

# India China Relations- The present and the Challenges for future

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**ABSTRACT:** India and China are pillars of emerging world order. Both countries having huge population. These countries are very near to each other in every aspect especially Economic relation are very much important for both the countries. Today China stands as one of the top three major trading partners of India's bilateral trade. But current India-China relations regarding border dispute in the last few weeks, a crisis has been brewing on the Indo-China border over the line of Actual (LAC) control. Thus, the paper tends to analyses current Indo-China relations in this such pandemic situation. This paper also discuss the past 70 years India- China relations and how China changed his tune from time to time under the influence of Pakistan.

**Keywords:** India- China Relation, Border dispute, Trade

## I. INTRODUCTION:

On 1 April 2020, China and India ushes in the important moment of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Establishment of diplomatic relations. The people republic of China (PRC) was established on Oct 1,1949 and India was the first non-communist country to established an embassy in PRC on April 1, 1950 and established their diplomatic relations. Both the countries having huge population, big market size and large area of the world are very importance in the international Economic, Political and security sphere and their bilateral relations, especially Economic relations are very much important for the both countries. Both countries have concluded a Free- trade agreement with the Association of South-East Asian Nation. As developing countries China and India can strengthen co-ordination in global institution to protect their national interest. But both the countries having territorial disputes, resulted bitterness in the relations.

### Objectives:

1. To study India- China relations in general.

2. To asses the rationales, dynamic, Constraints challenges of India – China relations.
3. Analyses the frictions that exist between two countries.

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

To write this paper, the data has mainly concentrated on textual approach, books written by eminent scholars and articles, papers written on various National and International Journals has been considered to do the framework of this paper. Thus, secondary data has been used to write this paper.

### Look back at the past 70 years:

China and India share a very old history and relationship. Although the relationship has been cordial, there have been border disputes. Resulting in three military conflicts. The Sino-Indian war 1962 chola incident 1967, and the 1987 Sino- India skirmish in 2017<sup>1</sup> the 2 countries clashed at the Doklam plateau alongthe disputed Sino Bhutanese border and recently 15, June 2020 a violent clash with China (LAC) Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. Indian and Chinese troops have disengaged at the Galwan area where they had earlier clashed one day ago.

If we talk about the past “Flowering relations” between India and China in the early 1950 were based on peaceful co- existence. In 1988 Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi setting up a joint working group to defuse tension and ensure peace and tranquility on the borders<sup>2</sup>. After that India Prime Minister and President time to time visit China to Establishment a new faithful relation.

### Some important meetings have been highlighted below:

<sup>1</sup> For Indian perspective of the war, see J.N Dixit, India's Foreign Policy: 1947-2003, New Delhi: Picus Books, 2003, pp. 352-358.

<sup>2</sup> “Indian Express”, 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1988, (Bombay)

- In 2008: “A shared vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century” was agreed upon by the two governments.
- In 2011: “It was the China- India Exchange year”.
- In 2012: “It was the year of China – India friendship and co-operation.”
- In 2018: China President held an informal meeting with Indian prime minister in Wuhan.
- In 2019: The second informal meeting was held in Mamallapuram, Chennai. Both sides met on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Bishkek and the 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit.
- In 2020: It marks the year of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. It is also China- India year of cultural and people to people exchanges.

#### **Corona virus outbreak affecting China’s relations with India:**

Covid-19 has created a cold war kind of situation between U.S.A and China. India is siding with the US. The outbreak of pandemic like coronavirus has put the whole world in a war like situation. The first case of Covid-19 traced from China (Wuhan City) China’s handling of the Covid-19 pandemic has reinforced the skeptical perception of the country that prevails in many quarters in India.<sup>3</sup>

Today all countries rethink about the trade ties with the country like China. India not only cancelled orders for (Faulty rapid test kits) it revised FDI policy curb “opportunistic take over’s or acquisitions” of Indian companies, aimed at China. More than 60 percent of Indians believe that a growing Chinese economy is bad development for their country, and that Beijing has a negative influence on economic conditions in India calls to boycott Chinese goods. With the Covid-19 Pandemic, China has lost its aura and India must be quick to recognize this shift and seize the initiative to make some much needed tactical and strategic changes to its China policy.

#### **Border dispute between the two countries:**

China and India biggest neighbor their relations have been complicated and interesting. Both countries have serious problem to resolve their issues. The India–China borders broken down into three sectors.

1. **Western Sector:** (Disputed) This comprises the Aksai chin sector. This region which originally was a part of the state of J&K is

claimed by China as part of its autonomous XinJiang region. After the 1962 war, it is administered by China. It’s the second largest Indo-China border.

2. **Central sector:**(Undisputed) Although China has recognized India’s sovereignty over Sikkim and had initiated the trade at Nathu La Pass.
  3. **Eastern Sector:** (Disputed) The Arunachal Pradesh border that China still claims to be its own territory is the largest disputed area covering around 90000 sq.km. It was formally called North East Frontier Agency.
- **Johnson Line v/s Mc Donald Line:** The two nations have held on to their own stands even on the Johnson line and McDonald line which demarcates the territories of the two.
    - Johnson Line: India’s accepted demarcation-It marks Aksai Chin as Indian territory.
    - McDonald Line: China’s stance- It marks Aksaichin as Chinese territory.

#### **No doubt, to resolve the issues some important agreement has to be done between both the countries:**

- Shimla agreement 1914
- Punchsheel agreement 1954
- Joint working group for confidence building measures (CBMS)-1989
- LAC-1996
- Declaration on principles for relations and comprehensive co-operations–2003
- Establishment of a working mechanism for consultation and coordination India-china border 2012.

#### **A Dubious strategy of china:**

India and china started off as friendly states during the 1950, when Nehru was championing the non- aliened movement. Nehru’s socialist leanings and belief that India is destined to play major role at the global level brought India and china closer it was the time of the Hind– Chinney Bhai-Bhai and the Punchsheel. However, the romance remained shorted lived and soon resulted in active hostility in a border war (1962) in which India’s military was humiliated by the Chinese army Nehru never recovered from this.

After a long time recently (15-June-2020) Chinese army attack on Indian army resulted deadly border clash. One side Chinese and India lieutenant general level talks held on (6-June - 2020) regarding the border dispute. On the other side Chinese army cross the LAC. Twenty Indian

<sup>3</sup> Zhang Y, Xu J, Li H, Cao B. A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) OUTBREAK: a call for action. CHEST 2020. Doi.org/10.1016/j.chest.2020.02.014.

Soldiers were killed in deadly clash with Chinese troops so in future we can say that China can never change his dubious strategy. Now India economic relationship with China was in the spotlight even before the 15-June-2020 clash high in the Himalayas. The pandemic had already prompted India Prime Minister Modi to launch a high-profile campaign for “Self- Reliance (Aatmanirbharta)” in which he urged Indians to buy locals. The government banned 59 china mobile applications including top social Media platform such as tiktok, Helo and WeChat counter. The threat posed by these application sovereignty and unity.

### **Pakistan china Relations (Thinking Through an Indian Lens):**

The Pak-China relationship is however not based on love or romance as many would have us believe but on sound geostrategic and realist calculations Pakistan considered as “Pivot of Asia”<sup>4</sup>. The Pak-china friendship is unique and precious from different accounts. First china is neighbor to Pak, second it has always withstood with Pakistan in the trying times.

They have signed not only border agreement (1963) but also FTA agreement.<sup>5</sup> China provides Pak with economic, military and technical aid and assistance and on its part. Pakistan supports china on issues of Tibet, XinJinghuman right etc. Some experts say Pak- China relations became strong due to India-china war 1962. US-India defense ties, Sino-Russian rift in relations, Chinese conflict with Japan over Island issue. India ties with SouthEast Asian countries and Indian encirclement through the US and Japan.

If we talk about recent China-Pak relations Pak-China Economic corridor (Known as CPEC) is a collection of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction through Pakistan. It is Part of the greater One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative launched by the Chinese government. This was done without the consultation with India. On the other side (CPEC) involves a serious violation of India’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and has been rejected. So the Pak-China friendship which is described by the leadership of both countries as higher than mountain, deeper than oceans, and of late, sweeter than honey is a unique case in the international system we live in.

<sup>4</sup> Ghulam, Waheed, Ch. (1947-1966, p 54)

<sup>5</sup> Bir, Singh, Udhay, 2006, P 38.

### **Reasons of worse Relations between two countries:**

The recent standoff seen as a culmination of a number of disagreements between India and China and the relations between the two sides has soured in the last 2-3 years. Few of them are:

- I. India’s entry into the UNSC and the NSG.
- II. India’s opposition to the OBOR (One Belt One Road).
- III. Strengthening of India-USA Relations.
- IV. Issue of Tibet and dalai Lama.
- V. Issue of Masood Azhar.
- VI. India entry into G-7.

### **III. CONCLUSION:**

To conclude this paper, we can say that in future if both the countries work together, they will exercise increasing influence in International affairs in the coming decades. But as we all know while the nation is struggling with Covid-19 pandemic, a sudden Flare-up with China on (LAC) has added to our problems in the scuffle that followed twenty of our army personnel lost their lives. I conclude with a simple request: To show solidarity with the Military and to trust them and the government in these difficult times. Be proud Indian.

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