



COOPERATION

## Yunnan and India increasing tourism cooperation

BY ZHU HAI

From March 20 to 25, a delegation of 32 Indian travel agents investigated the Kunming-Dali-Lijiang tourist route and its associated products. This is the largest Indian travel agent delegation to Yunnan in recent years.

According to Vijay K. Gupta, leader of the Indian delegation and president of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), he used to visit Beijing, Shanghai and other big cities when he travelled to China, but this investigation tour showed him Yunnan is also an

ideal tourist destination. He said, "I am deeply attracted by Yunnan's beautiful natural scenery and unique history and culture. I am reluctant to be away from home, but now I don't want to go home!"

In fact, the Indian delegation's visit was just a return visit. On January 4, a delegation of 15 Yunnan travel agents paid a ten-day visit to India.

Prior to the exchange of visits, the "India Tourism Year" was held in China in 2015 and the "China Tourism Year" was launched in India in 2016. Yunnan and India are increasing exchanges of tourists in recent

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years. In 2015, 57,194 Indian tourists travelled to Yunnan, an increase of

about 2.2 percent over 2014.

In 2008, the Yunnan Provincial Tourism Bureau (now called the Yunnan Provincial Tourism Development Committee) and the Travel Agents Federation of India signed the "Tourism Cooperation Agreement" in Calcutta. Over the past seven years, under the agreement, the two parties have achieved a win-win situation in the development of tourism programs, the organization of tourism activities and the cooperation between tourism enterprises.

On June 11, 2015, the first India-China Economic and Tourism

Cooperation Forum kicked off in Kunming. Through the forum and the "India Tourism Year" held in China in 2015, Yunnan and India facilitated further implementation of the "Tourism Cooperation Agreement" and promoted pragmatic cooperation in tourism. During the China (Kunming) International Tourism Fair, held last year from November 13 to 15, India served as the Guest of Honour country and fully presented its tourism products to both Chinese travel agencies and the people.

"Yunnan-India tourism cooperation is of great significance. Yunnan

tourism enterprises must facilitate integration of tourism resources and develop new tourism programs and products to keep pace with consumers' demand, attract more tourists and enhance their competitiveness. And the same can be said for Indian tourism enterprises," said Zhu Bawei, president of general manager of Kunming Fengguang International Tourism Company. He believes Yunnan and India are tourism-generating regions and tourist destinations for each other, which promises vast markets and great potential for the development of tourism on both sides.

CONNECTIVITY

## Yunnan finishes 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of track laying for Shanghai-Kunming HSR

BY WANG SHIXUE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of track laying for the Yunnan section of the Shanghai-Kunming HSR comes to an end on April 5, according to information released by Kunming Railway Bureau.

Track laying for the Yunnan section was divided into three phases. The first phase was completed in February. The second was conducted between Malong County Yunnan and Panxian County in Guizhou Province, covering a distance of 97 kilometers, and it also brings the most engineering challenges to the workers. The third phase of track laying will be finished by the end of this April.

When put into service, the Shanghai-Kunming HSR will eventually include Yunnan Province into China's HSR network. The travelling time between Kunming and Shanghai will be shortened from over 40 hours to around 10.

ECONOMY

## Kunming Advertising Industrial Park becomes national

BY WANG SHIXUE

At a recent meeting by national industry and commerce authorities and national advertising market regulators, the Kunming Advertising Industrial Park was officially identified a national-level industrial park.

Since 2012, the Park, which covers an area of 1,575 square kilometres in a northwestern corner of downtown Kunming, has pooled the advertising clusters of its neighborhood. Focused on promoting Yunnan's tourism development, ethnic culture, creative industry and SME brands, the Park has attracted 303 companies in the advertising and creative industries, including Sina Housing, S-Max, Wenchan Digital, e-Kunming and Yunnan TV International, becoming Yunnan's advertising hub. In 2015, the Park registered revenue of 1.2 billion yuan, accounting for a quarter of Yunnan's total advertising share.

SPORTS

## Yunnan, a paradise for outdoor sports

Yunnan boasts world-famous mountains, lakes, forests, grasslands and karst caves like nowhere else. The diverse natural environment makes Yunnan a world-class "base camp" for many outdoor sports. These include cross-country running, cycling, sailing, wingsuit skydiving, kayaking, parachuting, mountaineering, car racing, motorcycle racing, skiing and scuba diving.

► Mild Seven Outdoor Quest

Host Places: Dali, Lijiang and more

The Mild Seven Outdoor Quest includes kayaking, running, cycling, roller-skating and mountaineering. In 1998, when the Event was first held in Yunnan's Dali and Lijiang where the natural environment and cultural features won a good reputation among the international outdoor sports community.

► Wingsuit skydiving

Host place: Dashanbao, Zhaotong

Dashanbao in Zhaotong is particularly suitable for wingsuit skydiving. The 2,500-meter vertical drop, the tallest in Asia, can drive anyone crazy. The broad slide brings greater safety, attracting many veteran wingsuit skydivers.

► kayaking

Host places: The Jinsha, the Lancan, the Nu and Dulong Rivers

The huge drops and violent currents on the numerous rivers in Yunnan make the province the "holy land" of kayaking. In recent years, the Red Bull Kayaking Challenge in Yunnan has attracted more and more participants and spectators.

► Rally racing

Host place: Dongchuan

The track at Dongchuan Mud-Rock Flow Autocross Racing has been likened to a "chop shop" by racers. It covers hills, quicksand, rivers, swamps, deserts and other landforms. It is rare in the world and poses an enormous challenge for racers.

► Mountaineering

Host place: The whole of Yunnan province

Yunnan is suitable for mountaineering because mountains are everywhere in the province. So many mountains in Yunnan are worth climbing, especially Haba Snow Mountain, an entry-level snow mountain over 5,000 meters above sea level. However, for amateur mountaineers, the conquest of Haba Snow Mountain is still a "game" only for the brave.

ENTERTAINMENT



Xiong Chaozhong(right) beats Japanese boxer Hiroya Yamamoto to win the World Boxing Council(WBC) minimum weight championship on February 22, 2015. File photo by Lin Yiguang

## Yunnan minimum weight boxer Xiong Chaozhong to fight in IBF tournament

BY LOU YING

Yunnan minimum weight champion Xiong Chaozhong will fight in the International Boxing Federation (IBF) 105-pound championship challenger elimination match in

May. If he defeats his opponent, he will gain the right to challenge the current IBF minimum weight title holder and become the first Chinese boxer to attempt to win titles from three different world boxing organizations.

Xiong Chaozhong was born in Maguan County in Yunnan Province. Standing 155 centimetres tall, he is the only Chinese boxer to ever hold a belt from one of the world's four professional boxing organisations and is a former minimum weight

champion. In the upcoming 105-pound IBF belt challenger elimination tournament, Xiong Chaozhong will fight Jimenez from Colombia. Jimenez, who is 32 years old, has registered 16 wins (7 KOs), 5 losses and 1 draw in a total of 22 matches.

## Kunming actress Chun Xia wins Hong Kong Film Award

BY MA JUNYAN

During the 35<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Film Awards, the film *Port of Call* swept seven awards, including the awards for best main actors and actresses and best supporting actors and actresses. The post-90s actress Chun Xia drew much

attention from the public. It is first time that the 23-year-old Kunming woman has acted in a film, but she not only won a nomination but also became the first post-90s "movie queen" in the history of the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Chun Xia used to be a photography model. In 2013, she acted in her

first TV series *My Brilliant Heart*. In 2014, she was on the cast of the light-hearted urban comedy *My Doctor Husband* and played the heroine Wang Jiamei in her first film, *Port of Call*.

At the celebration party for *Port of Call*, Chun Xia said that she was

"totally unprepared" for the award. In fact, this is the second time that Chun Xia has been crowned a "movie queen." Previously, she won Best Actress at the 19<sup>th</sup> Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival for her wonderful acting in *Port of Call*.

NEIGHBORS

## China delivers flood-relief power materials to Myanmar

BY LUORONGCHAN

Recently, a donation ceremony was held in Naypyidaw and China delivered its first batch of flood-relief power materials to Myanmar. The donated materials were power cables and wires worth five million yuan.

U Kyaw Daw, chief engineer of the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise of Ministry of Electric Power, thanked China for

helping Myanmar with flood relief at the donation ceremony. The materials will be used for power reconstruction in Chin state and other flood-affected areas

Last August, Myanmar's power facilities suffered heavy damage from the worst flood in nearly 40 years. Under the leadership of China National Energy Administration, a joint flood-relief working group was

formed to help flood relief in Myanmar, with members including China Southern Power Grid, China State Grid Corporation, China Huaneng Group, China Datang Corporation, China Power Investment Corporation, China Three Gorges Corporation, China Power Construction Corporation and Yunnan Provincial Energy Investment Group. With the joint efforts of member units, the working group reached

a consensus with the Myanmar Ministry of Electric Power on required power equipment, technical parameters, delivery time and a handover site. In February 2016, the China National Energy Administration and the Myanmar Ministry of Electric Power signed an agreement concerning about 36 million yuan worth of flood-relief power materials, which are to be delivered in three batches by late June.

## Cambodia hails China for discharging water to Mekong River countries

PHNOM PENH - Cambodia's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn on Tuesday praised China for releasing water to drought-hit Mekong River countries, a spokesman said.

The minister made the remarks during a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Bu Jianguo, Chum Sounry, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters.

"Cambodia and all countries along Mekong River welcomed

and thanked China for discharging water into the downstream Mekong River so as to minimize the impact of drought in these countries," the spokesman quoted the minister as saying to ambassador Bu.

Prak Sokhonn also welcomed the news that China has released water into Mekong River for the third time, starting from April 11.

Downstream Mekong River countries include Myanmar,

Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

During the talks, Bu conveyed congratulations from Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Prak Sokhonn on his recent appointment as the foreign minister of Cambodia.

The two sides also discussed ways on further enhancing bilateral relations and exchanging views on regional and global issues.

(Xinhua News Agency)