

INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA

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INTRODUCTION

China and India share a very old history and relationship. Throughout the first millennium, they were the centres of spiritual and religious activities. The two countries suffered from western colonialism during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, political contacts between them were few. Culturally, it was mostly from India to China. In 1947 India became independent. India established diplomatic relations with nationalist Kuomintang Chinese Government in 1948. The communist People's Republic of China when established on 1st Oct 1949 after the military defeat of the Kuomintang Government, India was one of the first non-communist countries to immediately recognize it.

INDIA AND CHINA RELATIONS

- The Tibet issue disturbed the cordial neighbourly relation. India acknowledged China's suzerainty over Tibet subject to Tibet's autonomy.
- The Chinese army invaded Tibet on 7th Oct 1950.
- India stressed on peaceful negotiation of Tibet problem; china dismissed Indian interference claiming Tibet as its internal affairs.

- In 1954 they signed “India-China agreement on trade and intercourse” following China and Tibet May 1951 treaty.
- The Dalai Lama, spiritual and temporal head of the Tibetan people, required asylum in India. In March 1959, thousands of Tibetan refugees with the Dalai Lama settled in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

PANCHSHEEL AGREEMENT

- Their first formal codification in treaty form was in an agreement between China and India in 1954.
- They were enunciated in the preamble to the "Agreement (with exchange of notes) on trade and intercourse between Tibet Region of China and India", which was signed at Peking on 28 April 1954.

- The Panchsheel agreement serves as one of the most important relations built between India and China to further the economic and security cooperation.
- An underlying assumption of the Five Principles was that newly independent states after decolonization would be able to develop a new and more principled approach to international relations.

PANCHSHEEL AGREEMENT FIVE AGREEMENT

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- Mutual non-aggression.
- Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
- Equality and cooperation for mutual benefit.
- Peaceful co-existence.

- In 1954, China and India concluded the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, under which, India acknowledged Chinese rule in Tibet.
- It was at this time when former Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru promoted the slogan "*Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai*" became popular both countries.

FACTS ON THE INDO-CHINA WAR 1962

- On October 20, 1962, China's People's Liberation Army invaded India in Ladakh, and across the McMahon line in the then North-East Frontier Agency.
- Till the start of the war, the Indian side was confident that war would not be started and made little preparations.
- Thinking this, India deployed only two divisions of troops in the region of the conflict, while the Chinese troops had three regiments positioned.

- The Chinese also cut Indian telephone lines, preventing the defenders from making contact with their headquarters.
- On the first day, the Chinese infantry also launched an attack from the rear. The continued losses forced the Indian troops to escape to Bhutan.
- On October 22, the Chinese lighted a bush which caused a lot of confusion among the Indians. Some 400 Chinese troops attacked the Indian position. The initial Chinese assault was stopped by accurate Indian mortar fire.

- When the Indian army discovered that a Chinese force gathered in a pass, it opened fire with mortars and machine guns and killed about 200 Chinese soldiers.
- On October 26, a patrol from the 4th Sikhs was encircled, and after they were unable to break the encirclement, an Indian unit sneaked in and attacked the Chinese army and freed the Sikhs.
- According to China's official military history, the war achieved China's policy objectives of securing borders in its western sector.

BORDER DISPUTES

- Border disputes resulted in a short border war between the People's Republic of China and India on 20 October 1962.
- The border clash resulted in a defeat of India as the PRC pushed the Indian forces to within forty-eight kilometres of the Assam plains in the northeast.
- It also occupied strategic points in the Akasi China and Demchok regions of Ladakh, before declaring a unilateral cease-fire on 21 November. It claimed that it withdrew to twenty kilometers behind its contended line of control. India disagreed with the claim.

Nathu La and Cho La clashes

- In late 1967, there were two more conflicts between Indian and Chinese forces at their contested border, in Sikkim.
- The first conflict was dubbed the "Nathu La Incident", and the other the "Cho La Incident".
- In September 1967, Chinese and Indian forces clashed at Nathu La.
- On 11 September, Chinese troops opened fire on a detachment of Indian soldiers tasked with protecting an engineering company that was fencing the North Shoulder of Nathu La.

- This escalated over the next five days to an exchange of heavy artillery and mortar fire between the Indian and Chinese forces. Sixty-two Indian soldiers were killed.
- On 1 October 1967, some Indian and Chinese soldiers had an argument over the control of a boulder at the Chola outpost in Sikkim (then a protectorate of India), triggering a fight that escalated to a mortar and heavy machine gun duel.
- On 10 October, both sides again exchanged heavy fire. While Indian forces would sustain eighty-eight troops killed in action with another 163 troops wounded, China would suffer less casualties, with 32 killed and 91 wounded in Nathu La, as well as forty in Chola.

INDIA AND CHINA DURING 1977

- India and the PRC renewed efforts to improve relations after Indian Prime Minister Iron Lady Indira Gandhi's Congress party lost the 1977 elections to Morarji Desai's Janata Party.
- In 1978, the Indian Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a landmark visit to Beijing, and both countries officially re-established diplomatic relations in 1979.

- In 1980, Indian Prime Minister Iron Lady Indira Gandhi approved a plan to upgrade the deployment of forces around the Line of Actual Control.
- India also undertook infrastructural development in disputed areas. In 1981, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Huang Hua made a landmark visit to New Delhi.

RAJIV GANDHI'S VISIT TO CHINA IN 1988

- A warming trend in relations was facilitated by Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988.
- The two sides issued a joint communiqué that stressed the need to restore friendly relations on the basis of the Panchsheel.

- India and the People's Republic of China agreed to achieve a "fair and reasonable settlement while seeking a mutually acceptable solution" to the border dispute .
- A joint statement emphasizing the necessity to revive warm relationship, increasing bilateral ties in diversified areas and moreover, resolving the border issues and Confidence-building measures continued in 1993.
- Different meetings were held to solve the "line of actual control".

SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS 1998

- Sino-Indian relations hit a low point in 1998 following India's nuclear tests.
- In 1998, China was one of the strongest international critics of India's nuclear tests and entry into the nuclear club. During the 1999 Kargil War China voiced support for Pakistan, but also counseled Pakistan to withdraw its forces.

- In 2004, the two countries proposed opening up the Nathula and Jeleppla Passes in Sikkim. 2004 was a milestone in Sino-Indian bilateral trade, surpassing the US\$10 billion mark for the first time.
- In April 2005, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited Bangalore to push for increased Sino-Indian cooperation in high-tech industries.

- Wen stated that the 21st century will be "the Asian century of the IT industry." Regarding the issue of India gaining a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, Wen Jiabao initially seemed to support the idea, but had returned to a neutral position.
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- In the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit in 2005, China was granted an observer status.
- While other countries in the region are ready to consider China for permanent membership in the SAARC, India seemed reluctant.
- Both countries signed an agreement in 2006 to envisage ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) and the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) to placing joint bids for promising projects. In January 2008, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited China to discuss trade, commerce, defence, military, and various other issues.

- Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao paid an official visit to India from 15–17 December 2010 at the invitation of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
- He was accompanied by 400 Chinese business leaders, who wished to sign business deals with Indian companies. In April 2011, during the BRICS summit in Sanya, China.

- The two countries agreed to restore defence co-operation and China had hinted that it may reverse its policy of administering stapled visas to residents of Jammu and Kashmir.
- This practice was later stopped, and as a result, defence ties were resumed between the two countries and joint military drills were expected.

In the 2012 BRICS summit in New Delhi, India, Chinese President Hu Jintao told Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that "it is China's unswerving policy to develop Sino-Indian friendship, deepen strategic cooperation and seek common development" and "China hopes to see a peaceful, prosperous and continually developing India and is committed to building more dynamic China-India relationship".

- Other topics were discussed, including border dispute problems and a unified BRICS central bank.
- In September 2014 the relationship took a sting as troops of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) have reportedly entered two kilometres inside the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Chumar sector.

EDUCATION RELATIONS

- India and China signed Education Exchange Programme (EEP) in 2006, which is an umbrella agreement for educational cooperation between the two countries.
- Under this agreement, government scholarships are awarded to 25 students, by both sides, in recognized institutions of higher learning in each other's country.

- Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). A revised EEP was signed during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi to China in May 2015.
- The same provides for enhanced cooperation between institutions in the field of vocational education; collaboration between Institutes of higher learning.
- Apart from this, Chinese students are also annually awarded scholarships to study Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra to learn Hindi.

INDIA CHINA RELATIONS DOKLAM ISSUES

- On 18 June 2017, around 270 Indian troops, with weapons and two bulldozers, entered Doklam to stop the Chinese troops from constructing the road.
- Among other charges, China accused India of illegal intrusion into its territory, across what it called the mutually agreed China-India boundary, and violation of its territorial sovereignty and UN Charter.

- The trilateral border dispute between Bhutan, China and India ended on the 73rd day after the two major rivals India and China agreed to disengage and withdraw their troops from the disputed land.
- On 21 July 2017, the Minister of External Affairs of India Sushma Swaraj said that for dialogue, both India and China must withdraw their troops.
- However, on 28th August 2017, an official statement was released by India's Ministry of External Affairs that both countries have agreed to withdraw their troops from the area.

CONCLUSION

- China and India share a very old historical relationship.
- Throughout the first millennium, they were the centres of spiritual and religious activities.
- During The British colonisation, China had limited trade relations with India.
- In 1954 the signing of an eight year agreement on Tibet initiated India-China relationship on Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (or Panch Shila); with the slogan – ‘Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai’.

- Border disputes resulted in a short border war between the People's Republic of China and India in 20 October 1962.
- On 18 June 2017, around 270 Indian troops, with weapons and two bulldozers, entered Doklam to stop the Chinese troops from constructing the road.
- 28th August 2017, an official statement was released by India's Ministry of External Affairs that both countries have agreed to withdraw their troops from the area and present scenario India China is still stand better situation to build cordial relations.

THANK YOU !