Special Address

by

H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping
President of the People’s Republic of China

at

Taj Palace, New Delhi
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Respected Vice-President Ansari,

Respected Director General Bhatia

Ladies and Gentlemen, friends

Namaste! Good afternoon. I’m very glad to meet you here at the invitation of the Indian Council of World Affairs. First of all, I would like to extend sincere greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Chinese government and Chinese people, and also myself. I want to pay great respects and gratitude to those people who have contributed to China-India friendship and cooperation over the last many years.
India left me with a very good impression when I visited in 1997 as a regional leader at provincial level. 17 years later, when I set foot in this glorious land again, I am witnessing the great achievements of the Indian people and feel the diligent spirit of the nation. Like people say, "Indian’s development is truly incredible."

India is a mysterious and colorful country that has thousands of years of history. Your country has walked a long road of independence and self-improvement, and stepping on the road of renaissance that is full of hope. Coming to India is coming to a colorful historical gallery. Yesterday is magnificent, today is inspiring and tomorrow will be wonderful. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Indian people are confident about their future, and international society is full of hope and expectation from India.

During this visit, Prime Minister Modi and I have exchanged deep opinions on bilateral relations and important issues of common interests. We have shared common understanding on a lot of issues. We have agreed to enrich the meaning of the two countries’ strategic cooperation partnership, and build a closer relationship of development partnership.

China’s former leader Deng Xiaoping had once said, only when the China-India relationship develops, will a real "Asian century" emerge. Mr. Nehru also said that when China and India join hands, Asia and even the world will take note. As the two largest countries in Asia, China and India have historical responsibility and mission of the times, to safeguard the peace and stability of Asia and rejuvenate Asia’s prosperity.

**China and India share a long history of friendship**

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

The people of China and India are close neighbors. We’ve had close contacts and exchanges since ancient times, and have gone through thick and thin in modern times, and have jointly undertook the rejuvenation of our countries in contemporary times. Gandhi once said "China and India are fellow travellers who share fortunes and failures." During this year’s BRICS Summit in Brazil, Prime Minister Modi told me that,"China and India are two bodies with one spirit." These
words underscore our common aspiration for peace and goodness and the bond between our people’s hearts.

According to written records, the relationship between China and India dates back over 2000 years. Buddhism was born in ancient India, and thrived in ancient China. Exchanges in Buddhism have been vibrant in our histories. In 67 A.D., the two Indian Monks Matanga and Dharmaratna came to Luoyang, China, where they translated Buddhist scriptures and spread its teachings. They translated "Sutra in Forty-Two Sections," which are the earliest translations of Buddhist texts in China. During the Han Dynasty, white horses carried buddhist scriptures from India to China, and Xuanzang’s Journey to the West in Tang Dynasty, also brought Indian culture back to China. Speaking of Buddhism, I’d like to mention a master of Chinese studies, Mr. Ji Xianlin. He studied Sanskrit in his early years, and he said he needed to gain a deep understanding of Buddhism that originated from India in order to understand Chinese culture, because Buddhism has permeated the heart of Chinese culture. Admiral Zheng He of Ming Dynasty, conducted seven voyages of exploration, and visited India six times, bringing China’s friendship. India’s songs, dances, astronomy, calendar, literature, architecture, and sugar making techniques were all introduced to China. In turn, China’s paper manufacturing, silk, porcelain, tea and music were exported to India. All of this makes up the historic evidence of our interconnectivity, mutual contact, and mutual learning.

In modern times, the Chinese and Indian people have emphasized and supported each other’s efforts for national independence and liberation. Working together, we pushed for the awakening of Asia. India cheered for China during our anti-opium war, and China encouraged India’s independence movement. During China’s War of Resistance against the Japanese aggression, Indian medical teams left behind touching stories. In particular, Doctor Kotnis even passed away in China. Chinese people will always remember his noble deeds. Tomorrow morning, I will also go to meet with his relatives.

In 1950, China and India established diplomatic ties, opening a new chapter in bilateral relations. India was among the first to recognize the new China and in proposing a resumption of China’s legitimate seat in the UN. China, India and Myanmar initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful
Coexistence, a pioneering undertaking in international relations. This is a remarkable contribution to modern civilization. In June of this year, the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence was held in Beijing, where Vice president Ansari attended the ceremony on behalf of India. We met each other and delivered remarks together.

In the new century, the two countries have set up a strategic partnership of peace and prosperity. Our bilateral relationship has experienced rapid development. Over the past decade, bilateral trade grew over twenty fold and people-to-people exchanges nearly doubled. The depth and scope of exchanges and cooperation has been unprecedented. It’s fair to say that bilateral relations are standing on a new historic starting point.

China and India should be closer partners

Ladies and gentlemen, friends!
Our era is witnessing profound changes in the international community. One big change is that Asia’s global status has been continually on the rise. China and India are two major forces in the development of global multi-polarization. We are the driving force of Asian and global development. And now we are again at the frontier of the times. The China-India relationship has moved far beyond bilateral ties to have a broad and global impact. China and India work together, to benefit each other, the Asian region and the whole world.

Therefore, I propose that China and India should be closer development partners, growth-leading cooperative partners, and strategic global partners.

First, China and India should be closer development partners. We should work together to rejuvenate our nations. Development is the biggest common strategic goal for China and India. Our priority now is to allow our people to live more comfortably, peacefully, and happily. We should focus on development, share experiences, deepen mutual cooperation, and strive to develop peacefully, cooperatively and inclusively.

China is called the "world’s factory", and India is called the "world’s back office". We should strengthen cooperation and complement each other with our advantages. We should bridge China’s opening up to the west and India’s policy of going eastward. We should build the world’s most competitive manufacturing bases, most attractive consumer market, and the most dynamic growth engine. We should also expand cooperation in investment and finance, and achieve comprehensive development of pragmatic bilateral cooperation.

The key to foreign relations depends on the relationship between the nations’ people. There are amazing similarities between China’s Taichi and India’s Yoga, and China’s traditional medicine and India’s Ayurveda. The life philosophy our people have held for thousands of years are very similar. During this visit, we have drawn up a China-India cultural communication plan. This is to promote the humanistic spirit of the two nations’ sages, and recreate the heyday of communication between the two ancient civilizations. We have agreed to expand cooperation in youth exchanges, culture, education, tourism, religion, the media, radio, television, film, and regional provinces and cities. China has decided to open a new pilgrim path passing through the
Netula Pass, to facilitate journeys for Indian pilgrims to the sacred mountains and lakes in China’s Tibet.

**I have a deep interest in Indian civilization**

I have had a deep interest in Indian civilization since I was young. India’s spectacular history deeply appealed to me. I have read historic books on the Ganges River civilization, the Veda culture, the Maurya Empire, the Kushan Empire, the Gupta Empire and the Mughal Empire. I have been especially interested in India’s colonial history and the Indian people’s unswerving struggle to win independence. I have also paid great attention to the life and thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi, hoping to penetrate the development path and psychology of this great nation. And during this visit, my wish was fulfilled when I visited the state of Gujarat. I visited the house where Ganhdi lived, the museum. And this morning, I visited Ganhdi’s tomb, to express our respect for him. Rabindranath Tagore’s Gitanjali, Stray Birds, The Gardener, and The Crescent Moon...They all have Chinese translations in China. I have read all of them, and some of them I have carefully read .. Some of translated lines are different from the original, and cannot convey the full message. But still we can catch its beautiful imagery.

**China and India should help global economic growth**

He wrote, for example: "If you cry because the sun has gone out of your life, your tears will prevent you from seeing the stars","We come closest to greatness when we are greatly humble", "Wrong cannot take defeat but right can.", "We read the world wrong and say that it deceived us.", "Let life be beautiful like summer flowers and death like autumn leaves.", etc. These beautiful lines full of philosophical wisdom have greatly inspired me, and I believe I speak on behalf of many Chinese people.

Secondly, China and India should be cooperative partners to drive economic growth, and join hands to rejuvenate Asia.

China and India should be the driving vehicles of regional growth, pushing forward the joint development of all countries in the region. Both nations should consolidate their regional cooperative consensus, facilitate regional economic integration and connection. We should push
forward with the building of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor, and conclude negotiations on comprehensive economic partnership to be built in the region. Both nations should be the strong and steady anchors to hold regional peace, and together, we should commit ourselves to building a secure and cooperative framework in the Asia-Pacific region that is open, transparent, equal and inclusive, and realize a state of security that is common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable in every way.

Third, China and India should be global partners in strategic cooperation, and push forward the international order to a more fair and equitable direction.

When China and India speak, the world listens
Currently, the trends of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit can be felt more than ever. Nevertheless, there have been some problems. Global challenges emerge one after another, and regional conflicts as well as local wars can still be seen in parts of the globe. It’s a long and daunting task to maintain world peace and promote common growth. China and India face similar challenges and share broad common interests in terms of global issues, therefore we should shoulder great responsibilities.

China and India have a combined population of more than 2.5 billion. If China and India speak with one voice, the whole world will listen. If China and India join hands, the whole world will be watching. China and India should strengthen strategic cooperation in dealing with global issues. We should inherit and carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. We should stick to the ideas of sovereign equality, fairness and justice, common security, common growth, mutual benefits, and inclusiveness, so that we can maintain the common interests of not just our two nations, but the vast numbers of developing countries.

China and India should use our own growth to contribute more to the world’s economic growth and global governance. We should put forward plans that represent the interests of the vast number of developing countries in terms of climate change, food safety, energy and internet security, and other global issues. China is willing to enhance strategic cooperation with India based on multiple mechanisms including the China-Russia-India group, the BRICS, the G20,
Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and more. China supports India’s aspiration to play a more active role in the UN, as well as the UN Security Council.

**China, India can make peace between giant neighbors**

There are rows and discord between neighbors. China and India should view the border issue as well as other issues left over from history in a positive light. Through friendly negotiation, the two countries should strive to find a solution that is fair and acceptable for both sides. At the same time, we shall not neglect our friendship and cooperation and put our eyes only on the disagreement, or disrupt the development and the overall stability of our relations. I believe China and India, as two ancient civilizations, have the ability and wisdom to find ways to make peace between the two giant neighbors.

Ladies, gentlemen and friends.

Many friends in India are paying close attention to the development of China, and hope China has a better future. Over 30 years since China’s reform and opening up, China has achieved prominent success in its economic and social development. The life of Chinese people has improved gradually, and other countries in the world are benefiting from China’s growth. However, there have been those who have suggested that China will follow the footsteps of big powers and seek hegemony on the world stage once it grows strong. They have also suggested that China will become a threat to other nations. I want to make it clear: China will unswervingly pursue the path of peaceful development.

**China will pursue path of peaceful development**

The Chinese nation loves peace. Peace, concord and harmony—these are the pursuits that are deeply rooted in the spirit of Chinese people. China has always vowed that the strong shall not bully the weak and the rich shall not insult the poor. It also gave birth to the motto that "nations in favour of fighting shall perish, no matter how large they are." Other concepts like "Harmony Is precious", "Harmony in diversity", "Turn hostility into friendship", "Unity of the world" have also passed on from generation to generation. China, in ancient times, was always a strong nation. Despite that, what it spread, were only the concepts of peace, and its products; namely
silk, tea and porcelain. China’s concept of "Unity of the world" is interlinked with India’s concept of "the whole world is a family". China’s "universal fraternity" is also interlinked with India’s idea of "non-violence". We two nations both view "Peace" as the very essence of the world and hope all nations can live in peace and co-exist in harmony.

**China should be a nation of learning**

The Chinese nation has always attached importance to learning. It makes a point of distilling knowledge from broad reading and act with restraint when one has accumulated much, as recommended by the ancient Chinese writer Su Dongpo. We stress the lines from the Analects of Confucius that say: if there are three of us walking together, at least one is good enough to be my teacher. And also we advocate the principle of extensive study of what is good, accurate inquiry about it, careful reflection on it, the clear discrimination of it, and the earnest practice of it, as expressed in the ancient Chinese classic, the Book of Rites.

The spirit of emulating those better than oneself and being tolerant of diversity has benefited the Chinese nation through thousands of years’ of history. I have always stressed that China should be a big country that is good at learning. As an ancient Chinese saying goes: an inch may be too long, a foot may be too short. One should learn not to be conceited, self-satisfied or overwhelming, and instead being modest and prudent, learning diligently and making good one’s deficiencies.

**China seeks peaceful coexistence with neighbors**

The Chinese nation has always placed emphasis of the virtue of associating with benevolent gentlemen, befriending good neighbors and coordinating myriad nations. That is also a principle that runs through Chinese diplomacy. China regards good relations with neighbors as a basis for a peaceful existence and development. We have put forward the concept of China’s diplomacy as intimacy, sincerity, reciprocity and inclusiveness. By that we mean we should get along with our neighbors earnestly and sincerely, put our whole heart into development, jointly promote mutual cooperation and share the fruits of development.

**China is still a developing nation**
With a population of over 1.3 billion people, China has achieved in several decades what developed countries took several centuries to achieve. This is a historic achievement. At the same time, we should be fully aware that China is still one of the biggest developing countries in the world, and it is still at the primary stage of socialism. China’s total economy may be big, but the per capita GDP still ranks about 80th in the world. China has a long way to go before its 1.3 billion people can all live well.

**China seeks great rejuvenation**

For a long time to come, achieving economic development and promoting overall social progress will remain a core task for China. China has set a development goal, that by the year 2020, we should double China’s GDP from 2010, double the per capita income for both urban and rural residents and build China into a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way. And by the middle of the 21st century, we will work to turn China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious. That goal is also summarized as the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

**China cherishes, safeguards peace**

China requires lasting external environment of peace and stability to realize the Chinese dream. Only by sticking to a peaceful development path, can China realize its development goals. The Chinese people went through a painful history witnessing frequent wars in modern times over the past century, and we do not want to see a recurrence of such tragedies in other places in the world. A Chinese saying goes, "Don’t do to others what you do not want to be done to yourself". China remains resolute in cherishing, treasuring, and safeguarding peace.

**South Asia has immense development potential**

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends.

From Nepal to the Maldives, from Afghanistan to Bangladesh, people in South Asia share aspirations for a good life and the pursuit of national revitalization, indicating a bright future of development in this region. I firmly believe that South Asia represents a promising sub-continent
with immense potential. It will also probably become the new growth pole powering the economy in Asia and even the world.

"One Belt and One Road" for joint interests of S. Asia
Peace, stability, development, and prosperity in South Asia is in the interest of countries and peoples in this region, including that of China. China is willing to live in amity with its South Asian neighbors and make every contribution to the development of this region. By proposing "One Belt and One Road", China hopes to boost the interconnectivity of countries along the traditional land and maritime Silk Road, to make our economies prosperous, our trade complementary, and our peoples’ hearts connected. With "One Belt and One Road" as wings, China wants to take off together with South Asian nations.

Cooperation potential remains huge in S. Asia
China and the countries in South Asia are important cooperation partners. We look forward to cooperation between China and the countries in the region as there is huge treasure waiting to be tapped into. China will join hands with South Asian nations to strive to lift our two-way trade to 150 billion US dollars in the next five years. China will also invest 30 billion US dollars in South Asia, and offer preferential loans of 20 billion US dollars to the region. China will also expand people-to-people exchanges with the countries in the region. In the forthcoming five years, we will create for South Asian nations, 10 thousand scholarships, receive 5 thousand people for training, have 5 thousand young people for exchanges and training, and train 5 thousand teachers in the Chinese language. China will work with South Asian nations to implement the China-South Asia scientific cooperation partnership plan and also give full importance to the China-South Asia Expo, in order to cultivate a new platform for mutually-beneficial cooperation.

China seeks mutual development with India
China is South Asia’s biggest neighbor, and India is the biggest country in South Asia. China looks forward to joining hands with India, making greater contributions to the development of this region, so that three billion people on both sides of the Himalayas can share peace, friendship, stability, and prosperity.
Ladies and gentlemen, friends!

Rabindranath Tagore, the great Indian Poet adored by the Chinese people, visited China 90 years ago. He was warmly welcomed. When he set foot on Chinese soil, Tagore said: “I don’t know why, but I feel as if I am back home when I am in China.” When he left China, he said sadly: “My heart remains here.”

There are youth delegates present today. The youth are the future of China and India, the hope of Asia and the world. The youth not only have the pleasure, anger, sorrow, and joy of realism, but also have the faith and perseverance of idealism. I hope you can absorb wisdom from the ancient history of China and India, and continue forward in the pursuit of truth. I hope you can strengthen the communication of hearts, keep youthful hearts in China and keep youthful hearts in India. Let us be both of the same mind and create a better future hand in hand.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends!

Lastly, I want to tell my Indian friends that in China, we stress that “One who wishes to be successful, seeks to help others to be successful. One who wishes to be understood, understands others.” While China is seeking its own development, we sincerely wish India to be prosperous, thriving and powerful. We look forward to joining hands with India to advance toward common development. The Chinese people are willing to walk with the Indian people along the road of development and revival of India. I believe the people of China and India, who have profoundly influenced the development of human civilization, will make new and greater contributions to the development of Asia and the world.

Dhanyavad. Thank you!

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