

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

Visits of Heads of States/Heads of Governments

Cumulative outcomes of seven key visits in recent times have been transformational for our ties. These were that of Prime Minister Vajpayee [2003], of Premier Wen Jiabao [2005 & 2010], of President Hu Jintao [2006], of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh [2008 and 2013] and of Premier Li Keqiang [2013]. During Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit, the two sides signed a Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation and also mutually decided to appoint Special Representatives (SRs) to explore the framework of a boundary settlement from the political perspective. During the April 2005 visit of Premier Wen Jiabao, the two sides established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, while the signing of an agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles, signaled the successful conclusion of the first phase of SR Talks. During Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to India in November 2006, the two sides issued a Joint Declaration containing a ten-pronged strategy to intensify cooperation. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited China in January 2008. A joint document titled "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century" was issued during the visit. When Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited India in December 2010, the two sides jointly set a bilateral trade target of US\$ 100 billion for 2015.

Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China paid a State visit to India (Delhi-Mumbai) from 19-21 May 2013. During this visit, the two sides signed eight agreements and released a Joint Statement. Some of the significant proposals included in the Joint Statement were the decision to designate 2014 as the Year of Friendly Exchanges between India and China and decision to hold the first High Level Media Forum.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to China from 22-24 October 2013. He met with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress Zhang Dejiang and former Premier Wen Jiabao. Agreements relating to border, trans-border Rivers, establishing service centers for servicing power equipment in India, road transport and Nalanda University were signed. Also signed were three agreements establishing sister-city partnership between Delhi-Beijing, Kolkata-Kunming and Bangalore-Chengdu.

Vice-President Hon'ble Shri. Hamid Ansari paid a visit to China on 26-20 June 2014. During the visit the Vice President met with President Xi Jinping, held talks with Vice

President Liu Yuanchao, attended events to mark the 60th anniversary of 'Panchsheel', and visited Xian in Shaanxi Province. Three agreements related to industrial parks, training of public officials, and exchange of flood season data on the Yarlung Zangbu River were signed. The two Vice-Presidents also jointly released the English and Chinese versions of the Encyclopedia of India-China Cultural Contacts.

It is noteworthy that more than 60% of the agreements between India and China have been signed during the last decade.

On May 29, 2014, Prime Minister Li Keqiang was the first foreign Head of Government to congratulate the newly appointed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when the two leaders had a telephone conversation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping met for the first time on 15th June 2014, on the sidelines of the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Other high level visits

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi travelled to India as the Special Envoy of the Chinese President on 8-9 June 2014. During the visit, he met with the President, Prime Minister, NSA and EAM. The External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj met Foreign Minister Wang Yi on 9th August 2014, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Myanmar. Earlier, EAM Salman Khurshid had paid an official visit to Beijing from 9-10 May 2013 and had met with Premier Li Keqiang, State Councillor Yang Jiechi and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Chinese FM Wang Yi also visited India from 9-11 November 2013 to participate in the RIC Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting and the ASEM FMs meeting.

The Chinese Defence Minister visited India in September 2012. Raksha Mantri Shri A.K. Antony paid a three day official visit to China from 4-7 July 2013. Indian Army Chief, Bikam Singh visited China on 2-5 July 2014. With respect to defence exchanges, the sixth round of the Annual Defence Dialogue was held in India on 24th February 2014. Four Indian Navy Ships made a port call at Shanghai in June 2012 and the PLAN Training Ship 'Zhenghe' visited Kochi in May 2013. The third round of joint military exercises was held in Chengdu in 2013, and the fourth round is scheduled to be held in India in 2014.

The 17th meeting of the Special Representatives on the India-China Boundary Question between the National Security Advisor, Mr. Shivshankar Menon and State Councilor Yang Jiechi was held in New Delhi on 10-14 February, 2014. At the conclusion of the 15th round, the two countries reached a consensus to set-up the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, which has already met seven times.

To facilitate high level exchanges of Party leaders from China and State Chief Ministers from India, a special arrangement has been entered into by the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA-ILD) since 2004. There are regular Party-to-Party exchanges between the Communist Party of China and political parties in India.

Major dialogue mechanisms

As of today, both sides have established nearly 40 dialogue mechanisms covering diverse sectors. The first India-China High Level Media Forum was held in New Delhi on September 16th 2013. The Third Round of the Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in Beijing in March 2014. The sixth round of India-China Strategic Dialogue was held in Beijing in April 2014.

Commercial and Economic Relations

Trade and economic relationship has seen rapid progress in the last few years. India-China bilateral trade which was as low as US\$ 2.92 billion in 2000 reached US\$ 41.85 billion in 2008, making China India's largest trading partner in goods, replacing the United States of America. By 2013, India- China bilateral trade stood at US\$ 65.88 billion. India's exports to China touched US\$ 14.50 billion whereas China's exports were US\$ 51.37 billion. However, India still faces a growing trade deficit vis-a-vis China. Apart from trade, India is also one of the largest markets for project exports from China. Currently, projects under execution are estimated at over US\$ 60 billion. As per Chinese figures, cumulative Chinese investments into India till April 2014 stood at US\$ 1.056 billion while Indian investments into China were US\$ 542.39 million.

Cultural Relations

In 1955, the first Indian cultural delegation headed by then Deputy Minister of External Affairs Mr. A. K. Chanda visited China. Since 1988 both countries are bringing their people together through structured Cultural Exchange Programmes.

The broad contours of the India-China cultural cooperation were laid down in the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation signed in May 1988, which provides for an executive Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for implementation. The latest CEP signed in October 2013 during the visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to China provides for cooperation in a gamut of cultural fields including exchanges of visits of performing artists, officials, writers, archivists and archaeologists, organizing cultural festivals, film festivals and exchanges in the field of mass media, youth affairs and sports.

In 2003, Prime Minister Vajpayee had committed to build an Indian style Buddhist temple in Luoyang, Henan province and President Pratibha Devisingh Patil inaugurated the temple during her visit to China in May 2010. In February 2007, the Xuanzhang 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. A Centre for Indian studies was set up in Peking University in 2003. Chairs of Indian Studies have also been established in Shenzhen University, Jinan University, Fudan University, Guangdong University and in Shanghai International Studies University. India has also set up six 'Chairs' in various universities in China. This includes the 'Hindi Chair' set up at Peking University in 2003 during the visit of former Prime Minister Shri A.B. Vajpayee. The other 'Chairs' are in universities in Shanghai (Fudan University), Shenzhen, Kunming and

Guangzhou. The 60th anniversary of the establishment of India-China diplomatic relations was celebrated with much fanfare in both countries in 2010.

In March 2012, during President Hu Jintao's visit to India for the BRICS Summit, leaders of both sides decided to celebrate 2012 as the "The Year of Friendship and Co-operation" and both countries resolved to further strengthen cultural exchanges between our peoples. Youth exchanges have also been encouraged. While young China expresses great desire to know Buddhism, Bollywood and Yoga, young India admires the Chinese economic miracle. Exchange of Youth delegation between Indian and China has been continuing since 2007. During the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to India in November 2006, the two sides had agreed to launch a five year programme for mutual exchange of youth delegation. In this context, the China had invited five hundred youth from India over the next five years. Later, during the visit Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India in December 2010, the two sides agreed to continue youth exchange activities in next five years. Further, as part of the "Year of India-China Exchanges-2011", China also invited 500 Indian youth to visit China within the year 2011. Reciprocal visits were also paid by the Chinese side each year.

During the visit of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Premier Li Keqiang in 2013 the leaders designated 2014 as the Year of Friendly Exchanges between India and China. To mark this special year, Glimpses of India Festival is being organized in twelve cities across China through 2014 showcasing Indian performing arts, exhibitions of modern Indian arts, depictions of Buddhism links between the two countries, food and film festivals. As part of the festival Kalashetra & Sangeet Natak Akademi visited China. Sangeet Natak Akademi performed at the Reception Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence at the Great Hall of People. Food Festival were also organised in cities like Beijing, Qingdao, Shanghai, Hong Kong to give the local people a taste of authentic Indian cuisine. Yoga Festivals were organized in the month of July, 2014 in Beijing, Shanghai and Dali in partnership with Department of AYUSH, Government of India.

During the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India in December 2010, the leaders of India and China agreed on a project involving compilation of an Encyclopedia of India-China Cultural Contacts. The Encyclopedia of India-China Cultural Contacts was released in both English and Chinese versions during Hon'ble Vice President Md. Hamid Ansari's visit to China on June 30, 2014 in Beijing. The Encyclopedia features over 700 entries, encapsulating the rich history of contacts and exchanges between the two countries in the trade, economic, literary, cultural and philosophical spheres.

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 25 students, by both 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) to pursue a 1-year certificate course in Hindi. Apart from this, Chinese students are also annually awarded scholarships to study Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra to learn Hindi. For the year 2014-15, 6 scholarships have been offered under this scheme.

In 2010, it was decided to introduce Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in August 2012, between Central CBSE and Confucius Institute, where both signatories agreed to exchange academic staff, teachers and trainees as well as exchange information on the system and structure of teaching Mandarin Chinese as a second language in schools in India. As a part of this MoU, the first batch of 22 Chinese teachers is teaching in select CBSE schools for one year, since early 2014.

The cooperation in the education sector between the two sides has resulted in an increase in the number of Indian students in China. As on 2013, there were 10237 Indian students studying in various Universities in China in various disciplines. Similarly, around 2000 Chinese students are studying in various educational institutions in India.

Useful Resources

For more information and latest updates please visit:
Embassy of India, Beijing website:
<http://www.indianembassy.org.cn/>

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