

'India, China are guardians of multipolar world'

China on Monday asserted that Beijing and New Delhi are at the vanguard of a new wave of globalisation and are the guardians of a multipolar world.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in response to questions regarding the upcoming informal summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Wuhan that India and China are "important forces in promoting the multipolar world and economic liberalisation, and as well as ensuring... peace, stability and development".

Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councilor Wang Yi and visiting External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Sunday jointly announced that a two-day summit between Mr. Xi and Mr. Modi will be held in Wuhan from April 27.

On Monday, Ms. Swaraj met Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan. Mr. Wang is Mr. Xi's right hand man, and plays a key role in imparting strategic direction to Chinese foreign policy, including Beijing's relations with the United States and Japan.

Sushma calls on Xi

Local media reports said that Mr. Wang steers the newly formed Central Foreign Affairs Commission, with politburo member Yang Jiechi as its director.

Later, Ms. Swaraj also called on Mr. Xi, as part of a delegation of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Mr. Lu highlighted the growing protectionism in the world, which included a brewing trade war with the United States, as the new basis for bonding China and India. Mr. Lu pointed out that "as newly emerging markets as well as developing countries with big populations... we believed the two countries (India and China) will continue to uphold the globalisation so that it is more inclusive".

In the light of a "lot of shared interests, concerns and positions", the two leaders in their meeting in Wuhan will take of long view of their ties, and tailor China-India relations to impact the evolving international situation. Underscoring the global impact of the unprecedented summit, he stressed that President Xi and Prime Minister Modi "will discuss the latest trends of the world so (that) there is a stable global development".

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