

## Preface

India and China the two major Asian countries are inheritors of great civilizations of Asia. Due to their geographical contiguity, common borders as close neighbours and the requirement of having trade cooperation they are bound to have host of problems. Their relationship is compounded and even shaped by both the internal and external factors of regional and global settings.

Geographically speaking they share a long stretch of border with each other and consequently they face a colossal boundary dispute, which require an immediate and strategic solution and resolution. The present study is a comprehensive and in-depth study of the process of negotiated settlement of the boundary dispute. The hypothesis is that sufficient efforts have been made by both the Governments to carry forward the peace process through the method of the negotiated settlement.

Sino-Indian relations have experienced profound upheavals and behavioural fluctuations over past five decades ranging from benign warmth in the 1950s through hyper tension in 1960s and 1970s to rapprochement in 1980s and readjustment in 1990s onwards. After establishing formal relations, friendly exchanges between the two nations had taken on a good momentum. In 1954 two Prime Ministers Chao En-Lai and Jawahar Lal Nehru signed joint communiqué and put forward famous Panchsheel principles. This era was characterized as Hindi-Chini brotherhood era. Nehru played an important role in helping to bring China's presence on to the world stage. By the end of 1959 serious dispute occurred between India and China on border demarcation and shelter to Dalai Lama in India.

In October 1962 direct military intervention took place in all the three sectors of the Sino-Indian border i.e. Eastern to Western sectors. This caused a complete infringement between Sino-Indian relations.

After some years India and China started to restore their normal relations and revised their friendly ties, shattered by 1962 border dispute.

In 1975 China started soft paddling with India. In 1980-1990's the solution to the Sino-India border dispute entered into a positive process of negotiated settlement. The post cold war period witnessed significant developments in the bilateral relations. After the disintegration of Soviet Union both Asian powers realized the urgency of stabilizing the borders and further improve over all bilateral relations in an uncertain world. In this connection Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), Joint Working Groups (JWG), Expert Groups (EG), Special Representatives (SRs) and reciprocal visits of the heads of the states have been playing very important and vital role. Mutual accommodation of each other's vital interests will encourage China to consider the McMahon Line in the eastern sector, which is strategically important to India. If India cannot remain insensitive to the Chinese strength in South Asia and the World, China also cannot afford to remain perpetually hostile towards India. China has been repeatedly saying that it wants to improve relations with India and establish bonds of friendship.

In recent past China has resolved many disporatic boundary disputes with Russian states (CIS), ASEAN states and Japan then, why not with India. But there is sheer need of strong determination and accommodative approach of both the countries somehow loss and gains are the essential part of political solutions. India and China would have to forego with some perseverance and patience also.

Sino-Indian differences, improved relations and peace process possess a primary prominence in international relations literature. The scenario of two big Asian neighbours got much importance since 1981 when negotiations for peaceful settlement of boundary disputes started to accelerate. After the end of the cold war US hegemony and western world order are the challenges to the oriental world. In this view there exists a fertile ground to study different dimensions of tensions especially territorial dispute and efforts made by them (India-China) to come close in more pragmatic and meaningful way.

The present study is intended to explore the major irritants and circumstances, which determine the Sino-Indian relations. The study has

explored and analysed the relations starting from 1947 till today in chronological order. The study consists of seven chapters.

The *first chapter* is based on historical retrospect of relations between India and China. It also analyses friendly exchange between India and China, which culminated in the form of Panchsheel.

The *second chapter* has investigated out the genesis of major and minor roots of tensions and mistrusts between India and China, which led to 1962 October War.

The *third chapter* outlined the major efforts of restoration of relations between India and China which started in mid seventies. It also has brought about the details of the role of good offices and decision making authorities of both the states in the settlement of border disputes.

The *fourth chapter* explores the process of resolution of the problem. It covers the detail of the eight round of official level talks held between India and China and also highlights the problems that occurred in the way of resolving the border problems.

The *fifth chapter* covers the extensive details of the Joint Working Group (JWP) and Expert Group (EG) which were established between India and China to forge a fair and reasonable solution to the border issue. It also analyses very meticulously the practices and use of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and changed behaviour of decision making authorities in the direction of friendly relations between India and China.

The *sixth chapter* sheds light on the well defined decision of India and China to explore the political scope for evolving the framework of boundary settlement. It also brings about the roles played by Special Representatives in this direction.

The *seventh chapter* concludes the entire panorama of the process of the negotiated settlement of the Sino-Indian border dispute. It reveals the nature of development, the milestones achieved, the bottle necks of the process, the fast

track of events and the nature of their dwindling political will. It also enumerated a package of suggestions to expedite the resolution of the conflict. It anticipate also that Sino-Indian friendship is essential for South Asia to face the existing challenges of the world politics.

The study is primarily based on an extensive and critical analysis of primary and secondary sources. The primary source includes Government Publications, Official Reports, White Papers, Lok Sabha Debate etc. The secondary sources include Books, Journals, Periodicals, Newspaper, Reports and other sources available in different libraries.