Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

Remarks

by

Ambassador Yang Yanyi
Ambassador and Member of the
Foreign Relations Committee of the National Committee of the
Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

at the
Opening Session of the
Sixth ICWA-CPIFA Dialogue

Sapru House, New Delhi
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Your Excellency Ambassador Dr. T C A Raghavan, DG, ICWA,
Your Excellency Ambassador Sun Weidong,
Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for the very warm welcome and hospitality so graciously accorded to us by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). I would also like to thank Ambassador Sun for honoring today's event with his distinguished presence.

It is a great privilege for me and the Chinese delegation from the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) to be at ICWA for the Sixth Bilateral Dialogue on China-India Relations.

Though it is the first time for me to be at ICWA, this Council is no stranger to us. As one of the prestigious think tanks, the Council has promoted studies of Indian and international affairs and India's relations with other countries through study, research, discussions, lectures and exchange of ideas and information, and has become a body of informed opinion on international matters. The Council has also played an important and indispensable role in promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between China and India. We'd like to highly commend your efforts and contribution.

Our meeting today takes place at a time when relations between China and India enjoy sound momentum of development.

The historic and significant second informal meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi reinforced in the words of our Indian friends the "Wuhan Spirit" with their "Chennai Connect", implying further strengthening of the strategic cooperative partnership between our two large and rapidly transforming nations and exploring a path of win-win coexistence.

Our meeting also takes place at a time when the world is undergoing major changes unseen in a century. While the global economy and multilateralism are faced with strong headwinds and uncertainties, there are growing opportunities and increasing will to promote common good.

Given this, this meeting will be an excellent opportunity for us to exchange observations, thoughts and ideas on China-India relations and issues of common interest so as to rise up to the aspirations of jointly realizing the Chinese dream and the Indian dream.

Without prejudice to the upcoming deliberations, I believe there is a great deal we can talk about:

-- Further strengthen strategic communication and enhancing mutual strategic trust.

-- Give full play to the newly upgraded high-level economic and trade dialogue mechanism to strengthen the alignment of economic development strategies; promote balanced and sustainable growth of bilateral trade by advancing a manufacturing partnership; strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in such areas as economy, trade, investment, people's livelihood, poverty reduction, rejuvenation of the rural areas so as to draw upon each other's strengths to fulfill our respective domestic development agenda and promote common development.

--Enhance experience sharing on nation building, governance, employment, fight against corruption, targeted poverty alleviation, environmental protection, guard against major risks and party building.

--Enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges to build a solid social foundation for the long-term stable development of our relations, bearing in mind that the coming year has been designated the China-India year of cultural and people-to-people exchange.

-- Strengthen coordination within such multilateral frameworks as the G20, the BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the China-Russia-India cooperation, take a clear-cut stand to maintain the international system with the United Nations as the core and uphold multilateralism and multilateral trading system.

-- Expand "China-India Plus" cooperation to advance regional connectivity building, and get to grips with global challenges, including climate change and sustainable development goals.

-- Prudently manage differences and maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and ensure that differences do not become disputes.

-- Last but not least, as we embrace the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between our two countries next year, it would be highly relevant for us to thrash out ideas and proposals to optimize the auspicious occasion to further enhance our partnership and take it to new heights.

I am delighted that we have around the table some of the best minds on China-Indian relations -- senior diplomats, celebrated scholars, academics and experts. I am certain that by focusing on the larger picture, we will have an in-depth, rigorous and constructive discourse and that our deliberations, thoughts and proposals will contribute to advancing

China-India relationship on a solid growth track and to building strong and lasting bonds of friendship between our two peoples and between all the participants.

Thank you.

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