

Transcript of Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary on the bilateral meeting between India and China on the sidelines of SCO Summit 2019 in Bishkek (June 13, 2019)

June 14, 2019

Official Spokesperson, Shri Raveesh Kumar: Friends, good afternoon and welcome to this special briefing from Bishkek. I have with me the Foreign Secretary of India. As you are aware Prime Minister arrived in Bishkek a couple of hours ago and he had his first engagement which was a bilateral meeting with the Chinese President.

To brief you all on the meeting I request the Foreign Secretary to go through the details and after that we will take questions. We will limit the questions only to the bilateral meeting which has taken place. Sir, the floor is yours.

Foreign Secretary, Shri Vijay Gokhale: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Prime Minister's first engagement after he arrived in Bishkek earlier this afternoon was a bilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China.

The meeting was originally scheduled for 20 minutes but went for a longer period and both the leaders had a very warm and a very cordial discussion on a range of subjects. President Xi Jinping congratulated the Prime Minister for his victory in the general election and he said that this was reflective of the aspirations and the trust that the people of India had placed on the Prime Minister.

Both leaders then did a review of the bilateral relationship and they agreed that there is a new momentum in this bilateral relationship since the Wuhan Summit in April last year.

The Prime Minister specifically noted that what had improved between both the sides is strategic communication at all levels and in that context some of the issues that we had been able to resolve through that strategic communication included long pending issues like the opening of the Bank of China branch in India as well as the resolution of the issue relating to the listing of Masood Azhar in the 1267 Sanctions Committee.

The two leaders agreed that while the outcome of Wuhan was a very positive one it was necessary now to move the relationship forward into new areas and therefore the Prime Minister specifically conveyed to President Xi and he agreed that both sides need to raise our expectations from the relationship and in that context the Prime Minister welcomed President Xi Jinping to India for the next informal summit, the second informal summit after Wuhan. He said that both sides must prepare very thoroughly for this summit that the outcome of the summit must meet the expectations of both sides and President Xi Jinping very warmly confirmed his readiness to visit India this year. He said he looked forward to discussing all issues from a strategic and long term perspective and that both sides should now begin intensive preparations for the visit.

There were some discussions between the leaders on the issue of trade. As you know since Wuhan, the Prime Minister has reiterated that it is important for us to tackle the trade deficit with China and in a number of areas that we had mutually identified there was progress in terms of the regulatory procedures that have been simplified by the Chinese side. The Prime Minister took note of this, he expressed his appreciation for the simplification of the regulatory processes that included non-Basmati Rice, sugar, certain agricultural products, pharmaceuticals and he therefore hope that now that these regulatory issues are out of the way there would be a significant uptick in our exports of these products to China or imports by China of these products.

President Xi Jinping took note of this, he said initial steps have been to redress some of these issues. He said that China will be taking further steps and both sides agreed that in some manner, we have to, in the next few months, see how we can achieve a significant breakthrough in this regard through discussions between the two sides.

Both sides agreed that next year is a critical year in our bilateral relationship, it would be the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. In this regard the Prime Minister proposed that we need to mark this occasion in befitting manner, in a manner that reflects this new relationship and he therefore proposed that to mark the 70th anniversary India and China should hold 70 important events, 35 each in India and China and the two leaders have tasked their respective External Affairs Ministers to discuss this matter at the second meeting of the High Level Mechanism which will take place as you know the first meeting of this mechanism took place in December last year and it is a

mechanism explicitly established to enhance people to people relations and people to people contacts.

There was also a brief discussion on the boundary issue. The two leaders have asked the Special Representatives to meet and carry forward the discussion and have instructed them to expedite discussions in this regard for achieving a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. The two leaders have said that the approach should be constructive and it must be driven by the larger context in which we see India-China relations, in which the two leaders see India-China relations in the coming years in the new century of course but also in the coming years.

Both the Special Representatives, on our side the National Security Advisor, on the Chinese side the Foreign Minister and the State Counselor Mr. Wang Yi were present in the room when the leader's met. So overall this was a relatively brief meeting because it is a meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Summit but it was very substantive in content. The atmosphere was very positive, the Wuhan Spirit was very much in evidence and this is the beginning of what will be a series of other interactions the two leaders will have. They are expecting to meet and greet each other at G20 Summit two weeks down the road, in Osaka. They will of course be meeting at BRICS this year, at the East Asia Summit this year and then there will be the bilateral informal summit. So we see this as the beginning of a process after the formation of government in India, to now deal with India-China relations from both sides in a larger context of the 21st century and of our role in the Asia Pacific region in this regard. I think I will stop here Raveesh and maybe take a few questions.

Question from Wion: Was Pakistan raised during this discussion, the terrorism emanating from that country destabilizing the entire region?

Foreign Secretary, Shri Vijay Gokhale: There was a very brief discussion on Pakistan. Obviously time was a constraint but Prime Minister in fact said that we have a consistent position with respect to Pakistan, we discuss all issues through bilateral mechanism and we look for peaceful settlement through negotiations. We are committed to this process, the prime minister recalled that he has made efforts in this regard and these efforts have been derailed.

The Prime Minister did inform President Xi Jinping that Pakistan needs to create an atmosphere free of terrorism and that at this stage we did not see this happening as yet. And that therefore we expect Pakistan to take concrete action on the issues that India has proposed in the areas

of concerns that we have flagged to Pakistan, that Pakistan should take concrete action in this regard.

Question from Newsx:It appears that the Pakistan point was raised by the Chinese President Xi Jinping, I just want a confirmation on that or it was a mutually agreed topic before the two leader's bilateral and the second is any area of specification for the November informal bilateral summit that have been decided?

Foreign Secretary, Shri Vijay Gokhale:Both leaders are free to raise issues at the discussion and I think the point that I am making is that the position that we conveyed is what I have just said. As if now there is no decision on date or venue of the informal summit. The important point here was the reaffirmation after the formation of government that he will visit India this year, that we should begin intensive preparations and that the leaders have directed both the sides to begin the process. Obviously this also means the discussion of the logistics aspect of the visit.

Question:Was at any point during the discussion on tariffs by the Trump administration on China and certainly will also be effected by certain tariffs there, was that discussed at all and also tomorrow Hassan Rouhani is going to meet the Prime Minister for a bit, what is going to be on the agenda?

Foreign Secretary, Shri Vijay Gokhale:There was a general discussion on the global situation and obviously in that context the issues has come up of the China-US relationship but there was no time for a very detailed discussion in these matters. The focus of this bilateral meeting has been to reaffirm that in the five year term of this government which coincidentally also closely matches the term of President Xi Jinping in his second term as president. The two countries have a historic opportunity to move forward on a number of issues, to address a number of problems and to take India-China relations to a new level. And I think the focus was on this. No detailed discussion took place, a general direction was given. It is now for the officials of both sides to see how we can carry this forward.

Question:Meeting with Hassan Rouhani, what is the agenda?

Foreign Secretary, Shri Vijay Gokhale:We will brief you after the visit, can't comment on that today.

Official Spokesperson, Shri Raveesh Kumar:Thank you sir. This concludes the special briefing, thank you all.

(Concludes)

外交秘书关于2019年6月13日在比什凯克举行的上合组织峰会期间印中双边会晤的媒体吹风会全文

官方发言人Shri Raveesh Kumar: 朋友们, 下午好, 欢迎来到比什凯克的特别吹风会。今天在场的还有印度外交秘书。大家都知道, 总理几个小时前抵达比什凯克, 与中国国家主席进行了双边会晤。

为了向大家介绍会议的情况, 我请外交秘书先介绍一下具体情况, 之后我们回答问题。问题将限于关于已经举行的会议, 有请外交秘书。

外交秘书VIJAY GOKHALE:女士们, 先生们晚上好。总理今天下午抵达比什凯克后, 首个活动就是与中华人民共和国国家主席习近平进行了双边会晤。会议原定20分钟, 但却进行了很长时间, 会上两位领导人就一系列议题进行了非常热烈和亲切的讨论。国家主席习近平祝贺总理在大选中获胜, 他说, 这反映了印度人民对总理的期望和信任。两国领导人随后对两国关系进行了回顾, 一致认为, 自去年4月武汉峰会以来, 两国关系出现了新的势头。

总理特别指出, 双方之间改善的是各个层面上的战略沟通。在这方面, 我们通过战略沟通能够解决一些包括长期悬而未决的问题, 如中国银行在印度开设分行以及关于1267年制裁委员会中列出马苏德·阿扎尔的问题。

两位领导人一致认为, 武汉访问的成果固然是非常积极的, 但现在有必要把关系向前推进到新的领域, 因此总理特别向习主席表达了这一看法, 他同意双方需要提高我们对两国关系的期望。就此, 总理欢迎习近平主席去印度参加继武汉峰会之后的下一次非正式首脑会晤。他说, 双方必须为这次峰会做充分的准备, 峰会的结果必须符合双方的期望, 习近平主席欣然答应并确认他准备今年访问印度。他说, 他期待着从战略和长远的角度讨论所有问题, 双方现在应该开始为这次访问做深入的准备。

两国领导人就贸易问题进行了一些讨论。你们知道, 自武汉(峰会)以来, 总理一直重申, 我们必须解决与中国的贸易逆差问题。我们注意到, 在某些领域, 中国方面简化了监管程序, 取得了进展。总理注意到这一点, 他对简化包括非巴斯马蒂大米、糖、某些农产品、药品在内的监管流程表示赞赏。因此他希望, 既然这些监管问题已被解决, 我们对这些产品的出口或者中国对这些东西的进口将出现大幅上升。

习近平主席注意到这一点, 他说, 最初的措施是为纠正一些问题。他说, 中国将采取进一步的措施。双方同意, 在今后几个月内, 双方通过讨论, 期待在这方面取得重大突破。

双方一致认为, 明年是两国建交70周年, 是两国关系关键的一年。在这方面, 总理提出, 我们应以适当的方式, 以反映这种新关系的方式来纪念这一时刻。因此, 他建议, 为了纪念这70周年, 印度和中国应举办70个重要的活动, 在印度和中国各举办35个。两国领导人委派各自国家的外交部长在即将举行的高级别机制第二次会议上对该事宜进行讨论。大家知道, 这一机制的第一次会议于去年12月举行, 它是一个明确建立的机制, 旨在加强人民的交流和交往。

边界问题也进行了简短的讨论。两国领导人请特别代表会面并继续讨论, 并指示他们加快这方面的讨论, 以实现公平、合理和双方都能接受的边界问题解决方案。两国领导人表示, 这一做法应该是建设性的, 必须以我们看待印中关系的大环境为动力, 两国领导人不止在新世纪, 在未来几年亦是如此。

中印两国人会见时, 特别代表们——印方是国家安全顾问, 中方是国务委员兼外交部长王毅先生同时出席了会议。

总的来说, 作为上海合作组织峰会期间举行的特别会议, 此次会议历时较短, 但会议内容非常具有实质

性。会议的气氛的积极地，且尽显武汉精神。此次会议标志着两国领导人将要进行一些列交往的开端。他们期待着不久之后即将在大阪举行的20国集团峰会上再见。他们还将在即将在今年举办的金砖峰会和东亚峰会上见面，之后还有双边非正式的会晤。所以，这是印度政府成立后一些列进程的开始。如今，我们将在21世纪更大的背景下处理印中双方的关系，以及我们在亚太地区在这方面的作用。以上就是相关介绍。RAVEESH 可以开始提问了。

WION的问题：讨论中是否提到了巴基斯坦，来自该国的恐怖主义破坏了整个地区的稳定？

外交秘书, Shri Vijay Gokhale: 关于巴基斯坦的讨论非常简短。因为时间有限。实际上，总理说，我们对巴基斯坦的立场是一致的。我们通过双边机制讨论所有问题，通过谈判寻求和平解决。我们致力于这一进程。总理回忆说，他在这方面已经做出了努力，这些努力已经脱轨。

总理的确告知习近平主席，巴基斯坦需要创造一个没有恐怖主义的氛围。现阶段，我们还没有看到。印度在关切领域提出一些问题，巴基斯坦应该对所提出的问题采取措施。

NEWSX 提问：巴基斯坦问题似乎是CHINESE President XI JINPING习近平提出的，我只是想确认一下是否如此，还是两国领导人双边会谈之前双方商定的一个议题，第二个问题是已经决定11月非正式双边首脑会议的具体事宜了吗？

外交秘书, Shri Vijay Gokhale: 两位领导人都可以在讨论中自由提出问题，我认为我提出的观点是，我们所传达的立场正是我刚才所说的。好像现在还没有决定非正式首脑会议的日期和地点。这里说的重点是在政府成立后，他重申今年将访问印度。我们应该开始集中准备工作。领导人已经指示双方开始这一工作进程。显然，这也意味着讨论访问的后勤工作。

提问：会谈时是否讨论了特朗普政府对中国关税的问题？是否也讨论了相关影响？明天哈桑·鲁哈尼 (HASSAN ROUHANI) 将与总理会晤，议程是什么？

外交秘书Shri Vijay Gokhale: 就全球形势进行了一般性讨论。中美关系自然就提出来了。但是由于时间关系，无法进行详细讨论。这次双边会议的重点是重申在本届政府的五年任期内，恰巧也与习近平主席第二届主席任期相符。两国有一个历史性的机遇，推进一些问题，解决一些问题，把印中关系提升到一个新的水平。我认为重点是这个。没有进行详细的讨论，但给出了一个大致的方向。现在轮到双方的官员着手考虑如何向前推进。

提问：会见哈桑·鲁哈尼的议程是什么？

外交秘书VIJAY GOKHALE: 我们将在访问结束后向你简要介绍，今天不能对此发表评论。

官方发言人, Shri Raveesh Kumar: 谢谢你，先生。特别吹风会到此结束，谢谢大家。

(结束)