

‘Synergy between OBOR & India’s Act East policy possible’

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New Delhi: Describing OBOR and India’s Act East Policy as natural (to each other), Chinese ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui Friday said a synergy between the two could be built keeping in mind the focus on economic cooperation between India and China.

Speaking at the China-India Youth Dialogue 2018, Luo said China and India had similar policies on con-

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nectivity and trade and that concrete cooperation between them was important.

The dialogue, a precursor to the first ever high-level people-to-people and culture meet soon, started with a message from PM Narendra Modi expressing hope that the engagement will help the youth build a “Great Wall of Trust and Cooperation” between India and China.

“Every country is focusing on connectivity and free trade. India and China also have similar policies. Act East and OBOR are natural...how do you synergize

these two strategies together between the two countries for economic cooperation and development is important,” said Luo, responding to a query from an Indian youth delegate.

The ambassador described Modi’s Wuhan summit with President Xi Jinping as a historic milestone in bilateral relations and said both sides were working to implement the Wuhan consensus the two leaders had arrived at.

While India had agreed in Wuhan to work with China in the neighbourhood under what Beijing described as a 2+1 format, the government has officially continued to give a wide berth to OBOR. Much to India’s annoyance, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which India is opposed to as it passes through the disputed Gilgit-Baltistan region, remains the showpiece project of OBOR.

Luo said OBOR was China’s national policy with presence in close to 100 countries and that work on the connectivity and cooperation initiative spread across continents was progressing smoothly.

Full report on www.toi.in