



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Economic Rivalries in Asia: A Case Study of India and China**

**<sup>1</sup>Dr. Ammara Tariq Cheema\* and <sup>2</sup>Hadia Jathol**

1. Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Relations, Govt College Women University, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan
2. MS Scholar, Department of Politics and International Relations, Govt College Women University, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan

**\*Corresponding Author:** ammara.tariq@gcwus.edu.pk

**ABSTRACT**

This research pertains to the economic competition between China and India and looks into the effect of this competition on regional stability, economic corridors, and multilateral cooperation. The objectives of this study include an investigation of the historical and current factors that have sustained the competition and appraisal of how this rivalry creates an impact on regional economic corridors. Also, the study's objectives include assessment of the effect of this rivalry for multilateral cooperation in Asia. The condition of territorial disputes and strategic competition between the two countries explains the ongoing rivalry, while the methodology is qualitative regarding geopolitical and economic and infrastructure resources. The findings reveal that the current rivalry is very much fragmented with regard to regional cooperation because it allows a steady integration of processes and ultimate stability. Therefore, the study recommends enhancing these bilateral dialogues and increasing multilateral cooperation, including transparent infrastructure developments.

**KEYWORDS** Act East Policy, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China-India Rivalry, Economic Corridors, Geopolitical Competition, Infrastructure Development, Multilateral Cooperation, Regional Stability

**Introduction**

The most serious thing in contemporary geopolitics would probably be just this critical economic rivalry between China and India: this rivalry and competition would certainly alter and dramatically modify the dynamics of Asia's economic landscape as a whole. The rivalry has thus grown along the various fronts: generating tensions within both countries and outside concerning trade, regional influence, and infrastructure development. The points of contention that presently complicate their economic engagements are confrontation, conflict, especially concerning territorial disputes. Because of this rivalry that defines any sort of multilateral process directed toward regional integration, cooperative economic initiatives are burdened with the nexus problem. As these two countries contend for dominance within Asia, the competition would not only influence this local bilateral relationship but also the larger stability within the region (Shah, Muzaffar, & Karamat, 2020)

Both of these countries are great strategic actors in consolidated economic and political frameworks in Asia, making the intensity of the rivalry even more intense. China's Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI) and its own regional strategies such as the Act East Policy create divergences in interests, more particularly, over infrastructure projects. Economic corridors specifically the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Corridor are severely affected by these rivalries, as India raises concern over the increasing grip of China on neighboring countries. Such a rivalry makes the entire competition rich environment a hostile one,

making it difficult to achieve cooperation and economic stability for Asia as a whole (Ain, Muzaffar & Yaseen, 2024)

It is essential to study and understand the future economic corridors of Asia for both the worlds populous which is India and China. Together, these countries will not only define the economy of the region but also to some extent define the economies of the world. Therefore, the rivalry due to which these countries will continue to fall apart geographically will be discussed in terms of infrastructure projects to trade relations to regional alliances to see how tensions shape the success or failure of these initiatives. By understanding this rivalry, it will be much easier for policymakers to know the realities of working with regional integration, economic cooperation, and development projects in Asia that build greater long-term stability and growth.

### **Literature Review**

The growing economic rise, military jostling, and border disputes have resulted in increasing competition between China and India. Both nations have tried to engage in a number of diplomatic dialogue but lack harmony, especially in military buildup and regional dominance (Harsh V. Pants, 2011). It does not pay much attention to internal politics, economic interdependence, and third-party interference. Enhancements in policing, economic cooperation, and multilateral forums like BRICS. Strengthened mechanisms of conflict resolution and peer to peer contact should reduce tensions together with foster stability. The unresolved border disputes, especially with China, have strategic implications. Ignored, however, are the economic costs of the conflicts and unresolved diplomatic efforts to settle them, as well as the human cost of wars the civilian and social aspects (Horimoto, 2010). It should be enhanced by increasing diplomatic efforts, balancing military spending to economic development, and humanitarian needs. The confidence building measures between India and China in order to avoid further conflict.

Boasted economic links, common interests in trade, and global governance, however, stressed several dimensions, such as border tensions and strategic rivalries the internal political dynamics of the two countries and the influence they exercise on foreign policy are neglected. In fact, the economic aspect of military spending and humanitarian implications of territory disputes are not covered well (Muzaffar, Yaseen, & Rahim, 2017; Khan, & Shamim, 2022). The study is also partial on the role of external powers, especially the United States, in shaping bilateral relations. However, the large includes significant aspects and presents a wide-angle snapshot of India China relations, the historical as well as contemporary geopolitical perspectives, enriching the canvas. These entangled and changing dimensions between two of the most fundamental players in the world are very crucial.

The distinguish between the wealth of India arising from its democratic governing structure and China's through absolutism, as these regimes have affected economic progress and initiated foreign policies. Many scholars provide contrasts of development in terms of industrialization and state control (Desai, 2003) and Fails to mention other domestic social issues like poverty and inequality, deals scantily with the exception of foreign policy, and to some extent, fails to sufficiently settle its contemporary bilateral relations. Correspondingly, discussions are not featured concerning environmental and global challenges. Desai's work is, in any case, worth serious consideration for understanding the different trajectories of the two nations as well as their broader geopolitical implications; thus, it is an important endowment to the studies in political systems and international relations.

The longstanding and contemporary dimensions of the geopolitical rivalry between China and India, both historical and modern, in life's shadow and casts such rivalry into regional economic corridors like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar (BCIM) corridor (Khan, K. H, 2023). It emphasizes the relevance of this rivalry in structuring infrastructural projects that influence not only the two countries but also regional stability and international governance for the economy, giving insights for policymakers who navigate such a complex landscape.

### **Material and Methods**

Using a qualitative approach, the methodology relies heavily on secondary resources both government reports and academic papers, with a sprinkling of policy documents. It also examines some case studies of mega projects such as CPEC and BCIM, which would help draw assertions on how the rivalry between China and India affects the different regional economic corridors. Expert interviews and media content analysis provides complementary inputs into the geopolitical and economic strategies for both countries. This would thus provide comprehensive understanding of the issue by bringing multiple data sources and various perspectives together. The methodology is thus meant to accentuate the practical implications of the economic rivalries in Asia.

### **Results and Discussion**

Indeed, most of conflicts escalate from territorial disputes and consequences of British colonialism. During the colonial period, essentially India and China were not each other's political concerns peripheral. However, with independence of India, in 1947, and the revolution, in 1949, which brought Mao Zedong's Communist Party to power in China, things began to move. 1962 Sino-India war is one of the many historical events that constitute a major cause of the conflict. The war broke out due to the border disputes between the two nations, especially with respect to areas like Aksai Chin in the west and Arunachal Pradesh in the east. India claims that both areas are under its control and China claims Aksai Chin as belonging to its Xinjiang autonomous region. Since this region is of great importance to its security demands, the war has in short but emotional terms left deep wounds in bilateral relations, and it has condemned the fate of growing distrust between the two countries with no formal resolution to the issue of borders, thus one of those critical points of contention fueling nationalism in both countries and preventing complete extent of the diplomatic and strategic cooperation reality from entering into being.

Other than the dispute territories, the gulf broadened supplementary during the period of the Cold War. While India under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru was following nonalignment, China allied with the Soviet Union after a revolution in the communist bloc. The Sino-Soviet rift of the late 1960s deepened the complexity in the world and especially in the region. At this time, India enjoyed an elevated relationship with the Soviet Union, while China turned towards the U.S. and Pakistan for friendship, deepening the ideological and strategic divide. A serious threat for India is the military alliance of China and Pakistan which has persisted through decades. It complicates the security environment of India in the region by imposing a two-front challenge on its western and northern borders (Ghani, et. al., 2017); Yue, 2001).

The historical rifts between both nations have contributed to the emergence of the rivalry between them; contemporary factors will also continue to fuel this competition. Both have become large consorts of international economies rather than interacting with

each other much. Increasingly, China is rapidly becoming the most dominant economic force in Asia with economic growth propelled by the manufacturing sector along with trade and infrastructural development programs. An economy is booming, and furthermore, with a young population, India is being seen more and more as an up-and-coming economic and technology power with its growing service industry.

One of the major issues in modern rivalry is the economic competition between the countries. The BRI, or the Belt and Road Initiative, was first officially announced in 2013 in conjunction with the greater goals of building trade and infrastructure networks that brings together all parts of the world with China, whether it is Central Asia, Europe, Africa or Southeast Asia. However, India is very cynical over this entire concept, most importantly because the corridor passes through Indian claimed territory of the area of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). Therefore, India has not signed this as it believes that it is a vehicle for extending Chinese geopolitical influence. In contrast, India's Act East Policy opens doors to Southeast Asia in order to strengthen trade and security partnerships from that region, particularly under the ASEAN framework and other multilateral arrangements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (Muzaffar & Khan, 2021).

The current condition which is significantly added fuel to the burning fire is China's growing military capabilities and influences in the region. India manifests military firmness on China, chiefly expressed through its territorial claims in the South China Sea. Long land borders between China and India do not make India feel uncomfortable with growing Chinese military in Tibet; it is actually India's naval presence in the Indian Ocean, which it calls its area of influence. This has led to increased defense budgets from both countries, thus fueling further tensions. Many skirmishes have taken place along the borders in recent years between the Chinese and Indian forces, apart from the several others. The biggest and most violence-laden of these skirmishes who resulted were the Galwan Valley skirmishes of 2020, which left hundreds of casualties on both sides. These incidences have turned into hardening of attitudes and maximized military deployments by both countries along their contested border (Cheong & Tongzon, 2013).

In addition to the above-mentioned, what is concerning for India as a growing challenge is the Chinese economic and strategic ties with Pakistan. Among others, China has been the greatest economic and military partner of Pakistan and has provided unrelenting support, especially in infrastructure projects, arms supply, and even critical diplomatic support in the United Nations on Kashmir. These are roads, railroads, and energy pipelines from China's Xinjiang region to Pakistan's Gwadar port and represent one flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This directly challenges India's own strategic interests in the region. The China-Pakistan coalition brings Indian security into a massive complexity to it as it portends several future conflicts in particular with Chinese and Pakistani military contingents.

For both of these, regional and global prominence is similarly important in contesting challenging competition. It was in this context that both countries became gorges across Asia in the contest of supremacy. Likewise fluctuate in their models of diplomacy. It comes as no surprise that China pursues its designs into regional organizations such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). India's strive would be with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) while also having strategic linkages with the US, Japan, Australia through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). These

coalitions will techno geopolitically create contests in the region over the Indo-Pacific with broad contention.

Competition between China and India immensely affects the regional economic corridors which also affect infrastructure projects, trade routes, and regional cooperation. Rivalry between two nations for influence, besides aggravated border disputes and security concerns, has made the two shows opposite approaches to infrastructure development and connectivity. Major economic corridors such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and that of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) are particularly influenced by this particular rivalry. Evidently, the competition between China and India has a noticeable bearing on the regional economic corridors; hence, they should be taken into account in infrastructure projects, trade routes, and regional cooperation. Competition by two countries for influence with each other, coupled with several aggravating border disputes and security concerns, has made them demonstrate an opposite approach in development and connectivity, particularly in infrastructure. Two major economic corridors being affected include the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) corridor.

Among them, the most significant China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) stands out as an example of BRI in action. CPEC intends to create an economic link between the Xinjiang region of China and Gwadar Port in Pakistan, even as it abrasions through territory claimed by India-in particular, Occupied Kashmir. This project got an extremely strong blow from the Indian government, which deemed it a violation of its territorial sovereignty. India's refusal to participate in CPEC has not only denied it the economic gains that would have arisen through participation; it has also made things extremely complicated in trying to negotiate with other regional neighbors participating in this initiative. Thus, the CPEC issue has become a stinging point between the nations, highlighting how the rivalry between India and China stands in the way of developing cooperative economic corridors in South Asia (Shah, Muzaffar & Yaseen,2020).

The Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) corridor that really links these key areas in four countries, But not like India, just wouldn't go through on a Chinese window of infrastructure projects. For India, that development certainly raises suspicion about an increasing Chinese influence in its neighbors, and that BCIM could easily create political and economic grounds for China over smaller states in South Asia to South-east. Indecisiveness on India's part has really made implementation delays for BCIM corridors, thus restricting the possibility of trade and connectivity in that region. Hence, Indian concerns regarding the geostrategic fallouts owing to Chinese infrastructure projects let down the cooperation and integration among the regions.

This would also encompass the larger multilateral economic initiatives. India, being a very important country in the region, is left out of the BRI as an embodiment of the strategic maneuvering by both countries. While China intends to expand its hegemonic power through programs such as the BRI, India has set its sails to catch some wind with its regional strategy known as the Act East Policy, which hinges on strengthening economic ties with Southeast Asia and countering China's increasing presence in the region. The aforementioned has led to a fragmented regional economy, where Chinese and Indian cooperation frequently turns out to be thwarted by their mutual rivalry (Marchang, 2021).

The bilateral relations with respect to regional and global geopolitics are defined primarily by China through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and India's Act East Policy. Striving towards promoting and strengthening connectivity and development, both

initiatives assert their own specific geopolitical considerations through their different approaches and objectives. President Xi Jinping initiated the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013. The BRI is an ambitious program under which China intends to undertake a global network of infrastructure development. It should increase trade and economic integration across Asia, Europe, and Africa. This project intends to create a lot of infrastructure-building activities: roads, railways, ports, energy pipelines, as well as telecommunication networks-for improved connectivity and trade flow across regions. The whole project is politically geared toward China's long-standing aim of providing economic development to its western and less developed areas.

It seeks to meet China's demand for expendable market's, safe energy routes, and creating a foundation for the internationalization of its currency, Renminbi. More strategically, China intends to use the BRI to extend its influence regarding areas for its successful economic and political end games. The Initiative provides China with an even larger share of strategic maritime routes such as the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. This is also used as a tool for China to gain influence in the countries along these routes. It uses loans and infrastructure projects to work diplomatically with these participating countries, especially those situated in Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa. On the other side, countries like India despise BRI as nothing short of Chinese geopolitical expansion, and projects like the CPEC pass through contested geographies- from India's perspective, by occupying Kashmir.

The Act East Policy, adopted in 2014 under the reign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is intended to counter growing Chinese influence in the region. It concerns intensifying engagement-that is economic, political, and strategic-of India with the peoples of Southeast Asia, East Asia, and, as would seem increasingly evident, the wider Indo-Pacific region. Different from the very top-down and abstract state-driven BRI of China, this Act East Policy of India, like the others, seeks to develop cooperative, multi-layered engagements with neighboring countries through regional trade agreements, infrastructure projects, and diplomatic partnerships.

The Act East Policy is closely tied to India's attempts to balance its rising neighbor's growing weight across Asia, especially across South and Southeast Asia. The critical insertions include improved trade contacts, investment in infrastructure, and enhanced maritime security in the region. They have followed in strengthening ties with Japan, Australia, and the United States through such frameworks as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). Indeed, India's arguments with ASEAN, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation-BIMSTEC-all feed into the Act East Policy, which promotes trade, investment, and regional connectivity.

India's strategy, however, differs from that of China in many aspects. The BRI programme here is focused on huge infrastructural projects paid from Chinese coffers. India's approach is very cautious and delves into partnerships and mutualism and region multilateralism. It is unlikely to convince concessional loans or unilateral financial patronage to infrastructure projects. But there is always direct contact in sustaining long-term partnership and regional collaboration. As with few-scaled projects, developmental efforts in the region are much less than the immeasurably gigantic BRI projects. But they are directed toward building trust through person-to-person contacts, security cooperation, and regional trade agreements (Khatik, & Bjandari, 2021).

## Key Differences

**Scope and Scale:** The BRI is a mega-state endorsed initiative spanning around 140 countries whose core value is urgently development in global infrastructures. On the contrary, India's Act East Policy is run on a scale focused on a region that stretches as far as Southeast Asia into the vast sea called the Indo-Pacific, with an inclination towards multilateral frameworks and diplomatic cooperation.

**Financing Models:** The funding models of China's BRI are primarily Chinese state-subsidized loans, which trigger legitimate skepticism regarding debt sustainability in the participating countries. By contrast, India's Act East Policy underlines joint venture, partnership in the private sector, and regional cooperation to avoid dependence on Indian funding sources.

**Geopolitical Intent:** The BRI is seen as a tool for extending China's influence through infrastructure dominance and for greater control in major global trade routes. India's Act East Policy will locate regional Asian powers closer to India and foster their support for the maintenance of stability in the Indo-Pacific region while setting Asian powers into a larger strategic grouping such as the Quad along with an Indian perspective aimed at balancing China's influence.

The BRI, especially the CPEC, has raised security alarms in India because the project smidgens disputed territories. However, India's Act East Policy prioritized regional security and partnership in maritime security and strategic alliance with other regional powers such as Japan and Australia.

The economic competition among China and India makes significant effects on regional stability and multilateral cooperation in Asia. As the economic connections of the two countries, competitive bilateralism not only completed with increased regional trade, security, geopolitical alignments, and expands the influences of such bilateral relations but also influences competition in other broader regional dynamics. Rivalry impacts buildup and governance across regional forums like Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and the much larger Indo-Pacific strategy, generating their own risks and opportunities for regional stability.

The economic rivalry between China and India translates into actual consequences both countries have to suffer when it comes to regional balance, especially in regard to their strategic competition and unresolved territorial issues. There is a great deal of military capability on both sides, with the extension of economic competition to military modernization as well as defense spending and geopolitical maneuvering. (Yaseen, Muzaffar & Shahbaz, 2023). The competition always manifests itself with border encounters that have involved the most major incidents, namely those in Doklam (in 2017) and the Galwan Valley (in 2020), where clashes led to many casualties and further increased tensions among the nations. Such incidents indicate how economic competition can spill over to military conflict, putting peace and stability at risk across the region.

Again, because of the rivalry, security dynamics are affected in neighboring countries too, especially across South Asia and Southeast Asia. For instance, the growing presence of China in Pakistan and Maldives, along with increasing influence in Sri Lanka and Nepal, raises India's ferocity. The expanding Chinese military and infrastructural footprint-mainly via the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC)-makes India's strategic environment all the more complicated regarding security because these projects are perceived as an essential part of China's strategic encirclement of India. It results in a sentiment of insecurity and fragmentation in the region, which in turn destabilizes the whole subcontinent.

Either bilateral India-China differences are likely to affect increasingly annexed other issues of multilateral cooperation in the region. Power over important regional organizations is shared by both countries, but their competing interests are mostly rendered fragmented instead of consistent. All collective efforts on regional security, trade, and counterterrorism cooperation in multilateral organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) tend to become obstructed by this rivalry since both New Delhi and Beijing share their membership introducing debilitating political divisions.

China often takes the lead in most discussions conducted within such forums. However, India's defense priorities do not always match those of China's, especially in terms of security and economic dominance. The BRI of China, which India has once again excluded by not joining any foreign projects such as the BCIM Corridor, puts a strain between them that hinders future political integration in the region. There stands the BRI-over CPEC, which capitalizes on disputed territories within Kashmir, during which India threatens enormous potential for several economies within the region to integrate. The two key attentions of India's engagement in multilateralism, particularly in economic front, are India claiming sovereignty over the region and India's apprehensions regarding China's broader geostrategic goals.

China and India would be struggling to influence within the Indo-Pacific region, as both countries pursue more economic rivalry over the establishment of international trade cooperatives between the two countries. Such triangulation in regional patterns complicates the mix for broader geopolitical struggle between the two countries. India's participation in the Quad with the United States, Japan, and Australia is interpreted by China as an composed move to contain it. In response, it has established a free trade area with ASEAN with the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) in a choreographed manner so that these will connect the countries to China's economic sphere.

That rivalry has also created changing dynamics as country after country knocks to opportunities from China's economy and India-related insecurities. For instance, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh often find themselves trapped between the two giants, with their opportunities of economic engagement with China remaining open while keeping politically bendable ties with India. Thus, it complicates the development of regional multilateral frameworks since smaller countries would be very careful not to get caught in the Sino-Indian rivalry and pursue their national interests.

Nevertheless these discrepancies between China and India both have shown signs of connecting at the multilateral level for example, this time in the BRICS forum (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) with further cooperation on global economic issues and development initiatives (Imtiaz, Yaseen, & Muzaffar, 2023) Such areas of collaboration, however, are few in comparison with the broader scope of competition across Asia. China and India, therefore, have a double-edged sword concerning this economic and geopolitical competition: which can generate rivalry and spur economic growth in certain areas but also induce fragmentation with respect to the larger framework of unified regional governance and multilateral cooperation (Sidorova, 2018).



## Conclusion

The rivalry between China and India becomes a very complicated form of geopolitical rivalry, which can be detrimental to the significant equilibrium, economic corridors, and multilateralism within the region. Historically, however, it has been reverted to territorial disputes and strategic differences; the competition has now transformed into a more extended contest for economic superiority and regional hegemony. On the one hand, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Act East Policy represent two diverse paths for two countries engaging with the region and striving to extend influence beyond it. Hence, this ongoing competitive economic rivalry absorbs and afflicts by regional projects such as CPEC, BCIM, and most regional governance fragmentation. It is now the way how rivalry is navigated by China and India that will lay the foundation for not only future interrelations between rival but the overall stability and integration of the larger Asian region. Both are shared challenges between competition and cooperation in the region for any development and security.

## Recommendations

The study offers some helpful strategies and recommendations as;

**By carrying out Effective Bilateral Dialogue and Confidence Building Measures:** The two neighbors will have to consider increasing bilateral dialogues towards lessening the possibility of tensions or conflicts between them. They have border disputes, a long history of which has left them resorting to wars. These need to be combated using clear communications and regular diplomatic engagements. CBMs (such as joint exercises, information-sharing mechanisms, and protocols for conflict resolution to manage military escalation and a solid basis for creating an environment to accommodate future economic cooperation) are needed to institutionalize regular high-level talks on economic and security issues and foster better understanding in terms of each other's strategic interests.

**Consolidating Multi-Track Regional Engagement Dimension towards Multilateral Cooperation:** Multilateral cooperation would indeed prompt them to cooperate better bilaterally, in areas such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the BRICS forum, and the new Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), all of which could be used by both countries to address regional security, economic development, and trade issues.

**Expanding Regional Economic Integration:** While in rivalry, China and India can facilitate regional economic integration through policy induced joint ventures for the assistance of a wider region. Stimulating the Bangladesh, China, India, and Myanmar Corridor would entail collaboration on investment in infrastructure and trade facilitation. India needs to engage more proactively with the Belt and Road Initiative but ensuring that projects are realistic with respect to universal norms, transparency and fair financing. Few such cooperative efforts might reduce the fragmentation of regional economic initiatives and add to their interconnectedness in making South and Southeast Asia aligned more closely together.

**Economic Competition Balanced with Security Risks:** China's dominance is being caressed in South Asia due to projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and this elevated the security concerns of India. However, India has to continue to engage its neighbors diplomatically by providing credible alternative opportunities and possibilities to Chinese-led initiatives while ensuring that its own development

infrastructure within the protection of the Act East Policy is broadly feasible and attractive. Security partnerships with countries such as Japan, the United States, and Australia through arrangements like the Quad would also help to offset China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

**Facilitating within Individuals and Cultures Exchanges:** While China India's political narrative is usually dominated by how it is shaping their economies, people to people and cultural exchanges can go a long way in building long term ties. Mutual understanding would build through academic, cultural, and business exchanges. A favorable atmosphere can be shaped for broad cooperation by promoting tourism, education, and business partnerships in areas of mutual interest to the two nations. Building this connects both countries with the possibility of engaging into the millions of multilateral initiatives that exist in the region where the national regulators emphasize with attachments to people's welfare like education and health, and climate change.

**Developing a Framework for Sustainable Development:** Most challenges shared by both China and India pertains to sustainable development, such as issues of climate change, perhaps in environmental management, and poverty alleviation. A cooperative model for fighting these shared challenges may eventually be effective, strengthening Sino-Indian relations and as well as making it a quintessential contribution to the entire region. China and India may enter into convergence in addressing such issues through green technology or renewable energy projects or environmental preservation initiatives in order to enhance their performance in world leadership while addressing regionally shared concerns, creating a robust base for cooperation amid competitive interests.

**Regional Mechanism for Settlement of Conflicts:** It should be on a common platform for addressing questions on economic corridors and territorial ownership. Such a common platform could be the establishment of the neutral third-party body through, for example, the United Nations or even regional bodies such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and SCO. It would develop a platform for an elaborate peaceful and diplomatic method of resolving disputes in which the aggravated risk level of escalation to economic project and trade route development would be reduced. Continuous encouragement of discussion on antagonistic issues like the CPEC and BCIM corridor might yield much better practical results.

**References**

- Ain, N. Muzaffar, M., & Yaseen, Z. (2024). Geo-strategic Competition between India and China: A Comparative Analysis of BRI and IMEC, *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 8(2-S), 532-543
- Akram, M. (2016, April 17). The Indo-US alliance. *Dawn*.
- Basu, N. (2019, November 26). Pakistan's struggle under the weight of CPEC puts on brave face against US criticism. *The Prin*
- Cheong, I., & Tongzong, J. (2013). Comparing the economic impact of the trans-Pacific partnership and the regional comprehensive economic partnership. *Asian Economic Papers*, 12(2), 144-164.
- Desai, M. (2005). India and China: an essay in comparative political economy. In *India's and China's recent experience with reform and growth* (pp. 1-22). London: Palgrave Macmillan UK.
- Ghani, U., Ahmed, A., & Muzaffar, M. (2017). China's Maritime Strategy in the South China Sea: Implications for Regional Security, *Pakistan Languages and Humanity Review*, 1(1), 1-14
- Horimoto, T. (2015). *India's Wars: The Indo-Pakistani Wars and the India-China Border Conflict*. International Forum on War History.
- Imtiaz, A., Yaseen, Z., & Muzaffar, M. (2023). Bridging Continents: Emergence of BRICS and Assumptions for New-World Order, *Annals of Human and Social Sciences*, 4(3), 808-821
- Khan, I., & Shamim, M. U. (2022). China-India Relations: A Critical Analysis of Convergence and Divergence. *Orient Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 7(1), 14-22.
- Khan, K. H. (2023). China-India Rivalry and the Economic Corridors. *Saudi Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 8(9), 252-25
- Khatik, M. H., & Bhandari, U. (2021). India's Foreign Policy: A Transformation from 'Look East' to 'Act East' Policy. *Towards Excellence*, 13(2), 145- 152.
- Marchang, R. (2021). BCIM economic corridor an integral part of BRI for regional cooperation: Positioning India's North-East and act east policy. *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, 8(2), 249-269.
- Muzaffar, M., Shah, T. A., & Yaseen, Z. (2018). Pax Sinica in Asia: China's emergent geopolitics of economic corridors and dream of leadership. *Global Political Review*, 3(1), 101-109.
- Muzaffar, M., Yaseen, Z., & Rahim, N. (2017). Changing Dynamics of Global Politics: Transition from Unipolar to Multipolar World. *Liberal Arts and Social Sciences International Journal*, I (I), 49-61
- Muzaffar, M. & Khan, I. (2021). China's Foreign Policy and Strategic Stability towards South Asia: An Analysis, *South Asian Studies*, 36 (2), 339-350

- Nazim, R., Khan, A. M., & Muzaffar, M. (2018). Problems and prospects of CPEC for economic development and regional integration. *Global Economic Review*, 3(1), 21-30.
- Pant, H. V. (2011). China and India: a rivalry takes shape. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 1.
- Sidorova, E. (2018). The innovation development of the BRICS countries: preconditions and prospects for cooperation. *International Organizations Research Journal*, 13(1), 34-50
- Shah, S. T. A., Muzaffar, M., & Karamat, S. (2020). Asia-Pacific under Obama's Rebalance Strategy: Regional Responses, *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, 1 (1), 30-41
- Shah, S. T. A., Muzaffar, M., & Yaseen, Z. (2020). Debunking Concerns of the New Delhi over CPEC, *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, 4 (1), 33-46
- Weidong, S. (2017). Pakistan-China relations: CPEC and beyond. *Policy Perspectives: The Journal of the Institute of Policy Studies*, 14(2), 312.
- Wizarat, T. (2014). Reviving historical trade routes. *Strategic Studies*, 315, 18-34.
- Xinhua. (2021, June 19). Pakistan seeks cooperation with China to modernize agriculture sector, enhance food security. *Global Times*
- Yaseen, Z., Afridi, M. K., & Muzaffar, M. (2017). Pakistan and China's strategic ties: Challenges and opportunities in trade perspective. *Global Regional Review*, 2(II), 16-30.
- Yaseen, Z., Muzaffar, M., & Shahbaz, K. (2023). Pakistan-China Defense Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges, *Asian Journal of Academic Research*, 4(3), 95-107
- Yue, C. (2001). *Comparative advantage, exchange rate, and exports in China*. CERDI, Clermont-Ferrand, France.
- Zeb, R. (2012). Pakistan-China relations: Where they go from here? *Revista UNISCI*, 29, 45-58.
- Zhang, J. J., & Vortherms, S. A. (2021, September 22). U.S. tariff on Chinese goods didn't bring companies back to the U.S., new research finds. *The Washington Post*.