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**Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of India-China Diplomatic Relations: Exchange of Letters**

***President K.R. Narayanan's Letter to H.E. Mr. Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China***

H.E. Mr. Jiang Zemin  
President of the People's Republic of China,  
Beijing

1 April, 2000

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and the people of India and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in conveying to the Government and the people of China, and to you personally, warm felicitations and friendly greetings on this historic occasion marking the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China.

India and China are close neighbours. We greatly value the spiritual and intellectual interactions between our two great peoples and civilizations over the last two millennia, which has enriched us both.

India and China regained their rightful place in the comity of nations over half a century ago. Conscious of our basic affinities and shared destiny we have since renewed our historic ties as modern nation states. We have jointly bequeathed Panchsheel – the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence- to the world, which at the dawn of the new millennium has acquired new relevance in the conduct of inter-State relations.

Two of the world's largest and most populous countries, we are engaged in massive efforts for economic development for the fulfilment of the aspirations of our peoples for prosperity and well being. It is natural that we should work together for the prosperity and for peace and stability in Asia and in the world. I am confident that, through our joint efforts we can build a long term and stable relationship of constructive co-operation based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence in the twenty-first century. The future beckons us both.

Excellency, please accept my best wishes for your good health and personal happiness and for the well being and prosperity of the friendly Chinese people.

With the assurance of my highest considerations,

K.R. Narayanan

***Chinese President H.E. Mr. Jiang Zemin's letter to the Indian President K.R. Narayanan***

H.E. Kocheril Raman Narayanan  
President of the Republic of India  
New Delhi

Beijing  
April 1, 2000

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, I would like to extend on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, and in my own name, our warm congratulations to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of India.

China and India are the world's ancient civilizations. The friendly exchanges between our two countries have a long history. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 50 years ago, despite twists and turns, good neighbourliness and friendship have been the mainstream in our bilateral relations. The Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence jointly initiated by China and India still have great vitality till this day. It is on the basis of these Principles that our two countries have continuously expanded exchanges in all fields and increasingly strengthened cooperation in international affairs. During my visit to India in 1996, I reached consensus with the leaders of your country on establishing the 21<sup>st</sup> century-oriented constructive cooperative partnership between China and India, which opened a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. We are pleased to see that the China-India relations have entered a new stage of improvement and growth.

China has all along attached great importance to the friendly and good-neighbourly relations and cooperation with India and the Chinese people treasure the traditional friendship with the Indian people. As the two most populous developing countries in the world, we have extensive agreement and a good variety of sound coordination in international affairs. I believe that a healthy, stable and friendly China-Indian relationship not only serves the interests of the two peoples but also benefits world peace and stability. The China-India friendship fostered by the leaders of the two countries will surely continue to develop in the new century.

May the Sino-Indian friendly relations enjoy constant development!

May the traditional friendship between our two peoples last forever!

Jiang Zemin  
President of the People's Republic of China

***Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee's letter to the Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji***

H.E. Mr. Zhu Rongji  
Premier of the State Council  
People's Republic of China  
Beijing

New Delhi  
April 1, 2000

Excellency,

Please accept my warm congratulations and friendly greetings on historic occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China.

India and China both have a glorious past. We represent two of the world's great civilizations and our contacts span two millennia. These linkages were renewed with the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Forty-six years, ago we jointly enunciated Panchsheel, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. Derived from the wisdom and historical experience of our two peoples, these Principles continue to have relevance in the conduct of inter-State relations and to the fashioning of a just and equitable international political and economic order.

We attach importance to the development of a friendly, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually-beneficial relationship with China on the basis of Panchsheel. The twin imperatives of peace and prosperity impel us to build on our historical affinity and expand our contacts and co-operation. I am confident that, with the joint efforts of the two sides, we can build a stable relationship of constructive co-operation into the twenty-first century, and thereby contribute to peace and stability in the Asian region and the world.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and for the happiness and prosperity of the Chinese people.

With the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

A.B. Vajpayee

***Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji's letter to the Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee***

H.E. Atal Behari Vajpayee  
Prime Minister of the Republic of India  
New Delhi

Beijing, 1 April 2000

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People Republic of China and the Republic of India, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people and in my own name, our warm congratulations to Your Excellency, the Government and people of India.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, India was among the first group of countries that established diplomatic relations with China. Over the past half a century, the exchanges and cooperation between our two countries in various fields have developed continuously and our two peoples have forged a profound friendship through sympathizing with and supporting each other in international affairs and in their respective efforts in building up their countries. As the two biggest developing nations, China and India both have the great tasks of developing the economy and raising the living standards of people. Our two nations share extensive agreement and shoulder important responsibility in building a new fair and rational international political and economic order. To promote mutual trust, live in harmony, enhance cooperation and achieve common prosperity are the common wishes our two peoples.

The Chinese government has worked consistently to establish develop long-term stable, good neighbourly and cooperative relations with India on the basis of the five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. We sincerely hope to further strengthen cooperation, promote mutual understanding between our two countries and work for common development. Mr. Deng Xiaoping said, "Only when China, India and some other neighbouring nations are well-developed will the Asian-Pacific century or Asian century come."

As the new Century is dawning, I believe that the common historical tasks and responsibility will surely make China and India to forward hand in hand and bring a peaceful, stable and friendly China-India relationship into the 21 century.

May the friendly cooperation and contacts between our countries and peoples enjoy constant development.

Zhu Rongji  
Premier of the State Council  
Of the People's Republic of China

***Minister of External Affairs Mr. Jaswant Singh's Letter to the Chinese Foreign Minister H.E.  
Mr. Tang Jiaxuan***

H.E. Mr. Tang Jiaxuan,  
Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China  
Beijing

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and the people of India and on my own behalf I have the pleasure of extending to the Government and the people of China and to you personally warm and friendly greetings and felicitations on the historic occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China.

On this occasion we recall our civilizational links spanning over two millennia. We recall also the sustenance we drew from each other as we struggled against imperial and colonial exploitation to establish our two modern nation states.

The commonality of our historic experience and shared perspectives for the future led, in 1954, to our joint enunciation of Panchsheel, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. Though historic changes have taken place in the past half-a-century these Five Principles continue to be relevant in the conduct of inter-State relations and the forging of a just and equitable international political and economic order.

We attach importance to the development of friendly, good-neighbourly, mutually beneficial constructive and co-operative relations with China on the basis of Panchsheel. India and China, two of the world's largest and most populous countries, are engaged in the common endeavour of bringing prosperity to our peoples. We must persist with this even as, as neighbours, we address ourselves to unsolved issues, for that is our joint responsibility to the future. We can draw satisfaction that, in these fifty years past, we have developed mutually beneficial interaction in diverse fields. We must enhance our cooperation and joint endeavours to promote peace and stability in Asia and in the world.

Please accept, Excellency, my good wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the prosperity and well-being of the Chinese people.

With the renewed assurance of my highest consideration,

Jaswant Singh

***Chinese Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Tang Jiaxuan's letter to the Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr. Jaswant Singh***

H.E. Jaswant Singh  
Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India  
New Delhi

1 April, 2000

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, I wish to extend my warm congratulations to Your Excellency.

With the similar national conditions, China and India share extensive agreement and common interests, which constitute the solid foundation for amicable coexistence. Since the establishment of the diplomatic ties 50 years ago, thanks to the efforts of both sides, the relations between our two countries have on the whole maintained a momentum of development.

I am very glad to recall Your Excellency's successful visit to China last year, which led the relations between our two countries to the process of improvement and growth. The exchanges between the two countries in various fields are now expanding and our cooperation in international affairs are being strengthened. The Sino-Indian relations are holding out a beautiful prospect for development.

All the Chinese leaders of three generations have paid great attention to developing the good-neighbourly and friendly relations with India. The Chinese people likewise treasure their friendship with the Indian people. I am confident that guided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence jointly initiated by our two countries, the relations between us will surely further develop in the future, and 21<sup>st</sup> century-oriented constructive partnership of cooperation between China and India, established by leaders of the two nations definitely be realized.

I sincerely wish that the Sino-Indian good-neighbourly and friendly relations will be further consolidated and developed. The exchanges and cooperation between our two foreign ministers will be consistently expanded and strengthened.

May the Sino-Indian traditional friendship grow with each passing day!

Tang Jiaxuan  
Foreign Minister of the  
People's Republic of China

*(Reproduced from the Web-page of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India)*