

CONFLICT AND CO-OPERATION IN INDIA CHINA RELATIONS

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"Thinking should become your capital asset, no matter, whatever ups and downs, you come across in your life." (A.P.J. Kalam)

"Without your involvement you cannot succeed, with your involvement, you cannot fail." (A.P.J. Kalam)

"If human race wishes to have a prolonged and indefinite period of material prosperity, they have only got to behave in a peaceful and helping way towards one another." (Winston Churchill)

It has been rightly said by Anne Frank, that 'Threat and violence is not the solution of any problem. The solution comes through peace process. Further she said, how wonderful it is, that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve.'

In the light of the above mentioned statement, it can rightly be presumed that peace, harmony, friendship and understanding is the ultimate factor, to maintain and lead healthy relationship with all.

The history of Indo-China Relations is very old where at one point of time visit of Hivan-I-Sang and I.tsing provided strength to the cultural relationship between India and China, on the other side Buddhism provided religious strength to both Indo-China Relationship. And frequent visits of political leadership from both the countries added political power to the political strength.

Rich economy of Tibbet always encouraged India to enrich Indo Tibbet social, cultural and economical relations. Kailash Parvat, and Mansarovar in Tibet, are the religious places of higher values for India and Sarnath, Gaya and Sanchi in India are the religious places of higher

values for China. These religious values in both the countries add more nearness and close affiliations between both India and China friendly ties.

Ravindra Nath Tagore visited China in 1924 and established Shanti Niketan in 1937 i.e. the Vishwa Bharti Vidyalaya. In which China built a 'hall' to strengthen Indo China ties. When Japan attacked on China, India not only expressed her sympathies and also sent a 'medical mission' to show friendly relationship between India and China. India was the first country in the world to recognise and accept 'Mao's Govt. in China'.

Sardar KM. Panikar former Indian Ambassador in China, resolved minor Indo-China problems and encouraged the slogan 'Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai'; while on the other side China had some other strategy in its mind. It tried to contact and strengthen its strategical relationship with most of Asian countries to become the Asian super power along with protecting its borders. This revolutionary ideology to become Asian Super Power not only affected Indo-China Relationship but effected entire Asia.

The first blow to Indo-Chinese harmonious relationship occurred in 1950 when Military Operation of China over Tibet was not supported by India. This was the turning point of mistrust. At one side Tibet expelled Chinese Minister from Tibet as an act of revenge from China on the other side India acknowledged Tibet as 'buffer state' between India and China which is already verified from the historical documents whereas China claims its supremacy and forceful rights over Tibet. If we find facts, Tibet was always independent state without the supremacy of any country. But in 1720, China attacked on Tibet and captured it. Tibet was administered by China till 1950. Later on China gave liberty to Tibet. But India's support to Tibet was never digested and appreciated by China, as the result.
China challenged the legality of 'Mc Mohan line'.

Though India in 1950 tried to express its desire for the peaceful solution of Indo-China border issue and openly discussed it. But China believed again in Military action as on 7th October, 1950, nearly 40,000 soldiers marched towards 'Chambo' near Lahasa. This Chinese Military action was condemned in Indian parliament too. Where political parties emphasised and forced Indian Govt. to change its 'defence policy'. Former Home Minister Sardar Patel wrote a letter to Nehru, deeply criticising Chinese Military action in following words :-

'The Chinese interpretation of Suzerainty seems to be different, we can therefore, safely assume that very soon, they will

n all the situations which Tibet has entered with us in past.....Chinese ambitions in this respect not only cover the Himalayan slopes on our side but also include important parts of Assam..... In our calculations we shall now have to reckon with communist China in the North and North East..... The communist China which has definite ambitions and aims which does not in any way. seems friendly disposed towards us."

But it appeared that Nehru and his foreign policy advisors, did not want to annoy China regarding Tibet issue and it was assumed that India accepted Chinese supremacy over Tibet. Studying the critical China-Tibet Relation a treaty was signed in which except for trade, security and transport all the rights were given to Tibet for administration and existence. China even assured India to maintain healthy, cultural and diplomatic relationship.

Later on Nehru Ji formulated 'Panchsheel' for long term healthy Indo-China Relationship and even supported China for permanent seat in U.N.O. Chinese media appreciated Nehru for his great efforts to support China and entitled him prominent, important, peaceful leader of Asian continent and India as neutral, judicial and peaceful country. That's how both India- China expressed friendly expressions for each other. But it was a diplomatic and clever move of China, to get permanent place in U.N.O. and administration and authority in Tibet. It hardly had serious thought for India.

The point is, that India-China relations, though occasionally showing signs of peace and co-operation having often being afflicted by tension and mistrust. With the potential to make big contributions to regional peace and development. These two Asian powers have by design or accident themselves been the sources of regional tension and insecurity to some extent. Besides their internal dynamics, the interplay of interests and moves of their neighbours and several external powers would have significant bearing on the equation and relation between them.

China and India are the two most important, populous countries and fastest growing major economies in the world. The resulted growth in China's and India's International diplomatic and economic influence has also increased the significance of their bilateral relationship.

China and India are the two of the world's oldest civilization and have co-existed in peace for millennia. Cultural and economic relations between China and India date back to ancient times. The Silk Road not only served as a major trade route between India and China

but is also credited for facilitating the spread of Buddhism from India to East Asia. During the 19th century China's growing opium trade with the British Raj triggered the first and second wars. During the war II, India and China played a crucial role in halting the progress of Imperial Japan.

Relationship between contemporary China and India have been characterised by border disputes, resulting in three major military conflicts- the Sino Indian war of 1962, the incident of 1967 and the 1987, Sino Indian Skimush. However since the late 1980, both countries have successfully attempted to regenerate diplomatic and economic ties in 2008. China emerged as India's largest trading partner and the two countries have also attempted to extend their strategic and military relations.

Despite growing economic and strategic ties, there are several hurdles for India and the PRC to overcome in order to establish favourable relations. Though bilateral trade has continuously grown, India faces massive imbalance, heavily in favour of China. The two countries have failed to resolve their long standing border dispute and Indian media outlets have repeatedly reported Chinese military incursions into Indian territory. Both countries established heavy military infrastructure along border areas.

Additionally India remains wary about China's strong strategic bilateral relations with Pakistan while China has expressed concerns about Indian military and economic activities in the disputed South China Sea.

In June, 2012, China slated its position that Sino Indian ties could be 'the most important bilateral partnership of the century.' That month Wen Jia bao, the premier of China and Manmohan Singh P.M. of India set a goal to increase bilateral trade between the two countries to U.S. dollar 100 billion by 2015.

'Geographical over - view'

China and India are separated by the formidable geographical obstacles of Himalayas. China and India share a border along the Himalayas with Nepal and Bhutan acting as a buffer state. Parts of the disputed Kashmir region claimed by India are claimed and administered by either Pakistani (Azad Kashmir and Gilgit and Baltistan) or by PRC (Aksai-chin). The Govt. of Pakistan on its maps shows the Aksai chin area as mostly within China and labels the boundary 'frontier- undefined' while India holds that Aksai chin is illegally occupied by PRC,

China and India also have dispute over the maps of Arunachal Pradesh at the far Eastern end of Himalayas. However both countries have agreed to respect the line of Actual Control here, the area just North of Tawang is seen as a potential flash point.

Columbo Summit

Keeping in view the seriousness of Sino Indo relationship; former President of Sri Lanka Smt. Bhandarnyke called upon a summit of Burma, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Misra and Ghana etc. countries in Columbo. The aim of the summit was to resolve Indo-China conflicting issues. On 19th January, 1963 the proposal of the summit was published with the suggestions to conclude the conflict and maintain peace and harmony in the region. All the suggestions formulated in Columbo summit were discussed including the L.O.C. and Chinese intervention in areas were discussed in the Indian parliament and after detailed discussion on 23 to 25 January, 1963, Columbo proposal was accepted by India. On 5th March, 1963, Nehru Ji wrote a letter to Chou-N-Hai referring Columbo proposal with optimistic L.O.C. issue but his Chinese counter part not only insulted his feelings but refused the Columbo-peace-proposal and emphasised Chinese intention for bilateral talks instead of Columbo proposal and openly refused to accept any type of intervention, mediation and international involvement in Indo-China border conflict. Therefore Columbo Declaration was the flop show.

Chinese Intentions

After Indo-Pak war of 1965; Indo-China enmity came on the open platform. Since 1960, China is working on maintaining harmonious relationship with Pakistan. To say China and Pakistan are totally different countries, based on totally different system. Even then to stand against India they stand (Pak-China) together and say 'China-Pakistan Bhai Bhai' . Encouraged by China Pak relationship on 16 September, 1965, China threatened India to remove its forces within three days from Sikkim-China border otherwise the result shall be disastrous. Though later on world's Super Powers came in fore front and China has to withdraw its warning.

Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China

From 19th to 23rd December, 1988, the then Indian Prime Minister Rajeev Gandhi visited China after the span of 34 years which is the important station in Indo-China relationship.

(1) During the visit, it was decided to form a team which will work for 2-3 years and bring out positive results to China-India relations. Solutions were expected to be logical, judicious and acceptable to both the countries to maintain peace on the border.

(2) Apart from that a five years treaty was also signed for co-operation in the field of economy, science and technology.

(3) Three years treaty for cultural exchange representatives from both the countries.

Encouraged by the visit of Rajeev Gandhi, it was expected to open a new chapter in the history of Indo-China relationship.

Le-Fang - visit to India

From 11th December to 16th December, 1991, Le-Fang visited India for establishing International peace, Equity and justice with India and extending harmonious relationship with India.

Nar Simha Rao, Ziang - Zemin & Atal Bihari Bajpai to Narendra Modi diplomatic efforts are on to improve Indo-China relationship.

When our former Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh paid a successful visit to China in 2008; China and India signed "Shared visions on the 21st century" reached a broad consensus on further pushing forward the strategic co-operative partnership between the two countries and agreed to jointly promote the building of harmonious world featured by everlasting peace and common prosperity

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh attended the Asia - Europe meeting held in Beijing in October. On the other side Sonia Gandhi, President of the Indian National Congress, attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. Soon after Yu Zhengsheng, member of the Polit Bureau of the Central Committee of the communist party, Secretary of the Shanghai Municipality visited India. Our foreign Minister also exchanged visits. It was all to enhance, improve and strengthen Indo-China ties.

Secondly, India China also strengthened economic and trade co-operation as the great feature of faster growth. In 2008, bilateral trade exceeded dollar 51 billion with increase of 34% over 2007.

Thirdly both India and China laid emphasis on security and defence exchanges to strengthen bilateral relationship The Chinese Navy Marshal visited India for the first time and the two countries held the second round of consultations on the defence and security. In

December, 2008, China and India successfully conducted the 'Join hands 2008' a joint Army Training Exercise on combating terrorism

Fourthly bilateral co-operation in International and regional affairs was further strengthened as China and India maintained close co-ordination on issues such as 'climate change' the Doha round talks, energy and food security and the International financial crisis. They worked together for positive results at the financial summit of G 20 held in Washington in November, 2008.

In fact China India relations are generally on steady development path. The strategic co-operative partnership is being further strengthened. As President, then, Hu Jintao has pointed out that our bilateral relations are at present is one of the best periods in history. We are facing a rare opportunity for development.

In 2009 President Pratibha Patil visited China at the invitation of Hu Jintao. This was the first visit of Indian President after she assumed office. It was a big event with new big opportunity to add a feather in Indo-China relations. Further it was decided by the political parties to enhance and promote co-operation and understanding in the field of trade and economy, for faster and speedy growth and development.

Both the countries also decided to organise 'Chinese Festival in India' and 'Indian Festival in China' in 2010 for the first time. It was decided to work together in Asian and Global Affairs including within the frame work of G 20 Summit.

What are the main obstacles blocking the Indo-China friendly ties

"Failure will never overtake me in my life. if my definition to succeed is strong enough"

(A.P.J. Kalam)

In the light of the above thought expressed by our beloved President and Scientist Kalam Sahab. It should be taken as a positive thought that failures cannot block the success therefore both India and China should continue to make efforts in the following fields to strengthen their political, cultural, social and economical ties.

Firstly - Mutual understanding and trust between the two countries need to be further strengthened. There is a serious need for people to people contact and exchange. Citizens from both the nations should visit each other. For this Visa and other issues that are technical should be easy and comfortable. Hopefully both countries shall seriously take steps to exchange and encourage tourism from both the sides.

Economic and trade co-operation can be further expanded. As the two newly emerging economies China and India hold great potentials for co-operation based on our strong complementarities. Presently problems exist in our bilateral trade such as the trade imbalance, limitations in trade scope and trade mix and the low level of mutual investment. Statistics from India's commerce Ministry and Industry show that the actual investment by accounts for merely 0.01 % of the total foreign investment in India ranking 63rd. We hope China and India can reach agreement on regional trade arguments as early as possible and appropriately solve the problems in bilateral trade and create more favourable conditions for investment by the business world of the two countries.

How can Sino Indian relations be further developed

Firstly, both India and China need to build the atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding. It needs frequent high level visits of political leaders of both the countries. They must further promote contacts and co-operation among the government sectors, legislatures and in the fields of culture, science and technology and so on. They must re-inforce friendly exchanges among academics, NGOs, the media and enhance understandings between our two countries and peoples so that as to deepen mutual trust and consolidate the foundation of friendship.

Secondly, we must address and safeguard the interests and concerns of each other on the basis of mutual respect and properly handle the pending issues between us through dialogues and equal consultations.

Thirdly, we need to constantly expand our convergence, interests and further economic and commercial co-operation We also need to strengthen bilateral co-ordination and co-operation in International and regional affairs actively promote multi polarization of International relations and collectively deal with the challenges, including the world financial crisis, climate change and the food and energy crisis so as to maintain and promote the interest of all developing countries.

Equally, it can also be kept in mind that two large developing countries rising at the same time, China and India face unavoidable conflicts of interests. Therefore the need of hour is to look positively on the development process of both the countries, There are basically no fundamental conflicts of interest between China and India. On the contrary, we share plenty of common concerns and stances on the variety of common important issues concerning world

peace and development. It is in the line with the long term interest of both countries to further strengthen and develop good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations.

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Although there were temporary interests and in turns in the past the common interests between China and India go far beyond our differences. As the saying goes 'co-operation benefits both while conflicts hurts the two' It is firmly believed that China and India have the will and the capability to sustain the healthy and steady development of the bilateral relations.

Deng Xioping said in 1988 to Prime Minister Rajeev Gandhi "The real Asia Pacific age or Asian age could only be possible to come when China, India and some neighbourly countries become developed." Therefore to realize the great and noble goals, both the Chinese and Indian people must make serious and committed efforts towards making strong Indo-China relationship.

How can India and China improve and strengthen their co-operation on different issues

As the two largest developing countries with their combined population accounting over two fifths of the world's total population. China and India have a relationship whose significance has gone well beyond the bilateral context and has acquired global and strategic dimensions.

President Hu Jintao once said that 'Friendly relations between China and India would not only be conducive to the two countries but also benefit Asia and the world at large' The steady and healthy development of bilateral relations will not only be good for the development of our two countries but also produce a profound impact on the peace, stability and prosperity of Asia and the world as a whole.

As newly emerging economic China and India received wide recognition by the International community for their position and role in responding to the ongoing International financial crisis. They should on one hand strengthen co-operation and co-ordination, jointly deal with the challenges and guard against attempts by the developed countries. They should actively participate in the process of the reform of the International financial system, promote the building of a fair, equitable, inclusive and orderly global economic system and safe guard the common interests of developing countries, including China and India in the new round of re-adjustment of the global economic pattern.

What is Chinese stand on Indo-Pak relations

Both India and Pakistan are the friendly neighbours of China. China hopes that India and Pakistan will resolve their differences through dialogues and consultations which is in the interest of both the countries as well as in the interest of peace, stability and development of the South Asia region. China also condemned the 'Mumbai terrorist attack' and expressed its condolences and sympathies to the victims. He said

'Terrorism is our common enemy. We only can win the war against terrorism by the joint efforts of all countries concerned. We sincerely look forward to the resumption of the peace dialogue process between India and Pakistan at the earliest possible date.'

Different moods and moves on Indo-China relations in media

Modi in China : Shift the discourse

P. Stobdan : May 14, 2015

In today's India, narrow Nationalism, if not paranoia, built on the burden of 1962, seems only artificial. But can Modi and XI move beyond the burden and change the bilateral discourse ? Modi needs to be metaphysical not just pragmatic.

Narendra Modi and XI jumping : Different yet same ?

Avinash Godbole. May 13, 2015

Modi and XI share several similarities : They rise to the top, the popular Nationalism they ride, the power they wield and their domestic as well foreign priorities.

Modi's China's visit - Allaying Maritime Misgivings Abhijeet Singh - May 11, 2015

For better operational co-operation India and China needs to go beyond rudimentary agreement on combatting piracy and crime in the Western Indian Ocean. They need to work out an acceptable frame-work for fundamental collaboration and create positive momentum in favour of greater interaction.

Obama's visit and the Paradox of countering Chinese expansionism and Western Messianism

P. Stobdan - February - 4 - 2015

The US will continue to do what it can for blocking re-approachment between India and China or Japan and China. For it knows the danger of its loss of a dominant role in Asia. Despite all the distortions of the space, the hard geographic reality of Asia will triumph just as it happened in Europe.

Re-appraising relations with China : from strategic

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Ambiguity to Recognizing mutual interest

Januarv - 22 - 2015

It is the appropriate time to see the relations between re-emerging Asian - giants less in terms of balance of power in Asia and more in terms of recognising mutual interests in shaping Asian countries.

Restoring - India - China Reciprocity on the border

Abanti Bhattacharya - June - 5 - 2014

The principal opposition of the Chinese on the Mc Mohan line is that, it is illegal and a mere product of British Imperialistic designs on China.

Such assessments completely disregard the fact that the Mc Mohan line is intertwined with Tibet issue - The lynchpin of China's territorial sovereignty and partly legitimacy.

Views of Dalai Lama on Indo - China Relations

As Tibet remains a prickly issue between the giant Asian Nations.

China still claims more than 80,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the North-East why ?

Just because Beijing refuses to acknowledge the Mc Mohan line, which separates India and Tibet and this is simply because the 1914 agreement delineating the border was signed by the then government of independent Tibet with India's then foreign secretary (Sir Henry Mc Mohan) says

Claude -Arpi -

'On the occasion of Chinese President to India and Modi's visit to China, our National Security Advisor Ajeet Doval, was designated special envoy to Prime Minister Modi : This allowed the NSA to briefly meet Chinese President. Afterwards Chinese news agency affirmed Doval that the latter's state visit will deepen the two countries understanding friendship and trust and inject new vitality to bilateral co-operations. Further it said that Chinese co-operation with India would not only help each other's developments but also benefits Asia and the world at large.'

However, there is a (geographically and strategically) larger issues which remains unsolved between China and India i.e. Tibet and Dalai Lama.

This seems logical as Tibet represents nearly 25% of the land mass of the people republic of China and for the countries, the roof of the world has been physical and political buffer between India and China.

It is visible when one looks at a map of Himalayas. China still claims more than 80,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the North-East. 'Why this claim Just because Beijing refuses to acknowledge the Mc Mohan line which separates India and Tibet and this is simply because of the 1914 agreement delineating the border was signed by the then government of independent Tibet with India's the then foreign secretary (Sir Henry Mc Mohan).

Beijing is not ready to accept and recognise the basic historical fact that Tibet was independent before its so called liberation.

While as early as 1981, Dalai Lama has refused and rejected the proposal as his struggle was for 6 million Tibetans not for himself personally or for his own future. But observers often state that Dalai Lama is no doubt a big thorn between India - China harmonious relationship.

But as it is rightly said. "that there is a higher court than the courts of justice and that is the court of conscience. It super seeds all other courts." (A.P.J. Kalam)

Therefore thinking should become our capital asset. No matter, whatever ups and downs we come across, while struggling to achieve our