

CREATING NEW SPACES ON INDIA-CHINA INTERACTION IN YUNNAN

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Abstract

Seminars, conferences and journals provide opportunity to exchange ideas. Visiting a foreign country is something special. We come to know about the attractions of that country. All or any people known to me has a lot of great memories with India, always missing her, my second hometown. Today many of our students are working in various Indian states, they also have very special feeling with India. So proud of them, because we're all serving for India and China. To elaborate on it, I will discuss about how Yunnan plays a very important role in India-China historical exchanges; highlight educational exchange and cooperation between India and Yunnan as well strengthen the research and promote the Yunnan-India cooperation in some major fields.

Keywords: *new spaces, India, China, India-China, Yunnan, Interaction in Yunnan*

Yunnan plays a very important role in India-China historical exchanges. India and China are naturally a pair of sister countries. Their similarities and their association are great, numerous. And intimate. Looking over the geography and history of all the nations in the world, we find there are not any other two nations that can be compared to our two countries. This is true from every respect and from every standard of observation and judgment. Our two countries, both situated in the bright and glorious continent of Asia. India to the south-west and China to the north-east, spread out lordly in different direction but yet are linked up at the main line, just like the two wheels of the carriage or the two wings of a bird, and the two hands and feet or the two ears and eyes of a person. More than 2,000 years ago, the southern silk road from Yunnan became the link of trade, culture exchanges between China and South and Southeast Asian countries. Yunnan has historically shared a border with India for a long time. The state in the western part of Yunnan was connected with the ancient state of India. In ancient times we called it Shuailao Kingdom, which is now the Baoshan area of Yunnan. By 69 AD, the king Liuniao of the Shuailao who follow the imperial government, and Yongchang county was set up by the Eastern Han Dynasty. In the Tang Dynasty, Yunnan used sea shells imported from the coast of India and Myanmar as currency in large quantity, and its measurement method was basically consistent with that of India, Myanmar and Thailand, indicating that the trade had reached a considerable degree at that time. If national migration and cultural exchanges are traced, the history of exchanges may be even older. After Esoteric Buddhism spread to Dali from India, it evolved among the Bai people and eventually reached its pinnacle during the period of Nanzhao and Dali Kingdom. It became the religion of the Bai ancestors, which had a profound influence on the history and culture of the Bai people. And the city symbol of Kunming-Jinma Biji Archway, according to the legend, the two sons of the king Ashoka of ancient India in pursuit of the god horse to came to Jinma and Biji mountain by the Dianchi Lake, they didn't go back.

The history of the exchanges of Yunnan-India goes back to more than 2,000 years, which makes it a major channel connecting the two thematic cultures and the mainstream economy of China and India. Yunnan is undertaking an important mission of being a relay transmitter among them. And this Channel has played a significant role in promoting the development of Yunnan's economy, science, technology and culture, thus making Yunnan to become the first important region in China for direct Sino-India exchange. In ancient times, through this channel, the communication between China and India was realized in the aspects of rice planting culture, building technology, smelting technology, tea cultivation, silkworm cultivation, astronomical and calendar measurement. As early as the pre-Qin, Han and Jin dynasties, Indian traders did a lot of business in this area. In the modern times, this channel has become active again, forming a trading circle of Yunnan, Burma, India and Tibet, where commodities such as Yunnan's tea, medicine, gold, silver and India's cotton and cloth were circulated. In the Anti-Japanese War period, the Stilwell road, Hump route and China-India oil pipeline were opened here, and a large amount of materials were passed through. The reason that this channel has been able to excel in such a long period of time, and which will remain forever, shows a tenacious internal vitality, and because it has the strong support of the two huge markets behind it.

In recent years, under the framework of India-China strategic and cooperative partnership which has been driven by cooperation mechanisms such as BCIM regional economic cooperation forum, the relations between India and Yunnan have witnessed substantial development. The two sides have increasingly frequent interactions, which has strengthened contact and cooperation in the areas of economy & trade, culture, education and tourism. Yunnan and the eastern areas of India, including west Bengal, our relations start from neighbor to partner, and now we are good friends.

Highlights of education exchange and cooperation between India and Yunnan

The first India-China Yoga College has settled in Yunnan: The MOU concerning co-building Yoga College of Yunnan Minzu University between Yunnan Minzu University and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was officially signed in the Great Hall of the People on May 15th, 2015 by our former President Peng Jinhui and ICCR Chief Minister under the witness of prime ministers of both countries, marking the first Yoga College built by India in China to officially settle down in Yunnan Minzu University. The establishment of India-China Yoga College has been written in article 21 of the joint declaration of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, and leaders of both sides welcome Yunnan Minzu University and ICCR to develop cooperation.

India and China have always been good neighbors and partners. The establishment of the India-China Yoga College will support a wider cultural and education exchange platform between India and China. The India-China Yoga College has been built in the Yuhua campus of Yunnan Minzu University, aiming to cultivate professional talents in various levels of yoga. Each year, at least two professional teachers will be sent to China to teach and offer international yoga courses by ICCR. The yoga major students can also come to India to exchange study. The Indian ministry of yoga will test students at Yunnan Minzu University and issue internationally recognized yoga certificates. This is the deepening of the education exchanges and cooperation

between Yunnan and India, a new window for the cultural exchanges between China and India, a new platform for education cooperation and a carrier for the Chinese and Indian people to enhance friendship

The Co-Building Indian research centre has got fruitful results: Since its establishment, the Indian research center of Yunnan university and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics has had close academic exchanges with Indian universities and abundant research achievements. The center for Indian studies of Yunnan university has undertaken five projects related to Indian research under the national social science fund, published "Sino-Indian relations", "the Sino-Indian boundary issue" and other 10 book on China and India research and teaching material, more than 100 research papers published articles, become important India research base in southwest China.

The Indian Ocean regional research center of Yunnan university of finance and economics successfully held five international seminars on the joint development of China and the Indian Ocean region, which greatly enhanced the academic exchanges between China and India and established a new platform for the substantive exchanges of scholars between the two countries

Be active in “going out”and communicating frequently: Since June 2011, Yunnan Minzu University has provided undergraduate curriculum of Hindi language. Yunnan Mizu University has become the first university to open Hindi language course in Southwest China. Hindi language of Yunnan Minzu University is the first one among other universities and colleges in Southwest China which fills the gap of South Asian languages, and serves as a platform to provide talents for cooperation & exchange between Yunnan and India. Till now the university has produced 90 graduates, and 72 undergraduates.

Yunnan Minzu University is the only “government exchange scholarship program” undertaking college that has Hindi language students recommendation quota, the only one getting Indian government ICCR scholarship authorization in Southwest China, and meanwhile the only one developing “3+1” school-running model with Indian universities among nationwide counterparts with Hindi language specialties. Hindi language specialty implements “3+1” school-running mode, and students will study in India for a year as juniors. In addition to improving language competence, they could also get to know the objective country’s history, culture, politics, economy, traditional customs, etc. We are keeping good school-level exchange and cooperation with famous universities like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Indian Central Hindi Language Institute, Gujarat University, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Calcutta University, Visva-Bharati University, etc. Experts and scholars from the universities above go to our university to develop teaching, scientific research, academy and other exchange activities throughout the year. In September 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping met 17 Hindi language majors of our university sponsored by China Scholarship Council during his visit in India. And President Xi Jinping kindly enjoined them to be cultural messenger of China and India.

Youth exchange between India and Yunnan is of great significance: Since 2010, Yunnan normal university affiliated high school built the cooperative relationship with Shendiver School of Calcutta , the two schools send 4 teachers and 10 students to

visit each other's school for 10 days, till now, it has been successfully held 11 times. The activity forms of eating, living and studying together enable the teenagers to deeply learn about each other's culture and customs, forged a profound friendship. Since the establishment of the cooperative relationship between the Chinese school in Calcutta and Yunnan ethnic middle school in 2012, also has been sending teachers and students to exchange with each other every year, carrying out various activities in the form of national dance, Indian dance and Chinese language, Hindi language. Up to now, the school has sent 45 teachers and students to visit India and received 40 Indian teachers and students to visit Yunnan. Youth exchange is an indispensable part of deepening understanding and enhancing friendship between India and China. Strengthen the research and promote the Yunnan-India cooperation in some major fields: Prime Minister Modi once told President Xi Jinping that China and India are "two bodies, one spirit", which exactly revealed the common nature of pursuing peace and kindness and the intrinsic soul connection of the two ancient civilizations of China and India. Both Chinese and Indian think-tanks have played the roles of producing ideas, guiding public opinion, involving in decision-making, educating the public and carrying out Track 2 Diplomacy and shouldered the important task of providing intellectual achievements to promote the economic development and social progress of the two countries.

Suggestions:

Enhancing educational cooperation for further Yunnan cooperation with India. Education is the foundation of all communication and co-operation. When communication and cooperation in the educational field is carried out, when the language and culture of associated states is studied, and when people with ability in regional cooperation are cultivated, then further communication and mutual understanding will be achieved. Only through full understanding and trust can deeper communication and cooperation of regional humanity be carried out. As one of the provinces of southwest frontier, Yunnan has advantages in its geographic location and human resources. In addition, cooperation in education has attached great importance to the consideration of improving communication in the field of humanity. Suggestions for promoting education cooperation between India and Yunnan: 1. Broaden information channels, while attracting students from India, encourage and support Chinese students to study in India, particularly, to learn urgently needed subjects related to the economic and social development of Yunnan, such as IT, Biotechnology, Agricultural technology, Pharmaceutical technology, so as to form a positive education cooperation and interaction; 2. To build "China and India University Alliance". Colleges and universities in China and India according to their needs jointly carry out the following activities: faculty and administrative staff visits, student exchanges, research materials, publications, papers, and other academic exchanges of information, Academic research organizations cooperate to work on issues of common interest, the auxiliary teaching of language and culture course, as well as other academic activities for the benefit of both the teachers and students; 3. Formulate relevant policy, add the government scholarship for Indian students, encourage schools and social enterprises to set up the fund. To give the necessary preferential policies to these schools which engaged in this cooperation and exchange. At the same time, actively seeking support from the central government to gain the

status as the education cooperation base between China and India, and obtaining corresponding policy and financial support; 4. Strengthen cultural exchanges, actively carry out cultural and people-to-people exchanges in various forms, and increase mutual trust and understanding. Jointly organize cultural series, hold Yoga and Tai chi week, film festivals, book exhibition, photography exhibition, tourism exhibition, art exhibition and ethnic traditions and ethnic customs (including dance, music, food and clothing) exhibition, and train a group of "Mr. India" and "Mr. China" so that they can become the cultural messenger of bilateral exchanges.

Promoting information industry cooperation between India and Yunnan

Information software is an industry in urgent need of development in Yunnan, while it is the dominant industry in India. The cooperation between the two sides is highly complementary, and it is also an effective way for India to explore the software market in China. In addition to extensive exchanges and cooperation in information software education and talents, the two sides should focus on establishing the support system for cooperation between Yunnan and India in the information industry.

First, we will build information transmission network hardware in Yunnan, including the construction of an international cable transmission line connecting Yunnan with South and Southeast Asian countries and become an international information channel. Second, the construction of Kunming information port will make Kunming as a hub for information exchange between Asia-Pacific economic circle and South and Southeast Asia. Third, establishing the "Indian software park" in Yunnan, attracting Indian software enterprises, talents and technologies to enter Yunnan. Fourth, building e - commerce platform, realize e - commerce to provide comprehensive service unified system.

Promoting the further development of bilateral trade and expand channels of bilateral trade contacts

The commerce and trade departments of Yunnan province and related enterprises as well as government organizations in border areas can use all sorts of opportunities extensive contact with the Indian counterpart departments institutions, active to visit India, sending Yunnan business cards to India to let more Indian friends know and know about colorful Yunnan, also invite Indian guest come to Yunnan, enlarge the contact area, deepen mutual trust relationship between the two sides. Then make efforts to promote and invite Indian businessmen come to Yunnan to attend the Kunming's import and export commodities fair. At the same time, we should actively carry out research on the Indian market, and make in-depth and detailed understanding and analysis of India's economic structure and market situation, policies and regulations of India's economic system, port transportation import and export management and other aspects. Setting up an effective mechanism for people-to-people trade between Yunnan and India so that it can develop on a larger scale.

Creating our own unique business card - Media cooperation plus Tourist cooperation

At present, tourism has become a booming industry in Yunnan and is developing towards to neighboring countries. China and India have officially signed a tourism cooperation agreement, India is also a popular destination for tourists, therefore, tourism can be an important area to develop the economic relationship between Yunnan and India. Through the media of both sides, we can co-host different themes

of the Yunnan-India trip, for example, Yoga spiritual tour, tai chi health tour, friends' graduation tour, couples' honeymoon tour, family tour, etc. Through this journey of Yunnan-India comprising different themes and making into a tourism film, we can give the world a card full of memories.

Conclusion

China and India are close neighbors connected by the same waters; bilateral exchanges of the two sides have a long history and a rich content. We sincerely hope the friendship between the two countries in the city of perpetual spring where trees remain green throughout the year and birds are singing all the time will flower fabulously and bear rich fruit.

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