecting citizens’ privacy. Clear stipulations on the collection, use and protection of personal information are defined in China’s General Provisions of the Civil Law, the Cybersecurity Law, and other laws and regulations.



✗ FALSE The education and training centers in Xinjiang are “concentration camps”.

✓ TRUE The vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang are no different from the community corrections in the US, the Desistance and Disengagement Programme (DDP) in the UK, and the de-radicalization centers in France. They are useful for counterterrorism

and de-radicalization, and are in line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Xinjiang training centres follow well-defined legal procedures that do not make any distinction based on region or ethnicity. There is no such thing as “suppression of ethnic minorities” or “persecution of Muslims”. The claim that “nearly one million Uyghurs are detained” is an outright rumor, and is based on two dubious “studies”.

✗ FALSE The training centers carried out “political indoctrination and intimidation”.

✓ TRUE The centers provided courses on standard spoken and written Chinese language, legal knowledge, professional skills and de-radicalization to address the inadequate language proficiency, lack of legal literacy and job skills, as well as the varying degrees of religious extremism influence among their trainees. The purpose is to tackle terrorism and religious extremism at the root.

✗ FALSE The centers are poorly conditioned and lack medical facilities. The trainees are tortured, and deprived of their rights to exercise religious customs, use their language, among others.

✓ TRUE The centers strictly follow the principle of respecting and protecting human rights enshrined in China’s constitution and the laws. The centers guarantee personal freedom. The centers are managed as boarding schools where trainees can go home on a regular basis. The trainees’ right to use the spoken and written languages of their ethnicity is protected. All regulations, curricula and canteen menus are written in both Chinese and local languages. The centers have well-equipped facilities. Dorms are furnished with radio, television, and air conditioning or electric fans. Medical facilities are set up to provide free health counseling and treatment. There are also venues for basketball, volleyball, table tennis and other sports, as well as cultural activities. Legal counseling rooms are set up in the centers to help address trainees’ law-related difficulties and questions promptly.

✗ FALSE **Detainees in the internment camps include permanent residents of the US and Australia.**

✓ TRUE The centers in Xinjiang have never received trainees who are not Chinese nationals.

✗ FALSE **Xinjiang's anti-terrorist activities aim to suppress ethnic minorities.**

✓ TRUE Xinjiang had suffered long from terrorism and extremism. The counter terrorism measures are aimed at protecting the life and property, and in line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It does not make a distinction based on ethnicity or religion, and acts in accordance with the law. These measures have received full support from people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Due to the anti-terror efforts, de-radicalization and education, Xinjiang has not seen any terrorism act in the past three years.

✗ FALSE **China restricts freedom of communication and movement of Uyghurs in Xinjiang.**

✓ TRUE Xinjiang has never restricted the movement of Uyghurs or other ethnic group. Anyone, except those prohibited due to their suspected involvement in crimes, can exit or enter China freely. Several hundred thousand people from Xinjiang now live overseas. Xinjiang has never restricted Uyghurs or people of other ethnic groups from contacting their overseas relatives.

✗ FALSE **Xinjiang conducts large-scale surveillance on local ethnic minorities.**

✓ TRUE It is an international practice to harness modern technology and big data to improve governance. The cameras are installed in the public places, including roads, and transport hubs, in both urban and rural areas in accordance with the law to improve governance and forestall and combat crimes. These measures enhance

safety and are widely supported by people of all ethnic groups. It does not target any specific ethnicity, but to deter bad guys and protect good people.

✗ FALSE **Mass forced labor against ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.**

✓ TRUE Ethnic minority workers from Xinjiang are part and parcel of the country's labor force. They have the rights to be employed, sign labor contracts, obtain labor remunerations, take rest and vacations, acquire labor safety and health protection, and enjoy social insurance and welfare as prescribed by law. They have the freedom to choose their occupation. Their personal freedom has never been restricted.

✗ FALSE **Xinjiang demolished a large number of mosques.**

✓ TRUE The number of mosques in Xinjiang has grown from some 2,000 at the beginning of reform and opening-up in the late in 1970s to 24,400 today, more than 10 times that in the United States. In Xinjiang, there is a mosque for every 530 Muslims on average.

✗ FALSE **Graveyards of ethnic minorities are demolished in parts of Xinjiang.**

✓ TRUE The government does not promote cremation for ethnic minorities observing traditional ways of interment. On the contrary, it takes concrete measures to help preserve the tradition, by designating burial ground and building dedicated cemeteries. Besides, there is no restriction on other ethnic customs followed in weddings, funerals, and name-giving ceremonies.

✗ FALSE **The "Pair Up and Become Family" program is designed to monitor minorities.**

✓ TRUE Since 2016, an extensive ethnic unity campaign has been conducted in Xinjiang. Some

1.1 million officials have made friends with 1.6 million locals. The officials leverage their expertise to help them explore ways to shake off poverty and address difficulties in their lives. The campaign, with its real, substantial benefits to the public, has been well received by the people of all ethnic groups.

✗ FALSE **The local government sends Uyghur children to boarding schools, separates them from parents.**

✓ TRUE The boarding school system is an effective means to improve education in remote areas and ease the burden on students and their families. In Xinjiang, students of all ethnicities attend schools closest to their homes. Those living in the distant areas, schools provide them with free accommodation and meals. It is up to the students and their parents to decide whether to live on or off the campus.

✗ FALSE **Forced sterilization, abortion and birth control on Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.**

✓ TRUE The Chinese government protects the rights of all Chinese without distinction of ethnicity. Over the years, the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities have enjoyed a preferential population policy. Between 1978 and 2018, the Uyghur population in Xinjiang increased from 5.55 million to 11.68 million, accounting for 46.8% of the total population of the autonomous region.

✗ FALSE **Brutal crackdown on Muslims is a human rights violation not seen since World War II.**

✓ TRUE The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is home to 25 million people of different ethnic groups who live and work in harmony. The population of Uyghur and Hui, who are Muslims, has been growing steadily, accounting for nearly 60% of the total local population. China treats all ethnic groups equally and pursues prosperity and development for all. It ensures that ethnic

autonomous areas exercise the power to self-govern in accordance with law, and protects the legitimate rights of ethnic minorities.

✗ FALSE **The government uses Covid-19 to “wipe out” Muslims.**

✓ TRUE Thanks to the joint efforts of the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, Covid-19 has been effectively contained in the region. As of June 29, a total of 76 confirmed cases had been reported in Xinjiang, including 73 cured cases and three deaths. With no new confirmed cases, Xinjiang has resumed full normalcy in economic and social activity early on.

✗ FALSE **Media account of missing “family members and friends” in Xinjiang of overseas Uyghurs.**

✓ TRUE Xinjiang has never imposed travel restrictions on Uyghurs or any other ethnic groups. Nor is there any restriction on communication with relatives abroad. It has been verified by the relevant authorities that the so-called “missing persons” mentioned by overseas East Turkistan elements are either living a normal life or simply non-existent. During a UN Human Rights Council session in February 2020, the World Uyghur Congress put up photos of the so-called “Uyghurs persecuted by the Chinese government”. The photos were found to be bogus. Separatists presented them to spread rumors.

✗ FALSE **China declines passport renewal as a weapon to force Uyghurs to return to China, where they face extrajudicial detention.**

✓ TRUE In China, the citizens’ right to leave and enter the country are protected by law. Chinese diplomatic missions abroad protect the rights and interests of overseas Chinese, including ethnic minorities from Xinjiang, in accordance with the laws. Any Chinese national, who has not violated the laws, can apply for passport renewal or re-issuance.

FALSE 30 relatives of activist Rebiya Kadeer detained without trial.

TRUE No one from Rebiya Kadeer's family has been implicated. All her relatives live and enjoy freedom in Xinjiang. They want her to stop spreading lies and disturbing their peace.



The Emin Minaret or Emin Tower stands by the Uyghur mosque located in Turfan, Xinjiang, China. At 44 meters it is the tallest minaret in China.

FALSE Family members of Furqat Jawdat, Arapat Arkin, Zumrat Dawut and other "activists" were "harassed, imprisoned, or arbitrarily detained."

TRUE Furqat Jawdat and Arapat Arkin are members of the World Uyghur Congress, an organization notorious for violence, terrorism and separatist agenda. Their relatives are leading a normal life in Xinjiang, and feel ashamed of having people like them in the family. Regarding the claim that Dawut's elderly father passed away under unknown circumstances, here is what happened: Dawut's father had been living freely with his children all these years. The octogenarian passed away in a hospital in October 2019 after a serious heart condition. During his last days in hospital, he was attended by his older brothers and other relatives.

FALSE Mutallip Nurmamat died nine days after his release detention camp. Uyghur writer Nurmamat Tohti died in a camp. Sayragul

Sawutbay saw people tortured in a detention camp before fleeing China. Uyghur musician and poet Abdurehim Heyit was sentenced to eight years in prison and died in the second year of imprisonment.

TRUE Mutallip Nurmamat never studied in a vocational training center. In December 2018, he died from acute alcohol poisoning. Nurmamat Tohti never studied in a vocational training center. He had coronary artery disease for over 20 years. On May 31, 2019, after suffering an acute myocardial infarction at home, he was taken to hospital but passed away despite emergency rescue efforts.

Sayragul Sawutbay is suspected of fraud. To flee justice, she crossed the border illegally into Kazakhstan. She never stayed in any vocational training center in China, and was never detained before her illegal escape. Her words about seeing people tortured cannot be true.

Abdurehim Heyit, arrested on suspicion of endangering national security, is in good health. On 10 February 2019, Heyit said in a published video, "I am under investigation for suspected violations of law. I am in very good health, and I have never been abused."

FALSE In the book titled *What Has Happened to Me: A Testimony of a Uyghur Woman* recounting the experiences of Mihrigul Tursun, the author claimed that Ms Tursun had escaped a training center after witnessing the death of nine women in custody, and that her younger brother was also abused to death in one of the centers.

TRUE Mihrigul Tursun, an ethnic Uyghur, lived in Qiemo County of Bayingol Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture in Xinjiang. She was detained for 20 days in April 2017 over suspicion of inciting enmity. In 2018, she voluntarily relinquished her Chinese citizenship and left China with an Egyptian passport. She had never been imprisoned in China, nor had she studied in any vocational training center. Akbar Tursun, her younger brother, said publicly, "My sister Mihrigul is full of lies. She not only said I am dead, but also lied about seeing others die."



Girls learn sewing at a vocational education centre in Urumqi.

US UYGHUR ACT AN INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS: CHINA

China has warned the US not to meddle in its internal affairs after the Trump administration adopted the Uyghur Human Rights Act and underlined that such a move violates international norms.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, has strongly opposed the signing of the "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020" by the United States. The

US action is interference in China's internal affairs and violates the norms governing international relations, the committee said in a statement on June 18. Human protection, enshrined in China's constitution, is

fundamental to the government's efforts to build a moderately prosperous society, the Committee said.

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region suffered thousands of terrorist attacks between 1990 and 2016. But China adopted a practical approach to the problem by facilitating training centers and educating the locals to change their radical mindset and shun violence. These efforts are in line with the Chinese laws and the international community's expectations for counter-terrorism, the committee said in its statement.

Boosting Counter-Terror Fight

Because of these efforts, there was not a single terrorist attack in Xinjiang for the past three years, it noted. The Xinjiang region is home to some 25 million people of different ethnic backgrounds. "It is the best embodiment of respecting human rights, which has been endorsed by the Chinese people and the international community. The Xinjiang issue is not related to human rights, ethnicity, or religion, but about combating violence, terrorism, and extremism," the Committee said.



Students learn how to arrange flowers at a vocational education and training center in Hotan, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The US itself is a victim of terrorism and should have supported China's antiterrorism measures. In the name of human rights, it has unduly questioned China's counterterrorism efforts. The Xinjiang affairs are internal affairs of China that brook no interference. China is committed to defending its sovereignty. "We urge the US to stop its interference and wrongdoings that damaged the China-US relations," it said.



Residents perform for reporters and government officials at the Hotan county vocational educational training centre, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China.



XINJIANG'S NIGHT MARKETS:

A tale of Gastronomic Delight and Livelihood

The dotted stalls in Xinjiang's sprawling night markets are a food lovers' paradise. With grilled meat, eggplant noodles, roasted pumpkins, and local beer on the menu, what more one could ask for! The local government's sustainable livelihood project is transforming the lives of one of the poorest regions of China.

Each evening, 29-year-old Azgul Eyni finds herself constantly glancing at the clock, waiting for it to strike 9. As a mother of two and a stall operator in a night market, Ms Azgul takes care of her children in the daytime and prepares ingredients for the local delicacies she will sell by night.

As the hour ticks over at long last, she heads to the market to run her stall with bags of ingredients

in tow. While preparing her food, she chats with her customers -- mostly people from nearby villages, and sometimes tourists from afar.

From 9 pm to around 2 am, she flits back and forth between roasting eggs on charcoal grills and topping traditional homemade rice puddings with honey and yogurt. A lantern hangs from a wooden bar of her stall and a WeChat Pay QR code is plastered on the wall behind her.



Set up in 2018 and put into use last year, 42 food stalls and 42 dining tables line the night market in the township of Langgar, Yutian County, in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. The stalls sell eggplant noodles, grilled meat on skewers, roasted pumpkins, and other homemade local specialties.

The market was built with assistance from North China's Tianjin municipality, which has partnered with Langgar under a program to support Langgar's development, according to Cui Yanwu, a town official.

China has been implementing a "pairing assistance" program for Xinjiang's development since 1997, channelling financial and personnel support to Xinjiang from other regions of the country. The government provides stalls, tables, and chairs for the businesses. The night market has so far attracted more than 40 registered impoverished residents.

A Shangri La of food & fun

Mirgul Abdulla, a villager, visits the night market with her friends often. They chat over a stack of roasted barbecue, cups of beer, and cold dishes. "I love it here. The food is fresh, and there are many familiar faces, so we can eat to our hearts' content and have a great time," said Mr Mirgul.

At 11 pm, the market becomes livelier. The youngsters sing and dance while the local artists perform on the stage to the tune of musical instruments amid rounds of applause. The venue provides the locals with a means of relaxation and entertainment. For the poverty-stricken residents of Langgar, the opportunity to run their stalls has become a way to shake off their poor existence and enrich their lives.

Ms Azgul's struggle with poverty is no different. She had to take care of her family of four on her husband's meagre salary of little more than 1,000 yuan (around \$141). But since registering to run her free stall at the Langgar night market, she has earned more than 4,000 yuan a month, with which her family can afford a better life.

Currently, there are more than 50 rural night markets in Yutian County. "In the past, the rural areas in southern Xinjiang were relatively quiet at night. Since the night markets have come alive, they have not only provided jobs for poor households and boosted the rural economy, but also enriched the cultural life of residents and met their needs for a better life," said Cui. The market features rural flavor, and folk customs attract many tourists to Langgar. Around 500 tourists had visited the market over the summer. "The market has enriched our days and brought us a serene life," said Mr Mirgul.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY HELPS VILLAGERS SHAKE OFF POVERTY IN XINJIANG

Local residents of Uygur ethnic group work at a clothing factory in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Garment factory here attracts nearly 500 people, including 385 low-income residents. The textile industry is playing an increasingly important role in helping local residents enhance their income and shake off poverty.





AT 99, CPC'S GOVERNANCE RECORD SHINES BRIGHTER

The Communist Party of China (CPC) is marking its 99th anniversary this year as it leads the country towards building a moderately prosperous society. The CPC has reaffirmed its commitment to its first centenary goal of creating an affluent society for 1.4 billion Chinese people. This transformation will be one of the world's most exciting stories in modern

history. More so as a political party that has faced misunderstanding, distrust, and misjudgment that its existence would be short-lived. Today uncertainties plague the world, calling into question the legitimacy of governance. In this context, the CPC's ideas and practices are increasingly relevant and inspiring the international community.



President Xi Jinping inspected poverty alleviation work in a tea estate in Laoxian Township, Pingli County, in northwest China's Shaanxi Province in April, 2020.

Staying True To Founding Mission

Since the party's founding on July 1, 1921, the Chinese communists have been struggling to fulfill the wishes of their people, and rejuvenate the nation. After seven decades of governance, the CPC has transformed China from an agricultural society into the world's second-largest open economy. The CPC is leading the nation's battle to eradicate poverty that has haunted the nation for generations. It has sent its finest cadres to ensure no one is left behind on the nation's way to prosperity.

Adhering to its people-centered philosophy, the party strives to meet the need of the people, be it education, employment, medical services, housing, environment protection, security, and justice. It has never been afraid of fighting the vested interest groups, or removing obstacles for development. The CPC is competent and pragmatic, and it keeps its eyes focused on the country's long-term plans, while at the same time setting short-term goals to solve the current problems. A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center has put China at the top of the 2019 global rankings in government performance. An overwhelming 86 percent of the Chinese people expressed satisfaction in the survey, far above the global average of 47 percent. This wide public support is the key to CPC's strength.

Sticking To Its Path

The CPC has created a recipe for success for itself, dubbed "socialism with Chinese characteristics." It is a path suited to China for pushing reforms and opening up the economy. The market plays a decisive role in resource allocation while the



Deputies to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) leave the Great Hall of the People after the meeting of the third session of the 13th NPC in Beijing in May, 2020.

government encourages a healthy growth. This model boosts stability and creativity. Thus, the principle of people's governance is put into practice in political and social spheres. China is proving its resilience in the face of challenges with its innovation, rich culture, and confidence. As the global economy contracts by 4.9-percent in a coronavirus-driven plunge, China is the only major economy that could see growth this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Ability To Purify, Improve & Reform

The courage for self-reform and strict governance is the most distinctive part of the party's character. The CPC has drawn lessons from the political forces that have failed in their tasks to bring discipline, improve work, fight corruption, and punish the wrongdoers. China has completed wide-ranging institutional reforms at various levels paving the way for future development. CPC's ability to learn and adapt, including Marxism in a Chinese context, has accelerated China's innovation and development.



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Unity & Vitality

The CPC upholds democratic centralism, which means it ensures intraparty democracy at all levels. Once decisions are made, they are effectively implemented. The party exercises the overall leadership and coordinates the work at all levels. Under the CPC leadership, the people's congresses, the local governments, the judiciary, the procuratorial, and the social organizations work in coordination.

Such mechanisms are vital for a big country like China with complicated national conditions. The system has proven efficient in pooling resources to deal with important tasks, such as epidemic prevention and control, and tackling natural disasters and developmental issues. The CPC forges a group of professionals, who are its work horses and strength. Its distinctive organizational arrangements for selecting and appointing officials guarantee the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, and maintain stability and continuity of the policies, while stimulating growth.

Global Perspective

The CPC keeps an open mind with respect to gaining developmental experiences from other countries, and sharing its expertise in an interconnected world. It embraces the trends of global multi-polarity, economic globalization, IT application, and cultural diversity. The party is committed to building a community with a shared future for humanity. China has become an indispensable force in resolving global and regional issues, from wealth inequality and trade and investment to climate change, terrorism, and peace-keeping.

The CPC has not only sought to serve the Chinese people, but also made contributions to the development of the world through the Belt and Road Initiative, said Salah Adly, general secretary of the Egyptian Communist Party. "China pursues a strategy of international cooperation based on mutual benefit, peace, and prosperity," he said.

Finally, China is moving closer to the world's center stage, as well as towards its goal of national rejuvenation. It has set its eyes on achieving its first centenary goal, but the road is full of hardships. China is the world's biggest developing country, and faces a complicated external environment, especially when protectionism and unilateralism are bringing uncertainty to the world. The CPC must continue to reinforce itself for another lofty target: a great, modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful.



An aerial view of the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai, the main venue of the first China International Import Expo.



Understanding Xi Jinping's Governance of China in New Era

The wait is over. The third volume of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* has been published by the Foreign Languages Press in both Chinese and English and will be available at home and abroad.

The first and second volumes of the book have received an enthusiastic response in China and other parts of the world. In the practices of leading and promoting governance in the new era since the 19th CPC National Congress, President Xi has made a series of important expositions and put forward many major concepts and ideas, further enriching and developing the Party's theoretical innovations

The newly-published volume collects 92 articles, including speeches, conversations, instructions and letters of President Xi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, between October 18, 2017 and January 13, 2020. The articles are divided into 19 topics and the volume also contains 41 photos of the Chinese leader during the same period.

The third volume records the practices of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core in uniting and leading the whole Party and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to make new and major progress in various undertakings of the Party and country since the 19th CPC National Congress. It is an authoritative work that fully and systematically reflects Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. The new volume is expected to help the international community better understand the main contents of the thought, the CPC, Marxism and socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The new volume was jointly compiled by the State Council Information Office, the Institute of Party History and Literature of the CPC Central Committee, and the China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration.

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A view of Victoria Harbour on a bright sunny day in Hong Kong.