

# The Strategy of Sino-India Relations in the New Era: An Interpretation Based on the Discussion of a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity

Huan Zhou<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*School of Political Science and Public Administration, Shandong University, Qingdao, 266237, China*

**Abstract:** *The world today is facing unprecedented changes, and analyzing the strategic significance of Sino-India relations in the new era can help achieve the "Second Centenary Goal". Sino-India relations practice the concept of a "community with a shared future for mankind". Although the community faces many challenges, the two parties also hope to stabilize the surrounding environment and achieve development due to their strong awareness of building collaborative platforms. In the future, China should clarify its strategy towards India, promote major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, as well as the construction of a community for human health and natural life, thus further contributing to the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind and promoting world peace and development.*

**Keywords:** *New Era; Sino-India relations; International strategy; A community with a shared future of mankind*

## 1. Introduction

The research on the community with a shared future for mankind in the academic community at home and abroad has achieved fruitful results, which has certain reference significance for subsequent research. Foreign research tends to focus on realism, without taking full account of the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, and is also influenced by the zero sum game theory. Compared with foreign countries, domestic research is more multidimensional and diverse, with more attention paid to the concepts behind the community. In addition, China's and other countries' understandings about the meaning of community reflect different cognitive tendencies of groups in diverse cultural backgrounds.[1]

Overall, the integration of current research with practical issues is low, especially in the face of the pandemic, climate change, and many other factors affecting world peace and development that require further research. Specifically, research on building a community of health and hygiene in response to the epidemic, establishing a community of human and natural life against climate change, and targeting a community with a shared future for mankind still needs to be strengthened. Therefore, this article, from a relatively novel perspective, takes these three aspects as the starting point, attempting to advance the study of a community with a shared future.

In July 2022, Xi State president sent a message to Draupadi Mulmu congratulating her on her inauguration as President of India. He also pointed out that China and India are important neighbors to each other and that a sound and stable Sino-India relationship is in the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples [2].

As the report of the 20th National Congress stated, China aimed to promote world peace and development and build a community with a shared future for mankind. [3]60 these statements embody the significance of developing Sino-India relations and building a community with a shared future. An analysis of the strategy of Sino-India relations in the new era and an interpretation of the community of shared future for mankind will not only enrich diplomatic theories, but also help the two parties to build consultation mechanisms and a community of shared future for China and India, thus creating favorable conditions for the establishment of a community with a shared future for mankind.

## 2. Interpretation of the discourse on a community with a shared future for mankind

In the context of globalization, the awareness of mutual benefit and cooperation among countries is

becoming stronger, which provides favorable conditions for building a community with a shared future. In 2012, the 18th National Congress of the Communist organization of China officially proposed the concept of "advocating for a community with a shared future for mankind" for the first time. Subsequently, this concept was emphasized in 2017 when the report of the 19th National Congress proposed China's basic strategy and international strategic plan[4]. In 2022, the report of the 20th National Congress further mentioned the construction of a community with a shared future.

In the course of development, some difficulties will inevitably arise, such as the obstacles concerning peace and development, the epidemic and global climate. In response to these three problems, Xi State president put forward relevant proposals.

In the face of the epidemic, Xi State president first proposed the initiative of "building a community of health for mankind" when he visited President Macron in 2020. As for climate change, in 2021, he pointed out that China's strategic goal of "achieving carbon peak before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060" is a strategic decision made to fulfill the responsibility of building community and realizing sustainable development [5]. Faced with the challenges of peace and development, Xi State president pointed out in the twenty report: Promoting world peace and development as well as the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind [3] 60.

At the same time, after probing into the community of shared future from different perspectives, scholars have some research achievements on the above three practical issues.

### ***2.1 We need to promote world peace and development and build a community with a shared future for mankind.***

We need to be clear about the goal of building a community, which is to promote world peace and development ultimately. There has been some research in the academic circle, among which most scholars emphasize the significance of building community for world peace and development. For example, Xiong Jie et al. believes that it provides Chinese experience for world peace and Chinese impetus for world economic development, that is to say, the community of shared future promotes world peace and development [6]. Lu Lige et al. believes that the importance of this is to promote world peace and development, and "community building" is not only "for China", but also "for all countries in the world" [7].

In addition, Scholars have a deeper exploration from different perspectives. For example, Zheng Qianru et al. combined the Silk Road and the humanistic spirit with the community and world peace and development, arguing that the Silk Road is a vivid demonstration of the community with a shared future for mankind and a historical practice of world peace and development [8]. Wang Gonglong, Li Kaisheng, Zhang Ji, Han Aiyong and Liu Hongsong interpreted the contents of the Twenty reports in this regard, and explained the twenty spirits from the angles of building a community in implementing the "two initiatives" and promoting the overall sound development of the external environment [9].

### ***2.2 Joints efforts should be made to tackle the epidemic and build a community of health for all.***

Under the guidance of Xi's proposal of the health community, the academic circles have conducted relevant research concerning this community. Scholars generally stress the significance of building the community in the context of the pandemic. In terms of policy suggestions, Qi Feng believes that this community presents a logical unity of "idea-discursion-action" [10] whereas Zeng Xianghong et al. states the significance and practical basis of building the community for China's diplomacy and then gave policy suggestions [11], starting from the theoretical origin of the community. There are also other opinions from different perspectives. To illustrate, Wang Yong explores the significance and legitimacy of the community in the development of international law based on international legitimacy[12]. Wei Jianwen et al. explored China's actions to build the community by designing variables and conducting empirical analysis, taking external donations during the epidemic as an example [13].

### ***2.3 Cooperation should be called upon to tackle climate change and build a community of human and natural life.***

Xi State president mentioned in the twenty report that achieving carbon peak and carbon neutrality is an extensive and profound economic and social systemic change [3] 51. Most academic studies in this field talk about the challenges brought by climate change and the significance of dealing with climate change and building a community of shared future for mankind. Experts discusses about this issue from different perspectives. Dai Tiejun et al. , based on internal logic, explores the dynamic between community with a shared future, climate change and ecological construction[14]. From the perspective

of international law, Wang Yurong explores the international legal response to global governance and the enlightenment of community concept for improving governance mechanism [15]. In addition, unlike most studies and analyses on the impact of community on climate governance, Xiao Lanlan has turned to a "reverse" analysis, focusing on how climate governance affects community construction and explores its logical mechanism [16].

The scholars' research reflects the significance of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and China and India need to work harder to implement this concept. The two sides can also deepen exchanges with other countries by participating in regional and international organizations to help build a community with a shared future for mankind.

### **3. Obstacles and Challenges in the process of constructing China-India Community of Shared Future**

At present, factors such as the United States, border disputes, economic and trade frictions, climate change are impeding the construction of a China-India community of shared future. Studying these factors will benefit the formulation of diplomatic strategy and the normal development of future Sino-Indian relations.

#### **3.1 American factor**

In November 2022, Xi State president met with Biden, reaching an agreement about maintaining strategic communication and pushing Sino-US relations back to the track of stable development [17]. While the US has agreed to continue strategic communication, it still attempts to contain China. Faced with China's development, the United States and other countries show anxiety, and the United States wants to counterbalance China by wooing India [18]. The US and India are committed to promoting political democracy and are willing to cooperate in the fields of economy, trade and nuclear activities. In the G-4 nations of the United States, Japan, India and Australia, the United States and India are attempting to increase their cooperation in the Indo Pacific region, while the United States is trying to enhance its relations with India to hinder the development of China-India relations. The interaction between the United States and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi increased, and the latter is believed to break diplomatic traditions and lean towards alliances. This can be suggested in 2022, when Biden launched the "Indo Pacific Economic Framework" (IPEF), and India became one of the initial members.

#### **3.2 Boundary problem**

Territorial dispute has long been a contradiction that needs to be dealt with by China and India [19]. The border issue is linked with the so-called MacMahon Line, which was not proposed under mutual agreement. Border issues can be a trigger for conflict, as relations between the two countries have been marred by a 1962 border clash and subsequent ones. Despite repeated negotiations between China and India in the past, the issue has yet to be resolved, which is linked to the development strategies, national interests and international situation. In the absence of settlement of disputes, contradictions between countries are also difficult to eliminate. In the future, the two countries still have a long way to go on this issue.

#### **3.3 Economic and trade obstruction**

Over the years, China-India economic and trade cooperation has made some achievements, but trade frictions have also hindered the building of the community. After taking office, Modi put forward concepts such as "smart city" and "Make in India" in an attempt to attract foreign capital and technology and acquire management skills [20]. India boycotts "Made in China", promotes the decoupling of economic industrial chain, and intensifies the scrutiny of Chinese economic and trade investment. In addition, joint participation in economic agreements is an option for building a community with a shared future, but India has not actively participated. For example, India is unwilling to participate in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement which South Korea and China have been involved in [21]. These are manifestations of India's strategy, which may cause friction in China-India trade.

In addition to the above factors, it should be stressed that climate change will also affect the building of a healthy community between China and India. Meanwhile, China-India relations are also affected by the Tibet issue, China-Pakistan relations and other factors.

#### **4. China's future diplomatic strategy towards India**

In the future, we need to develop diplomatic strategies to address these obstacles and challenges. It is essential to formulate strategies consistent with the world status, to establish the principle of competing for strategic and friendly relations and to develop new international norms and policies [22].

##### ***4.1 Adhering to the foreign policy of friendship and openness***

As is mentioned in the twenty report, China adheres to the basic state policy of opening up and firmly pursues the win-win strategy of opening up [3] 61. Politically, India does not trust China enough and once saw China as a threat to its security. However, we are firmly committed to the path of peace. Both sides should actively engage in high-level dialogue to enhance political mutual trust. Economically, we should pursue open development, oppose trade protectionism and foster a fair economic environment. Culturally, we should open channels of cultural exchange, learn from each other's cultural essence, and seek common ground while reserving differences. To build a community with a shared future and promote world peace and development, the two sides need to keep an open mind, jointly respond to the US challenge and discuss the border issue. In addition, China and India need to strengthen communication to promote the building of a human health community, provide materials to each other, and actively hold meetings to safeguard people's health. Faced with climate change, both sides need to share experience in environmental protection, jointly promote green development, and promote the construction of a community human and natural life.

##### ***4.2 Building mechanisms and platforms for consultation and cooperation***

Development challenges cannot be addressed by one single country, so there is a growing sense that all countries should work together to build a platform for dialogue. A report in the international media mentioned a long-standing fear of China in India. With the changes in inter-state relations, especially the friendly exchanges between China and India's neighbors and the development of China-Pakistan relations, such as the exchanges between China and Nepal and China's supply of weapons to Sri Lanka, this has intensified India's fear of being encircled by strategic forces[23]. This could lead to anti-China voices in India, which are partly due to insufficient communication and unclear strategic positioning of each other. In this regard, the two sides need a mechanism and platform for consultation. The existing mechanisms such as the boundary Question Representatives' Meeting, the Strategic Economic Dialogue and the G20, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS have created conditions for China-India exchanges. In the future, the two sides can further establish mechanisms and platforms to promote strategic exchanges.

##### ***4.3 Paying attention to economic and trade exchanges***

Currently, India is the fifth largest economy, and reports suggest that it could become the third largest economy by 2029 [24]. India needs the Chinese market to meet its future economic needs. Since the outbreak of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, most of the US and Western countries have supported Ukraine and imposed sanctions on Russia. While India took a neutral attitude, the US and other countries put pressure on India. The conflict also affected the Indian economy, so it is very necessary for India to carry out economic coordination with China [25]. China has entered a stage of high-quality development and objectively needs India's help. Therefore, strategically, creating a peaceful and stable surrounding environment and economic cooperation is the best choice. On the other hand, India's development needs to arouse our vigilance. We need to identify our strategic needs and objectives and enhance our comprehensive strength to mitigate the challenges posed by other countries.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Starting from the interpretation of the discourse on a community with a shared future for mankind, this dissertation focuses on reality, and expounds the academic research on three practical problems. In response to this, the obstacles and challenges faced in the construction of China-India community with a shared future have been analyzed, and future strategies towards India been proposed. At present, the community of shared future for mankind still faces urgent problems, such as climate change, which will affect the development of the international community. China and India are no exception. The dispersal of epidemics and climate change are issues that need further research in the future, while this paper mainly focuses on analyzing the challenges posed by the United States, border disputes and economic and trade issues to the construction of China-India community of shared future. Climate change and other issues have not been thoroughly studied in this article, and future study and research are expected to be

inspired.

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