

Indian Foreign Policy Towards China Post-2014 Opportunities and Challenges

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Abstract

Objectives: This study aims to analyze the changes in Indian foreign policy towards China since 2014 and to assess the potential opportunities and challenges arising from these changes.

Methods: The research employs a qualitative methodology by reviewing academic literature to build an understanding of the historical relationship between India and China. This review aims to elucidate the development of their relationship before 2014, focusing on significant events that have defined their complex bilateral ties.

Results: The results indicate that Indian foreign policy towards China has undergone a significant shift since 2014, moving towards a more competitive relationship. This shift is characterized as a process of managing ongoing tensions while simultaneously seeking engagement in areas of mutual interest. This approach aims to enhance stability and develop economic links between the two countries.

Conclusions: The study concludes that the adjustment in Indian foreign policy since 2014 represents a strategic redirection in dealing with China. This adjustment seeks to balance competitive dynamics with engagement in areas of mutual benefit, indicating a complex yet pragmatic approach to handling the multifaceted challenges and opportunities within the India-China relationship. The analyses provide insightful perspectives on the trajectory of this critical bilateral relationship in the future, suggesting that it will continue to evolve under the dual strategies of competition and cooperation.

Keywords: India-China relations, Geopolitical status, India-China borders, Shifting in 2014.

السياسة الخارجية الهندية تجاه الصين بعد عام 2014: الفرص والتحديات

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ملخص

الأهداف: تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل التغيرات في السياسة الخارجية الهندية تجاه الصين منذ عام 2014 وتقييم الفرص والتحديات المحتملة الناتجة عن هذه التغيرات.

المنهجية: يستخدم البحث منهجية نوعية، من خلال مراجعة الأدبيات الأكاديمية لبناء فهم للعلاقة التاريخية بين الهند والصين. هذه المراجعة تهدف إلى توضيح تطور علاقتهما قبل عام 2014، مع التركيز على الأحداث المهمة التي حددت روابطهما الثنائية المعقدة.

النتائج: تشير النتائج إلى أن السياسة الخارجية الهندية تجاه الصين قد شهدت تحولاً كبيراً منذ عام 2014، متجهة نحو علاقة تنافسية أكثر. يُعبر عن هذا التحول بأنه عملية إدارة التوترات المستمرة مع السعي في الوقت نفسه للتفاعل في مجالات الاهتمام المشترك. هذا النهج يهدف إلى تعزيز الاستقرار وتطوير الروابط الاقتصادية بين البلدين.

الخلاصة: تخلص الدراسة إلى أن تعديل السياسة الخارجية الهندية منذ عام 2014 يمثل إعادة توجيه استراتيجي في التعامل مع الصين. يسعى هذا التعديل إلى موازنة الديناميكيات التنافسية مع التفاعل في مجالات ذات فائدة متبادلة، مما يشير إلى نهج معقد، ولكن عملي للتعامل مع التحديات والفرص المتعددة الأوجه ضمن العلاقة بين الهند والصين. توفر التحليلات رؤى ثاقبة لمسار هذه العلاقة الثنائية الحاسمة في المستقبل، مما يشير إلى أنها ستستمر في التطور تحت استراتيجيتين مزدوجتين هما التنافس والتعاون.

الكلمات الدالة: العلاقات الهندية الصينية، الوضع الجيوسياسي، الحدود الهندية الصينية، التحول في عام 2014.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

India and China, two Asian giants, have a complex relationship that includes cooperation, conflict, and competition, as well as shared interests (Chen, 2023). India-China relations have been historically defined by territorial disputes and suspicions, as well sensitive issues like Tibet and the Dalai Lama (Denisov et al., 2020). Therefore, it is vital that both countries consider their relationship in a global and regional perspective rather than just focusing on historical events.

Current research focus on the stages of these two countries' relationship, from various economic and trade aspects, as well focuses on the political side, especially by the Indian side towards China, after 2014.

1.1 Contextual Background of India-China Relations:

Since the inception of diplomatic relations between China and India, border disputes between them has been one of their central points (Maxwell 2011). They have managed to address and resolve their differences through many discussions and meetings held over time. However, significant disagreements exist on some key issues, including history, size and ownership of certain territories (Elhefnawy et. al. 2022). Furthermore, conflicts extend into areas like Tibet-related issues; which has contributed to strain between India and China as both parties find it hard to reach agreement about solutions (Chen, 2023), despite China's success at mediating disputes with most of their neighboring states , including twelve out of fourteen of its neighboring countries, according to Hagger et. al (2020). Sino-Indian relations have become further compromised by these unresolved matters between India and Bhutan(Saputri et al., 2020). Furthermore geographical composition of disputed area, both nations have held onto longstanding border disputes that cause constantly tensions to exist between them (Ganguly, 2018).

1.2 The Shift in 2014: Political and Geopolitical Changes

India and China's relationship is marked by increasing economic and diplomatic competition, and border tensions (Verrekia 2017).As well geopolitical and political dynamics between India and China changed significantly in 2014, for many reasons :

First of all, With Narendra Modi as prime minister in India in 2014 came changes in foreign policy as well as an intensified emphasis on India's global presence. Modi led India to adopt an more assertive stance toward China regarding economic competition and border disputes, evidenced by increased high-level engagements between them that demonstrated this shift (Chen 2023).

Because of that, it made strenuous efforts to enhance relations with nations such as Japan and the U.S. that had had poor interactions with China (Teja 2014).it's strategic alliances with these powers were instrumental in fortifying India against China, leading to changes in attitudes (Ganguly 2018).

Another reason of this type of relation was, the India alarmed at China's assertive behavior in the South China Sea and their alignment with their rival that was increasingly (Pardesi 2021), prompting India to change its attitude toward them, sparking friction in their rivalry (Pardesi 2021). These events have created new friction within Sino Indian rivalries (Elhefnawy el., 2022).

Furthermore, their relations continue to be embittered due to successive peace management initiatives initiated by Chinese leaders and Indian officials without concrete conflict resolution measures (Saputri et. al,2020).

India and China need to come together as rising powers , by settling territorial disputes, closing psychological gaps between societies, accelerating democratization in China and realigning bilateral relationships - something which happened with unprecedented speed during 2014!

The shift that happened between them was significant indeed, As India adopted an aggressive posture toward China due to geopolitical concerns and their desire for global dominance (Pardesi 2021).

1.3 Study Objectives :

To analyses changes in India's foreign policy towards China since 2014, focusing on opportunities and challenges. The following objectives have been determined:

- 1.Determine the factors have changed India's foreign policy towards China after 2014
- 2.Determine the Strategic Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy Post-2014

3. Determine the challenges that did India face in dealing with China Post-2014

1.4 Study Questions:

By analysing the main objectives of the study, we can deduce the following research questions that the study seeks to answer:

1. What are the factors that have changed India's foreign policy towards China after 2014?
2. What are the Strategic Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy Post-2014?
3. What are the challenges that did India face in dealing with China Post-2014?

1.5 Study Importance:

The importance of this study lies in several aspects:

1. Understanding the evolution of India-China relations: The study provides a comprehensive analysis of the changes in India's foreign policy towards China since 2014, which helps in understanding the dynamics of the relationship between these two major Asian powers and how it has evolved over time.

2. Highlighting the influencing factors: Almost all officials also enumerated the values that brought about changing the principles of Indian foreign policy toward China. The study reveals that the main driving factors behind changes in Indian foreign policy are political and geopolitical and correlate with the new leadership.

3. Analysis of Strategic Dimensions: In sum, the analysis of the strategic dimensions of India's foreign policy after 2014, including defence and security, economic and trade policies, and diplomatic and regional strategies, as well as India's holistic approach to China has been discussed.

4. Identifying Challenges and Opportunities: In conclusion, the research paper reveals the main challenges of India's activities with China since 2014 – border disputes, economic competition, and geopolitical tension. At the same time, it explores the prospects of cooperation and partnership aspects. This could provide an axis to evaluate what is currently and potentially possible with India-China relations.

5. Implications for politics and international relations: Given the importance of India and China as major emerging powers, understanding the dynamics of their relationship has important implications for regional politics and the international system. The study's insights can provide valuable information for policymakers, diplomats, and scholars interested in Asia and international relations.

6. Contribution to scholarly studies: The current study contributes to academic knowledge by exploring India-China relations and foreign policy in the post-2014 period. This work could be beneficial to academics and students with an interest in India-China relations. In conclusion, the current study is a useful academic resource due to its multi-perspective approach. It appropriately interprets changes in Indian foreign policy towards China from several perspectives, highlighting drivers, vectors, strategic dimensions, bottlenecks, and windows of opportunity. This study adds complexity to our understanding of India and China and provides critical assumptions for further research and policymaking.

1.6 This study differs from previous studies in several ways:

Focusing on the post-2014 period: AS mentioned earlier, this study focused specifically on Indian foreign policy towards China changes since 2014. In this case, the research presents an up-to-date and contemporary analysis, since older studies may not offer details on the period in question.

Comprehensive and multidimensional approach: This research involves an encompassing perspective, which includes political, geopolitical, economic, diplomatic, and security. It considers the various strategic elements of the Indian foreign relationship on multiple levels. These factors are rendered in an optimal way rather than in their lone isolation.

Analyze key influencing factors and events: Overall, the study identifies and analyses a unique set of the prevailing factors that have driven India's public policy change against China, including political and geopolitical change and leadership. Various events and confrontations are also described to supply the one with the context within which such alterations could be better understood.

Discussion of both challenges and opportunities: This study not only focuses on the challenges and conflicts in India-China relations, but also explores potential opportunities for cooperation and constructive engagement. This balanced

approach provides a more complete view of the complex dynamics involved in the relationship.

Implications for policy and research: The study has several implications for policymakers, diplomats, and researchers. It is especially relevant in drawing the connection between shifts in Indian foreign policy and the broader geopolitical environment. As a result, this research could be crucial in making an informed decision and analysis in future policymaking, diplomacy, and academic research. In conclusion, this study is unique in its case design, timing, thorough and comprehensive approach, and analysis of the influencing factors and events. By providing a well-balanced analysis of the challenges and the opportunities, as well as its implications for policy and research, the study introduced new insights and has the potential of contributing to increased knowledge of the India-China relations and foreign policymaking of post-2014 era.

1.7 Study limitations:

1.7.1 Temporal limitations:

While the study mainly concerns a period from 2014, with a special attention to the changes in India's foreign policy towards China since the appointment of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014, it also offers a brief overview of the history of India's relations with China before 2014 to provide the necessary context and background for the change. Overall, the study considers the following key developments and events in India-China's relations. Key events and disputes that have shaped the relationship over the years, such as the 1962 war and ongoing border disputes, are highlighted.

1.7.2 Spatial limitations:

The study focuses primarily on bilateral relations between India and China, with an emphasis on India's foreign policy towards China. Thus, its geographical scope mainly encompasses these two countries.

However, given the geopolitical importance of India and China and their impact on the region, the study also takes into account the broader regional context. India's interactions with other countries in the region, such as Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh, are analysed in the context of its relationship with China. The influence of external powers, such as the United States, on the dynamics of India-China relations is also explored.

In addition, as the study addresses the diplomatic and economic dimensions of India's foreign policy, it also refers to India's participation in multilateral forums and regional initiatives, broadening its geographical scope to some extent.

1.8 Study Methodology:

The researcher followed a qualitative methodology involving a literature review, analysing key events and developments, examining different strategic dimensions, identifying challenges and opportunities, and synthesising the findings to draw conclusions about the evolution of Indian foreign policy towards China after 2014. This methodology allowed for a comprehensive and multifaceted analysis of the topic.

2.0 Background of the study:

2.1 Historical Overview of India-China Relations:

India and China share an intricate relationship characterized by collaboration as well as rivalry (Maxwell 2011). Their deep historical ties date back centuries; yet, both nations also possess many experiences of tension-filled episodes between themselves. The Sino-Indian War in 1962 caused major obstacles. Although diplomatic relations were restored between both nations in 1976, border disputes still exist unresolved and mutual suspicion remains (Ganguly, 2018).

Both are also competing to dominate Asia despite diverging interests and ambitions. cultural exchanges, economic ties and geopolitical considerations as well as differences in governance ideologies and contentious issues such as territorial disputes which are some of the determinants in India and China's relationship (Hagger et al., 2020).

Both nations recognize the necessity for collaboration on various fronts, such as trade, economics, and regional security. There is no inherent opposition between them; Although friction may arise as both nations pursue different development paths, both countries face similar challenges which present opportunities for mutually advantageous collaboration to strengthen regional and global stability (Deepak, 2020).

2.1.1 Pre-2014 Diplomatic and Economic Relations:

Before 2014, relations between India & China were marked both by conflict and cooperation (Hagger et al 2020). There were high-level engagements and visits between them during this period; one example being visits from both Prime ministers the Indian PM visiting Beijing Premier in 1995 (Wang, 1995) intended to foster bilateral ties in areas including technology, culture, politics trade & commerce; however there were significant challenges which undermined that potential. Unresolved territorial/border disputes often created tensions (Hamood, A. S.2023).

Prior to 2014, economic ties between India and China played a pivotal role in their bilateral ties. Trade between them flourished significantly during this time; China eventually becoming India's primary trading partner after surpassing America as its most significant trading partner(Singh 2001). Additionally, concerns were voiced regarding unfair trading practices including Chinese goods being dumped onto Indian markets for sale at below market rates as well as limited market access for Indian businesses in China.

Before 2014 diplomatic and economic relationships between India and China had an uncertain balance of conflict and cooperation (Saroha and Poudiougo 2020), Both of them recognize the value of strong trade and investment relations , which were played an essential part of India-China relationships; thus they strived to strengthen them (Elhefnawy et al, 2022). Despite of that type of engagement however, its effects did not fully address territorial and political conflicts between their two nations (Munir et. al. 2018).

2.1.2 Key Historical Events and Disputes:

2 Key Historical Events and Disputes:

India and China share an entangled history that is both turbulent and cooperative (Munir et al, 2018). For instance:

- 1) Buddhism's spread from India to China enabled cultural exchange.
- 2) The Sino-Indian War of 1962 marked yet critical turning point between both nations and caused great strain in their relations (Saroha & Poudiougo 2020).
- 3) India and China remain at odds over their respective claims to Aksai-Chin and Arunachal Pradesh regions (Kaura 2020).
- 4) The Doklam standoff of 2017 and Galwan Valley clash of 2020 have further complicated bilateral relations between India & China (Chen 2023).
- 5) Furthermore, Dalai Lama's asylum and Tibet's status have contributed to further strain between them (Zhu 2021).

These occurrences and the phases both nations have gone through have played a significant role in fostering continuous crises and perpetual rivalry between them.

2.2 The 2014 Turning Point:

2.2.1 Analysis of the Political Landscape in 2014:

India and China, two of the two most populous nations worldwide, had shared complex relationships due to historical, cultural, and geopolitical considerations (Saputri et al 2020). Prior to Modi taking power, and until Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won India's national elections in May 2014, India had already gained significant economic strength and international clout due to rapid economic expansion and increasing influence (Huidrom et al.2019).

At the period of the new government , there was the prospect of an altered relationship between India and China under Prime Minister Modi, both countries seeking to increase regional and global reach focusing on infrastructure development, trade agreements and economic expansion (Saputri et al 2020). Moreover, Modi's leadership was expected to result in a more assertive foreign policy approach, particularly towards China's growing dominance in this region.

Since Modi was elected, India's influence has been challenged by China's increasing presence and investment in countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh (Jaleel et al. 2019).

The 2014 political landscape has provided the stage for the evolution of a very complex relationship between India, China and regional dynamics. It has represented the transition from one to different phases, and as such, understanding geopolitical changes and diplomatic maneuvering between the two Asian giants is crucial (Verrekia 2017).

As India and China increased in geopolitical importance in 2014, several significant events played out to further define

their bilateral relationship. For example, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took an aggressive stance with regard to his outreach initiatives towards nearby nations like Japan and the U.S. China closely monitored this move which ultimately changed regional dynamics (Ganguly 2018). Border disputes continued as an obstacle that threatened bilateral relationships; both nations faced the difficult challenge of reconciling different interests while seeking strategic and economic objectives (Njeru 2020)

2.2.2 The factors which have changed India's foreign policy towards China after 2014:

Early in India's independence, its foreign affairs were marked by active engagement. India played a leading role in various international organizations and regimes. Since 2014 however, India's policy towards China has been affected by various factors. There has been mounting concern over China's increasing assertiveness, especially regarding territorial disputes and border incursions. India has responded by adopting a more strategic and cautious foreign policy towards China. India's expanding economic and military capabilities have had a substantial effect on its foreign policy towards China. India has become more assertive as it strives to consolidate its regional power, in an attempt to reduce China's influence (Jha, 2017).

Indian foreign policies towards China have also been altered by shifting geopolitical dynamics. This phenomenon can particularly be observed with respect to its relationship with the US as well as other regional powers; India's growing strategic alliances and partnerships have given her confidence and support for an independent approach toward China (Pardesi, 2021).

India's policy towards China has also been affected by internal factors, including public opinion or political considerations in India itself. India's government must balance public sentiment against political imperatives which often prompt it towards taking an aggressive stance towards China (Jha 2017). India has also come to regard China as its primary strategic rival since the U.S. proposed their "Indo-Pacific Strategy" in 2017 (Pardesi 202).

Since 2014, India's foreign policies toward China have undergone dramatic transformation. These modifications reflect shifting regional dynamics, domestic concerns and shifting global alignments; as well as more proactive approach by India towards countering China's influence in its region (Chen 2023).

3.0 Strategic Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy Post-2014

3.1 Defense and Security Policies:

Since 2014, India's foreign and defense policies have undergone substantial alteration under Narendra Modim, They have undergone profound shifts under his guidance. Post-2014, its foreign policies marked by strengthening strategic ties to countries like the US and Japan while cooperating on defense matters together (Hall 2015). One such action taken by India to align strategically with US in Indo-Pacific region was signing of Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement in 2016, which allows both countries to utilize each others military bases for replenishment and refuelling purposes, This move signified their strategic alignmen, as well established closer defence cooperation among India, United States and Japan

India prioritizes maritime security, actively engaging in regional and global initiatives and supporting efforts that seek to eliminate terrorist activities (Saputri & others, 2020). One such effort involves deeper engagement with ASEAN and East Asian nations through initiatives like its "Act East policy", which highlights security cooperation, maritime security cooperation and defense ties between these nations and India; that is reflecting India's increasing role in shaping regional security architecture (Ishibashi 2017). India is making efforts to enhance its defense capabilities and increase domestic production so as to lessen dependence on foreign imports (Verrekia 2017).

At the same time, India's defence diplomacy includes joint military exercises with numerous countries - Japan, Australia and France are among them - which not only strengthen India's military capability but also form lasting regional and international security alliances. India's defence and security policies since 2014 reflect its efforts at shaping regional and global security dynamics while protecting national interests. India has made strides to increase border security measures as part of their counterterrorism measures (Schottli& Pauli 2014), where it has strengthened its defense ties to key strategic allies such as Israel and Russia by signing agreements, such as those to acquire advanced technology or equipment from

these nations, that demonstrate its dedication to strengthening its defense capabilities.

India's post-2014 foreign policy represents an assertive and proactive stance toward security and defense, driven by its desire to safeguard national interests while upholding regional stability, as well as it has demonstrated its intention of strengthening defense and security co-operation between global partners as well as shaping regional security dynamics for improved protection of national interests (Kanwal 2000).

3.2 Economic and Trade Policies:

India has highlighted economic and trading policies since 2014 to foster global partnerships, strengthen India's position internationally, and improve economic diplomacy (Chatterjee 2020). Their focus has been to enhance economic diplomacy through trade negotiations, promotion of investment opportunities and facilitation of business deals (Chatterjee 2020). India also pursued regional integration through initiatives like South Asian Free Trade Area and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. (Zhu, et al. 2021).

India has worked to diversify, lowering reliance on any one market and strengthening economic relationships across Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. India has, for example, significantly intensified its trade relationship with Angola – India is now Angola's second largest trading partner in Southern Africa (Iqbal and others 2023). Moreover, India has worked to increase its foreign direct investment (FDI) by easing economic reforms and procedures for better business.

Their post-2014 foreign policy has focused heavily on economic and trading policies designed to build global partnerships and elevate India's global standing.

India has placed significant focus since 2014 on exploiting economic policies and trade policies to enhance its global standing and foster beneficial relations with nations around the globe. This approach fits perfectly into India's vision to become a leading player in global economy; consequently, it has had far reaching implications on their foreign policy priorities (Ishibashi 2017).

For example, Make in India:

The initiative might be effective if the government supports businesses and creates a more favourable business environment. Indeed, the expression as part of its strategy to boost domestic manufacturing and attract foreign investment was used by (Hamood, 2019), when he stated that May 2014, the Indian government had launched the Make in India initiative in June 2019. The plan is to do just that: transform India into a global manufacturing hub by:

1. Simplifying regulations and improving the business environment to make it easier to do business.
2. Providing incentives for local and foreign companies to invest in the manufacturing sector.
3. Promoting India as an attractive destination for overseas investment.
4. Developing infrastructure and skills to support industrial growth.

The initiative has been successful in promoting large foreign investment in the country and in broadening the horizons of global clubs such as Apple, Samsung, and Foxconn, which made it possible to see India as a global manufacturing hub. It has played a vital role in improving economic and trade relations between India and the investor company (Hamood, 2023).

Through this policy, India has taken advantage of economic power as a large market, attracted investment and enhanced its position on the global map. India has achieved its goal of becoming a trade and industry major player. India has emerged as a major player in foreign policy and other countries.

3.3 Diplomatic and Regional Strategies:

Diplomatically, by terms of its outreach India has been participating in multilateral forums like the BRICS, G20 and the SCO, a testimony to its commitment to international cooperation and economic development.(Aryal and Bharti 2023). Besides multilateral forums, India has also prioritized bilateral diplomacy, particularly with major powers such as the United States, Russia and Japan, which has been instrumental in advancing New Delhi's strategic interests and strengthening regional security(Almatatovna 2020).Regionally, – much like Prime Minister Oli's 'neighbors first' policy – India has been following a 'Neighborhood First' policy, seeking closer partnerships with countries in South Asia, inaugurating the South Asian Satellite, peddling its development partnerships and enhancing connectivity with the countries

in the region, often with projects related to the International North-South Transport Corridor (Jha 2017). Much like the Central Asian countries, Moreover, India has reached out to the countries in the Indian Ocean region, cementing both security and economic partnerships with the countries in the region to balance the influence of the major powers. In addition to that, the Indian government has also emphasized its 'Act East' policy and deepening engagement with the countries in Southeast Asia (Mazumdar 2021).

In conclusion, India's post-2014 foreign policy has combined diplomatic and regional engagement in an effort to promote its strategic interests and contribute to global security and prosperity.

4.0 challenges did India face in dealing with China:

After 2014, India faced many difficulties when engaging with China:

1. China expanded military expansion and infrastructure construction along the Line of Actual Control with impressive military expansion and infrastructure construction along its border regions, including roads and air bases that gave China an "edge over India" when dealing with disputes over territories such as Doklam or Galwan Valley (Pant & Joshi 2019).

2. China's Belt and Road Initiative BRI - China expanded its influence across India's surrounding nations like Nepal and Bangladesh through the BRI, seen by Chellaney (2017) as an attempt by Beijing "to strategically circle India". Additionally, sovereignty burdens and debt burdens of these nations became a concern (Chaudhury 2021).

3. India's trade balance with China "shattered" after 2014 as Indian domestic industries struggled with cheap Chinese imports flooding the market (Acharya 2019). As such, their trade equilibrium suffered.

4. China was responsible for blocking India's NSG bid repeatedly, impeding India's attempts at accessing critical nuclear technologies (Pant & Super 2019). It has considered this act as nontransparent behavior against India especially after India supported China's bid in 2004 (Tellis 2020).

4. China blocked India's effort to list terrorists based in Pakistan at the UN Security Council, as well. Tensions were further escalated by any statements or positions taken by China that appeared supportive of Pakistan in Kashmir, especially regarding their economic corridor project (CPEC) passing through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir as this became a "flashpoint" (Markey & West 2016).

India was forced to manage an imbalanced power relationship between itself and China that manifested as limited influence over Chinese issues in all these areas due to an extremely power imbalance, making managing relations an uphill struggle in spite of "growing strategic distrust" (Jaishankar 2015).

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Indian Foreign Policy Towards China Post-2014

The India-China relationship, particularly post-2014, has been complex and multifaceted, reflecting a mix of cooperation, competition, and conflict. Since 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's foreign policy towards China has navigated through a series of strategic and tactical shifts, addressing both economic engagements and border disputes.

Post-2014, India's foreign policy towards China has been characterized by a pragmatic approach that seeks to engage China on economic fronts while simultaneously addressing security concerns through strategic alliances and enhancing domestic capabilities. Both countries obviously have a history of warfare and an inability to compromise on anything else. The relationship does seem to be somewhat overrated, especially considering how fragile it is. India is simply attempting to live next to an increasingly powerful and assertive neighbour, and this is the definition of an intense international environment.

5.2 Reflection on the Evolution of India-China Relations

In this critical period, several developments have influenced the Sino-Indian relationship. The following are some of the salient aspects/ occurrences that have broadly shaped India's approach to China since 2014.

India's approach to China in its foreign policy post-2014 is a blend of competition and collaboration. This is shaped by geopolitical dynamics, border disputes, economic considerations, and global positioning. The period has seen significant developments that have influenced the two country relations between Asia. Here is an outline of the key aspects and events which have defined India's attitude towards China since 2014:

Economic Engagement and Rivalry: India and China have boosted trade and economic cooperation, with China now emerging as one of India's largest trading partner. However, this relationship also contains an obvious bias in the direction of trade that has become worry for India. Both countries hope to attract international investment and extend their power in global markets. Pushing and pulling back one another at the same time, this trend sometimes emerges as co-operation and also competition in partnership.

Border Tensions and Standoffs: A source of constant the Border Dispute between India and China lead to The Doklam standoff in 2017 and the Galwan Valley clash in 2020, including such incidents, have given India a fresh look at its military posture and strategies along the border, with greater emphasis on enhancing defense capabilities infrastructure in these regions Nonetheless.

Diplomatic Engagements and Conflicts: However, despite the antagonism both countries have subjected themselves to high-level diplomacy works, as a seeking to stop them from developing into bigger wars. In those engagements they have sought peaceful resolutions to their territorial border disputes and tranquillity for the area.

Global Governance and Multilateral Forums: On the global stage, China and India worked together in such forums as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for the common good: climate change, economic development, and regional security to name just three of these concerns. But still they found themselves opposed in global debates in opposite groups, an expression of their competing yearnings for global leadership.

Technological and Infrastructural Competition: In their struggle to surpass each other, China and India compete not only in military terms but also with construction projects and technology. Such competition plays out through China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as well India's own connectivity projects for the region—although whether or not those steps achieve this goal is yet unknown.

In summary, while Sino-Indian relations have deepened economically since 2014, Indian foreign policy toward China also has to navigate other currents of competition co-operation and even conflict. Strategic concerns and land disputes cause New Delhi to tread cautiously, trying to balance between growth and security, autonomy from others on the one hand whilst ordering strategic ties with countries like the United States which are partners in achieving these aims.

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Conflict of Interest

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