

South Asian Delegation to China: Experiences and Perceptions about a Rising Red Star

- K.S.Chalam

The following is an excerpt of a report on the recent visit to China to study the current situation of the economy, society and the future of socialism in China. The author is one of the delegates participated in the deliberations between 3rd to 12th December and the following is the brief for the information of the learned friends of socialism in India.

The ID CPC has arranged a visit of Experts who studied Capitalism in South Asia to participate and present papers at a thematic seminar on “Theories and Practices of Capitalism in contemporary South Asia” in Beijing on 7-12-2015. The visit has also facilitated the delegates to visit and discuss with the Chinese experts and Communist Party leaders on the experiments made in Post- Mao Chinese Socialism with so called through Chinese characteristics. 12 experts consisting of different representatives from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka took part in the visit.

The Indian delegates were received by the Chinese team at Kun Ming capital city of Yunnan province on the 3rd decembr 2015. The delegates met academics from China at the Kaiwai Plaza in the seminar arranged to learn about the purpose and to get the present status of China in the area of Socialist development. Yunnan is a province that intersects South Asia and is considered as the gateway to South East Asia. The province is known for its unique 29 ethnic groups who are well-preserved and taken care of by the party and government. They constitute one third of the population of the province. As the province is covered with mountains and plateau, it has rich biodiversity. Kunming is the capital city is well connected with Delhi, Kolkatta and other cities in South Asia .

The seminar was attended by Com Xia Jianfeng, Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs of Yunnan province, Com Lin Tao, First Secretary ID CPC, Com Guo Jinhua, Dy Diretor General, responsible for South Asia Development Reform. Com Guo Suiyan Associate Professor, Institute of Studies on Marxism , Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, Dr Zhang Shaoying, Asst professor, Institute of Studies on Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, Yunnan academy of Social Sciences, Coms Li Yanhua, Jin Yan, He He and others.

The scholars have emphasised on the 2000 years old history of relations between South Asia and China and how China is interested in investing in South Asia to build infrastructure for the mutual benefit of the people in the region and the experts have explained that already the Oil pipe line between Myanmar and China is almost completed. The road link between Kun Ming and Chittagong in Bangladesh is about to be completed to improve cross border trade between countries in the region. It is indicated that China is going to invest about 1.6 trn RMB in the region in future and are exploring mechanisms and institutional structures to facilitate trade. It is identified that the regional cooperation can be in the area of Trade, Tourism, Infrastructure development and placing institutional structures to facilitate the above. It is reported that the Kun Ming Medical college in English medium has several hundred s of students from India and other South Asian countries. We have seen on our journey from Delhi to KunMing hundreds of Indians travelling to China and there

are several daily flights now from Kolkata, Delhi and many other places to Chinese cities carrying tourists, students and business people.

In his theoretical exposition Prof Zhang Shaoying explained how the material needs of people once fulfilled improve the quality of life and bring a hybridization of modernity and tradition. China is now open up for contacts and it has suffered in the past due to the Soviet Union relations and its downfall. Now China is interested in legitimising revolutionary mobilisation of officials who are morally committed to democratic social practice. He has explained how the party is developing its competence to deal with new situations with the opening of the economy through self-regulation, purifying self, morally inspired rational self-interest to create a new society in China. To a question raised by Prof Chalam, he has agreed that Fukayama has withdrawn his statement of end of history as China has made it possible to reach development with its own models of development and negated his theory that socialism has come to an end and the end of history. The experts reported that China has some problems of inequality and poverty in certain pockets. However, it is a small proportion of the total as only 70 million are said to be poor as per World Bank estimates and it is not difficult for the CPC to deal with it in the next plan.

The delegates were taken to a flourishing public sector company Yunnan Construction Co to interact with the officials. Yunnan construction co, is in Yuxi city, Yunnan

In the presentation made by the Executive it is reported that they have projects in several counties in both the East and West. The company is fully funded by govt. The company has a Delhi office and some projects are in India. The company built the beautiful Kunming airport, Pakistan Medical college in the subcontinent. It is one of the top 100 MNCs of China, the pipeline between China and South Asia is under construction by the company. It is noted that Communist party is helping in carrying their work.

The company started in 1951, it is wholly state owned co. It has 19000 workers, top technocrats work with it. It is one of the top 200 construction companies in the world. The normal income of the employees is 20000 U.S. Dollars per year. The relationship between party and management is carried through management committees. The CPC is responsible to maintain harmonious relations with countries and arrest corruption in the company. It is noted that they have competent technocrats trained in Harvard and other Western universities and learnt skills on the job training. The company is known for its technical innovations and registered for some patents. Academics and experts the Executive has said work with us. Fair wages are paid to workers. It is generally 30 per cent higher than natives. The proportion of profit going to workers is around 20 per cent given as dividend. Women representation constitutes 356, one fifth of total workforce.

The company over the years has developed competence to execute projects and became popular with a record of accomplishment of finishing them on time or before schedule date. Generally, the company participates in industrial bidding and global tendering process to get projects. It is noted that the government provides necessary support in getting the bilateral agreements arranged and to avoid risk undertake projects in such countries that are friendly with China such as Syria, Iraq etc. The plans of the company are integrated with the national plans. The CPC rules and regulations provide necessary guidance in contracts. Workers and government contribute to the fund to pay pension, contractors do also share a certain amount to their employees. If workers face problems, the company give them assistance and provide better welfare

measures. In case of subcontracts employees' rights are protected and are learning from field to improve the working environment in the company. The company is planning to visit India and learn from the practices and will establish branches and follow the local rules.

The jobs in the company are filled in by writing to the Universities, candidates apply for jobs on their own and to a question by a participant, the GM in a lighter vein said that we will recruit Bangladesh comrades children in the projects to be undertaken there.

(On our way to hotel from the company, delegates are stranded in a place for more than one hour on the main road to Kunming hotel between 6 pm and 7 20 , indicating how traffic is creating new problems in growing China)

Visit to Old age Day care centre shin shin and golden star community

This is a Senior citizens day care centre where lunch and dinner are provided by volunteers (4 -only one is man) . Around 70 people are there and the centre gives skills such as Tea making certificate. There is some kind of grades in tea making training. There are around ten teachers in Yunnan province and one is working in the centre here. The centre is well maintained with books, leisure time activity etc

We are told that a Five tier party cadre is in position and it is difficult to get membership here. In the local community that we are taken for the visit, it is noted that only 25 out of 3000 population are party members. There are strict standards for each member to set an example for others like ideological commitment, love for community wholeheartedly, sincerity, seniority etc, in getting membership in the party. Elections are held for the local bodies where along with CPC other parties do participate. It seems the CPC is holding sway over all positions in local government.

The ward community committee in the place has an office managed by party functionaries and takes care of the daily activities. (There is no difference between party cadre and officials working in the government. They interchange at all levels).If someone transfers from here to another place , the candidate will get a certificate from the local office and he will be admitted based on this letter in the new place. The party cadres are posted as officials depending upon the need and requirement and they get salary, pension etc. There are over 8 different parties that participate at the local body elections. The communist party is heading the local ward where we had an interaction session.

We have enquired about the new generation of Chinese and their attitudes, and we are told that the divorce rate among young people is rising. Marriage takes place with consent and same is the principle for divorce .They can go to the local office and get married .Minimum age for marriage is 20 years for girls and 22 for boys. We are really impressed by the Community singing arranged in our honour that echoes the human bonds of a community irrespective of age, cadre sex etc and it sounded like Indian classical music. In fact in one of our visits to a local community , one young person sung a Hindi song and they are fond of Hindi and Indian cinema.

Beijing Visit (6-9 Dec 2015)

Visit to Great Wall of China: It is a 2300 years old construction done by different kings over a period to prevent the marauding tribes to enter the country . It is stunning and the bounty of nature in the

form of mountains helped the country. (Some of us felt that India boasts of three sides protected by nature, it never occurred to prevent the Aryan, Hun etc tribes to enter by constructing such a wall like this. The history would have been different) .

Seminar on Theory and practice of Capitalism in Contemporary South Asia

Com Chen Feng Xiang Vice- Minister of IDCPC, Com Zhang Xyui, Dy Director General Asian Bureau and other officials, attended the seminar. The participants were given option to make presentations within time allotted. I have presented my paper on 'Advent of Crony Capitalism in India and its impact'. The paper seemed to be new and received apt attention. The Vice Minister asked me about the 'classes in India' and I have given my paper on " change of class caste narratives under globalisation" to him and presented my book Governance in South Asia : state of the Civil services, Sage publications, which the com appreciated for the gesture.

The seminar was a serious academic exercise. The participants have received my presentation with apt attention when I mentioned about the idea of crony capitalism was inherent in Lenin's thesis on oligarchy of finance in his paper on Imperialism and narrated the five conditions explained by Lenin in 1916 to describe imperialism. I mentioned that they are as relevant today to understand how capitalism is surviving with innovations and institutions as in 1916. Crony capitalism from the time of East India Company continued in India as the same Business houses that were benefitted by the license permits are also getting all the contracts in the new regime using family, caste etc as a process of crony capitalism. It is an extension of capitalism with the same characteristics. Caste and classes are difficult categories to understand the Indian situation and mentioned about my paper noted above and referred to the petti bourgeoisie as a growing class in globalised India.

Presentation of Prof Shang Huijun, Central Party School, Beijing (translated in English)

He is a Prof Economics and knows the content of the 18 the plenary of the CPC. He made passionate presentation and impressed upon the delegation about the role played by CPC in shaping socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The Professor has mentioned that he would explain the Fifth plenary of 18 th congress and the contents of 13 th plan. The fifth plenary and final session has identified leadership of the party, in November 2013. The topic of the session was on comprehensive development and he said that 14 comprehensive parameters were identified. He noted that on 26 Nov, it was deliberated as to how to make the 13 th plan and followed by final session with Grl secretary address. Jen ping wanted the draft of the plan by the Final session as socio economic development in the next 5 years is crucial.

There are two goals before the CPC to be achieved by 2020 , a comprehensive development need to be achieved, two by 2050 a democratic ,socially, culturally and developed socialist nation should emerge . Each goal and parameter is going to be discussed in detail under the leadership of different ministers of the government. They discuss about the right path of CPC, fix targets, concepts, measures etc .Three aspects the professor noted are important. They are, 1. General suggestions, 2 briefing to modern key points , concepts of second plan are to be re-examined to achieve social development as it is a product of history before 1970 where China was a developing economy, following Soviet . It has achieved great advances by following planned development. The

development models were useful during 1953-57. Three the present conditions of the World need to be taken care of in formulating policies and targets.

Opportunities offered in the 12th plan laid mile stones for development. During the past five years the growth entered a new level and by 2011 annual growth rate was 8 per cent and it was higher than world's growth. Now China's output is \$10.4 trillion , Second to USA , in 2012 industry has second position, social industry and tertiary sector contributed 50 per cent of GDP. As Chinese economy improves, people's needs are met. The increasing urbanization is reached around 53 per cent of population and has diversified from Agriculture to industry. China's opening up is helping China's status in the world by 2014. China is the largest country in the world trade today.

By 2016 internationalization of RMD will have difficulties, people look at it as a promising one, might influence the world economy to become a leader of the third world and its voice will be heard and the global economic order will change. China is going to face several challenges and our leadership knew it. China's base of economic structure is changing and getting the double-digit growth will be difficult and it would be difficult to get even 7 per cent in future.

Macro-economic factors are a problem, fiscal and monetary issues may lead to adverse consequences that might increase local debt. Industrial restructuring, over capacity in steel, cement are becoming serious problems that may need to lay off some workers. Keeping all this and challenges, the plenary discussed the following.

New requirements- maintaining stability means stable growth, China should maintain medium rate of growth and double the income by 2020. It needs 6.5 per cent and it is possible with some difficulty. Quality of life is to be improved, growth should ultimately help people to improve quality of life. First get adequate employment, education, housing, basic services are to be achieved and the gap to be narrowed down between groups. Social security is to reduce poverty in rural areas, reduce regional inequities is a priority.

Emphasis on culture, every Chinese should understand socialist values. Collectivism, honesty, helping others, awareness of rule of law, cultural industry to spread Chinese values, and environmentally conducive growth is a priority. He said that we need to learn Indian dance and singing to improve our capabilities in culture. Ecology preservation, high employment, safe drinking water and other modern things will be acquired. Now energy saving, environmental friendly life styles are to be promoted. We will include governance, justice, people's voice to be heard, relations with others and CPC functioning is to be improved to build modern, economical, ecological, culturally balanced development in China.

We have some shortcomings, the professor said. They are 1. Poverty in China is still 70 million as per World Bank. It is not a very big problem compared to developed and developing countries. It is a daunting task there. It can be achieved by industrial development about 30 mln will be taken care of, reallocate 10 million to different regions and 10 to 20 million will remain and they will be provided with social security.

CPC has identified 5 concepts, innovation, technology, green , coordination and up gradation of skills as the growth drivers. The CPC is committed to the democratic ideals of, for the people , by the people and to the people. China has devoted all its resources during the last 35 years based on

our cheap labour to achieve rapid growth and is now getting in to labour deficit. We are going to emphasise on every aspect of life through technology and address structural imbalances between cultural and material development as we have faced ecological problems with our development model .Now we need to concentrate to achieve ecological balance by reducing the carbon consumption to 60 to 62 per cent by 2020. Therefore, the future development should be comprehensive to cover every aspect of human wellbeing. Our imports and exports will be hereafter be relied on quality, high tech, high end products. Regional cooperation will be extended to South Asia as inclusive and mutually beneficial effort and with consultation. We intend to translate what Nobel laureate Amartya Sen said in his Development as Freedom . Some of our officers go to party school and Harvard for training to improve their administrative skills so as to implement the plans as approved by the Plenary.

Questions and answers in the session.

We have the problem of overcapacity in some companies and need to lay off workers. We have to create social security and create new industries to employ the displaced, create tertiary industry to provide more jobs. China has high end machinery, servicing, whole sale manufacturing and some of them are moving from urban to rural areas to reduce inequities.

Minimum wage system and social sector system is in place depending on the province. We have pension for urban employees, urban poor who have no jobs, insurance for Health care both in urban and rural areas . Improving social security and every person above the age of 58 and no job will get 700 yen per month . Cancer patients get 50 per cent reimbursement of the cost. From 2011 housing for people is taken up.

Planning in China is not in the old style today. It is based on market and therefore is called only as plan and is not mandatory and does not give targets , models are only supplementary . Market is used only to allocate resources and the property is held by the state.

Health targets like infant mortality rates etc are taken care of, government makes some rates to be achieved, life expectancy is 77 years for women, male 75 years. We have low birth rate, two kids norm is in position now but the desire to have second child is not strong. Nothing to worry about the population and scarcity of food as agriculture is modernised and have Food grains surplus of 1. 2 trillion tonnes and in fact storage is a problem .Use of fertilizers has reduced fertility of soil and we got to give crop holiday.

In order to promote employment opportunities we provide skills, for instance in the western part of China where there is surplus labour and they can go to Eastern part for jobs. Our tertiary sector has not reached 60 per cent of GDP like in the West or the world average. We are weak in finance, science, R &D and we are concentrating on these areas in the next plan.

Market promotes inequalities how to overcome this - increasing gap in income groups. To solve this we focus on primary distribution. We should promote innovation. Entrepreneurs on a mass scale to reduce inequity, we have put forward consultative system to decide wages, transfer payments to be made, negative consequences of this are to be contained through distribution by state in all the three sectors. Now the proportion of direct tax is low and we will raise it and indirect taxes as proportion of GDP is about 30 per cent.

We do not have double standards for Muslims , when China was attacked no one has said that they were terrorists.

Current demand for Chinese Goods depend on the World and how to deal with it , FDIs - it has some impact but we are now depending on domestic demand, we have enough pop with increase in income Chinese people are going abroad and buy others' goods and now they will buy Chinese goods . Middle class today is 30 per cent will be raised to 50 per cent to raise demand for our goods.

FIs played a role in the beginning and provided technology, management and local governments given special treatment in the beginning . Is it really worth it? We wanted to have level playing field permissions in the beginning and we are free now it will be different.

Coordination- increasing influence of the rich may disturb this function? How do we deal with it - government and market issues were discussed in the 18 congress plenum and we have decided that the government will play a dominant role hereafter, capital is colourful in market economy, but here government takes care of the income distribution, socialist markets there are monopolies. Chinese government has made Anti-Trust laws and we have imposed fine. Most of it is only public ownership , the private sector is also growing but, public sector is the main, state banks, lands are with government and they are critical to our economy. The CPC has a role to play to curb selfish interests, we try to achieve excellence in the system and any challenges that may arise in future, the CPC is competent to deal with them.(This is only my personal opinion said the professor)

Renmin University of China, Beijing international school (Former People's University)

Department of world socialism studies

Prof Guo. of the Dept has explained about the programmes of the department

There are two units, socialism and Marxism

Areas of expertise -world communist movements, Marxist centre is specialising on communism in China. There are 5 faculty, research activities, Zheng looks after world democratic and socialist movements.

Our research covers India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

We are interested in left parties in SA, after Cold War and Russia we see vitality in SA for communist movements, Sri lanka CPI, CPM in India, Nepal has shown the promise.

China in the World system- Guo says , after Cold War there is only US hegemony, China is a developing country is not a very strong nation, we are aware of China's role in socialist movement. There are now only 4 communist countries N. Korea , Vietnam, Cuba and China and need to develop our own socialist culture. This will be the contribution to world culture.

In 1978 CPC and government decided to open up our economy to foreign capital to US, UK and our constitution still commits to Marxism, but foreign capital cannot influence our ideology. Socialist theory is furthering of Marxism and Leninism through our experiments.

To carry on the projects with international contacts, we collaborate with international projects, exchange, visiting and joint projects. Integral part of our project strategy includes Latin American countries.

China will face hegemony of US and it will not allow China to grow, we know it , we bring capital for Eco growth, achieve prosperity , some people may like us to go fast but our aim is to bring every one under socialism. We allow market to play its role in resource allocation. Our companies are different as they are under CPC. We have a set of regulations to prevent wrongdoing and influence decision-making.

South Asian communist movement is that parties have suffered but in SA the parties are surviving and they are close to China and we have interests to do research here. In 2004 Indian Maoists had 17 states and by 2009 with USA support government has been attacking them and CPI CPM are fighting fundamentalism in India, what do they say about Maoists?

We have a writing project a text book on communism that includes SA, Nepal forming govt. We do not have experts on SA here. Marxism is taught in political education classes. Socialist theory is mandatory for PG students.

Corruption charges against former Chinese leader Bo (Politbureau Member) in Jen Ping is in trouble and he is in jail. Pvt companies have some say in govt and have chamber of commerce. They play a role and also participate in local bodies, but their Behaviour and their companies are vouched and checked.

People can complain to CPC commission on corruption and people do complain and party initiate action on such complaints.

Tao of CPC added, Chinese CPC recognized its role in the world and we need to play our role and change the global governance system. We need support from other countries, BRICS is an important formation. We know about Syria, Terrorism is rampant in Europe and West. It is not a very easy to reach people's expectations and people's hopes are high and it is not simple to rise up to their expectations.

Chinese colour is not going to be changed as CPC is a ruling party and committed to basic commitment to develop our own governance system, strategies as of our own. Several people in China became wealthy during the last three decades, but cannot change the attitude of CPC. There are ways of limiting the influences on decisions and CPC remain committed to Marxist Leninist world outlook.

GRIIS, Guangdong Institute for International Strategies, Guangdong

The representatives of CPC and the academics of the institute have mentioned that,' we have a seminar on capitalism in Beijing and here we wanted to learn about Guangdong initiatives in Chinese dev. South Asian countries are important for us and interaction with you will be beneficial for all of us'.

The symposium was attended by Prof Yang Aimin, the Vice- President of the university (VC) Zheng Chuhong, Dy Secretary General of Institute of International Studies, Chen Weiguang, Yi Xingjian and Shen Minghao (Professors of Economics)

Zheng – welcomed the delegates and mentioned that China and South Asia had a very long history of relationship dating back to BC. The university has 20000 students including 2000 foreign students.

Chen weighing – Jin Peng in his visit to SA in June 2015 evolved some concepts, now we are moving forward to develop relations with 60 countries and all of them are responding to the initiative. In China's Eco growth, trade is important, every five years new plan formulated. Three departments of government are involved in initiating the programme. Guangdong is the first province to initiate this. International documents based on the principles of cooperation are formulated. Key priorities are policy, communication, international connectivity, flow of people, capital, infrastructure are the concern. Free flow of trade, financing are also necessary. We have noted that every year about 80 million dollars gap is found in infrastructure in SA. With the existing Asian Bank, it is not possible to cover this. The Asia infrastructure proposed by China is to meet this deficit. We consider that People to people contact are more important as the benefits out of the transactions ultimately should go to them. We remember that Dr Kotnis of India participated in our war .

Guangdong is an important province in China and 22 per cent of total Chinese trade last year originated here. About \$55 min dollars projects are initiated by Guangdong. One of the strategies to develop clusters on the Coastal Tourism, maritime trade cooperation. Hong Kong and Macau regions that are part of the region are being developed as World-class business centres. We know how the Big Bay Area, big chemical area in U.S and Japan are getting leverage to cities on the coast. We intend to elaborate on our strengths to promote trade and economic relations along Silk Road. We have a logistic park in Pakistan, projects in Bangladesh, Myanmar and wish to link Guangdong with SA to develop not only economic possibilities but also social progress through win win cooperation.

Yi Xingjian Eco- China has great achievements with large FDI. We have a new stage in our opening up, Chinese net outcome is positive. As World economy is facing sluggish growth, China is trying to integrate with the economy and uphold the strategy to take it to new levels, further opening up multilateral balance? We are innovative, the technology, regional cooperation will further our global role. We are further opening to tertiary sector, we are ready for create more markets. After 35 years, our trade is 1/4 of the GDP.

Guangdong is also facing problems and through the BCIM strategies, we want more companies to come here. Guangdong will cooperate with ASEAN countries and Hong Kong will have relations with developing and advanced countries. We have pragmatically built multidimensional relations in opening of our economy. Guangdong province SEZ is going to get decentralized powers as pilot project in the free trade area. The pilot area has its own position. We intend to further enhance our relations between regions with world class centres in the traditional maritime Silk Road. In our strategy of going global, our priority is South Asia.

Prof Shen- China like other developing countries has shared experiences with India at Dubai conference. Our development models are different since WWII. It is noted that only 12 countries have moved from underdevelopment to developing stage after the War. Japan has achieved tremendous growth but China has moved only to middle-income group country. This is due to the

size and past history, labour intensive industry. Guangdong is contributing to 7 per cent of national income and during the last 26 years it remained first in trade in China. It is first for FDIs, last year our exports and imports exceeded and stood at 9th place in the World. We have visited Australia that developed on Agriculture and primary sector is now shifting to industry. Despite of protection for Agriculture, Australia is opening up their economies. This has given us inspiration. GnG is to open up for tertiary sector. GnG has high proportion of processing industry. We need industrial up gradation, we have 5 areas to develop; 1 balance export and import through high tech products, 2 transformation of government policy 3. Achieve industrial integration in manufacturing sector, 4 new models of Industrial operation management, and 5 improve HRD and factor productivity. In order to achieve this we need two measures, promote trade fairs, Shanghai FDI is an example. Customs facilities have reduced costs. Financial accounts are also changed. Environment for business is to be changed to make people to participate by reducing permits regime. Investment has increased. China S Korea FDI will take place soon. Comprehensive economic participation, we have estimated that the trade would increase the volume of trade and our GDP is higher, by 2025 our GDP will be us 1500 bln. FDI arrangement in Asia Pacific region, PPP can contribute to 94 per cent to growth in the region. Our belief is that more opening up of the economy is better for the economy.

Questions and Answers

Do you want people's reactions from SA about China- every year we are organizing visits to countries to conduct studies, we have JNU contacts.

Running huge trade deficit with open initiative will further grow- to deal with it China import promotion from them, we are aiming in the industrial parks there to create jobs.

How do you tackle inequities and agriculture distress- China has relations with around 200 countries but have Trade deficit only with 50 countries, and trade balances with some and with large economies have surplus. Manufacturing, we have surplus, during 2001 many industries were adversely affected, Chinese self-adjustment had comparative advantages, China is constantly upgrading and restructuring. If economic growth is promoted it would automatically reduce inequities.

Are there resistance to change of land use- we have tough regulations in changing land use from Agriculture to industry. We cannot touch it, we have other areas where we can do industrial expansion, and much of the enterprises in rural areas have helped. There was huge surplus in the rural areas, now they moved to industry and contributed to development. We are improving agricultural marketing system; we are improving medical, social safety nets.

Trade has promoted China to achieve fast growth; Chinese do not have any comparative advantage in Agricultural products. We are gradually promoting trade, industry is absorbing surplus labour. Jagdish Bhagwati explained how trade helps and cited his title of the book. At this stage delegates opposed the ideas of Bhagwati and said we do not recognize his analysis and Chinese experience need not necessarily help the developing countries as our systems are different. The professors nodded.

Athreya and Chalam -If your experience is giving benefits to people , it may be specific to you and you cannot advocate and universalise theories of Bhagawati and the neoliberal ideas whom we refute.

Visit to Zinan village in Foshan city, near Guangzhou

It is a wonderful experience to visit the village that is developed on the communist principles of living and sharing using advanced technology.

Com Pan Zhu Sheng is the party secretary of the village. He took us around the village with running commentary (trans) about how each street and facility was developed on communist principles. The village was a small hamlet with 6000 population about a decade ago. Opportunities of industrialisation came to the village. He took the initiative in convincing the villagers to part with their land for collectivisation. Everyone agreed and the members of the village who have invested their land became shareholders of the company. They are getting jobs in the factories and those who do not work get retirement benefits. They also get dividends on their investment. The community contribute to the development of the village common facilities and utilities and some of the villagers work in the office to help the people with their needs. He has presented 15 minutes documentary on the experiment that clearly mentioned how the village is one of the top 100 model communes in China.

Everyone in the village is happy as they are growing along with the progression of industrialisation as partners and not as workers. The workers who have migrated from outside the village will get wages and social security benefits in the village.

Visit to Shunde district and the central facility for citizens of the district is a very good service like the E- Seva in India. However, here it is a government facility centralised in one place.

The local organisers took us to science city where several multinationals along with Chinese companies are working. It is noted that in each company there is a trade union branch and a communist party unit. The unit helps to bring the government and the company to the Table, if there are any disputes and settle the issues with the support of the party, and the MNCs seem to be happy with this arrangement.

We have visited an ancestral temple consisting of Northern god and Buddha. As it happened to be a holiday, some old people are found putting agarbathis before the idols but it is an ordinary affair. No young person is seen doing prayers or some other activity except looking at the painting's structures etc with inquisitive mind.

Shopping is very interesting, it is possible to bargain with the traders, and streets are clean and neat. We are taken to the Canton Tower of 600 meter height on the Pearl River, bigger than Eiffel tower. It is developed by the municipality and given on lease to private .The scenic beauty and the collection of buildings around it indicate that it is in no way inferior in standards or may be better than the city life in Metros like New York.

One of the great memorable events in Beijing is the official visit to Maos' Mausoleum in the Trainmen square a colossus of the Chinese people where the Great Hall of People, huge parade ground etc are located. We were thrilled to see Mao living not only in the hearts of the people but

also in his slumber kept in peace for the benefit of citizens of posterity. There was 18 minutes film on the life of Mao and how the leaders built China was screened for the benefit of delegates. There seem to be lot of misconceptions about him may be inadvertently popularised by some but the film showed that he was comparable to that of Gandhiji in some aspects?

The CPC and Chinese government have proved once again that they are much loftier than several others in hospitality and proved that 'Athidhi devo bhava' is operationalized during the 10 day visit to China.

Some Perceptions

Despite of our debates and discourses with comrades and experts, some of us who are familiar with Marxist theory and socialist practice in Maoist China and Soviet Union have several misgivings about the way in which market is used to build socialism in China. It is no doubt that each country has its own perceptions and visions of a socialist society given the historical circumstances. China has survived the onslaught while Russia and Eastern Europe succumbed. What are the technics that this great country innovated to remain socialistic in the twenty first century?

The experts and CPC officials have tried to explain the unique nature of market Socialism, a term once was considered as contradictory. But, they are emphatic in saying that no development pattern can be "universally correct". It is pointed out that China has shifted from the aggregate oriented economic development model to an 'eminent achievement' that covers all defects. Though it is not convincing, the model of "industrialisation, informanization, urbanisation, marketization and internationalisation", the experts claim has created strategic opportunities that brought momentum of growth in China. It has helped China to achieve a rate of growth that crossed a per capita income of \$241 in 1978 to around \$ 4000 in 2010 possibly making China to enter the high-income group soon. It is projected that China will achieve a GDP of \$ 26867 (PPP) billion by 2020 while the US remains at \$ 22148. Then how does it matter for the population in general and the lower income groups, the marginalised etc. The experts argue that we have succeeded in circumventing to get in to the trap of middle-income group that many third world countries including India are forced to drop. Interestingly, the planners have identified the contradictions the system has created and the ways of resolving them through a concerted effort and commitment by the CPC. It is noted that once we had consumer goods shortage and we have overcome that problem and are now encountering social goods and public goods shortage that might create social tensions if we do not attend to it now. This realisation on the part of the CPC , government and experts show the insight of the leadership who have kept the land under their control and is possible to regulate and correct the unequal and iniquitous development with Chinese characters. Let us hope and wish that China model of Socialism might become universal tomorrow to eliminate poverty, inequality and hatred and bring universal peace.