

**International Conference on  
India-China: Humanities, Economy, Trade and People's Welfare**

*Organised jointly by  
Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore and  
Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), Chengdu  
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**Concept Note**

The geographical area of China and India forms around nine percent of the world's geographical area. Currently, China is the most populated nation, followed by India each of which habitat over one billion people. According to the United Nations, in 2018, 36 percent of population live in China and India. By 2025 India is likely to surpass China in terms of population. With respect to GDP per capita however, India is likely to be behind China. China's GDP per capita is higher than India since 1990s. In 2017, China's per capita GDP (US\$8,827) is 4.5 times that of India (US\$1,979). The distributive justice is a serious concern in both countries. China adopted radical economic reforms in 1978, while India adopted in 1991.

Advantage India is of demographic dividend over China's aging population and dependency ratio. India's demographic dividend is due to difference in population policies leading to higher fertility in India than China. This may raise the potential of India's economy to grow faster than China. India may benefit from its demographic dividend as the working age (15-59 years) population is increasing enabling the country to capitalize on labour productivity by providing employment due to outsourcing by the developed countries. Chinese literacy is higher than India's literacy with relatively flexible labour markets, higher rates of female labour force participation, better infrastructure, greater urbanisation, more internal migration, more openness to foreign trade, etc. China's literacy rate of 95 percent in 2010 was higher than India's 74 percent in 2011. According to ILO, in 2018 female LFPR (labor force participation rate) (15+ population) has been declining in both the countries, and is higher for China (61 percent) than India (24 percent). The trend of female LFPR in China is due to economic, political, societal, historical and cultural factors; while, this is due to increase in educational enrolment in India.

In the long run, India's potential demographic dividend may enable to surpass China's current advantages. China's aging population will require greater health care services for the aged, economic and social support to the elderly, claim of savings, health insurance, import of goods and services; and concurrently its economy may slow down creating industrial stagnation, trade deficit, etc.

With the rapid population and economic growth of India and China, the nature and pattern of land use and landscape have changed affecting the natural environment impacting on health and well-being. The sustainability of the pattern and trend of economic growth of both the countries is challenging owing to climate change, unemployment and sluggish industrial development particularly in India.

Agriculture land is increasingly converted to non-agricultural land for infrastructural development, industrial development and urbanisation in both the countries. This triggers rural to urban migration in search of higher wages and alters the structure and growth pattern of population, labour and economy.

Indian economy is driven by service sector, while, China's by the manufacturing sector. The service sector of India is growing and is dynamic due to telecommunications and information technology. In terms of trade cooperation, China is India's largest trading partner. In the past, Indo-China bilateral trade volume increased from US\$ 3 billion in 2000 to US\$ 70 billion in 2010. India has been facing a surging trade deficit in global trade and with China. India's exports are growing at slower rate than imports in trading with China. China is India's largest trading partner in recent times and yet India has been facing a trade deficit with China due to China's striking tariff liberalization in agriculture since its accession to WTO and in the manufacturing sector; and also due to the changing composition of India's imports from China in recent times towards manufacturing items such as chemicals, machinery, mechanical appliances and base metals. Currently, China's present exports to India are lower than expected indicating that India and China have opportunity to enhance cooperation in terms of trade relations.

India's amicable trade relation with China will ultimately benefit the neighbouring countries especially Myanmar and Bangladesh which forms the BCIM (Bangladesh China India and Myanmar) network. India's and China's economic dynamism, potential market, geographical proximity, and bilateral trade relation signify enormous trade potential between the two countries. Indo-China trade comprises largely manufacturing goods. China is leading in competition to be the world's manufacturing hub. Bilateral industrial development through industrial investment would improve the relationship and cooperation. In 2014, China announced an investment of US\$20 billion in India in industrial park projects to scale up India's manufacturing capabilities and to reduce India's trade deficit with China. Meanwhile, with the adoption of a series of radical economic reforms by China and India, the two countries are increasingly integrated with the world economy; with China taking the lead.

BCIM economic corridor, a multilateral cooperation, recently initiated for sub-regional cooperation, promotion and integration for trade, commerce and connectivity is to enhance people to people relations and establish peace and prosperity. It is meant for the cooperation of physical connectivity, trade in goods, services and investment including finance, environmentally sustainable development and people to people contacts. BCIM economic corridor will play a key role in the Silk Road economic belt to promote integration, build and improve China's relations with neighbouring countries.

India and China adopted different internal policies related to land use, population, health, migration, industrial, economic, welfare (society, economy) and others; and policies with neighbouring countries in trade, cooperation, foreign investment, welfares (society, economy or polity), security and others.

## **Conference Topics**

Comparative studies between India and China pertaining to (a) demographic change and its implications, population and health policies (eg: one child policy), changing age structure, social security of elderly, postponement of marriageable age, family planning and family welfare, (b) policies and programmes for differently abled persons (c) economic reformation and human resource development (d) infrastructure and economic development (f) competition and trade cooperation under the global economic and political change, (g) Sino-Indian humanities exchange (h) opportunities and challenges in the fourth industrial revolution and labour market (i) policies with neighboring countries for economic cooperation and development for welfare, (j) marginality and discrimination, (k) policies and programmes to address climate change (l) good governance initiatives for welfare and development of rural areas, (m) e-governance initiatives in rural development, property entitlements including land in rural and urban areas,

## **Due dates**

Abstract paper submission: July 1, 2019

Selected abstract paper notification: July 10, 2019

Full paper submission: September 15, 2019

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