



Translation of EAM's Address at inauguration of 3rd India-China High Level Media Forum (December 21, 2018)

December 22, 2018

Your Excellency, Mr. Wang Yi, State Counselor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China who is also my close friend and my brother,
Delegation members from both the countries present during our discussions,
Friends of media from India and China who have come to India for the India-China Media Forum,
My beloved brothers and sisters present in this auditorium,

First of all I would like to tell you about the uniqueness and the background of this meeting.

In the last four and a half years, Mr. Wang Yi and I had a lot of dialogues and discussions. These discussions were held not only in India, China but in third countries also.

Several times we have met in multilateral meetings also like RIC, BRICS, and SCO etc. We have had many discussions on the sidelines of these meetings also but I would like to say, and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi is witness to the fact that our meeting of today was entirely different from the earlier meetings and the reason for that is that this meeting was focused on only two subjects.

One of the subjects was our cultural relations with China and the second subject was our people-to-people relations.

The meetings that we had prior to today were all very long meetings but this was a very small point, a very small subject in all the previous meetings.

Now Foreign Minister Wang Yi and I can say that we used to spend maximum ten minutes on this agenda item but today's meeting was went on for two hours and in those two hours we discussed two subjects only.

Our cultural relations with China and people to people relations between India and China.

And the background that I spoke about, as to background first of all I would like to express my

gratitude to our two great leaders i.e. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping of China both of whom laid foundation for this meeting. This is the result of their maturity and vision that they could think leaving all the cooperation aside, if the people to people ties increase then our relations will become much stronger.

So during the Wuhan informal summit it was decided that a new system, a new mechanism should be created dedicated only to the cultural exchange and people to people exchange between the two countries.

They did not leave that mechanism to the officials, they entrusted this to their foreign ministers and named it, High Level Meeting.

So now you can understand that both leaders understood that till the time our people to people relations are not enhanced we could not further intensify our cooperation and that is the reason they decided to have this meeting.

And I am happy to say that Wuhan informal summit was held in April and seven months after that, we are doing this meeting in December.

We did the preparations during this time and were able to find mutually acceptable time for the meeting. And I am especially grateful to Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi that he readily accepted my wish to conduct the meeting in December and said he is ready to come in the month of December and we have been successful in sharing the vision of both the leaders today. He came and as I said for two hours we discussed only these two subjects.

We have selected 10 such dimensions on which our cultural relations and people to people exchange relations will stand on them. I would like to discuss those 10 dimensions here with you.

First is Cultural exchange,

Second, Cooperation in Film and Television,

Then, Cooperation in museum management,

Cooperation in sports,

Cooperation in exchange of youth,

Cooperation in tourism,

Cooperation in exchange of people at the level of states and cities,

Cooperation in traditional medicine,

Cooperation in Yoga, and the tenth is Cooperation in the field of education And our discussion was across all these ten dimensions of our relations.

Friends,

Both sides reviewed positively our cooperation in these areas and made constructive and meaningful suggestions to further enhance our cooperation in order to promote greater cultural and people to people exchanges.