

EDI

City toasts to Chinese New Year

Chinese students in the city welcomed the Year of the Goat by inviting their Indian friends over to dinner

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Call it the effect of the Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the city last September or plain goodwill, there has been a surge in activities to encourage cross-cultural traditions in the city.

Chinese students at Entrepreneurship Development of India in Gandhinagar welcomed the Year of the Goat (Ram/ Sheep) by cooking lavish meals consisting of traditional Chinese fare and inviting their classmates and teachers over to dinner.

Ming Yun, one of the students said, "Welcoming the New Year in another country, along with people from a very different culture, is a great experience.



The chinese students prepared 12 traditional Chinese delicacies for their guests

It gave us the opportunity to share our culture with others. As is the Chinese tradition, we cooked an elaborate dinner with 12 traditional dishes and in-

vided our Indian classmates and teachers."

As per the tradition, Ming Yun along with fellow Chinese friends Liu

PM'S WISHES

PM Narendra Modi took to various forms of social media to send out greetings in Mandarin for the Chinese Lunar New Year. PM Modi tweeted his greetings to all those who celebrate the new year in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Korea both in English and the local tongue. "Greetings on the start of the Chinese New Year. May the coming year brighten your lives with peace, joy & prosperity", tweeted PM Modi and followed this by a tweet in Mandarin.

Qing, Du Xiaoqing and Xo Kyulng-ing cooked spiced corn egg, scrambled egg with tomato, spicy diced chicken with peanuts, stuffed aubergines in sauce, fried potato with tomato, hot-pot, rice noodle in sauce, braised chick-

en and fried corn. Avdhesh Jha, an associate faculty at EDI who teaches students of post-graduate diploma in Indian-Chinese cultural studies told *Mirror*, "We always encourage students to celebrate Indian and Chinese festivals so that they can learn to respect other culture and their tradition too."

CHINESE LANGUAGE'S POPULARITY RISES

The number of Gujaratis opting to study Chinese language has increased remarkably in the past two years.

KK Bhaskaran, HOD of Bhasha Bhavan at Gujarat Vidyapith told *Mirror*, "When we started teaching Chinese in 2009, there were hardly five students. But in past two years, the demand has increased. We get calls from industrialists who want to learn Chinese."