

Elephant and Dragon: Learning from Each Other or What can be Gleaned?

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China - The Chinese Dragon

Historically, the dragon was the symbol of the Emperor Of China and generally the dragon is also used to symbolize Chinese people and its culture; a symbol of power, strength, and good luck.

Low (2010; 2009) uses the analogy of the Chinese dragon to exemplify critical strategic leadership ways. Nowadays, China has been seen by the people at large to be symbolized as a dragon. And in most ways, the Chinese is often seen as strategic (Low, 2009).

India – The Elephant

Engardio (2007) has labeled India as a tiger, however, we would apply the cultural symbols of China and India as the Dragon and the Elephant respectively; after all; they are proposing that each country learns from each other. The tiger metaphor as applied to India would mean an oppositional or a quarrelling relationship.

And in this study, it is not to be the case; hence, we attribute the Dragon and the Elephant metaphors.

In India, the elephant represents Ganesha, an elephant-headed god, one of the gods, in Hinduism, the religion of the Indians, venerated by the Hindus.

Low (2010a: 26) has argued these: the elephant represent...

perhaps the highest form of service. Mastery in servitude can be better understood when one speaks in the form of the elephant metaphor. The elephant is referred to in the Indian scripture and folklore which puts it as ranking first among all animals in importance.

Elephants have been trained to do hard work, lift and transport burdens and overall to serve men. A trained elephant, carrying the king, bears the arrows on the battlefield. With its strength, endurance, gentleness and remarkable restraint, the elephant has long symbolized to the Indian mind the enormous power locked within every human being. Through this analogy of the trained elephant, whose immense power has transformed into loving human service, it is accordingly said that the Buddha also conveys to his Indian audience the importance of spiritual discipline.

India and China

- Two emerging economies;
- Two of the world hottest powerhouses

- Leadership
- Management
- Business Styles
- Business Opportunities

India and China

-From time to time, companies from both countries would minimize competition between each other and would prefer to complement with each other in business.

-India's Mahindra and Mahindra designed its tractor locally and mass produced them in China.

- China's Huawei has recruited 1,500 engineers in India to develop software for its telecommunication products.

	India	China
Corporations	Mohindra and Mohindra	Huawei 華為技術有限公司
Industry	Automotive	Telecommunication Equipment and Networking Equipment
Founded	1945 (Ludhiana)	1988
Headquarters	Mumbai	Shenzen
Area Served	Worldwide	Worldwide
Products	Automobiles, commercial vehicles, two wheelers	Mobile and Fixed broadband network, consultancy and managed services. multimedia technology, smart phones and tablet computers
Employees	15,147 (2012)	140,000 (2012)

Doing Business and Least Corruption Perception Index of some Asian countries (Doing Business, 2013; CPI, 2012).

Rank on “Ease of Doing Business” (Out of 185 economies)	Asian Countries	Types of Income	GNI per capita (Gross National Income)	Population	CPI (Least Corruption Perception Index)
1	Singapore	High income	US\$43,930	5.2 million	5
2	Hong Kong	High income	US\$35,160	7.0 million	14
8	South Korea	OECD High income	US\$20,870	50.0 million	45
16	Taiwan	High income	US\$20,200	23.2 million	37
24	Japan	OECD High income	US\$45,180	127.8 million	17
91	China	Upper middle income	US\$4,930	1.3 billion	80

Note: Income is calculated using the Atlas method (current U.S. dollars). For cost indicators expressed as a percentage of income per capita, 2011 gross national income (GNI) in U.S. dollars is used as the denominator. The abbreviation OECD stands for Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Doing Business and Least Corruption Perception Index of China and India
(Doing Business, 2013; CPI, 2012).

Rank on “Ease of Doing Business” (Out of 185 economies)	Countries	Types of Income	GNI per capita (Gross National Income)	Population	CPI (Least Corruption Perception Index)
91	China	Upper middle income	US\$4,930	1.3 billion	80
132	India	Lower Middle income	US\$1,420	1.24 billion	94

Comparisons of China and India

No.	Items	China	India
1	Background	One of the world's oldest civilizations; transform from Imperialism to Communism in 1949.	One of the world's oldest civilization
2	Economy	Growing/ Hiccups with US in trade deficit/ Establishing close ties with ASEAN Minuses: Territorial disputes with neighbors may hamper its economy.	Growing/ Establishing close ties with ASEAN, especially with Singapore. Minuses: Have to grapple with Islamic/ Muslim fundamentals within its fold. Greater bureaucratic red-tape faced.
3	Unemployment Rate	Some studies show 8 percent (Official Data is 4.1 percent) mainly from low-skilled workers and migrant workers. (Fung, 2012)	Official data is 6.6 percent. Part of the employment problem stems from the lack of skill development and inadequate creation of opportunities in the non-agricultural sectors. (Overdorf, 2012; Thakur, 2012)
4	Business Culture and Values	China holds its communist culture – expects others to respect it. Looking to be important in business – but policies are unclear and left for individual authorities to interpret. Recently, Confucian values are seen to be important. all relationships (guanxi) are unequal and must be respected. Closed information sharing. Directive management style.	Business culture that is conservative in monetary terms and is focused more on common good and chastises (Kshatriya, 2010).
5	Business Operations	Collectivist. Guanxi is important. Personal connections are important. Hierarchical organizations	Building relationship is the key to success. Business requires lot of courtships and social conversation takes time.

Comparisons of China and India (Continued)

No.	Items	China	India
6	Business and investment Opportunities	China has changed and progress from closed door to international business and global integration	India has great potential and has attracted many investors such as Mauritius and Singapore.
7	Doing Business and CPI	Ease of doing business in China was ranked at no. 91 (Upper middle income with GNI per capita, US\$4,930 with a population of 1.3 billion people; CPI (Least Corruption Perception Index) was ranked as 80	Ease of doing business in India was ranked at no. 132 (Low Middle income with GNI per capita, US\$1,420 with a population of 1.24 billion people; CPI (Least Corruption Perception Index) was ranked as 94
8	Business Legal System	The Chinese legal system was evolved from the Confucian based ideology to the communist system after 1949. When China was opened to economic reform in 1978, a true institutional legal system was introduced with the demand of the growing economy and the protection of the foreign investors.	India's business legal system is of British-style justice system. The handling of the case is so slow that most of the time it takes decades to pass judgment on a court case (Kazmin, 2011).
9	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	China is one of the largest Information and Communication Technology (ICT) user and it has the internet users and mobile phone users in the world. China's ICT companies are dynamic and proactive aiming to be key players in the global market. (Businessvibes, 2012).	The IT sector in India is growing and excelling fast in the Silicon Valley and in India, much Research and Development flows both ways. Overall, Indian talent is adding much vitality throughout the Silicon Valley while Indian engineers are becoming fixtures in the labs of America's top chip and software companies (Engardio, 2007).

Conclusion

Perhaps, China and India should collaborate, synergize and together, 'Chindia' can bring about greater changes and for the better for other countries and for the world. These areas include, for example, in the field of information-communication technology where the two countries have advanced well while producing capable and skilled people as well as talented individuals. Both countries suffer from widespread corruption and they should learn from one another incorporating the various effective measures, take action and act to minimize, prevent and curb corruption so that it would help to improve their countries' economy in attracting more foreign investors and investments.