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## Developments in Indo-China cooperation in hostility: An analysis of relations in hydrological data sharing and climate change

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### Abstract

This paper aims to examine Indo-China cooperation from the theoretical perspectives of international relations. Two particular areas, namely hydrological data sharing of the cross-border rivers and the issue of climate change, have been classified as the key focus of discussion. Although hostility has clouded the relations for several decades. There are some areas where cooperative relationships have been enjoyed by these two countries, with certain ups and downs. In dealing with challenges related to climate change, India and China are not just cooperating in the global multilateral forums but also making some important bilateral commitments. The interest involved in the relations is not only of these two countries but of the greater humanity, or even all the living species on Earth. In the areas of hydrological data sharing, they have maintained their relations with certain ups and downs to protect their mutual interest. These cooperative relationships have acknowledged the arguments of various theories in international relations relating to international structure, mutual interest, international society, etc. This paper tries to relate the theoretical arguments to the realities of India-China relations.

**Keywords:** Indio-China cooperation, water sharing, climate change, liberalism, realism, ISA

### Introduction

The global arena is full of chaos or conflict where all the countries are trying to secure their national interest. In the pursuit of national interest, all the sovereign players in the international society are engaged in power balancing to economic development. Sometimes they take their decision autonomously or sometimes they may be compelled by the structure of the international system to take certain decision. They may decide on the basis of rationality, international structure, humanitarian concerns, or may be a blend of these circumstances, the outcomes may be cooperation, conflict or status quo. Particularly, in the Indo-China relations, there are various complicated issues that contribute to the geopolitical tensions between them. There are various activities like blind Chinese support towards Pakistan regarding various issues including terrorism, claims on Indian territory, and lots of other related subjects produce a cause of concern for India. On the other hand, India's growth as an emerging international power make a concern for Chinese domination. So, the Indo-China relationship is shadowed by various problems. But there are few of the areas where they are enjoying cooperative relations. The hydrological data sharing of cross-border tributaries between these two nations and in dealing with the problems related to Climate change are among such of the extents where India and China are collaborating. These two specific areas are given prime concentration of the discussion in this article. The theoretic opinions of Liberalism, Realism, and the International Society Approach are taken as the main highlighted determinants to explain the Indo-China relations in these two precise issues.

### Indo-China cooperation: Hydrological data sharing

There are some cross-border rivers between India and China (*viz.* Brahmaputra, Sutlej, and Indus) that originate from the Tibetan plateau of the upstream region. The Brahmaputra River originates from Tibet, a huge amount of water is added from the rainfall after entering the Indian terrain<sup>[1]</sup>. However, all the rivers are very essential for both states and the region. The water of these tributaries is used in the purpose of drinking, irrigation, generating

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hydropower, and so on. The disturbance in water flow would convert into significant economic fatalities and damage the lives of living species. It would be very harsh if the real time hydrological data not provided to the downstream countries. Despite these consequences, disruption occurs sometimes due to political conflicts over matters linked to the border or the building of dams on the tributaries. Being located on the upstream, China can restrict the flow of tributaries with the help of these dams. That was a bothering issue for the downstream countries in the region like India and Bangladesh.

As there is no proper treaty on water distribution between India and China, the hydrological data sharing has been managed on basis of some bilateral MoUs. Such an MoU between them to share hydrological data was signed in 2002 for five years<sup>[2]</sup>. The Chinese side articulate its commitment to provide hydrological data during the water overflow in rainy season. Such hydrological data sharing will be managed as per international conventions. They jointly reached a consensus to providing the data of water level in Brahmaputra River from three dams (*viz.*, Nuxia, Nugesha and Yangcum) built by China in the Tibetan region. The Chinese authority would provide it two times daily in monsoon season and rest of the time the data would only be shared if there any unusual increase in water level. The implementation costs of the agreement would be carried by the involved parties<sup>[3]</sup>. Since the MoU came into effect, it has been renewed for several times, *viz.*, 2008, 2013 & 2018<sup>[4]</sup>. But during the standoff in the Doklam region in 2017, China had stopped sharing hydrological data, despite such established mechanisms. The Chinese side said that the hydrological station's upgradation built on the river was primary cause of such suspension. However, India has been paid China Rs. 8,200,000 annually since 2008 and onwards, for providing the data<sup>[5]</sup>. Same kind of MoU has been signed regarding the water sharing on the Sutlej River. China has built a hydrological station on the Sutlej River called Tsada. India and China mutually agreed that the data will be provided from this station twice daily during the rainy season from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> October every year. In return, the Indian side will provide the report of data utilization to the Chinese side. China has also agreed to provide data on unusual increases or decreases in water levels during the rest of the seasons<sup>[6]</sup>. Now, it can be asked what are the mutual grounds of such cooperation between India and China?

To address the question, it could be essential to find the answer to what will happen in India if China doesn't provide the hydrological data. The water from these rivers is very crucial for drinking, irrigation, and agricultural activities in India. All the activities that depend on the water of these rivers will be disturbed, which will cost a lot. Because of the importance of this data, India may face some difficulties in several ways in any uncertain circumstances. The data helps India in planning water flow management to diminish the probabilities of loss of lives and resources due to floods. Now, a question may arise if the disturbance in such data sharing will generate severe losses in the Indian part, then why does China agree to share such hydrological data with India (or in other words, what is the Chinese interest)? Not only is the Indian interest involved in this cooperative arrangement, but the Chinese interest is also there. From the sceptic point of view, one of the major reasons from the Chinese side is that it wants to gain an advantage in high-profile disputes by maintaining a low-

level cooperation with India. The Chinese side showcases its concern towards the humanitarian losses by this kind of cooperation that pauses the small neighbourhood from taking anti-China stands. Another reason is that it will hurt the Chinese image of "soft power" as a responsible regional player. If the Chinese unwillingness to provide hydrological data may cost severe humanitarian losses, the Chinese activities in other fields will be observed by world community in a suspicious way. In the long run, Chinese economic plans such as BRI faced tremendous hurdles that will negatively affect China<sup>[7]</sup>.

Recently Chinese decision to construct a mega hydropower project on the Brahmaputra River has caused major concerns for downstream countries like India and Bangladesh. It will affect the livelihood of a huge population. The environment itself and all the species living in the ecosystem will also be affected by this decision. It may have heightened geopolitical tensions in the region by weaponising the water. So, the relationship not only contains advantages, but there are some severe concerns as well.

### **Indo-China cooperation on the issue of climate change**

In the contemporary situation, climate change is a pressing concern for humanity. It poses a threat to the existence of all species living on the planet Earth, including human beings. Climate change is basically a shift in weather patterns and average temperature over a long time<sup>[8]</sup>. The causes of climate change may be natural, like changes in the activities of and the eruptions in volcanoes, or the causes may be human-made, like the burning of fossil fuels to generate Greenhouse Gases (GHGs). According to the UN, human activities have been the main contributing factor since the 1800s. The GHGs work like a blanket for the Earth. Global warming is caused by the burning of fossil fuels and the unsustainable use of land and energy. Eventually, global warming contributes to climate change, which intensifies catastrophic natural events worldwide. It was predicted in 2015 that emissions of greenhouse gases would increase by 16 percent by the year of 2030. However, an important shift has been detected in the projection since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015<sup>[9]</sup>.

### **Indo-China cooperation in a multilateral framework India-China and the Paris agreement**

Cooperation among countries on Earth is indispensable to save humanity from the wrath of climate change. It is unfortunate that the USA, a major emitter of GHGs, appears not to be much worried about the issue. The US leadership's position, at least, towards the Paris Agreement increases people's concerns<sup>[10]</sup>. But India and China are two among the major emitters of GHGs pledged to reduce their GHGs' emissions. In 2023, cumulative share of two Asian giants in global emission of GHGs stood approximately 37.90% (India generated 7.8% and China 30.7%)<sup>[11]</sup>.

Both India and China are parties to the Paris Agreement. They have also ratified it by 2016<sup>[12, 13]</sup>. The parties of the agreement try to develop a joint consensus based on the notion of equity. By perpetuating the principle equity, involved parties tries to develop a consensus to recognize a conception of common interest and different responsibilities based on the capabilities of the respective countries. It aims to ensure steady cash flow to the developing countries of the global south and their capacity building to reduce GHG emissions. The parties committed to increase their

developmental capability that helps them in reducing GHG emissions. Article 4 of the agreement impose an compulsion to the signatories to reach the peak of GHG emissions as soon as possible. The participants of the agreement were also obliged to reveal their progress in emissions reduction under the NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution). As a signatory of the Paris Agreement, India has promised to become a net-zero emitter of GHGs by 2070 <sup>[14]</sup>. With an aim of emissions reduction, the parties have to take some domestic mitigation measures. To implementing this clause in India, cabinet has recommended to the policy makers during the time of ratification that they should form domestic laws, developmental strategies, and instruments, access to clean energy, and such policies with attention of the clauses of this treaty <sup>[15]</sup>.

Such cooperation is very essential in the situation when the industrialized developed countries have tried to impose obligations on developing countries to reduce the GHG emissions. China will see the peak of its carbon emissions by 2030. The Country has pledged to achieve the net-zero target by 2060 <sup>[16]</sup>. The Chinese economy is primarily based on manufacturing. It makes the target highly ambitious. Any attempt to decrease the production of GHG means a reduction in fossil fuel and coal consumption. That eventually affects their economy. They may emphasize some alternative sectors in fulfilling their energy needs from unconventional sources to flourish the economy. In this regard, China has adopted various policies to achieve the target <sup>[17]</sup>. The predictions of various energy institutions show the importance of emission reductions from China.

### India and China in BASIC

The adverse effects of climate change have horrible consequences. Apart from the bilateral cooperation, it needs to be addressed with multilateral cooperation, because the issue is transnational. It poses a great challenge to the entire humanity beyond the borders of a nation-state. However, multilateral cooperation is not an easy task. There are different types of problems faced by developed and developing countries, which complicate the circumstances for multilateral cooperation. The developed countries in the northern hemisphere don't face most of the non-traditional security threats. Whereas countries that are going through the developmental phase face all the traditional and non-traditional security challenges. India and China have cooperated, in spite of these rigorous challenges, in various multilateral organisations. The alliance called BASIC is a such establishment.

The group has been formed in 2009 with an initiation linked to the COP15. The key objective of the group is to focus on negotiations in deciding the policies to combat climate change. India and China have engaged in this multilateral alliance for long time since the formation. There are four member countries that all are emerging economies in the group namely Brazil, South Africa, India, and China. The group was formed with an enthusiasm of better negotiating the provisions and cooperation to combat the challenges of Climate Change. But member countries were routinely engaging on the sidelines of G77 summits since the mid-2000s before it came into existence. Generally, their discussions concentrated on the recent proceedings in negotiations for developing common strategies to combat the challenges of climate change <sup>[18]</sup>. There are some reasons behind this development in cooperative relations among the developing nations. By presenting a combined voice to

defend their collective economic interest, involved parties tried to protect their own national interest. Another aspect of this cooperation has been highlighted in the report of SEI. As per its report, there are two reasons that responsible for a strong bond among these emerging countries: the first one is their identity and role in G77. All the countries have shared a common identity of emerging economies and played a common role in the group of G77. Second one is the responsibilities imposed by the developed countries to the emerging economies (more specifically on India and China) to reduce the production of GHGs. So, these are some reasons that brought them together to present a collective voice <sup>[19]</sup>.

The member countries have met regularly. There are numerous meetings held on ministerial level since 2009. The 29<sup>th</sup> such a ministerial level meeting was held in China. Several breakthroughs have been come out from this meeting. Member countries communicate their concerns and stress on the principle of equity as a basis of multilateral cooperation on the issue of climate change. They express their strong believe on the principle of CBDR-RC. Because the issue is common but the circumstances between the developed and developing countries are different in nature. The developing countries faced a lot of problems from both traditional and non-traditional challenges. Whereas developed countries are almost exempted from various non-traditional security threats. Instead of facing these kind of threats, emerging economies significantly contributed to decrease the carbon emissions. They have tried to find some low-risk natural solutions and recommended that the initiatives like the Global Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) should be effectively implemented <sup>[20]</sup>.

The developing countries have contributed as per their capabilities. Particularly, in highlighting the contributions of the Republic of India, a joint statement of such a ministerial-level meeting has to be mentioned that was issued on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023. In this joint statement, all the participating members have acknowledged India's constant effort to work for multilateral and international cooperation. India has highlighted the measures of capacity building by stressing on transfer of technology and funds to combat the challenges of climate change. As the developed countries have already exhausted their global share of carbon production, they should take prime responsibility under the mandate of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to combat the challenges of climate change. Whereas on the other hand China has been showcasing its enthusiasm to deal with challenges of climate change. It has been decided by the PRC that it would not construct any further project for coal-based fire power in any overseas territory. China has also made a commitment to achieve the target of net zero carbon emitter and steadily increasing the use of energy generated from sources of non-fossil fuel <sup>[21]</sup>.

### Indo-China cooperation: LMDC (Like-Minded Developing Countries)

There are so many organisations that divide or integrates the member countries in various multilateral regional and global groupings. But when it comes to negotiating the agreement to combat the adversities of climate change, the globe is divided into two larger groups of countries: developed and developing. India and China are both categorised with the grouping of developing countries. Both of them are



members of an informal group called LMDC. Cooperation between them is very essential to present a strong argument from developing countries in the agreement negotiation for climate change.

The group consistently stresses the principle of “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities” (CBRD). Historically, developed countries have generated a huge amount of GHGs during their process of development. Even in 2023, the list of major emitters is dominated by the majority of developed Western countries<sup>[22]</sup>. The parties in the group of LMDC tried to stress on the acknowledgement by the developed countries for their historical emissions and responsibilities for the adverse effects of climate change. They think that the developed countries should take the foremost responsibility to deal the issue. But the bias in negotiations towards the developed nations makes the LMDC countries concerned about their financial commitments. They have provided a small share of their commitment to provide a considerable amount to the developing countries. But during the time of actual action to fulfil the commitment they have released a very small amount of fund and most of it as loans not grants. It increases the difficulties for the developing countries to implement the policies that help to combat the issue. This kind of scenario exposes the importance of staging a joint voice on the behalf of emerging economies. Because the issue is common that needs global cooperation but at the same time not at the cost of evolving economies. All the states (irrespective of the category of developed, developing or underdeveloped) have rights to be treated fairly based on the principle of equity. In this case, interests of the developing countries have to be protected that puts a huge importance of staging a collective voice of the global south. That increases importance of the countries with major economies of the global south like India and China. Here it has to be mentioned that they have played a very crucial role by collaborating between themselves to prevent the harsh effects of climate change<sup>[23]</sup>.

### India-China cooperation: The UNFCCC

The UNFCCC can be identified as a successor of 1987's Montreal Protocol. The framework was formed in 1992 and came into effect in 1994<sup>[24]</sup>. Total number of 198 members have ratified the convention till now. Its structure is the most important framework to resist the adversities of climate change. The framework aims to restrict harmful human interference to the nature. Its goal is to achieve the peak level of harmful human intrusion to nature within a specific tenure that conducive for the ecosystem to adapt machineries for sustainable economic development without hurting food production<sup>[25]</sup>.

It admits that the method of development produces a lot of GHGs. That places liability on developed nations for their previous and existing GHG emissions. Under the agenda of UNFCCC, the countries in the developed north agreed for providing help in capacity building through financial support to countries that are going through the process of development. It complicates the situation for the poor and underdeveloped countries. They face both the conventional and unconventional security challenges. These countries have to work for their development, and side by side, they have an obligation to take care of the environment. The Convention also takes into consideration that the countries are going through developmental phase will intensify the production of GHG emissions in the future.

The regular meeting of the convention has been hosted by the parties alternately on an annual basis since the convention came into effect. In 2024, the 29<sup>th</sup> COP meeting was held in Baku<sup>[26]</sup>. The member countries extensively pushed the consensus for climate finance. They addressed the apprehension of financial support by committing trillions of dollars to the developing countries. A lot of breakthroughs, along with the financial support, have been made in the gathering. The “Baku Finance Goal” is a most important outcomes of the meeting. Under a highly ambitious objective known as NCQG, the developed countries promised to provide 1.3 trillion dollars (per year) by 2035 to the developing countries. The other key outcome includes “Climate Transparency”, Mobilising Fund for Action”, etc.<sup>[27]</sup>.

India and China, as the signatories of the UNFCCC, significantly engaged through the various meetings of the framework. They express their views and agree on lots of things through discussions in the multilateral dialogues of UNFCCC gatherings. The similarity in their articulated viewpoint not just strengthens the voice of the countries under development process in the Global South but is also helpful in taking climate action and preventing harsh natural events threatening humanity. The unambiguous importance of the framework has been highlighted by the forerunners of the global south world bilaterally or in multilateral forums like BASIC. They have agreed that the framework is very important to address the concern of climate change. In 2015, the Indian Prime Minister visited China when both sides emphasised the engagement in domestic preparations to fulfil the commitment towards the INDCs<sup>[28]</sup>. They uphold the commitment to work together with the other parties to achieve an effective agreement under the UNFCCC<sup>[29]</sup>.

### Indo-China bilateral cooperation

Before the Paris Agreement, the two neighboring Asian countries signed “The Agreement on Cooperation on Addressing Climate Change” in 2009. The agreement upholds the importance of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Both countries have expressed the same opinion that the adverse effects of climate change pose a very severe challenge to humanity, and it needs global cooperation in combating the issue. They believed that the countries in the developed north should take primary responsibility and reduce their share in GHGs emissions. They should also provide help financially, technologically in capacity building to reduce GHGs emissions by the countries in the developmental phase. The whole agreement focused on enhancing cooperation, communication, dialogue, and intensification of collaboration in the areas of energy efficiency, agriculture, afforestation, etc. They have announced the “National Action Plan on Climate Change”. The plan aimed at cooperation, technology transfer, and development in a sustainable way conducive to combating Climate change. Both countries mentioned the implementing authorities. India has designated the “Ministry of Environment and Forests” as the implementing authority in the agreement. Whereas, in China, the “National Development and Reform Commission” will be authorized to implement the agreement. They established the “India-China Partnership on Combating Climate Change” and “India-China Working Group on Climate Change”. The primary aim of these kinds of mechanisms is to intensify bilateral cooperation through meetings and dialogues<sup>[30]</sup>.

In 2010, India and China signed another bilateral MoU to cooperate in the arena of green technologies. It is called “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Green Technologies”<sup>[31]</sup>. They have designated the “Ministry of Environment and Forests” from the Indian side and the “National Development and Reform Commission” from the Chinese side as the implementing authority. Both sides acknowledge that the adverse effects of climate change are a common concern for the globe, and the requirement for worldwide cooperation to deal with this challenge. They express willingness to cooperate in the field of green technologies for climate-friendly and sustainable growth. The agreement will further widen the path of research in the field of eco-friendly technologies. This will help the countries in capacity building in fields like unconventional sources of energy, sustainable transportation, conservation, and efficiency of energy, etc. However, the cooperations not limited to these areas only. They have also decided to set up a mechanism for collaboration in the arena of green technologies<sup>[32]</sup>.

Both of the sides supposed that collaboration between them would help global efforts to combat climate change. In 2015, both sides upheld that the existing frameworks (the Kyoto Protocol, UNCCC, etc.) are very suitable for global cooperation on climate change. The dignitaries in the meeting pledged to increase high-level bilateral cooperation in domestic policies and multilateral negotiations concerning the issue. They also uphold the commitment to boost bilateral cooperation in the sectors of energy, transportation, etc.<sup>[33]</sup>. The joint statement, during the Indian Prime Minister’s visit to China in 2015, also expresses the urgency and importance of implementing the Bali Road Map. The Road Map is a craft of all the parties that attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Convention in 2007. The Bali Road Map has five parts, *viz.*, “shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology, and financing”<sup>[34]</sup>.

A bilateral meeting at the ministerial level was held in 2019. The dignitaries of UNCCD and Myanmar have also attended the discussion. The meeting aims to strengthen cooperation among the countries in the global South to combat desertification and degradation of land. India has executed some positive actions to deal with this global challenge. A most important effort that has been taken by the Indian side is the allocation of CAMPA funds to the states for afforestation<sup>[35]</sup>. The CAMPA was created before the enactment of the CAF Act 2016. The objective of the fund is to compensate forest land and the whole ecosystem that have been damaged by the forest diversion. It aims to compensate for the losses through the initiatives of afforestation, reforestation, enhancement of wildlife habitats, etc.<sup>[36]</sup>.

### Theoretical dimensions

The liberals believe in the positive nature of human beings. They are expectant about human progress in the spheres of modernity. Their faith rests on the cooperative and rational instinct of human beings. To them, the process of modernisation would unleash the potential of technological advancement. The trust in progress is at the main foundation of the liberal assumptions. Progress means the advancement of individuals and the enjoyment of a better life. The process of modernisation would lead to progress towards the enjoyment of a better and happier life. They think that the progress means cumulative progress, at least for the

majority of individuals. To pursue such happiness in their life, the individuals apply the reasons and think logically. When they apply reason, greater cooperation will be the result. This collaboration will not only be a result of their national matters in the country but also in international issues. However, they recognise that the cooperation built on mutual interest will prevail for a long tenure.

Institutional liberals, a strain of liberalism, claimed that the institutions facilitate cooperation between states through transparency in institutional functioning. The institution helps the states in transparent negotiations where the states cannot cheat each other. But from the realist point of view, the main issue is not cheating at the negotiation table. The main concern is relative gains. The states’ concern is which state will gain comparatively more than others from the cooperation. In that case, the liberals emphasised the conditions on which the cooperation will be based. They argue that the states will not be much concerned about the relative gains if there is a common interest in the negotiations. The absence of a common interest makes the parties competitive and fearful<sup>[37]</sup>.

Realism depicts a gloomy picture of human nature. The central role of the state has been emphasized by allotting greater importance to the security and survival of a state. They believe that war is inevitable because the relations between states are conflictual and that conflict can only be resolved by warfare. They are highly uncertain about the liberal belief in progress in the relations between states on the world stage. To them, international relations means only the relations among or between the states. All the other actors, except states, have very minimal importance or no importance at all. The foreign policy is advanced by the states independently to defend their national interests. To the classical realist, global politics is a power politics among the great players in the world.

Whereas, the Neo-realist Kenneth Waltz accepts the arguments of classical realists that states exist independently and operate in an anarchical international system. But he gave no importance to human nature. He has been solely concerned about the continuities, changes, and the interrelating units in the international state system, with due importance the structures of the system. In neo-realism, the state and its decision-makers have no importance in influencing the international system. It believes that it is the structure of the international system, as an external factor, based on the relative distribution of strength influences the role of the state. The structure of the system compels them to act in a certain way. The state leaders in that particular case are relatively unimportant<sup>[37]</sup>.

To the International Society Approach, international relations can be regarded as a society rather than a system of competing or conflicting actors. The society formed with the participation sovereign states as its members. The Advocates of International Society Approach ignores two liberalist optimistic perception and realist pessimistic perceptions of human nature to defined the international relations. They have tried to take a middle way of these two prevailing ideas in international relations. According to them, the notion of IR denotes foreign policy decisions and activities taken by the leadership selected through the political system of that particular state. They act on the behalf of their concerned sovereign state. Key importance has been given to the sovereign states with limited or no importance to the other players in the international arena.

They believed that the foundation international relations is the sovereign state and works as the blocks in the international structure. This point of view is very similar to the perceptions of classical realism. But the international society approach departs from the thinking of classical realists. They are in favour of several things that can influence the structure of international relations *viz.*, institutions, organisations, common interests, rules & regulations, and the related things <sup>[37]</sup>. In this way they have recognised the importance of various beliefs advocated by liberalism. Even though the prominent classical realist like Machiavelli have given a vast emphasis on the essential principles to run a state. To him state have very important responsibility to take the measures conducive for the well-being of the people. This argument allows the state to go for an international cooperation if it appears to be helpful for the people. So, the responsibility does not only constrain for its own people but include the outside residents. It makes the responsibility global for the sovereign state. Because the sovereign states are living in a society where they have some obligations to be obeyed and some rights and rewards to enjoy. In the dimension of humanitarian responsibility, their arguments are similar to the Kantian point of view: the utmost important thing to be remembered by the decision maker is that all people living across the countries in the world are human beings. These people may be living in their homeland or other countries. As human beings, they have some basic rights to be protected. It imposes an obligation on all people to protect each other's basic human rights <sup>[37]</sup>. It may be observed in the discussion that India and China are collaborating on the issues that set a common ground based on mutual interest. Some transnational issues, like climate change, are the most important concern not only for India and China but all the living species on planet Earth. It needs to be addressed through global cooperation. Indo-China cooperation on mutual interests is fabricated by rational thinking, and it is beneficial for both nations, along with the whole world. The results generated and enjoyed from the collaboration looks like the results of a win-win game. It leads to progress and ensures a sustainable future for the upcoming generations. There are various institutional mechanisms in the world that significantly help states in transparent negotiations. In the case of India and China, various institutional mechanisms have facilitated the relations. They have collaborated on those things that is mutually beneficial for them. But at the same time, they have disagreements on various issues in defending their respective national interest that is a major hindrance to their relations. They did not sacrifice the most important factors of national interest for any state *viz.*, security and survival. They have managed their foreign policy accordingly in a global scenario that is full of uncertainty. In defending their national interest by ensuring state's security and survival, they tried to emphasis on the enhancement of their respective capabilities. Because the leadership of any state, in the international arena, may take some decisions in defending the public morality for any state that is unethical in terms of private morality. By going through such actions make them doubtful to each other's activities and generates a condition of security dilemma. Not only the state's independent decision sometimes the changing nature of balance of power in international structure forced them to act in any particular way. In any of the circumstances or conditions, the decisions taken by the leaderships on the

behalf of that particular state. They have executed their foreign policy accordingly to protect their national interest. If a collaboration between them is fit for their foreign policy, they have established a cooperative relation. This type of collaborative relations in the field of IR has acknowledged the elaborative thinking of realism, liberalism, International Society Approach and other related insights.

### Conclusion

The relationship is guided by various mechanisms but it mainly based on the principles of "Panchsheel". This type of cooperative relations between India and China in the Asian continent are very crucial for regional and global peace and prosperity. The relationship is based on rationality have various direct or indirect advantageous implications which is incredibly helpful for peaceful coexistence. The global and regional framework like UNFCCC, BASIC, LMDC and some bilateral mechanisms are very important in facilitating discussion and negotiation process. They have common interest in cooperation for Hydrological data sharing and preventing the adversities of climate change. The establishment of this cooperative relation is suitable for their respective foreign policy. The theoretical dimensions advocating strong cooperative relations argued that the relations based on common interest benefiting mutually will be sustainable for long time. In India-China relations on these two particular issues have mutual interest similar to the argument as advocated in the theoretical dimensions of IR, it will be continued to prevail for a long time. Apart from these theoretical arguments, another reason for sustaining the relations is their mutual concern that any geopolitical tensions may harm the common and mutual interest. It can be witnessed in cooperative relations between India and China is that it steadily continuing on these two particular issues despite some ups and downs caused by several geopolitical tensions. The countries, as ISA suggested, countries executed their foreign policy independently in the society of states. Instead of isolation, they are somehow connected to each other. There would be some multidimensional and bilateral engagement among or between the nation-states guided by various institutional rules and regulations that shaped the structure of international or global relations. The Indo-China relationships have addressed these opinions through the bilateral dialogue mechanisms based on mutual consent. It considerably helps them to defend their common interest. Finally, it can be stated that international relationships must not be perceived from a single theoretical perspective. The relationships must be analysed by various theories of IR from different perceptions.

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