

Namaste India! China love in time of Doklam

20 Chinese Students Are Learning Hindi At A Gandhinagar-Based Institute

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Doklam failed to deter them. Parents of these 20 students from China asked them to give a second thought to their decision to go to India amidst heightened tension on the border. But the students, who wanted to study 'Business Hindi' at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) at Bhat village in Gandhinagar, continued on their knowledge journey. Overwhelmed by the love and affection shown by the people of Gujarat, some of them even plan to settle here.



Pics: Yogesh Chavda

The students have adopted Indian names; some intend to settle here

The students have now adopted Indian names and greet people with 'namaste' rather than 'n h o'. Two of them are already settled in the city. For them, India is a land of

business opportunities, spiritualism and benevolence, which they experienced during their stay here.

Ruchi (26), who was known as Zhang Xiaoyi in China, said that she was amazed by the level of spirituality in India. "What I saw in Varanasi is impossible in China. I liked the saffron attire, tilak on forehead, and the way they worshipped on the banks of the Ganga," she said.

Another student Akash, whose Chinese name is Fu Yong Chhin-yang, said that if India and China can come together, it would be beneficial for both the countries. Karuna (32) was worried by the recent media reports about Sino-India relations.

"There are many similarities in both the cultures, like red colour is auspicious in both the countries," she said.

Himani (22), whose Chi-

nese name is Tian Pei Yuan, has been living in Ahmedabad for the past eight months and works in a cellphone company. "I believe in Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai. I like 'pani-puri' which is like momo's cousin sister," said Himani, who wants to settle in Gujarat.

"My parents opposed my idea to go back to India but I convinced them. I think India is safe and people here are friendly," said Ananya (21) whose Chinese name is Wang Cong. Professor Avdhesh Jha, who teaches Hindi to the Chinese students, said that these students are keen learners. "Parents of some of the students were adamant on not sending them to India but it was the students' will to learn that won," Jha said.

Dr Sunil Shukla, EDII director, said that such learning initiatives will ultimately help in resolving many issues between both the countries.