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RESEARCH ARTICLE

AN OVERVIEW ON THE SINO - INDIA RELATION AFTER COLD WAR TO 2006

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ABSTRACT

This paper is being made on a humble attempt to throw light on the "An Overview on the Sino-India Relation after Cold War to 2006" on the basis of available sources. India and China had cultural contact right from the ancient period. It is fact that many Buddhist missionaries went to China and these Buddhist missionaries spread Buddhism in China. It is also significant to note that China learnt decimal System from the Buddhist missionaries. Many resolutions of the Indian National Congress on foreign policy were drafted by Jawaharlal Nehru before the independence of India. A few days after forming the Interim National Govt. Pandit Nehru made his first official announcement on foreign policy over All India Radio on 7th Sept 1946. In a B.B.C broad cast in 1949, P.M. J. Nehru declared that India had 2000 years of friendship with China. However Sino-Indian relations (1954-1956) differences arose over Maps. By 1957-58 the border dispute appeared to be developing between India and China. In April 1961, the Chinese intruded into Sikkim, in May into the Chusheel area of Ladak and in July into the Kamang Division of NEFA.

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INTRODUCTION

China is one of the important neighbouring countries of India. The two countries have been trying for its development in the highest level. Each and every neighbouring country of the world has co-operated each other but has some conflicts and difference on various issues and interests. India and China, are also not exception, on friendly relationships, hostility etc. on different policies and issues of their own interest, common issues or other. It is a well known fact that India and China had economic and cultural contact right from the ancient time. Many Chinese scholars like Fa-Hein, Huen Tsang, Itshing came to India which is evidence from the record of History. It is also significant to note that Buddhist missionaries in ancient days went to China and these Buddhist missionaries spread Buddhism in China and Buddhism serves as a cultural contract between these two neighboring countries. Ancient Indian literary texts as well as historians highlighted that China learnt decimal system from Buddhist missionaries who went to China in different historical periods. Friendship relations, imposition of supremacy on each other, hostility of the neighboring countries become a common phenomenon in the political history of the world and China and India, the

powerful countries in Asia of today are not excluded all these political trend and power politics. This paper makes a humble attempt to throw light on the dynamics of Sino-India relation which may be discussed as follows. China and India are the world's most populous countries and also fastest growing major economies. The resultant growth in China and India's global diplomatic and economic influence has also increased the significance of their bilateral relationship. They are the world's oldest civilizations and have coexisted in peace for millennia. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_relations#cite-note-APCSS-0) Cultural and economic relations between the two countries date back to ancient times. The Silk Road not only served as a major trade route between the two countries, but is also credited for facilitating the spread the Buddhism from India to East Asia. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_relations#cite-note-Maria-1) During the 19th century, China's growing opium trade with the British Raj triggered the Opium Wars. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_relations#cite-note-Maria-1) During World War II, they played a crucial role in halting the progress of Imperial Japan. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_relations#cite-note-Barbara-2) Relations between contemporary China and India have been characterized by border disputes, resulting in a military conflict — the Sino-Indian War of 1962. The two countries have failed to resolve their long-standing border

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dispute and Indian media outlets repeatedly report Chinese military incursions into Indian Territory. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_relations#cite-note-WSJ-6) Both nations have steadily built-up military infrastructure along border areas. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_relations#cite-note-WSJ-6) Additionally, India harbors suspicions about China's strong strategic relations with its arch-rival Pakistan (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_relations#cite-note-8) while China has expressed concerns about Indian military and economic activities in disputed South China Sea. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_relations#cite-note-9)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodology adopted of this paper is historical one based on primary and secondary sources which includes published works like books, journals, news papers etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Serious research based study on the subject concern has not yet carried out by any scholar. No doubt, some scholars have been brought to light on the theme, however still await thorough examination and treatment on the subject matter. Despite various agreements which have been signed between the two countries to solve border dispute, strengthen mutual trade relationship and take up projects, there are still frequent conflicts between the countries. Both the countries are busy to strengthen military power on the Indo-China border and at the same time they are working hard to seek the favour of the neighbouring countries. In spite of all the differences, as the two countries have been trying hard to improve bilateral relations, it is firmly believed that India and China would adopt peaceful co-existence. In this way, Sino-India can work for mutual benefit as well for the regional stability in this part of Asia.

During the eve of the pre-independence of India, Gandhiji looked its view on the freedom for both India and China. In his speech on April 29, 1945 he said, "I long for the real friendship between China and India based not on economics or politics but on irresistible attraction. Then will follow real brotherhood of man". (Tan Chung, 1998:553, Co and b & w illus., 1998:56) On Nov. 5, 1947 Gandhiji said that he considered himself as a Chinese. He again said that he lived among Chinese in South Africa and many of them were in jail with him during the passive resistance movement there. (Tan Chung, 1998:553, Co and b & w illus., 1998:56) From this point, we can understand that India regard China as brother or best friend. Sino-Indian relations began in 1950 when India broke relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan issue and recognized the People Republic of China. Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are the two North Eastern states of India which become sources of conflict between India and China since the time of Independence. In 1954, India and China signed five principalities: mutual recognition each other territorial integrity and sovereignty; non-interference in each other's internal affairs, non-aggression; equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence. These principles came to be recognised as *Pancha-Shila*. In June 1954, Chou En-Lai, Prime Minister of Communist China, visited Delhi and he was given a rousing welcome. There was a talk of India-China brotherhood commonly known as *Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai*.

(V.D. Mahajan, 1993:600; Singh Sudhir Kumar, 2011:395; *Natamgi Wapham*, 7.45 pm, AIR, Imphal, dated 24-2-2012) In the same year, India published new maps that included Aksai Chin region within the boundaries of India. But Maps published at the time of India's independence did not clearly indicate whether the region was in India or Tibet. When an Indian inspection party discovered a completed Chinese road running through the Aksai Chin region of the Ladakh District of Jammu and Kashmir, border clashes and Indian protests became more frequent and serious. (Amresh Chandran, 2011:436) In this regard, Nehru addressed a letter to the then Chinese Prime Minister in December 1958 to which the Chinese Prime minister replied that the Sino-India boundary had never been formally delimited the Chinese had the agreement that the border was based on treaty and custom and pointing out that no government in China had accepted as legal the Mc Mohan Line, which in the 1914 Shimla convention defined the eastern section of the border between India and Tibet. (Amresh Chandran, 2011:436)

In the year 1954, the NEFA, North East Frontier Agency was created. During the next decade the Sino-Indian relations was quiet normal. However, in August 1959, a strong Chinese detachment crossed into Indian territory South of Migyiteen on the NEFA border and fired on the India forewarn picket. And on that the Chinese however claimed that Longju was Chinese territory there in grave violation of China's territorial integrity. In October 20, 1962 Chinese crossed the Mc Mohan Line and attacked India with much surprise. (S. Kumar, *India's International Relations*, Maxford Books, Delhi, 2006, p.169) In 1961, war clouds began to gather over Ladakh and NEFA. In April 1961, the Chinese intruded into Sikkim, in May into the Chushul area of Ladakh and in July into the Kameng Division of NEFA. (V.D. Mahajan, *International Relations Since 1900*, 1993, New Delhi, p.603; Sudhir Kumar Singh(Ed.), *Sino-Indian Relations (Challenges and Opportunities for 21st Century)*, Pentagon Press, New Delhi, p.395; *Natamgi Wapham*, 7.45 pm, AIR, Imphal, dated 24-2-2012) But, China announced cease fire on 21 November, 1962 and decided to withdraw some control existing between India and China. And Indian prisoners of war were returned in 1963. The war has terminated the barter trade with Tibet, although in 2007 the State government has given signals to resume barter trade with Tibet. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arunachal_Pradesh#cite-note-15) Both Chinese and Indian sources still have dispute of the cause which led to the 1962 war. The war also gave a serious threat to India's policy of Non-Alignment.

Six non-aligned nations namely; Egypt, Burma, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Ghana and Indonesia met in Colombo and Colombo proposal endorsed on December 10, 1962. The proposals negotiated between Zhou Enlai and Nehru, stipulated Chinese withdrawal of 20 km from the traditional customary lines as claimed by China, without any corresponding withdrawal on the Indian side. From the year 1962 India-China relation confined to be tense and hostile. China made friendly relation with Pakistan. As in early 1970's as Sino-Pakistani relations improved and Sino-Soviet relation worsened. The People Republic of China (PRC) backed Pakistan in its 1965 war with India. (Amresh Chandran, 2011:436) During the Indo-Pak war in 1965 China and United States gave full support on Pakistan. And on the one side India signed its treaty of peace and friendly Co-operation with Soviet Union. (S. Kumar,

2006:169) After the signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty in August 1971, the Soviet Union came into the picture and the Chinese reactions to the Soviet and India involvement in the Bangladesh issue became sharper. Moreover during the war between India and Pakistan in December 1971, the PRC had replaced the Republic of China in the United Nations where its representative denounced India as being a 'tool of Soviet expansionism'. In the year 1971, the Bangladesh crisis was in favour of Pakistan. The third Indo-Pakistan War saw the dismemberment of Chinese's close friend, Pakistan. This new development in South Asia had tilted the balance of power in favour of India and unsettled Chinese diplomacy and took away the gains that China reaped in the Indo-Chinese War of 1962. (K.A Babu & Sajit Kumar, 2010:802)

The nuclear test in 1974 conducted by India introduced a new element in the relations between India and China. Although China did not openly condemn India's nuclear test, she did not approve it either. In 1975 also China criticized on the accession of Sikkim to India. In February 1979, a Chinese good will mission visited India and Atal Bihari Vajpayee the then Indian foreign minister visited to Peking, China on an exploratory mission with a view to further normalization of the bilateral relations but the Chinese invasion of Vietnam while Vajpayee was still in China, caused a serious setback to Indian efforts towards normalization. India openly condemned the military action of China against Vietnam. However, since late 1980s, both countries have successfully attempted to reignite diplomatic and economic ties. There was talk between the two countries in different aspects. During the eve of 1988-1989 Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988 was also symbolic in the sense that India accepted the Chinese viewpoint of broadening exchange in other areas without making these developments contingent on the resolution of the border issue. He was successful in melting the ice in Indo-China relations. (Peu Ghosh, 2009:372) A warming trend in relations was facilitated by Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988. The two countries agreed to set up a joint working group to settle the boundary issue. In 1989, Chinese Vice-Premier Win Xuequian visited India. Both sides issued a joint communiqué that stressed the need to restore friendly relations on the basis of the *Panchshila* and noted the importance of the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to China since Nehru's 1954 visit. Sino-India has agreed to broaden bilateral ties in various areas, working to achieve a "fair and reasonable settlement while seeking a mutually acceptable solution" to the border dispute. (S. Kumar, 2006:170-171)

During the V.P. Singh Government (1989-1990), India's relationship with the other superpower, viz. the United States, began to show improvement and financial assistance from world agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased, which helped India to tide over the economic crisis caused by the First Gulf War. The National Front Government did not deviate with China from the course set by Rajiv Gandhi and made efforts to maintain cordial relationship. (Peu Ghosh, *International Relations*, 2009, New Delhi, Pp.373-374) The collapse of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the dismemberment of the Soviet Union substantially changed the world order and a new Post-Cold War order emerged. India's foreign policy had to be formulated keeping these changes in mind. The relation between India and China is mainly begun to get normalized by

the visit of external Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh in 1991. In 1992 Indian President R. Venkataraman visited China and discussed for the improvement of bilateral relations. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Chinese Premier Li Peng signed the border agreement and three other agreements on cross-border trade and on increased cooperation on the environment and in radio and television broadcasting during the former's visit to Beijing in September, 1993. (S. Kumar, 2006:172)

While the position so far has been that India would seek China vacating at least 3,000 out of 36,000 Sq. Km. occupied in *Ladakh* sector. (*India – Chinagi chahi 30 shuraba Ngamkheigi Wari*, in Sangai Express Manipuri (edition), dated 15 March 2012; *Matamgi Wapham*, 7.45 pm, AIR Imphal dated 24-2-2012) On other hand, China would get concession in some of the areas of Arunachal Pradesh particularly in *Asaphi-la*, *Thang-la*, *Namkha-chu*, *Sumdrong-chu*, and *Chen-ju*. But, Chinese criticism despite having a more or less define Line of Actual Control (LAC) since 1996, and its claim not only *Tawang* but also the whole Arunachal Pradesh are rather sphinx-like. (N. Surjit Kumar, 2011:53). The importance of paying adequate attention to India and China's concerns on the issue affecting unity, territorial integrity and security was underlined in the discussion with the visit of Chinese president Jiang Zemin in New Delhi. Both sides have reached an agreement to work out detailed of force reduction and limitation along the LAC and put into place additional confidence measure. Discussions of these issues were held within the framework of the Indo-China Joint working group (October 1996, Beijing) and India expert Group (3-5 March 1997, New Delhi). It also agreed to impart a much greater technological content to bilateral relations. (S. Kumar, 2006:174)

In May-June, 1999, on the eve of the India N-tests, in fact, Defence Minister George Fernandez described China as Indian number one enemy. The security threat resulting from nuclear China, aiding the progress of Pakistan as an, N-weapon state with a missile development programme, were described as the reasons compelling India to go in for N-tests and N-weapons. China strongly criticized India's 'Anti-China' policy and condemned the Indian N-tests as the harbingers of a nuclear arms race in South Asia. In June, 1999, Mr. Jaswant Singh, the foreign minister of India, visited Beijing and conducted useful and productive talks with his Chinese counterpart. (U.R. Ghai, 1988:76). In 2000, A.P. CM Mikut Mithi accused China of violating the LAC and crossing into Indian Territory. Mithi said, Chinese-built mule tracks had been discovered by Indian soldiers near the Kayela Pass in the state's Dibang Valley District, bordering Tibet. They come in the guise of hunters cross the LAC and at times even claim that parts of Arunachal belong to them. (Singh Sudhir Kumar, 2011:6-7). A gradual re-engagement of Indian and Chinese diplomacy was marked by the visit of Indian President K.R Narayanan to China in 2000. In a major discomfiture for China, the 17th Karmapa, Urgyen Trinley Dorje, who was proclaimed by China, made a dramatic escape from Tibet to the Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim. In the same year 2000, India and China celebrated the 50th anniversary for establishing diplomatic relation between the two countries. Li Peng, the chairman visited to India in January 2001 and discussed with Indian leaders on various issues. And in the year 2002, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji reciprocated by visiting India, with a focus on economic issues. The year 2003 is marked as improvement in Sino-

Indian relation following the then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's landmark visit to China in ten years to strengthen bilateral relations. China officially recognized Indian sovereignty over Sikkim as the two nations moved toward resolving their border disputes. Vajpayee's visit to China has been successful for India. In the year 2004, for the first time, there was a milestone in Sino-India bilateral trade. And it was passing \$10 billion mark for trade relation for the first time (Amresh Chandran, 2011:438).

The Chinese handed over to Indian officials their official maps showing Sikkim as an Indian state. It was only in 2004 that China finally ceased treating Sikkim as an "independent nation annexed by India". (VN Khana, 2007:137). P.M. Vajpayee's remarks that hardware expertise (China) and Software expertise can pool to secure high level mutual benefits in the fast developing IT Sector was designed to promote Sino-India relationship. India and China can and will have to settle their differences themselves, bilaterally and peacefully. There is no other way. This must serve as the guiding principle for the future development of Sino-India relations. (U.R. Ghai, 1988:259-260). Both committed themselves to the objective of nuclear disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons by all the countries. From May 2004 Manmohan Singh Government committed itself to process of normalization between the two countries. (VN Khana, 2007:138). The first stage of talks on border issue seen by officials as the least complicated, involved agreeing to political parameters, and was concluded in 2005, with an agreement signed during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India. On July 6, 2006, China and India were re-opening Nathu La Pass, an ancient trade route through the Himalayas which was once part of the Silk Road. (AIR North East news (Shillong) at 8.20 am dated 22-5-2012.) This pass had been closed since the Sino-Indian war in 1962. In November 2006, China and India had a verbal spat over the claim of the north-east Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. India claimed that China was occupying 38,000 square kilometers of its territory in Kashmir, and China claimed the whole of Arunachal Pradesh as its own.

Conclusion

To conclude, one can say that India-China still has serious differences to be resolved even though both countries are trying hard to improve its bilateral relation. *India and China had cultural contact right from the ancient period. It is fact that many Buddhist missionaries went to China and these Buddhist missionaries spread Buddhism in China. It is also significant to note that China learnt decimal System from the Buddhist missionaries. Many resolutions of the Indian National Congress on foreign policy were drafted by Jawaharlal Nehru before the independence of India. A few days after forming the Interim National Govt. Pandit Nehru made his first official announcement on foreign policy over All India Radio on 7th Sept 1946. In a B.B.C broad cast in 1949, P.M. J. Nehru declared that India had 2000 years of friendship with China. The modern age is an age of international Co-operation and inter-dependence of the states. Hu Jintao, the President of China visited India in Nov 2006 at the invitation of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the president of India.*

The two countries also welcome the organization of car rally between Kolkata via Bangladesh and Myanmar. From May 2004 Manmohan Singh Government committed itself to process of normalization between the two countries. Despite various agreements which have been signed between the two countries to solve border dispute, strengthen mutual trade relationship and take up projects, there are still frequent conflicts between the countries. Both the countries are busy to strengthen military power on the Indo-China border and at the same time they are working hard to seek the favour of the neighbouring countries. In spite of all the differences, as the two countries have been trying hard to improve bilateral relations, it is firmly believed that India and China would adopt peaceful co-existence. In this way, Sino-India can work for mutual benefit as well for the regional stability in this part of Asia.

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