

**Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of
External Affairs, Republic of India and the Chinese People's
Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
On Establishment of the State/Provincial Leaders' Forum**

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties")

RECALLING the principles of the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China,

FURTHER RECALLING the Strategic Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity between India and China,

ALSO RECALLING the fruitful exchanges that have taken place so far between their States/Provinces and Cities,

TAKING NOTE OF the importance of such exchanges in promoting bilateral relations of the two countries,

DESIRING to further develop and strengthen exchanges and cooperation at the State/Provincial and city/municipality level between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China,

FURTHER DESIRING to establish a platform for promoting such regular exchanges,

Have reached the following understanding:

ARTICLE I

- (a) The two sides shall establish the State/Provincial Leaders' Forum (hereinafter referred to as the "Forum").
- (b) The Forum will, *inter alia*, comprise leaders, representatives, scholars or other experts drawn from the States, Union Territories and cities of Republic of India and the Provinces and cities of the People's Republic of China.
- (c) Both Parties shall nominate equal number of Members to the Forum and shall be free to rotate the Membership among the eligible.

ARTICLE II

The Forum:

- (a) Shall explore & promote cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, agriculture, skill development, smart cities, urban planning, clean energy, education, culture, tourism, people to people exchanges and other areas of interest to both sides;
- (b) Shall share best practices in areas pertaining to Article II (a).

ARTICLE III

- a) The Forum shall meet alternately in China and India at a mutually agreed time by both the Parties. A Member of the Forum may offer to host the Forum in his or her State/Province or City.

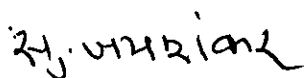
- b) Dates, venues, topics and other relevant details in implementing the agreed activities of the Forum shall be decided between the Parties through consultations.
- c) Organization of the Forum's activities will be carried out by the Parties or any entity duly designated by either of the Parties within its own jurisdiction.
- d) The Parties or the entities so designated shall implement this MoU in a spirit of cooperation, mutual understanding and goodwill, and if necessary, draw up modalities.

ARTICLE IV

- a) This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect from the day of signing and shall be valid for a period of five (5) years.
- b) Unless either of the Parties notifies the other in writing, at least three (3) months in advance of its intention to terminate it, this Memorandum of Understanding shall be automatically extended for a successive period of five (5) years, and shall thereafter be automatically renewable for equal periods.
- c) The termination of this Memorandum of understanding shall not prejudice the completion of the projects that are already in progress.
- d) The Parties shall effect any amendments or modifications to this Memorandum of Understanding through mutual consultations and mutual agreement.

e) Any dispute arising out of the interpretation, applications or implementation of any provision of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Parties.

f) Signed in two originals in Hindi, Chinese and English languages at Beijing on 15 day of May 2015, all three versions being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.



For

**Ministry of External Affairs
Republic of India**



For

**Chinese People's Association
for Friendship with Foreign
Countries**