

Report on the Visit of a four Member Delegation From the Institution of International Strategic Studies, Central Party School of CPC

Delegation:

- **Prof. Liu Jianfei**, Director, Institution of International Strategic Studies, Central Party School of CPC
- **Prof. Luo Jianbo**, Doctoral Supervisor, Institution of International Strategic Studies, Central Party School of CPC
- **Prof. Han Aiyong**, Associate Professor, Institution of International Strategic Studies, Central Party School of CPC
- **Prof. Xiong Jie**, Associate Professor, Institution of International Strategic Studies, Central Party School of CPC

Venue: ICS Seminar Room, Delhi

Date: 28 June 2019

The Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) held an interactive meeting with a four-member delegation from the Institution of International Strategic Studies, Central Party School of CPC along with several experts from ICS.

The discussion began with the Chinese delegates raising questions regarding how India and China can address outstanding political issues between them and what were the expectations from China in solving those issues, the possibility of cooperation especially in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term, and India's opinion on global governance and the BRI.

Director Ashok K. Kantha of the ICS addressed the questions by highlighting that there ought to be more focus on the positive dimensions for cooperation, as well as an across the table expansion of relations between India and China while addressing outstanding political differences. Differences between India and China should not hamper dialogue on cooperation and collaboration on areas of mutual interest.

The Indian delegation was keener on putting forward the idea of multipolarity, which promotes the idea of shared beliefs and responsibilities rather than having a US-centric or

China-centric order. Professor Manoranjan Mohanty, part of the Indian delegation, conveyed his dissatisfaction with how both countries react to US policies. He said that the world needs to focus more on a global restructuring, rather than rebalancing. The global structure needs to involve more countries and have a democratic structure, rather than being hierarchical in nature.

Dr. Jabin T Jacob, part of the Indian delegation, analysed the changing US-China relations and perceptions over the years. Prof. Liu Jianfei, agreed with Dr. Jabin's assessment and said that the US perceives China as its main competitor. The change in US administration has also changed the perception about China. Prof. Luo Jianbo, further explained that most Chinese scholars are of the opinion that Sino-US relations have entered a phase of "competition/cooperation from cooperation/competition". Their relations is transforming from engagement to competition to rivalry. But he emphasised that, regardless of the competition, China wants to rise peacefully.

The Chinese delegates believed that India was inclining towards the US in these changing times. To this assertion, the Indian delegation retorted by assuring the Chinese delegation that India has always ensured its strategic autonomy. India's decisions are based on its national interests and it does not tilt or get influenced by any other country.

Indian delegates also pointed out the underlying issues between India and China that need to be addressed, such as the border disputes, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which passes through the disputed territory of Kashmir and others. Dr Sonia Shukla, part of the Indian delegation, opined that India does not wish for a relationship with China like the one it has with Pakistan. She also said that issues like the ones mentioned above must be open for talks and that a resolution was imperative for both India and China to have substantive cooperation in the future.

The Chinese delegation stressed that China was not looking for any conflictual relationship with any country. Rather, it is rising peacefully. The Chinese delegation also put forward the idea of 'new thinking' advocating that developing countries must rise peacefully without getting into a war-like scenario with other countries for dominance, unlike the Western countries.

There was almost a consensual agreement amongst the Indian delegation that China sought to establish a hierarchical global order and the way it seeks to do so is not peaceful. Thus the assertion of the Chinese delegation was questionable. The Indian delegation was of the opinion that India would not accept a subsidiary position in any hierarchy.

The Indian delegation concluded with the analyses of the Wuhan Summit, which the Chinese delegation agreed had helped in improving the relationship between the two countries. But they also noted that to have continued stability in the relationship, India and China needed to come up with ways to cooperate, on the underlying disputes such as the border disputes. Even if both sides cannot find a final solution to the problems, they can bring in various subsets of solutions to traditional problems, said Director Kantha.

This report was prepared by Sanjana Dhar and Megna Suresh, Research Interns, Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi.

