



RTI matter/ Time Bound

Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

No. E/551/1/2021-RTI

21 September 2021

To:



Subject: Information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005

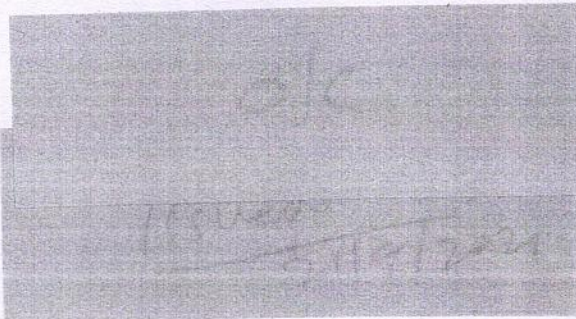
Sir,

Please refer to your RTI application bearing Registration No. MOEAF/R/E/21/00751/1 addressed to RTI cell, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi received by this Division on 24 August 2021. Information with respect to point no. 2 of your query is sought from this CPIO.

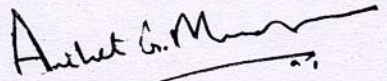
2. With respect to point no. 2 of your query, our Hon'ble Raksha Mantri has given statements in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 15 September 2020 and 11 February 2021 respectively. The text of the statements is attached for your ready reference. Further, Copies of Joint press release of the 12th round of India-China Corps Commander Level meeting and Ministry of Defence's press release are also attached for your information. These are available in public domain.

3. With regard to point no. 5 of the query, this Ministry has already answered a Parliamentary Question on this issue, which is available in public domain. A copy of the same is enclosed for your information. Further, information pertaining to India-China bilateral relation is available on Embassy of India, Beijing's website at www.eoibeijing.gov.in. The text of documents is attached for your reference.

4. If you are aggrieved with this reply, you may file an appeal to Shri Satish K. Sivan, Director (East Asia) & Appellate Authority, Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi -110001, within a month from the date of receipt of this letter.



Yours faithfully,


(Aniket Govind Mandavgane)

DS (China) & CPIO
Room no. 270 A, South Block,
New Delhi - 110001
Telefax: 23011356
Email: dschina2@mea.gov.in

CC to:

1. Shri Arun Kumar, Under Secretary (RTI), MEA, New Delhi

RTI REQUEST DETAILS (आरटीआई अनुरोध विवरण)	
Registration Number (पंजीकरण संख्या) :	MOEAF/R /E/21/00751/1
Date of Receipt (प्राप्ति की तारीख) :	24/08/2021
Type of Receipt (रसीद का प्रकार) :	Online Receipt
Language of Request (अनुरोध की भाषा) :	English
Name (नाम) :	[Redacted] Male
Address (पता) :	[Redacted] ali, cross, 92
State (राज्य) :	Details not provided
Country (देश) :	India
Phone Number (फोन नंबर) :	[Redacted]
Email-ID (ईमेल-आईडी) :	[Redacted]
Status (स्थिति) (Rural/Urban) :	[Redacted] on Status :
Is Requester Below Poverty Line ? (क्या आवेदक गरीबी रेखा से नीचे का है?) :	No
Citizenship Status (नागरिकता) :	Indian
Amount Paid (राशि का भुगतान) :	0 (Received by Ministry of External Affairs) (original recipient)
Mode of Payment (भुगतान का प्रकार) :	Payment Gateway
Does it concern the life or Liberty of a Person? (क्या यह किसी व्यक्ति के जीवन अथवा स्वतंत्रता से संबंधित है?) :	No(Normal)
Request Pertains to (अनुरोध निम्नलिखित संबंधित है) :	DS (China), Shri Aniket G. Mandavgane

RTI REQUEST

Date 24/8/2021
Poddatur (Tamil Nadu)

From



To,
Central Public Information Officers,
Ministry of External Affairs.

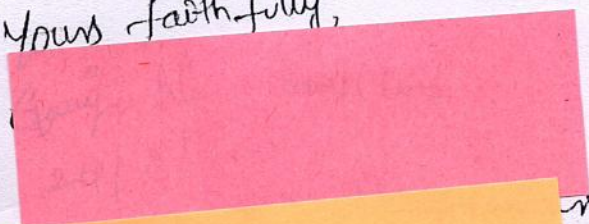
Sir,

Sub: RTI Request About Ministry of External Affairs.

I want the information about Ministry of External Affairs. (1) How much trade we do annually with Israel, USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tibet Both Import and Export from 2000 to 2021. And also report on the material both import and export. (2) What is the stand of India on China, Pakistan regarding the border clashes and other things? (3) What is our stand on Afghanistan? By which that country was occupied by Taliban, did India send any forces to Afghanistan or not? (4) Does Indian citizen has a chance to enter a country without a passport, visa what is that countries please furnish the report regarding this matter? (5) What is the stand of India on Pakistan and Tibet, China, Sri Lanka, Armenia, Japan, Russia regarding trade and bilateral relation ship? (6) I want the list of ministers of this ministry from 2000 to 2021. and their salaries and pension details. (7) I want the details about the budget allocations to this ministry in union budget from 2000 to 2021. I want clear report by yearwise. (8) I want the details of embassies of India in the world situated in other countries. Sir, I request you to give this information and send me reply document by register post by India post Sir.

Thanking you Sir,

Yours faithfully,



RTI,
Ministry,

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Text of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh's Statement in Lok Sabha on September 15 Regarding Situation on Eastern Border in Ladakh

September 15, 2020

"Hon'ble Speaker,

1. I rise today to brief this august House about the development on our eastern borders in Ladakh. You are aware that our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji had visited Ladakh and met our brave soldiers to convey the message of solidarity of the Nation behind their every action. I too have spent some time with our soldiers in Ladakh and I want to tell you that I have felt their indomitable courage, gallant and valor. As you are aware that Col Santosh Babu, along with his 19 brave soldiers, made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of defending the territorial integrity of India. Hon'ble Speaker, this House has paid homage to them by observing two minutes silence yesterday.

2. I would like to take some time first to briefly provide some details of our boundary issue with China. As the House is aware, India and China are yet to resolve their boundary question. China does not accept the customary and traditional alignment of the boundary between India and China. We believe that this alignment is based on well-established geographical principles confirmed by treaties and agreements, as well as historical usage and practice, well-known for centuries to both sides. The Chinese position, however, is that the boundary between the two countries has not been formally delimited, that there exists a traditional customary line formed by the extent of jurisdiction that they claim was exercised historically by each side, and that the two sides have different interpretations of the position of the traditional customary line. The two countries had engaged in discussions during 1950s-60s but these efforts could not yield a mutually acceptable solution.

3. As the House is aware, China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms in the Union Territory of Ladakh. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. km. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China also claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

4. Both India and China have formally agreed that the boundary question is a complex issue which requires patience and have committed to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. In the interim, the two sides also agree that maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is an essential basis for the further development of bilateral relations.

5. I would like to mention here that as yet there is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China and there is no common perception of the entire LAC. Therefore, in order to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas, especially along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the two countries have concluded a number of agreements and protocols.
6. Under these agreements, the two sides have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the LAC as well as on the boundary question. It is on this basis, that our overall relations also saw considerable progress since 1988. India's position is that while bilateral relations can continue to develop in parallel with discussions on resolving the boundary question, any serious disturbance in peace and tranquility along the LAC in the border areas is bound to have implications for the positive direction of our ties.
7. A key element of both the 1993 and the 1996 Agreements is that the two sides will keep their military forces in the areas along the Line of Actual Control to a minimum level. These agreements also mandate that pending an ultimate solution to the boundary question, the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control. Furthermore in these agreements, India and China also committed to clarification and confirmation of the Line of Actual Control to reach a common understanding of the alignment. Thus, in late 1990s and upto 2003, the two sides engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC. But, thereafter the Chinese side did not show a willingness to pursue the LAC clarification exercise. As a result, there are some areas where the Chinese and Indian perceptions of LAC overlap. In these areas, as also with other sections of the border areas, the various agreements govern the manner in which troops of both sides should operate and deal with situations of face-offs to maintain peace and tranquility.
8. Before I apprise the House of the current developments, let me inform that the Government has an elaborate and time tested coordination mechanism amongst different intelligence agencies including intelligence units of the Central Police Forces and the three armed forces. The technical and human intelligence is continuously gathered in a well coordinated manner. It is shared with the armed forces which help them in taking decisions.
9. Let me now apprise the House of the developments this year. Since April, we had noticed a buildup of troops and armaments by the Chinese side in the border areas adjacent to Eastern Ladakh. In early May, the Chinese side had taken action to hinder the normal, traditional patrolling pattern of our troops in the Galwan Valley area, which resulted in a face-off. Even as this situation was being addressed by the Ground Commanders as per the provisions of our bilateral agreements and protocol, in mid-May the Chinese side made several attempts to transgress the LAC in other parts of the Western Sector. This included Kongka La, Gogra and North Bank of Pangong Lake. These attempts were detected early and consequently responded to appropriately by our armed forces.
10. We made it clear to the Chinese side both through diplomatic and military channels that China was, by such actions, attempting to unilaterally alter the status quo. It was categorically conveyed that this was unacceptable.
11. Given the growing friction along the LAC, the Senior Commanders of the two sides in a meeting on June 6 2020 agreed on a process of disengagement that involved reciprocal actions. Both sides also agreed to respect and abide by the LAC and not undertake any activity to alter the status quo. However in violation of this the Chinese side created a violent face off on June 15th at Galwan. Our brave soldiers laid down their lives and also inflicted costs including casualties on the Chinese side,
12. The conduct of our armed forces throughout these incidents shows that while they maintained "Sayyam" in the face of provocative actions, they also equally displayed "Shaurya" when required to protect the territorial integrity of India. I would like the House to join me in recognizing the courage and valour of our soldiers, who undergo immense

hardship in the most difficult conditions to keep us all safe and secure.

13. While no one should doubt our determination to safeguard our borders, India believes that mutual respect and mutual sensitivity are the basis for peaceful relations with neighbours. As we want to resolve the current situation through dialogue, we have maintained diplomatic and military engagement with the Chinese side. In these discussions, we have maintained the three key principles that determine our approach: (i) both sides should strictly respect and observe the LAC; (ii) neither side should attempt to alter the status quo unilaterally; and (iii) all agreements and understandings between the two sides must be fully abided by in their entirety. The Chinese side, on its part, took the position that the situation should be handled in a responsible manner and ensure peace and tranquility as per bilateral agreements and protocol.

14. Even as these discussions were going on, the Chinese side again engaged in provocative military manoeuvres on the night of 29th and 30th August in an attempt to change the status quo in the South Bank area of Pangong Lake. But yet again, timely and firm actions by our armed forces along the LAC prevented such attempts from succeeding.

15. As is clear from these events, the Chinese actions reflect a disregard of our various bilateral agreements. The amassing of the troops by China goes against the 1993 and 1996 Agreements. Respecting and strictly observing the Line of Actual Control is the basis for peace and tranquility in the border areas and explicitly recognized in both 1993 and 1996 agreements. While our armed forces abide scrupulously by it, this has not been reciprocated by the Chinese side. Their actions have led to face-offs and frictions from time to time along the LAC. As I mentioned earlier, the agreements have detailed procedures and norms to deal with the situation of face-offs. However, in the recent incidents, this year, the violent conduct of Chinese forces has been in complete violation of all mutually agreed norms.

16. As of now, the Chinese side has mobilized a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas. There are several friction areas in Eastern Ladakh including Gogra, Kongka La and North and South Banks of the Pangong Lake. In response to China's actions, our armed forces have also made appropriate counter deployments in these areas to ensure that India's security interests are fully protected. The House should have full confidence that our armed forces will always rise to the challenge and do us all proud. This is still an ongoing situation and obviously involves sensitive operational issues. I would, therefore, not be able to give more details in public and I am confident about the understanding of the House in this regard.

17. This rapid deployment by our armed forces including ITBP has taken place in a challenging time of COVID-19. Their efforts need to be appreciated. It has also been made possible by the high importance that the Government has placed for developing border infrastructure in the last few years. The House is aware that over the last many decades, China had undertaken significant infrastructure construction activity that enhanced their deployment capabilities in the border areas. However, in response, our Government too has stepped up the budget for border infrastructure development to about double the previous levels. As a result, more roads and bridges have been completed in the border areas. This has not only provided much needed connectivity to the local population, but has also provided better logistical support for our armed forces, enabling them to be more alert in the border areas and respond more effectively where required. In the coming years too, the Government remains committed to this objective.

Hon'ble Speaker,

18. I would like to emphasize, that India remains committed to resolving the current issues in our border areas through peaceful dialogue and consultations. It was in pursuit of this objective that I met my Chinese counterpart on 4th September in Moscow and had an in-depth discussion with him. I conveyed in clear terms our concerns related

to the actions of the Chinese side, including amassing of large number of troops, their aggressive behavior and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo that were in violation of the bilateral agreements. I also made it clear that even as we wanted to peacefully resolve the issue and would like the Chinese side to work with us, there should also be no doubt about our determination to protect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. My colleague, Shri Jai Shankar, the External Affairs Minister, has thereafter met the Chinese Foreign Minister in Moscow on 10th September. The two have reached an agreement that, if implemented sincerely and faithfully by the Chinese side, could lead to complete disengagement and restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas.

19. As the Members are aware, in the past too we have had situations of prolonged stand-offs in our border areas with China which have been resolved peacefully. Even though the situation this year is very different both in terms of scale of troops involved and the number of friction points, we do remain committed to the peaceful resolution of the current situation. At the same time, the House can be assured that we remain prepared to deal with all contingencies.

20. Hon'ble Speaker this House has had a glorious tradition that whenever the country is faced with a challenge, this House has always exhibited its strength and unity towards the resolve and determination of our Armed Forces. This House has also reposed its full confidence in the indomitable spirit, gallantry and bravery of our Armed Forces deployed on our borders.

21. I can assure you that the morale and motivation of our Armed Forces is very high. The reassuring visit by our PM has ensured that our commanders and soldiers understand that the entire nation stands behind them in support of the just cause of defending our territorial integrity. They are accordingly being provisioned with suitable clothing, habitat and the required defence wherewithal. The determination of our troops is praise worthy. They are capable of serving at forbidding altitudes with scarce oxygen and in extremely cold temperatures, something that they have effortlessly done over the last many years on Siachen, and Kargil.

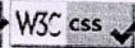
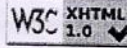
22. I will not hesitate to share with this august House that we are facing a challenge in Ladakh and I urge the House to pass a resolution in support of our Armed Forces who have been defending our motherland at great heights and most inclement weather conditions in Ladakh for our safety and security. This is a time when this august House has to come together and reiterate confidence and faith in the valour of the brave armed forces and support them in the mission that they have undertaken to protect the territorial integrity of our motherland.

Jai Hind."

New Delhi

September 15, 2020

Comments



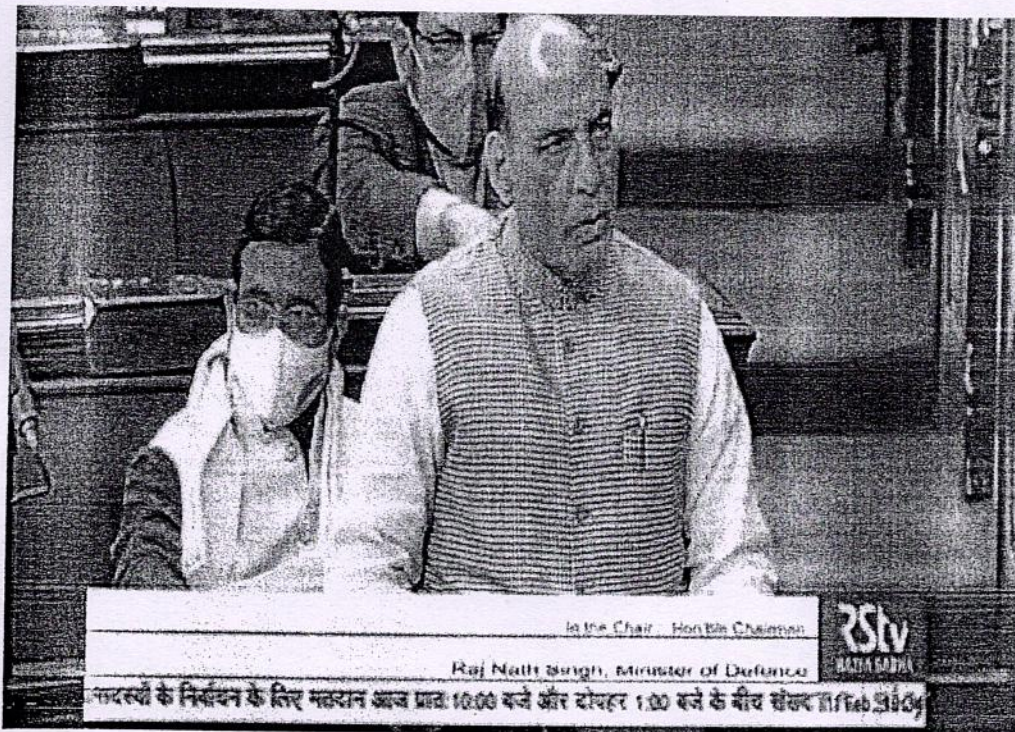
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Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh's statement in Rajya Sabha on 'Present Situation in Eastern Ladakh'



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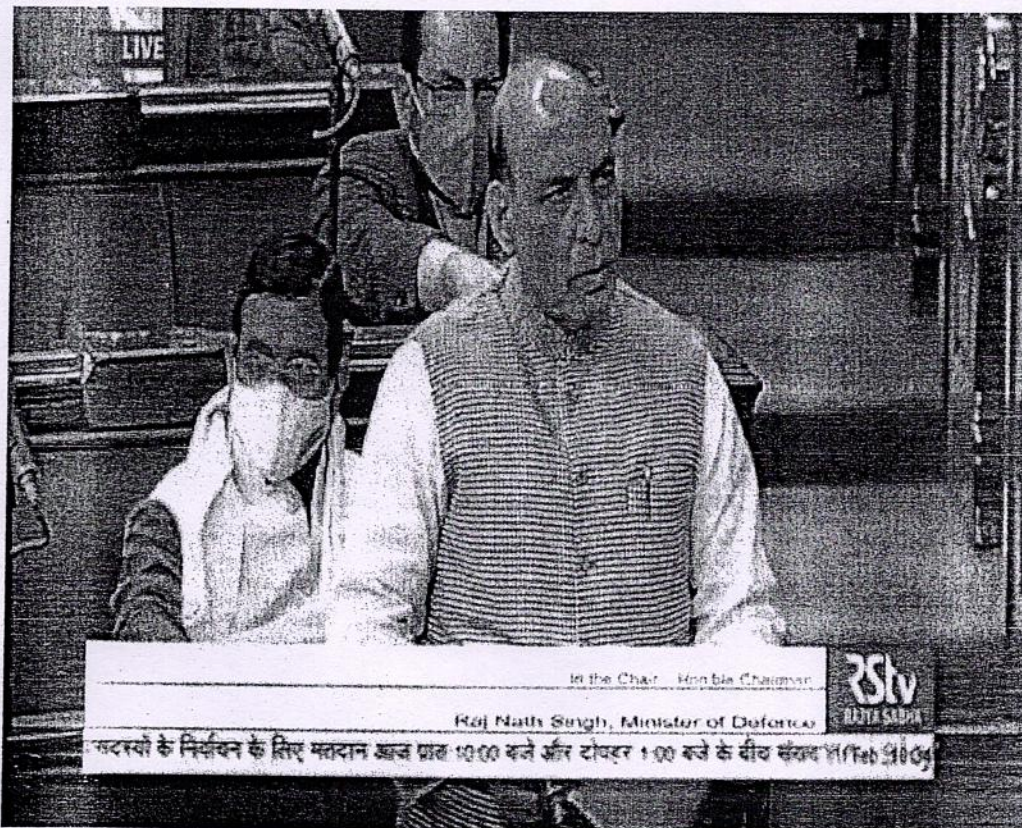
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Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviews efforts of MoD, Armed Forces, DRDO & other Defence organisations in fighting the second COVID-19 wave

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviews Armed Forces efforts to tackle Cyclone Tauktae



Hon'ble Chairman,

The House would recall that I had made a detailed statement on the developments in the India-China border areas in Eastern Ladakh during the last session in September last year. I had highlighted that the Chinese side had since April/May 2020 amassed large number of troops and armaments in the border areas adjacent to Eastern Ladakh. It had also made several attempts to transgress the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in various parts. These actions of the Chinese side had been detected and appropriately responded to by our armed forces. The House and the Nation had also paid homage to the brave Indian soldiers who had made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives in the cause of defending the territorial integrity of India. I would today like to apprise the House of certain important developments since then.

Since last September, both sides have maintained communication with each other through military and diplomatic channels. Our objective was to effect disengagement and maintain status quo along the LAC so as to restore peace and tranquility.

Let me briefly recapitulate the main aspects of the situation on the ground. As the House is aware, China illegally occupied approximately 38,000 sq. kms in the Union Territory of Ladakh, mainly during the 1962 conflict. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China, thus is in illegal occupation of more than 43,000 sq. kms of Indian territory. It also claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh. India has never accepted this illegal occupation of our territory or the unjustified claims.

I would like to add here that India has consistently maintained that while bilateral relations can develop in parallel with discussions on resolving the boundary question, any serious disturbance in peace and tranquility along the LAC in the border areas is bound to have adverse implications for the direction of our bilateral ties. The Chinese side is well aware of our position. In fact, various high level Joint Statements have acknowledged this point that maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the border areas is a fundamental premise for development of relations.

The actions by the Chinese side since last year have seriously disturbed peace and tranquility. Consequently they have also had an impact on the overall relationship. In our various high level interactions with the Chinese side, including in my own meeting with Chinese Defence Minister last September, my colleague the External Affairs Minister Shri Jaishankarji's meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister and NSA Shri Doval's conversation with his Chinese counterpart, we have made it clear that the foremost need was to ensure disengagement in all the friction points along the LAC in the Western Sector so as to help restore peace and tranquility.

Hon'ble Chairman,

I had apprised the House last year that there were several friction areas in Eastern Ladakh along the LAC. In addition, the Chinese side had mobilized a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas. Our armed forces too had made adequate and effective counter deployments in these areas to ensure that India's security interests were fully protected.

I am proud to say that our Armed Forces have responded to the challenges posed by the unilateral Chinese action and have shown valour and courage on both South and North bank of Pangong Tso. Many strategically important points were identified and our troops positioned themselves at those Hill Tops and at locations which were very important from our point of view. It is because of this great bravery of our Armed Forces in the face of harsh adverse climatic conditions that we maintained the edge. Our Armed Forces proved yet again that territorial integrity of our country remains safe in their hands and their grit and determination to safeguard our borders is unwavering.

Over the last year, we have maintained diplomatic and military engagement with the Chinese side. In these discussions, we have maintained the three key principles that determine our approach: (i) both sides should strictly respect and observe the LAC; (ii) neither side should attempt to alter the status quo unilaterally; and (iii) all agreements and understandings between the two sides must be fully abided by in their entirety. To ensure disengagement in friction points along the LAC, it was our view that troops of both sides, who are now in close proximity, should vacate the forward deployments made in 2020 and return to the permanent and accepted bases.

Hon'ble Chairman,

Our approach and strategy for negotiations with the Chinese side has been guided at the highest level by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's resolve that we will not give even an inch of Indian territory. Our tenacity and approach during talks have yielded results.

Since September 2020, based on the policy guidance, military and diplomatic officials of both sides have met several times to work out a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement. Till date, there have been 9 rounds of meetings of the Senior Commanders of both sides. Diplomatic talks have continued in parallel under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC).

Hon'ble Chairman,

I am happy to inform the House today that as a result of our well thought out approach and sustained talks with the Chinese side, we have now been able to reach an agreement on disengagement in the North and South Bank of the Pangong Lake. It has also been agreed to convene the next meeting of the Senior Commanders within 48 hours after the complete disengagement in the Pangong Lake area so as to address and resolve all other remaining issues.

The agreement that we have been able to reach with the Chinese side for disengagement in the Pangong lake area envisages that both sides will cease their forward deployments in a phased, coordinated and verified manner. The Chinese side will keep its troop presence in the North Bank area to east of Finger 8. Reciprocally, the Indian troops will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3. A similar action would be taken in the South Bank area by both sides. These are mutual and reciprocal steps and any structures that had been built by both sides since April 2020 in both North and South Bank area will be removed and the landforms will be restored. It has also been agreed to have a temporary moratorium on military activities by both sides in the North Bank, including patrolling to the traditional areas. Patrolling will be resumed only when both sides reach an agreement in diplomatic and military talks that would be held subsequently. The implementation of this agreement has started yesterday in the North and South Bank of the Pangong Lake. It will substantially restore the situation to that existing prior to commencement of the standoff last year.

13. I want to assure this House that in these talks we have not conceded anything. The House should also know that there are still some outstanding issues with regard to deployment and patrolling at some other points along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. These will be the focus of further discussions with the Chinese side. We have agreed that both sides should achieve complete disengagement at the earliest and abide fully by the bilateral agreements and protocols. By now, the Chinese side is also fully aware of our resolve. It is therefore our expectation that the Chinese side will work with us in full sincerity to resolve these remaining issues.

Hon'ble Chairman,

I would like this House to join me in paying gratitude to our armed forces who have shown grit and resolve under these extremely harsh climatic conditions of Ladakh which has resulted in the present agreement. Our Nation will always remember the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers which has been the foundation of this disengagement at Pangong Tso Lake.

Hon'ble Chairman,

I am confident that this entire House, irrespective of political affiliations, is united together for upholding our sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and national security. And further, this House is one in sending out the same message demonstrating the strength and unity of our Nation to the entire world.

Jai Hind.

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Joint Press Release of the 12th round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting

August 02, 2021


The 12th round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side. This round of meeting was held following the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India and People's Republic of China on 14th July in Dushanbe and the 22nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) held on 25th June.


The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on resolution of remaining areas related to disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas. The two sides noted that this round of meeting was constructive, which further enhanced mutual understanding. They agreed to resolve these remaining issues in an expeditious manner in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols and maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations.


The two sides also agreed that in the interim they will continue their effective efforts in ensuring stability along the LAC in the Western Sector and jointly maintain peace and tranquility


New Delhi

August 02, 2021

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9/8/2021

Joint Press Release of the 12th round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting

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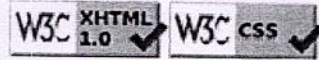
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Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.

PRESS RELEASE :DISENGAGEMENT AT PP 17A

Posted On: 06 AUG 2021 5:04PM by PIB Delhi

1. As conveyed earlier this week, the twelfth round of talks between the Corps Commanders of India and China were held on 31 July 2021 at Chushul Moldo Meeting Point in Eastern Ladakh.
2. The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on resolution of remaining areas related to disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas. As an outcome of the meeting, both sides agreed on disengagement in the area of Gogra. The troops in this area have been in a face-off situation since May last year.
3. As per the agreement, both sides have ceased forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner. The disengagement process was carried out over two days i.e. 04 and 05 August 2021. The troops of both sides are now in their respective permanent bases.
4. All temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides have been dismantled and mutually verified. The landform in the area has been restored by both sides to pre-stand off period.
5. This agreement ensures that the LAC in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there is no unilateral change in status quo.
6. With this one more sensitive area of face-off has been resolved. Both sides have expressed commitment to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector.
7. The Indian Army along with ITBP is totally committed to ensure the sovereignty of the nation and maintain peace & tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector.

SC,VBY

(Release ID: 1743220)

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QUESTION NO.3676 INDO-CHINA RELATION

March 17, 2021

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3676
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2021

INDO-CHINA RELATION

3676. SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISRA TENI:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indo-China relations are being affected due to violation of negotiations made in the past by China and unfruitful efforts to cross the line of actual control again and again;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to increasing political and economic power of both the countries, the effect of Indo-China relations is likely to influence not only both the countries but also the whole world;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether India will adopt any such scheme or policy so that China should respect the long term relations of both the countries by mutual respect and sensitivity including honoring the line of actual control; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (f) India's engagement with China is complex. The two sides agree that the future direction of India China relations should be built upon respecting each other's sensitivities, concerns and aspirations. The two sides have also agreed to manage their differences and not allow differences on any issue to become disputes.

As regards the boundary question, the two sides agree that pending final settlement of the boundary question, maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is an essential basis for the overall development of the bilateral relationship.

Since April/May 2020 the Chinese side undertook several attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Western Sector. These attempts have been responded to appropriately by our armed forces. It has been made clear to the Chinese side that such unilateral attempts are unacceptable. These actions have seriously disturbed the peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector.

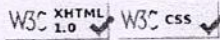
The two sides have maintained communication through both diplomatic and military channels to ensure complete disengagement from all friction points and full restoration of peace and tranquility in the India-China Border Areas. The two sides were able to reach an agreement on disengagement in the North and South Bank of the Pangong Lake, which has been completed. There are however still some outstanding issues with regard to deployment and patrolling at some other points along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

9/8/2021

QUESTION NO.3676 INDO-CHINA RELATION

Government will continue discussions with the Chinese side to resolve the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh and achieve the objective of disengagement from all friction points and restoration of peace and tranquillity in the India-China Border Areas at an early date.

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Q. 495 - India's Stand on Tibet

July 24, 2003

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 495
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.7.2003

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM :

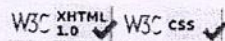
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- whether India has changed its stand that the Autonomous Region of Tibet is now recognised as a part of People's Republic of China;
- if so, the reasons therefor; and
- if not, what stand was taken by India during the Prime Minister's recent visit to China?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

- There is no change in India's position on Tibet.
- Does not arise.
- In the Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation signed by the two Prime Ministers on June 23, 2003, it is stated that "the Indian side recognizes that the Tibet Autonomous Region is part of the territory of the People's Republic of China".

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Beijing, China

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Historical Ties

Written records of contacts between India and China date back to at least 2nd century B.C. Such contacts at the level of people through commerce got a fillip with the advent of Buddhism into China from India in the first century A.D. under imperial patronage. A Chinese monk, Fa Xian (Fa-Hsien, AD 399-414), visited India in AD 402, stayed for 10 years, and after his return translated many Sanskrit, Buddhist texts into Chinese. His record of journeys *Fo Guo Ji* (Record of Buddhist Kingdoms) is an important historical source. Kumarajiva, a scholar in Vedas as well as Buddhist Sutras, was born of Chinese mother and Indian father. His translations of Sanskrit sutras into Chinese are valued even today. In the 5th Century AD Bodhidharma, a South Indian monk, became the first patriarch of the Shaolin Monastery in China. Xuan Zang (Hiuen Tsang) visited India during Harsha Vardhana's reign in the 7th Century AD, in search of Buddhist scriptures. His journey became part of traditional Chinese lore when narrated in a later period book called "A Journey to the West".

The decline of Buddhism in India and spread of colonialism in both the countries resulted in diminished cultural exchanges. However, when people of both the countries started searching for new answers to new questions, old friendship was revived. The respective national struggles for freedom saw resumption of contacts, mutual interest, and feelings of solidarity. Landmark events of this period are Kang Youwei's stay in India (1890s), Tagore's visit to China (1924), setting up of Cheena Bhawan in Viswabharati University by Professor Tan Yunshan under Tagore's guidance (1937), sending of the Aid China Medical Mission, which included Dr. Dwarakanath Kotnis, by the Indian National Congress (1938), and Xu Beihong's visit to Shantiniketan (1939-40).

The early fifties and the Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai phase of 1950s witnessed a further strengthening of these ties. Indian films like *Awaara*, *Caravan* and *Do Bigha Zameen* as well as stars like Raj Kapoor and Nargis left a lasting impression on Chinese audiences. The resumption of political relations in 1980s has provided an impetus to cultural exchanges.

INDIA RELATED HISTORICAL SITES IN CHINA

Grottoes

DUNHUANG: In Gansu province, an oasis town at the eastern edge of the Taklamakan desert. Was important along the ancient Silk Route and has many imprints of Buddhism from India, including the Thousand Buddha Cave and the Mogao Grottoes with impressive frescoes reminiscent of Ajanta, from 366 A.D till the 10th century.

XINJIANG: Ancient architectural art in Xinjiang was greatly influenced by the Indian Buddhism that are reflected in grottoes built on cliffs, temples and towers found in large numbers across Xinjiang. Some important locations are Bezeklik in Turfan, Kucha, Kizil, Cherchelik and Niya.

LUOYANG: Near Luoyang city in Henan province, the Longmen Caves are one of China's four major Buddhist caves. Construction began in the northern Wei dynasty (488 AD) and lasted through the Tang and Song dynasties until the 14th century. Consists of over 100,000 statues, some 40 pagodas and 3600 tablets.

DAZU: Dazu Grottoes are cliff-side carvings in Chongqing municipality, of which the Baoding Grotto is the largest and the best preserved. Construction began in the Tang dynasty (650A.D.) and continued through the Ming and Qing. Includes more than 50,000 Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian rock carvings.

DATONG: Datong in Shanxi province is famous for the Yungang Grottoes, hewn in a cliff side in a honeycomb pattern, forming grottoes that stretch about a kilometre. Belonging to the Northern Wei period (453-494 A.D.), it consists of about 1,000 grottoes and some 100,000 Buddhist statues.

Temples

Five Pagoda temple (Wuta Si), Beijing: Built in the reign of Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty (1403-1424), the temple is modelled after the Bodhgaya temple. Attracted countless pilgrims each year during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Carvings in Sanskrit and Tibetan. The pagoda was heavily damaged during the Cultural Revolution and the earthquake at Tangshan in 1976. Restored since 1979.

White Horse Temple (Baima Si), Luoyang: Northeast of Luoyang in Henan province, the original monastery at this site, constructed in AD 75, was one of the first Buddhist temples in China. Legend has it that two monks from India riding a white horse delivered the Buddhist sutras to Luoyang--hence the temple's name. Dharmaratna and Kasyapa Matanga, the first Indian teachers of Buddhism in China in the first century AD, stayed at this temple. The buildings seen today date from the Ming dynasty. The Baimasi today is an active centre for Zen (Chan) Buddhism and a few monks still live on its grounds. At present, to celebrate the historical role of the Temple in bringing India and China together, Government of India is building an Indian style Buddhist shrine within the original temple complex.

Big and Little Goose Pagodas, Xi'an: Originally built in 589 A.D. in the Sui Dynasty in China's ancient capital Chang'an (today's Xi'an in Shaanxi province), the Big Goose Pagoda is more famous as the temple reconstructed by the Tang Emperor for Xuan Zang to stay and translate the original Sanskrit texts which he brought from India. The texts were subsequently stored here. Xuan Zang was also the temple's abbot. The little Goose Pagoda was built in 709 AD and was associated with the Buddhist monk Yijing, who translated some 400 volumes of Sanskrit scriptures brought from India.

Famen Si, Fufeng: Near Xi'an, and founded in the Western Wei dynasty, but assuming greater importance during the Tang dynasty (618–907 A.D.), the centrepiece of the relics at Famen Si, or the Gate of Dharma, was a set of four finger bones that were believed to be those of Buddha himself. The reliquary objects lay undisturbed for centuries, until the 1980s, when the pagoda collapsed and renovation revealed three stone chambers beneath the foundations.

Shaolin Temple: Near Dengfeng in Henan province, the Shaolin Temple was established in the 6th century AD by the Indian Buddhist master, Bodhidharma (Damo, in Chinese) as a great centre of martial arts. Under Bodhidharma, Shaolin flourished as a centre of Zen Buddhism, which became the most influential branch of Chinese Buddhism after the Tang.

Kong Xiang Temple, Sanmenxia: Built beside Bodhidharma's grave in Sanmenxia in Henan province, the Kong Xiang temple recently held a large-scale celebration of Bodhidharma's 1500th birth anniversary.

Kaiyuan Temple, Quanzhou: Built in 7th century AD in Quanzhou, which was founded by Emperor Kaiyuan in the Tang Dynasty, Kaiyuan Temple's Mahavira Hall has two carved stone poles bearing carvings of Shiva. The poles were apparently transported to Quanzhou from Indian temple nearby. Other unique stone relics include a carving of a winged Buddha, an elephant offering flowers to a Shivalinga and a standing statue of Vishnu. Over 300 Hindu architectural and sculptural fragments have been identified in Quanzhou since they were first discovered in 1933. Since many fragments were found near the Tonghuai Gate as part of the city wall rebuilt in the Ming dynasty, it is likely that there was a Hindu temple in the south-eastern part of the city.

Remnants of Hindu temples are also believed to be in Lijiang in Yunnan province and at Fuzhou in Fujian province.

Memorials/ Museums

Dr. Kotnis Memorial, Shijiazhuang: A member of the Indian Medical Mission sent to China during the war with Japan, Dr. Kotnis' grave is presently at Shijiazhuang (Hebei province). A memorial in his name is located in the city's Martyr's Museum Park.

Museum of History, Xi'an: The museum has a large collection of Xuan Zang's scriptures.

Parsi Cemetery, Guangzhou: Remnants of an old Parsi cemetery discovered close to Guangzhou in southern China reveal the 18th and 19th century trading links between the Parsi community from India with southern China.

Tagore Museum, Hangzhou: Established by a Chinese scholar, Wei Fengjiang, who studied in Shantiniketan in the forties, the museum has memorabilia of Tagore's visit to China in 1924 and other objects.

Across the Hump Memorial, Kunming: Carries WW II collections from British India, when allied forces flew transport planes from Calcutta to Kunming to support the KMT-Communist United Front in the war against Japan.

Chengdu: The museum contains a collection of Pali scripture etchings on bamboo discovered near Chengdu in Sichuan province. Most of these scriptures are believed to have been originally brought from north-east India through the overland route and to have been etched on bamboo in China.

Qingdao: Buddhist scholar Fa Xian's (Fa Hyan) return voyage from India is commemorated near the port city of Qingdao in Shandong province where his ship, believed to have been drifted astray, managed to return after a long voyage from Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

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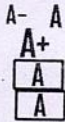
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Political Relations

India-China Political Relations

On 1 April, 1950, India became the first non-socialist bloc country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Prime Minister Nehru visited China in October 1954. Though the border conflict in 1962 was a setback to ties, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's landmark visit in 1988 marked the beginning of improvement in bilateral relations. In 1993, the signing of an Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control on the India-China Border Areas during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit reflected the growing stability in bilateral ties. Bilateral relations have been impacted by the continuing situation in the India-China border areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh since April-May 2020.

Visits of Heads of State/Heads of Government

The cumulative outcomes of various bilateral high-level visits have added value and substance to the relationship. During Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit in 2003, India and China signed the Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation and also mutually decided to appoint Special Representatives (SRs) to explore the framework of a boundary settlement. During the April 2005 visit of Premier Wen Jiabao, the two sides established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity.

India-China bilateral relations expanded and became diversified in the past decade. During the visit of President Xi Jinping to India in September 2014, the two sides redefined the bilateral engagement as Closer Developmental Partnership. In addition, a total of 16 agreements were signed in various sectors including, commerce & trade, railways, space-cooperation, pharmaceuticals, establishment of industrial parks, and sister-city arrangements. The two sides also signed a MoU to open the Nathu La route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China in May 2015 and held meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. During the visit, Prime Minister Modi and Premier Li Keqiang also addressed the opening session of the First State/Provincial Leaders' Forum in Beijing. 24 agreements were signed on the government-to-government side, 26 MoUs on the business-to-business side and two joint statements, including one on climate change. Prime Minister also announced e-visa facility for Chinese tourists.

President Pranab Mukherjee made a state visit to China in May 2016. He visited Guangdong and Beijing where he met with the Chinese leadership, and during the visit ten MoUs in the field of education and research were concluded.

In April 2018 Prime Minister Modi and President Xi held the first Informal Summit in Wuhan to exchange views on overarching issues of bilateral and global importance and elaborated upon their respective visions and priorities for national development. The two leaders agreed to significantly enhance efforts to build on the convergences through the established mechanisms in order to create the broadest possible platform for the relationship. The dialogue helped in forging a common understanding of the future direction of India-China relations built upon mutual respect for each other's developmental aspirations and prudent management of differences with mutual sensitivity.

The Second Informal Summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi was held in Chennai on 11-12 October 2019. The Summit evaluated the direction of the bilateral relationship in a positive light and discussed ways to further deepen India-China bilateral interaction to reflect the growing role of both countries on the global stage. The Summit recognized that India and China were factors for stability in the current international landscape and that both sides should properly manage their differences and not allow them to become disputes.

The two leaders also visited each other's countries to attend various multilateral summits. Prime Minister Modi visited China in September 2016 to participate in the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, in September 2017 to participate in the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, and in June 2018 to attend the SCO Summit in Qingdao. President Xi visited India in October 2016 to participate in the BRICS Summit in Goa. The two leaders have also met on the sidelines of various multilateral summits in other countries.

Other high level visits and mechanisms

India and China have several dialogue mechanisms at various levels, covering bilateral political, economic, cultural, people-to-people, consular matters as well as dialogues on regional and global issues.

The Foreign Ministers meet regularly, including on the sidelines of multilateral events. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to China from 11 to 13 August 2019, during which he held a bilateral meeting and co-chaired the 2nd meeting of the India-China High-level Mechanism (HLM) on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges with Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi in Beijing. Five MOUs on cooperation in the fields of sports, culture, museums and traditional medicine, as well as on exchanges between the two Foreign Ministries were signed during the visit. During the visit, EAM also met with the Vice President of China Mr. Wang Qishan. Both Foreign Ministers also met on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers' Meetings in Moscow on 10 September 2020 and in Dushanbe on 14 July 2021. Defence Ministers of both countries also met on the sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Moscow on 04 September 2020.

Following the establishment of the mechanism of Special Representatives (SR) on the India–China Boundary Question in 2003, 22 rounds of talks have been held. The 22nd round of talks between Mr. Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor and Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister was held in New Delhi on 21 December 2019. An Agreement on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India–China Border Affairs (WMCC) was signed during the 15th Round of SR talks in New Delhi in January 2012. The WMCC has held 22 meetings, with the latest one held on 25 June 2021. The WMCC and the Senior Commanders' Meeting (SCM) mechanism have been engaged since June 2020 for disengagement in the border areas along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. This process has led to successful disengagement at several friction points. Diplomatic and military discussions to achieve complete disengagement in all friction areas remain ongoing.

Furthering interaction between scholars, academicians, experts and strategic thinkers on both sides, the 4th India–China Think Tank Forum was held from 28–29 November 2019. A 15-member delegation led by Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) Ambassador T.C.A. Raghavan visited China to participate in the forum, which was co-organized by ICWA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The 6th ICWA – Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) Dialogue was also held from 06 to 07 November 2019 in New Delhi.

Cooperation in Water Resources

Both India and China have maintained regular exchanges on cooperation in water resources. From 12–13 June 2019, the 12th meeting of the India–China Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) on Trans-border Rivers took place in Ahmedabad. During the meeting, in pursuance to the MoU for provision of hydrological information of the Brahmaputra River, both sides signed the "Implementation plan on the provision of hydrological information of Yaluzangbu/Brahmaputra River in flood season". A similar MoU exists for provision of hydrological information on the Sutlej River .

Cultural and People-to-People Exchange

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, in co-operation with state governments and other agencies, during June to September, every year. In 2019, a total of 18 batches comprising of 1005 Yatris through Lipulekh Pass and 10 batches comprising of 341 Yatris through Nathu-La Pass undertook the Yatra. The Yatra has remained suspended for the last two seasons on account of the COVID-19 outbreak and the severe travel restrictions imposed since then by China.

Other Issues

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in China in early 2020, Indian students, who constitute a large part of the Indian community in China, had left for India. They have since not been able to return to China due to the restrictive entry measures in the country. This issue continues to be raised with the Chinese side.

Updated: 13 August 2021

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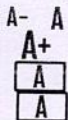
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中文

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Bilateral brief

India-China cultural exchanges date back to many centuries and there is some evidence that conceptual and linguistic exchanges existed in 1500-1000 B.C. between the Shang-Zhou civilization and the ancient Vedic civilization. During first, second and third centuries A.D. several Buddhist pilgrims and scholars traveled to China on the historic "silk route". Kashyapa Matanga and Dharmaratna made the White Horse monastery at Luoyang their abode. Ancient Indian monk-scholars such as Kumarajiva, Bodhidharma and Dharmakshema contributed to the spread of Buddhism in China. Similarly, Chinese pilgrims also undertook journeys to India, the most famous among them being Fa Xian and Xuan Zang.

As a mark of the historical civilizational contact between India and China, India constructed a Buddhist temple in Luoyang, Henan Province, inside the White Horse Temple complex which was said to have been built in honour of the Indian monks KashyapaMatanga and Dharmaratna. The temple was inaugurated in May 2010 by President PratibhaPatil during her visit to China. Besides this, in February 2007, the Xuanzang memorial was inaugurated at Nalanda. In June 2008, joint stamps were released, one stamp depicting the Mahabodhi temple at Bodhgaya and the other depicting the White Horse temple at Luoyang. In order to further academic exchanges, a Centre for Indian studies was set up in Peking University in 2003. Chairs of Indian Studies/Hindi have also been established in Shenzhen University, Jinan University, Fudan University, Guangdong University and in Shanghai International Studies University.

Indian Bollywood movies were popular in China in the 1960s and 1970s and the popularity is being rekindled in recent times again. India and China have entered into an agreement on co-production of movies, the first of which based on the life of the monk Xuan Zang hit the theaters in 2016. Recently many Bollywood movies like Dangal, Secret Superstar, Bajrangi Bhaijan, Hindi Medium, Toilet – Ek Prem Katha have become super hit with the Chinese audience

Yoga is becoming increasingly popular in China. China was one of the co-sponsors to the UN resolution designating June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to China in May

2015, a Yoga-Taichi performance in the world heritage site of Temple of Heaven was witnessed by Premier Li Keqiang and the Prime Minister. During the same visit, an agreement was signed to establish a Yoga College in Kunming, Yunnan Province. Since then it has been celebrated on grand scale every year with enthusiastic participation by the Chinese people. In June 2017, a successful Yoga@Great Wall event was organized at the Juyongguan section of the Great Wall. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) VK Singh (Retd) attended the event. Yoga Day celebration has touched multiple major cities of China such as Wuhan, Qingdao, Guilin, Luoyang etc.

The 2nd International Conference of Indologists-2016 was successfully held at Shenzhen from 11-13 November 2016. The Conference saw participation of more than 75 Indologists from world over including China, Germany, Thailand, Chile and India. An exhibition of Gupta Art, titled "Across the Silk Road: Gupta Sculptures and their Chinese Counterparts, 400-700 CE" featuring 56 sculptures gathered from 09 museums in India was held in different cities of China in 2016-17.

Other Activities of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Beijing

To promote Indian art and culture, the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre of Embassy of India, Beijing runs Music, Dance and Yoga classes and regularly organizes a variety of cultural activities.

Music, Dance and Yoga classes are held at the Cultural Centre five days a week. Experienced teachers appointed by ICCR conduct these classes. Many students who had learned music or dance at the Cultural Centre participate in cultural events organised by the Centre.

Culture Centre takes the lead role in promoting Yoga. Over the years, a large number of Chinese Yoga lovers have participated in our Yoga events to mark the International Day of Yoga.

During the Visit of External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj to China in April 2018, a major Hindi Conference was organized in Beijing. The Conference was well attended by teachers and students from different Universities of China where Hindi language is taught. Culture Centre also organizes Hindi Pakhwada event every year to promote study of Hindi language. Various activities like Essay writing, Poetry recitation, Speech competition are held to engage the Chinese youth in knowing the Hindi language. Presently, the ICCR is administering following Chairs in China: a) Hindi Chair at Shanghai International Studies University, b) Hindi Teacher at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, c) Hindi Chair at Shenzhen University, d) ICCR Chair of Indian Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Every Wednesday of the last week of a month, the Culture Centre organizes screening of an Indian movie. In recent years, the Chinese audience has hugely appreciated Indian movies. The Movie of the Month programme has been successful in bringing together movie enthusiasts among Chinese public to appreciate different genres of Indian cinema.

While COVID-19 pandemic affected the regular activities of the Cultural Centre, SVCC also utilized tides of the

time and organized online Concerts of Indian classical dance, musical instrument etc., Yoga demos and classes began on online platform. In the later half of 2020, SVCC has restarted in-person Yoga and Hindi classes.

Updated on: August 2021

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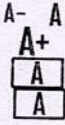
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Education Relations

India and China signed Education Exchange Programme (EEP) in 2006, which is an umbrella agreement for educational cooperation between the two countries. Under this agreement, government scholarships are awarded to the students, by both the sides, in recognized institutions of higher learning in each other's country. The 25 scholarships awarded by India are offered by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for learning Hindi.

Apart from this, Chinese students are also annually awarded scholarships to study Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (KHS), Agra. For the year 2020-21, 6 Chinese students have been selected to study in Agra under this scheme.

The Embassy maintains regular communication with MoE in China as well as all universities where there are a sizeable number of Indian students. Further, Embassy officials also visit universities to not only establish direct contact with university authorities but also to interact with the Indian students. Students are encouraged to approach the Embassy in case they are faced with serious problems. The Mission also has a social media account on Wechat for Indian students, with the objective to make it easy for them to reach out to the Embassy as well as to link them to other fellow Indian students studying in different cities of China.

Updated : 01 December 2020

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Trade and Economic Relations

Bilateral Trade

The rapid expansion of India-China bilateral trade since the beginning of this century propelled China to emerge as our largest goods trading partner by 2008, a position which China continues to hold today. Since beginning of the current decade, bilateral trade between the two countries recorded exponential growth. In 2017 and 2018, the bilateral trade has registered robust two digit growth. In the year 2019, India was the 12th largest trade partner of China. However, in the year 2020, India became the 16th largest trade partner of China. The total bilateral trade witnessed a reduction of 5.64% year on year to reach US \$ 87.65 billion, due to Covid-19 implications. India's exports to China increased by 16.15% y-o-y to US \$20.87 billion, while India's imports from China decreased by 10.87% to US \$ 66.78 billion. During the first half of 2021, the overall trade with China rebounded and saw an increase of 62.55% (US\$ 57.50 billion) as compared to the same period in 2020 (US\$ 35.38 billion).

INDIA CHINA BILATERAL TRADE

(Figures in \$ Bn)

Year	India's Export to China	%Change	India's Import from China	%Change	Trade Imbalance	Total Trade	%Change
2015	13.4	-18.39	58.26	7.42	44.86	71.66	1.42
2016	11.75	-12.29	59.43	2.01	47.68	71.18	-0.67
2017	16.34	39.11	68.1	14.59	51.76	84.44	18.63
2018	18.83	15.21	76.87	12.89	58.04	95.7	13.34
2019	17.97	-4.55	74.92	-2.54	56.95	92.89	-2.93

2020	20.87	16.15	66.78	-10.87	45.91	87.65	-5.64
2021 (Jan-Jun)	14.70	69.22% (same period in 2020)	42.80	60.38% (same period in 2020)	28.10	57.50	62.55% (same period in 2020)

(Source: General Administration of Customs, China)

Trade Deficit: While flourishing trade has brought with it advantages such as availability of low priced items in India, it has also led to the biggest single trade deficit we are running with any country. Our trade deficit concerns are two pronged. One is the actual size of the deficit. Two is the fact that the imbalance has continuously been widening year after year to reach US \$58.04 billion in 2018. In 2019, India's trade deficit with China stood at US \$ 56.95 billion, a minor y-o-y decline of 1.88%, with trade deficit declining for the first time since 2005. In 2020, the trade deficit came at US \$ 45.91 billion, narrowing down by 19.39% year on year owing to Covid-19 and the overall reduction in bilateral trade. During the first half of 2021, the trade deficit rose by 56.12% to US \$ 28.10 billion, in parallel with the increase of bilateral trade during the same period.

The growth of trade deficit with China could be attributed to two factors: narrow basket of commodities, mostly primary, that we export to China and market access impediments for most of our agricultural products and the sectors where we are competitive in, such as pharmaceuticals, IT/ITeS, etc. Our pre-dominant exports have consisted of cotton, copper and diamonds/ natural gems. Over time, these raw material-based commodities have been overshadowed by Chinese exports of machinery, power-related equipment, telecom, organic chemicals, and fertilizers. We need to engage Chinese continuously for addressing market access issues and hold them to assurances made on this account.

Bilateral Investment

Growth in bilateral investment has not kept pace with the expansion in trading volumes between the two countries. While both countries have emerged as top investment destinations for the rest of the world, mutual investment flows are yet to catch up. According to the Ministry of Commerce of China, Chinese investments to India in the year of 2020 were to the tune of US\$ 200 million and Cumulative Chinese investment to India till the end of 2020 amounted to US\$5343.2 million. Indian investments to China in the the year of 2020 were US\$12.01 million and Cumulative Indian investment to China till the end of 2020 reached US\$ 937.64 million. However, these figures do not capture investment routed through third countries like Singapore, Hong Kong, etc. especially in sectors such as start-ups etc. which has seen significant growth in Chinese investment.

Institutional Bilateral Economic and Commercial Dialogue Mechanisms

India-China Economic and Commercial Relations are shaped through various dialogue mechanism such as

Joint Group on Economic Relations, Science and Technology (JEG), led by the Commerce Ministers of both sides. Joint Economic Group (JEG) was established in 1988 to discuss trade cooperation issues. So far 11 JEGs were held with the last one in Delhi in March 2018. During the 9th JEG, the two sides also set up three working groups on Economic and Trade Planning Cooperation (ETPC), Trade Statistical Analysis (TSA) and Service Trade Promotion (or Trade in Services – TIS).

Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) was established during the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India in December 2010, to discuss macro-economic cooperation. So far 5 SED meetings have taken place with the last one held in Beijing in April 2018. There are 5 Working Groups under SED: Infrastructure, Environment, Energy, High Technology and Policy Coordination. The SED is co-chaired by Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog and Chairman, Chinese National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC). During 5th SED both sides agreed to create one more working group on Pharmaceutical.

The NITI Aayog – Development Research Centre of China (DRC) Dialogue was established pursuant to the MoU signed during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to China in May 2015, to discuss global economic cooperation issues. Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog leads the India delegation while President (Minister-level) of DRC of China leads the Chinese delegation. The fifth NITI-DRC dialogue was held in Wuhan on 28-29 November 2019.

India-China Financial Dialogue is held in accordance with the MoU signed during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in April 2005. The ninth India-China Financial Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 25th September 2019 which was co-chaired by Secretary DEA.

Other Institutional Mechanisms Some of the other institutionalized dialogue mechanisms between the two countries include the JWG on Collaboration in Skill Development and Vocational Education, Joint Working Group on Information and Communication Technology & High-Technology, Joint Working Group on Industrial Park Cooperation, Joint Study Group and Joint Task Force on Regional Trading Agreement (RTA), India-China Joint Working Group on Agriculture, India-China Joint Working Group on Cooperation in Energy and the Joint Study Group on BCIM Economic Corridor.

List of Institutional Dialogues and Important Meetings held in 2019

S.No.	Meetings/Dialogues	Date/Period
1	2nd Meeting of Joint Working Group on Skill Development	22 February 2019, New Delhi
2	1st Meeting of Working Group on Pharmaceuticals	7 May 2018, Beijing
3	6th SED	7-9 September 2019, New Delhi
4	9th Financial Dialogue	25 September 2019, New Delhi
5	4th Meeting of JWG on Trade in Services	18 November 2019, New Delhi
6	5th NITI Aayog-DRC Dialogue	28-29 November 2019, Wuhan
7	JWG on IT	11-12 December 2019, Beijing

During the 2nd Informal Summit held between PM Modi and President Xi in Chennai on October 11-12, 2019, it was decided to establish the High Level Mechanism on Economic and Trade Dialogue headed by Finance Minister from the Indian side and Vice Premier from the Chinese side to strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation and better promote the balanced development of bilateral economic

and trade cooperation. However, there has been no progress on this front due to COVID-19 outbreak and the border tensions which followed. For similar reasons, no dialogues under the existing institutional mechanisms have taken place in 2020 and 2021.

Banking Sector Cooperation

Many Indian banks had established their presence in mainland China through branches or representative offices in major cities in China. However most of them have closed their operations in recent years and presently only SBI and ICICI have branches in Shanghai. SBI is the only Indian bank to have authorization to conduct local currency (RMB) business at its branch in Shanghai.

In early 2011, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) secured a license to start banking operations in India. ICBC inaugurated their Mumbai branch on September 15, 2011. This marked the opening of the first branch of a mainland Chinese bank in India.

Bank of China (BoC) had applied to the Reserve Bank of India for a license for its proposed branch in Mumbai. During the bilateral meeting on the sidelines of SCO Summit in Qingdao in June 2018, the Prime Minister of India assured China's President to examine the proposal on priority. Accordingly the approval was granted by RBI during the first week of July 2018. The bank has started functioning from March 19, 2019.

Multilateral Development Banks

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: (AIIB)

In May 2014, India was invited by China to join the Bank after committing to the 'Key Elements of AIIB', to join in the multilateral negotiations on the MoU for establishment of AIIB. India joined the 5th round of multilateral consultations and subsequently signed the MoU on 23rd October 2014. The Articles of Agreement of the Bank were finalized at the 5th Chief Negotiators Meeting in Singapore in May 2015 and India signed the AoA along with 57 other prospective founding member countries on 29th June 2015.

India is the second largest shareholder with approx 8% shareholding. The bank conducts its business through BoD meetings and AGMs. India is the biggest beneficiary with 26 projects of loan value of \$5.85 bn approved so far.

India hosted the third AGM in Mumbai in June 2018. The Prime Minister of India addressed the delegates from about 80 countries.

New Development Bank: (NDB)

NDB established its office in Shanghai and Mr K.V.Kamath took charge as the first President of the NDB. Mr. Kamath was succeeded by Marcos Troyjo of Brazil in May 2020. The initial authorized capital of the Bank was USD100 billion of which USD 50 billion was subscribed initially by founding members (BRICS) who shall have equal shareholding initially.

The bank also opened its Africa Regional Centre in South Africa and America Regional Office in Brazil. India is the biggest borrower in NDB with 18 projects approved with commitment of \$7.174 bn.

International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR)

INBAR is an Intergovernmental body for Bamboo and Rattan Research and Development. INBAR was founded in 1997. It currently has 44 member countries. India became a member in 1998. India is largest country in terms of landmass under Bamboo and Rattan plantation. However, China is known to control more than 83% of the commercial market of Bamboo and Rattan Resources, employing more than 7.7 million people directly or indirectly. Its secretariat is located in Beijing. Embassy acts as the focal point for interaction with INBAR secretariat. Nodal ministry for INBAR is Ministry of Environment and Forests. INBAR has its South Asia Centre located in Delhi.

Tourism and Films

China has the world's largest outbound tourism industry. In 2019, more than 169 million outbound tourists traveled to different parts of the world and spent more than US\$ 127 Billion. Top 10 international outbound destinations for Chinese Tourists in 2019 were Asian countries. In the recent years Sri Lanka and Maldives have come up as popular tourist destinations for Chinese outbound travelers. Tourism to India, however is still below potential. In 2019, India received nearly 340,000 Chinese tourists. India's Tourism Minister, Mr. KJ Alphons visited China in August 2018 and held roadshows in Beijing, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Shanghai. The roadshows were highly attended and generated a lot of interest from Chinese Tour operators.

India-China MoU on Audio-visual coproduction was signed during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India in September 2014 and two Indian movies (PK and Dhoom3) were released in 2015. "Xuan Zang" was the first co-production film between India and China, featuring popular Chinese Huang Xiaoming. This film released in 2016 was submitted as a contender to represent mainland China for Best Foreign Language Film at the 89th Academy Awards in 2017. In 2017, "Kungfu Yoga", featuring Jackie Chan and "Buddies in India" was released. In recent years, before COVID-19 pandemic, Indian movies such as Dangal, Secret Superstar, Bahubali, Hindi Medium, Toilet, Andhadhun etc, registered great success at the Chinese box office.

Other Economic and Commercial Issues

Cooperation in the Petroleum Sector: India and China are working on the areas of cooperation in the petroleum sector to leverage upon the sheer size of the market of two countries. The Petroleum Secretary visited Beijing in October 2018 followed by visit of Vice Minister of NEA to New Delhi in February 2019 and September 2019. Constitution of a JWG on this sector and draft MOU on cooperation are under consideration

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA): India and China signed the DTAA on 18 July 1994 and the Agreement came into force on 21 November 1994. Both the countries agreed to revise the DTAA in its entirety. The revised DTAA has been signed in May 2018.

Social Security Agreement: With the steady increase in number of personnel/professionals that are being employed both in India and China, the Social Security Agreement assumes important role. India shared a draft SSA to Chinese side in October 2016. JS (ED) led a technical meeting during 28-29 May 2018. There is a divergence as far as 'Totalisation' clause is concerned. China's MoHRSS led the delegation to India from Nov 13-15, 2019.

Bilateral Investment Treaty: India has sent notice to China to terminate the Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement and proposed initiation of negotiations on Bilateral Investment Treaty. Subsequently India has taken a position that instead of signing a separate BIT with China, we may cover this under the chapter on Investment in RCEP. As on date, the Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (BIPA) with China stands terminated. However, as per the Agreement, despite termination, the Agreement shall continue to be effective for a further period of 15 years from the date of its termination in respect of investments made or acquired before the date of termination of this Agreement.

Cooperation in Railway Sector: MOU in cooperation in railway sector was signed in September 2014 during the visit of China's President to India. Subsequently two actions plans were signed in 2014 and 2015 and this cooperation has been discussed intensively through SED mechanism. Accordingly cooperation has commenced in areas such as feasibility studies for speed raising, feasibility studies for high speed rail, station redevelopment and training. 320 Indian railways officers got trained in South West Jiaotong Technical University in Chengdu.

Air Service Agreement: Both the countries have approved 42 frequencies for each countries carrier. China has already used all its frequencies. For many years Indian carriers were using only 5 frequencies which increased a bit by Indigo introducing Delhi-Chengdu and Kolkata- Guangzhou flights. However it will take many years to reach utilize 80% of our frequencies as mandated by our policy to allow Chinese more frequencies.

Indian Companies in China- With the growth in bilateral trade between India and China in the last few years, many Indian companies have started setting up Chinese operations to service both their Indian and MNC clientele in China. Indian enterprises operating in China either as representative offices, Wholly Owned Foreign Enterprises (WOFE) or Joint Ventures with Chinese companies are into manufacturing (*pharmaceuticals, refractories, laminated tubes, auto-components, wind energy etc.*), IT and IT-enabled services (*including IT education, software solutions, and specific software products*), trading, banking and allied activities. While the Indian trading community is primarily confined to major port cities such as Guangzhou and Shenzhen, they are also present in large numbers in

places where the Chinese have set up warehouses and wholesale markets such as Yiwu in Zhejiang. Most of the Indian companies have a presence in Shanghai, which is China's financial center; while a few Indian companies have set up offices in the capital city of Beijing. Some of the prominent Indian companies in China include Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Aurobindo Pharma, SUN Pharma, NIIT, Infosys, TCS, Wipro, Mahindra & Mahindra, TATA Sons, Binani Cements, Sundram Fasteners, Mahindra Satyam, etc.

Chinese Companies in India– According to information available with the Embassy of India, more than 100 Chinese companies have established offices/operations in India. Many large Chinese state-owned companies in the field of machinery and infrastructure construction have won projects in India and have opened project offices in India. These include Sinosteel, Shougang International, Baoshan Iron & Steel Ltd, Sany Heavy Industry Ltd, Chongqing Lifan Industry Ltd, China Dongfang International, Sino Hydro Corporation, etc. Many Chinese electronic, IT and hardware manufacturing companies are also having operations in India. These include Huawei Technologies, ZTE, TCL, Haier etc. A large number of Chinese companies are involved in EPC projects in the Power Sector. These include Shanghai Electric, Harbin Electric, Dongfang Electric, Shenyang Electric etc. In recent years, Chinese mobile companies have achieved remarkable growth in India, with companies like Xiaomi, Huawei, Vivo and Oppo occupying nearly 77% of Indian mobile handset market.

Updated : 13 August 2021

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07/09/2021

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India-China Bilateral Relations

Political Relations

On 1 April, 1950, India became the first non-socialist bloc country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Prime Minister Nehru visited China in October 1954. Though the border conflict in 1962 was a setback to ties, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's landmark visit in 1988 marked the beginning of improvement in bilateral relations. In 1993, the signing of an Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control on the India-China Border Areas during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit reflected the growing stability in bilateral ties.

2. The cumulative outcomes of various bilateral high-level visits have added value and substance to our ties. During Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit in 2003, India and China signed the Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation and also mutually decided to appoint Special Representatives (SRs) to explore the framework of a boundary settlement. During the April 2005 visit of Premier Wen Jiabao, the two sides established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity.
3. India-China bilateral relations have expanded and become diversified in the past decade. During the visit of President Xi Jinping to India in September 2014, the two sides redefined the bilateral engagement as Closer Developmental Partnership. In addition, a total of 16 agreements were signed in various sectors including, commerce & trade, railways, space-cooperation, pharmaceuticals, establishment of industrial parks, and sister-city arrangements. The two sides also signed a MoU to open the Nathu La route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China in May 2015 and held meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. During the visit, Prime Minister Modi and Premier Li Keqiang also addressed the opening session of the First State/Provincial Leaders' Forum in Beijing. 24 agreements were signed on the government-to-government side, 26 MoUs on the business-to-business side and two joint statements, including one on climate change. Prime Minister also announced e-visa facility for Chinese tourists.
5. President Pranab Mukherjee made a state visit to China in May 2016. He visited Guangdong and Beijing where he met with the Chinese leadership, and

during the visit ten MoUs in the field of education and research were concluded.

6. The year 2018 witnessed an upswing in the momentum of bilateral ties. In April 2018 Prime Minister Modi and President Xi held the first Informal Summit in Wuhan to exchange views on overarching issues of bilateral and global importance and elaborated upon their respective visions and priorities for national development. The two leaders agreed to significantly enhance efforts to build on the convergences through the established mechanisms in order to create the broadest possible platform for the relationship. The dialogue helped in forging a common understanding of the future direction of India-China relations built upon mutual respect for each other's developmental aspirations and prudent management of differences with mutual sensitivity.

7. The bilateral ties continued to strengthen and deepen in the year 2019 with the Second Informal Summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi held in Chennai on 11-12 October 2019. The Second Informal Summit evaluated the direction of bilateral relationship in a positive light and discussed ways to further deepen India-China bilateral interaction to reflect the growing role of both countries on the global stage. The Summit recognized that India and China were factors for stability in the current international landscape and that both sides should properly manage their differences and not allow them to become disputes.

8. The two leaders also visited each other's countries to attend various multilateral summits. Prime Minister Modi visited China in September 2016 to participate in the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, in September 2017 to participate in the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, and in June 2018 to attend the SCO Summit in Qingdao. President Xi visited India in October 2016 to participate in the BRICS Summit in Goa.

9. In the year 2019, in addition to the Second Informal Summit in Chennai, Prime Minister Modi and President Xi also met on the sidelines of the SCO Leaders' Summit in Bishkek on 13 June 2019, which was their first meeting after the re-election of Prime Minister Modi, as also on the sidelines of the 14th G-20 Summit in Osaka on 30 June 2019 and at the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia on 13 November 2019.

Other high level visits and mechanisms

10. India and China have established more than thirty dialogue mechanisms at various levels, covering bilateral political, economic, cultural, people-to-people, consular matters as well as dialogues on regional and global issues.

11. The Foreign Ministers meet regularly, including on the sidelines of multilateral events. Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Delhi in the capacity of Special Envoy of the President in June 2014, when he called on PM Modi and had bilateral discussions with EAM. He also visited Goa and Delhi in August 2016, where he had separate meetings with Chief Minister and Governor of Goa, EAM and also called-on the Prime Minister. He also took part in the RIC Foreign Ministers Meeting in December 2017 in New Delhi. During this visit he had also called-on the Hon'ble President, and held bilateral meetings with EAM and NSA. Foreign Minister Wang Yi again visited India from 21-24 December 2018 to lead a multi-ministry delegation for the inaugural meeting of the High Level Mechanism (HLM) on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges, an important outcome of the Wuhan Summit. During the visit, he also had meetings with NSA and Maharastra Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis, and also called on President Ram Nath Kovind.

12. The then EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Beijing in February 2015 for the Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers' meeting. In April 2018, EAM visited Beijing for the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers, when she also called on Vice President Wang Qishan, and in February 2019 she participated in the RIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Wuzhen. She also had bilateral meetings with Foreign Minister Wang Yi during these visits. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to China from 11 to 13 August 2019, during which he held a bilateral meeting and co-chaired the 2nd meeting of the India-China High-level Mechanism (HLM) on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges with Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi in Beijing. Five MOUs on cooperation in the fields of sports, culture, museums and traditional medicine, as well as on exchanges between the two Foreign Ministries were signed during the visit. During the visit, EAM also met with the Vice President of China Mr. Wang Qishan. Most recently, both Foreign Ministers met on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Moscow on 10 September 2020.

13. Following establishment of the mechanism of Special Representatives (SR) on the India-China Boundary Question in 2003, 22 rounds of talks have been held. The 22nd round of talks between Mr. Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor and Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister was held in New Delhi on 21 December 2019. An Agreement on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was signed during the 15th Round of SR talks in New Delhi in January 2012. The WMCC has held 19 meetings, with the latest one held on 30 September 2020.

14. The 1st reconstituted Strategic Dialogue between the then Foreign Secretary, Dr. S Jaishankar and the Chinese Executive Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Zhang Yesui was held in February 2017. Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Kong Xuanyou have met in Beijing in February 2018, in New Delhi in April and June 2018, and again in April 2019 in Beijing, as part of regular diplomatic consultations.

15. India and China are also taking forward cooperation in the field of defence. Raksha Mantri (RM) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman paid a visit to Beijing in April 2018 for the SCO Defense Minister's meeting. During the visit, she also held bilateral meeting with Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe. Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe paid an official visit to India in August 2018 and held discussions with RM. The two Defence Ministers also met on the sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting in Moscow on 04 September 2020.

16. The 9th India-China Annual Defence and Security Dialogue (ADSD) was held in Beijing on 13 November 2018. The dialogue was co-chaired by the Defence Secretary of India and the Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of Central Military Commission of China. Two Chinese naval ships participated in the International Fleet Review conducted at Visakhapatnam in February 2016. Two Indian naval ships, the INS Kolkata and the INS Shakti took part in the International Fleet Review in Qingdao, Shandong in April 2019, held as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy. The 8th edition of India-China Joint Training Exercise (Hand-in-Hand 2019) was held from 06 to 20 December 2019 at Umroi, India wherein 130 soldiers from both sides jointly conducted Counter-Terrorism and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise. A delegation of the Indian Army, led by General Officer Commanding in Chief, Northern Command, Lt. Gen Ranbir Singh, visited China on an official engagement from 7-10 January 2020.

17. India and China also have a High Level Dialogue Mechanism on Counter Terrorism and Security, led by Chairman (JIC) on the Indian side and the Secretary General of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Chinese Communist Party on the Chinese side. The mechanism first met in Beijing in September 2016. Minister of Public Security, Mr. Zhao Kezhi also visited India in October 2018 and co-chaired the first India-China High Level Meeting on Bilateral Security Cooperation with Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh. An MOU on cooperation in security and law enforcement was also signed.

18. To facilitate high level exchanges of Party leaders from China and Chief Ministers from India, a special arrangement has been entered into by the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (MEA-IDCPC) since 2004. During the visit of PM to China in May 2015, an MoU on expanding the exchange programme between MEA and IDCPC was signed. The most recent visit to take place under this programme was that of Member of the Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee and Guangdong Party Secretary Mr. Li Xi to Delhi and Ahmedabad in June 2019. The last visit from India to China under the programme was in September 2018, when Sh. Raghubar Das, Chief Minister of Jharkhand visited Beijing, Zhengzhou and Shanghai.

19. Furthering interaction between scholars, academicians, experts and strategic thinkers on both sides, the 4th India-China Think Tank Forum was held from 28-29 November 2019. A 15-member delegation led by Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) Ambassador T.C.A. Raghavan visited China to participate in the forum, which was co-organized by ICWA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The 6th ICWA - Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) Dialogue was also held from 06 to 07 November 2019 in New Delhi.

20. Both India and China have maintained regular exchanges on cooperation in water resources. From 12-13 June 2019, the 12th meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) on Trans-border Rivers took place in Ahmedabad. During the meeting, in pursuance to the MoU for provision of hydrological information of the Brahmaputra River, both sides signed the "Implementation plan on the provision of hydrological information of Yaluzangbu/Brahmaputra River in flood season". A similar MoU for provision of hydrological information of the Sutlej River is also in force.

Commercial and Economic Relations

21. The rapid expansion of India-China bilateral trade since the beginning of this century propelled China to emerge as our largest goods trading partner by 2008, a position which China continues to hold today. Since beginning of the current decade, bilateral trade between the two countries recorded exponential growth. In 2017 and 2018, the bilateral trade has registered robust two digit growth. In the year 2019, India was the 12th largest trade partner of China. The total bilateral trade registered a reduction of 2.93% year on year to reach US \$ 92.89 billion. India's exports to China decreased by 4.55% y-o-y to

US \$17.97 billion, and India's imports from China also witnessed a drop by 2.54% to US \$ 74.92 billion. Due to the impact of COVID this year, the overall trade with China saw a reduction of 13.1% in Jan-Sept 2020 (USD 60.5 billion) as compared to the same period in 2019 (USD 69.7 billion).

22. While flourishing trade has brought with it all the advantages such as availability of low priced items in India, it has also led to the biggest single trade deficit we are running with any country. Our trade deficit concerns are two pronged. One is the actual size of the deficit. Two is the fact that the imbalance has continuously been widening year after year to reach US \$58.04 billion in 2018. In 2019, India's trade deficit with China stood at US \$ 56.95 billion, a minor y-o-y decline of 1.88%, with trade deficit declining for the first time since 2005.

23. The growth of trade deficit with China could be attributed to two factors: narrow basket of commodities, mostly primary, that we export to China and market access impediments for most of our agricultural products and the sectors where we are competitive in, such as pharmaceuticals, IT/ItES, etc. Our pre-dominant exports have consisted of cotton, copper and diamonds/natural gems. Over time, these raw material-based commodities have been over-shadowed by Chinese exports of machinery, power-related equipment, telecom, organic chemicals, and fertilizers. We need to engage Chinese continuously for addressing market access issues and hold them to assurances made on this account. This year, due to Covid-19 and the overall reduction in our bilateral trade, trade deficit with China during the first nine months period saw a reduction of 30.5% from USD 42.9 billion (Jan-Sep 2019) to USD 29.8 billion as Indian exports to China increased by 14.9% y-o-y.

24. Growth in bilateral investment has not kept pace with the expansion in trading volumes between the two countries. While both countries have emerged as top investment destinations for the rest of the world, mutual investment flows are yet to catch up. According to the Ministry of Commerce of China, Chinese investments in India between January-September 2019 were to the tune of US\$0.19 billion and Cumulative Chinese investment in

India till the end of September 2019 amounted to US\$5.08 billion. Cumulative Indian investment in China until September 2019 is US\$ 0.92 billion. However, these figures do not capture investment routed through third countries like Singapore, Hong Kong, etc. especially in sectors such as start-ups etc. which has seen significant growth in Chinese investment.

25. Over the years, presence of Indian Banks in China has shrunk to two. Remaining banks have either closed their operations in China or are in the process of closing down. Chinese banks, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Bank of China (BOC) have their branch offices in Mumbai.

26. Many Indian companies have set up Chinese operations to service both their Indian and MNC clientele in China. They operate either as representative offices, Wholly Owned Foreign Enterprises (WOFE), Joint Ventures with Chinese companies are into manufacturing and IT and IT-enabled services, trading, banking and allied activities. Some of the prominent Indian companies in China include Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Aurobindo Pharma, Matrix Pharma, NIIT, Infosys, TCS, APTECH, Wipro, Mahindra Satyam, Essel Packaging, Suzlon Energy, Reliance Industries, SUNDARAM Fasteners, Mahindra & Mahindra, TATA Sons, Binani Cements, etc.

27. More than 100 Chinese companies have established offices/operations in India. These include Chinese state-owned companies that have won projects in India and have opened project offices in India, such as Sinosteel, Shougang International, Baoshan Iron & Steel Ltd, Sany Heavy Industry Ltd, Chongqing Lifan Industry Ltd, China Dongfang International, and Sino Hydro Corporation, as well as Chinese electronic, IT and hardware manufacturing companies such as Huawei Technologies, ZTE, TCL, Haier etc. Chinese companies involved in EPC projects in the Power Sector in India include Shanghai Electric, Harbin Electric, Dongfang Electric, Shenyang Electric etc. Chinese mobile companies have achieved remarkable growth in India, with companies like Xiaomi, Huawei, Vivo and Oppo occupying nearly 60% of Indian mobile handset market.

28. The India-China Economic and Commercial Relations are shaped through various dialogue mechanism such as Joint Economic Group (JEG) led by the Commerce Ministers of both sides, Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED)

led by the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog and the Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, the NITI Aayog - Development Research Center (DRC) Dialogue and the Financial Dialogue led by Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs of India and Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance of PRC. The 11th JEG was held in March 2018, and the 5th NITI Aayog-DRC dialogue was held in Wuhan in November 2019. The 6th India-China SED was held in New Delhi from 7 to 9 September 2019 and the 9th India-China Financial Dialogue took place on 25 September 2019.

29. Some of the other institutionalized dialogue mechanisms between the two countries include the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade, JWG on Collaboration in Skill Development and Vocational Education, Joint Working Group on Information and Communication Technology & High-Technology, Joint Study Group and Joint Task Force on Regional Trading Agreement (RTA), and India-China Joint Working Group on Agriculture.

Cultural Relations

30. India-China cultural exchanges date back to many centuries and there is some evidence that conceptual and linguistic exchanges existed in 1500-1000 B.C. between the Shang-Zhou civilization and the ancient Vedic civilization. During first, second and third centuries A.D. several Buddhist pilgrims and scholars traveled to China on the historic "silk route". Kashyapa Matanga and Dharmaratna made the White Horse monastery at Luoyang their abode. Ancient Indian monk-scholars such as Kumarajiva, Bodhidharma and Dharmakshema contributed to the spread of Buddhism in China. Similarly, Chinese pilgrims also undertook journeys to India, the most famous among them being Fa Xian and Xuan Zang.

31. As a mark of the historical civilizational contact between India and China, India constructed a Buddhist temple in Luoyang, Henan Province, inside the White Horse Temple complex which was said to have been built in honour of the Indian monks Kashyapa Matanga and Dharmaratna. The temple was inaugurated in May 2010 by President Pratibha Patil during her visit to China. Besides this, in February 2007, the Xuan Zang memorial was inaugurated at Nalanda. In June 2008, joint stamps were released, one stamp depicting the Mahabodhi temple at Bodhgaya and the other depicting the

White Horse temple at Luoyang. In order to further academic exchanges, a Centre for Indian studies was set up in Peking University in 2003. Chairs of Indian Studies/Hindi have also been established in Shenzhen University, Jinan University, Fudan University, Guangdong University and in Shanghai International Studies University.

32. Indian Bollywood movies were popular in China in the 1960s and 1970s and the popularity is being rekindled in recent times again. India and China have entered into an agreement on co-production of movies, the first of which based on the life of the monk Xuan Zang that hit the theaters in 2016. Many recent Bollywood movies like Three Idiots, Dangal, Secret Superstar, Bajrangi Bhaijan, Hindi Medium, Toilet – Ek Prem Katha and Andhadhun have become super hits in the Chinese boxoffice.

33. Yoga is becoming increasingly popular in China. China was one of the co-sponsors to the UN resolution designating June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to China in May 2015, a Yoga-Taichi performance in the world heritage site of Temple of Heaven was witnessed by Premier Li Keqiang and the Prime Minister. During the same visit, an agreement was signed to establish a Yoga College in Kunming, Yunnan Province. Since then it has been celebrated on grand scale every year with enthusiastic participation by the Chinese people. In June 2017, a successful Yoga@Great Wall event was organized at the Juyongguan section of the Great Wall. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) VK Singh (Retd) attended the event. Yoga Day celebrations have touched multiple major cities of China such as Wuhan, Qingdao, Guilin, Luoyang etc.

34. The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) of Embassy of India, Beijing was inaugurated in August 2018. It runs weekly classes for Music, Dance and Yoga and regularly organizes a variety of cultural activities, including a monthly movie screening.

35. During the Visit of External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj to China in April 2018, a major Hindi Conference was organized in Beijing. The Conference was well attended by teachers and students from different Universities of China where Hindi language is taught. SVCC also organizes Hindi Pakhwada event every year to promote study of Hindi language. Various activities like Essay writing, Poetry recitation, Speech competitions are held to engage the Chinese youth in knowing the Hindi language.

36. Presently, the ICCR is administering following Chairs in China: a) Hindi Chair at Shanghai International Studies University, b) Hindi Teacher at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, c) Hindi Chair at Shenzhen University, d) ICCR Chair of Indian Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Education Relations

37. India and China signed Education Exchange Programme (EEP) in 2006, which is an umbrella agreement for educational cooperation between the two countries. Under this agreement, government scholarships are awarded to the students, by both the sides, in recognized institutions of higher learning in each other's country. The 25 scholarships awarded by India are offered by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for learning Hindi.

38. Apart from this, Chinese students are also annually awarded scholarships to study Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan(KHS), Agra. For the year 2020-21, 6 Chinese students have been selected to study in Agra under this scheme.

39. The Embassy maintains regular communication with MoE in China as well as all universities where there are a sizeable number of Indian students. Further, Embassy officials also visit universities to not only establish direct contact with university authorities but also to interact with the Indian students. Students are encouraged to approach the Embassy in case they are faced with serious problems. The Mission also has a social media account on Wechat for Indian students, with the objective to make it easy for them to reach out to the Embassy as well as to link them to other fellow Indian students studying in different cities of China.

Useful Resources

Website: <https://eoibeijing.gov.in/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/IndiainChina.EmbassyofIndia.Beijing

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EOIBeijing>

Instagram: [indiainchina](https://www.instagram.com/indiainchina)

[December 2020]