

# Wuhan, most familiar Chinese city to Indians after Beijing & Shanghai

By Fan Tingting

"Wuhan is now the most familiar Chinese city to Indians after Beijing and Shanghai." On April 29, Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Misri during an exclusive interview with our reporter, said that his visit to Wuhan was one year after the meeting of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan. Taking this opportunity, he wished to promote exchanges and cooperation between India and Wuhan.



Vikram Misri Photo by Zhan Song

Ambassador Misri said: "The meeting was a landmark event in the history of India-China bilateral ties, and Wuhan Spirit has permeated all aspects of our engagement since then." He cited an example: In Wuhan, the leaders of India and China were in agreement that people-to-people exchanges between the two countries are needed to strengthen and deepen mutual friendship and understanding.

In fact, Hubei has been at the forefront of strengthening the friendship between the two countries.

In August 2018, K.J. Alphonse, Minister for

Tourism in India, led a delegation to carry out a tour roadshow with the theme of "Incredible India" to promote Indian tourism in Wuhan. Ambassador Misri said that the roadshow drew enthusiastic participation by local companies.

In October 2018, a delegation from the state of Madhya Pradesh, Central India, participated in the 2018 Central China Forum on Global Production Capacity and Business Cooperation held in Wuhan.

"It is fitting that we returned to Wuhan a year after the informal meeting for this week-long festival that

brings the Colors of India to Wuhan."

Ambassador Misri revealed that on June 21, 2019, the International Yoga Day, local yoga enthusiasts will gather at the Yellow Crane Tower Park to practice yoga together. He also mentioned that the Hubei Provincial Museum and the National Museum in New Delhi are under negotiation to cooperate with each other.

2020 marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and China. Ambassador Misri said that there will be cultural, business and media exchanges taking place in Wuhan.

## Wuhan visitors to India to hit historic high

By Sue Liu

The Wuhan Culture and Tourism Bureau reported that the number of Wuhan tourists going to India has seen a rapid growth in the first quarter of the year.

During the Round Table on the exploration of tourism cooperation and opportunities held on April 30, staff of the Indian Embassy in China, the India Tourism Office and an

Indian travel agency introduced visa application services and four tourist routes to people in the tourism industry in Hubei. India now offers fast and efficient e-visas to Chinese citizens. Locals can apply online and receive a visa within three business days.

The vice director of the Wuhan Culture and Tourism Bureau said that the historic

visit of the Indian prime minister to Wuhan made India a favorite destination among people from Wuhan.

Over 2,000 local tourists have traveled to India in the first quarter of this year. The highest annual number of outbound tourists going to India has been 7,000. It is expected that this number will reach a historic high by the end of 2019.

## Hubei sees growth in foreign trade with B&R countries

By Wang Wenhan

On April 28, Wuhan Customs released data about Hubei's foreign trade with countries along the Belt and Road. From 2013 through 2018, the total import and export of Hubei with those countries reached RMB 478.27 billion, accounting for 28.2 percent of Hubei's total trading volume.

Hubei's exports to the Belt and Road countries totaled RMB 390.43 billion. Some new technology products, such as tablet computers, laptops, LCDs, and integrated circuits, achieved breakthroughs in exports. Meanwhile, Hubei's imports from the Belt and Road countries totaled RMB 87.85 billion, with an average annual growth rate of 10.8 percent.

## Registration starts for Wuhan Marathon Swimming

By Gao Chongcheng

The 2019 Wuhan Marathon Swimming will be held on June 2 at East Lake. Registration for the race was officially launched on May 6.

This year's event is divided into two parts: a professional competitive race of 10 kilometers and a challenge race of two kilometers. The route remains the same as last year.

All teams and individuals can register on its official website <http://swimming.wuhanmarathon.org/> or on its official WeChat official account "武汉水马".

The professional competitive race will be divided into Men's and Women's groups. The top three finishers will be awarded USD 10,000, 4,000 and 3,000 respectively. For the first time, one can register online to compete in the challenge race.

## Laser cutter of HGTECH wins provincial-level award

By Li Jia

The 3D Metal Laser Cutter, developed by HGTECH Co., Ltd., a key high-tech enterprise in Wuhan, won first prize in the 2018 Hubei Science and Technology Progress Awards on April 26.

With its advanced laser cutting technology, the accuracy of the cutter reaches 0.03 mm. The cost of the cutter is about 70 percent that of imported equipment, but its cutting efficiency is on par.