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**Relevancy of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel) in Post Cold War Era****Vishakha Sharma<sup>1</sup> and A. K. Ghildial<sup>2</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Political Science,  
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**Abstract:** 2014 is “the year Friendly Exchanges” between India and China. It is also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel). Thus it becomes imperative to study the relevancy of Panchsheel in Post Cold War Era. In Post Cold War Era, the bilateral high level close interaction has been resulted into strengthening the strategic trust between India and China. The 16<sup>th</sup> special Representatives meeting for the India-China Boundary dispute and the 5<sup>th</sup> India china strategic dialogue were held. In this Paper, the researcher has studied the bilateral relations between India and China in the frame of reference of Panchsheel and depth of mutual interest taking place. In the contemporary world, the conceptual basis for international relations provided by Panchsheel can be more effective in formulating a new world order.

**Keywords :** Post Cold War Era, Panchsheel, Peaceful Coexistence

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**Introduction**

In twenty- first century, the focus has been shifted to prospectus of durable peace and international cooperation while the earlier century witnessed high violence and destruction. Current century is qualitatively going through a continuing theme of Post Cold War era. The year 2013 is a remarkable year for Sino-Indian Strategic Cooperative Partnership. This year has seen a momentum of progress in friendship and fruitful cooperation. The year 2014 is “the year of friendly exchanges” between India and china. It also marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Five Principles of Peaceful coexistence (Panchsheel). This is the time to further deepen mutual trust and expand a mutually beneficial and pragmatic partnership between the two Asian neighbours. The international situation is undergoing the profound changes while the global economy is facing many problems. It is in the mutual interest of both India and China to treat each other with sincerity, trust and try to expand their pragmatic cooperation, economic, military, culture and other fields with a broader vision and increasing efforts.

Six decade after the formation of Five Principles, it has remained a frame of reference of bilateral cooperation and understanding. In the changed context of times, the conceptual basis of international relations provided by Panchsheel can be effective in the formation of a new world order based on cooperation rather than a confrontationist framework.

The principles of Panchsheel were first formally enunciated in the Preamble to the *Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet Region of*

*China and India*, this was signed by the representatives of the government of India and China on April 29, 1954. This was followed by their proclamation in a political and diplomatic document, issued as a joint statement on June 28, 1954. The Five Principles are:

1. Mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.
2. Mutual non-aggression.
3. Mutual non-interference in each other’s internal affairs.
4. Equality and mutual benefit
5. Peaceful coexistence.

The political situation and economic scenario have changed tremendously since the formation of Panchsheel, but the Five Principles are more relevant today than ever before. China and India have different social systems, but they are both large developing countries in Asia with huge populations. Both the countries are on the path of becoming economic super powers. Going ahead along line of Panchsheel, strengthened cooperation between India and China will not only propel the economic development of these two neighbours, but also bring about peace and prosperity in Asia.

**Phases of India China relations since 1949**

The relationship between India and China can be broadly classified into four phases since 1949. The first phase can be attributed around 1950 to 1960, when the notion of “Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai” came into existence. In this phase the mutual trust and understanding developed. Panchsheel was seen as the foundation for new geopolitical concepts, seeking to achieve comprehensive security, as

distinct from the competitive security paradigm which has been dominant for a decade. The trust formed between India and China was shattered after the Sino-India war of 1962. A long period of mistrust starts from 1962 to 1980s, this period is often referred as "Hindi-Chini Bye-Bye". The phase of normalcy between India and china starts after the splitting of Soviet Union in 1991. The period from 1991 to 2000 can be characterised by the rapid growth and development of bilateral trade and economic relations between India and China.

The visit of Indian Prime Minister to China in 1988 was a landmark and historic in bilateral context. In a meeting with Rajiv Gandhi on December 21, 1988 with Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Central Military Commission of PRC, said, "Let both sides of us forget the unpleasant period in our past relations, and let us treat everything with an eye on the future." Den Xiaoping's talk with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi established the basis for the development of Sino-Indian relations henceforth. At this moment Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi reiterates the relevance of Panchsheel by noting that "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence provide the best way to handle relation between nations." China, in Deng Xiaoping's era, holds even higher the flag of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and favours establishing not only a new international economic order, but also a new international political order in Asia.

Atal bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India visited China in June, 2003. This visit was a landmark in reshaping the history of bilateral relations between India and china. This visit laid down a roadmap to build a 'qualitatively new relationship' and develop 'a long term constructive and cooperative partnership.' The economic bilateral relation between India and China has entered a new stage of development of cooperation. This period of growing economic relations is marked by "Hindi-Chini Buy-Buy."

### **Present Sino-Indian relations in context of Panchsheel**

Both India and china identifies itself as rising power, as a developing country and a regional power as well as India and China has common interest area of economic development, security, territorial integrity and status than enhancing their ranking in international community. The reformation and reshaping of bilateral relation between two Asian giants is becoming possible along the line of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. In October, 2013, India and China agreed that in any face off on the on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), they will not use force or threaten to use force against each other and prevent exchange of fire or an armed conflict. In last six decades, the countries, India and China have confronted lack of progressive bilateral cordial relations between them due to the failure of

converting the principle of Panchsheel into practice. The application and implementation of Panchsheel principles has been a matter of convenience since its inception.

The year 2013 has seen a new high in friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The meeting of Chinese President Xi Jinping with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the Durban BRICS Summit and the G20 St. Petersburg Submit has given a new height of strategic cooperative partnership for future development of India-China relations. Within this year, more than ten agreements made and joint statements were issued. Following the principles of Panchsheel, the 16<sup>th</sup> Special representatives meeting was held for China-India boundary problem and a way ahead the 5<sup>th</sup> China-India Strategic Dialogue were held, such a move is needed for deepening mutual trust, communication and understanding.

India has looked a tension in last year along the disputed border with China. China said it hoped to make border areas "a bridge and bond" with India. The 17<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations on the long running boundary dispute was held when state Councillor, Mr. Yan Jiechi, the Chinese Special Representative visited India and met with Mr. Shivshankar Menon, Indian National Security Adviser. MEA pointed out that 17<sup>th</sup> round of SR meeting took place on the tailwind of two structured India-China bilateral between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Li Keqiang held last year. For the first time, this meeting was preceded by senior officials discussing operational pinpricks on the border under the aegis of the Working Mechanism for Consultations and Coordination on India-China border affairs. During the visit of Indian Prime Minister to China in November, 2013, India and China signed a Border Defence Cooperation Agreement aimed at expanding on the ground engagement and formalising patrolling rules to prevent recurrence of stand-offs. This meeting also discussed additional confidence building measures as the early implementation of the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) as well as the core issue of a framework agreement for sorting out the border issue. China also reaffirmed her determination to defend every inch of its territory and said that there was no room for compromise with Japan over territorial or historical disputes. Although, there was no direct reference to India, but the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, commented strongly about maritime neighbours that they will not take anything that is not their but will defend every inch of territory that belongs to them.

### **Conclusion**

The first principle of Panchsheel "mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty" is imperative and it should be reviewed to cope with current challenges. In Post

Cold War Era, these five principles seem more relevant again as at the high levels, both India and china have exchanged in-depth views on core issues and positive progress has been achieved. Both the countries had reiterated that boundary

issue should not over shadow bilateral relations. Now it is need of the hour to advance the process of negotiation so as to achieve a fair, reasonable framework acceptable to both the countries

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