

**RESEARCH PAPER****The Rise of PLA and its impact on Indian Defense Scenario****Chandresh Pandey**

Defence and Strategic Studies, Iswar Saran Degree College, Prayagraj

Email: [chandreshsultan@gmail.com](mailto:chandreshsultan@gmail.com)Received: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Revised: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017, Accepted: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017**ABSTRACT**

*At present, the power projection of China has surprised not only India but the whole world. In recent years, China has not only developed its military capacity but also its economic capacity many folds. In terms of growth rate, China is in second place in the world and India is in fourth place. China and India are such neighboring nations that have been hostile at times. After independence, in 1947, India wanted that its relations with its neighboring countries should be good and friendly. In case of China, despite some differences in ideological approach, India wanted to establish good relations. Despite India's much debated slogan of 'Hindi Chini Bhai-Bhai' and Panchsheel Pact with China, India's relation with China was not as stable as it was expected which ultimately culminated in an armed conflict on 20th October, 1962. Since the India-China border dispute has been going on for a long time, and the growing influence of China on International relations in recent past, it is high time for India to pay special attention to its security. If we assess the power of China, then we may have to do this assessment in two ways. First it becomes necessary to study the military power of China; secondly it also becomes a necessity to study the economic power of China. Only after studying these two factors of power, one can properly assess the expanding influence of China at global level.*

**CHINA'S MILITARY POWER**

Nuclear-powered China has achieved an important position in the world politics. After the disintegration of USSR, China has emerged as a major military power not only in the region but also at the global level. We can divide China's military development into Army, Navy and Air Force.

**ARMY:**

If we look at the Chinese army, the situation is clearly visible. China's defense budget for the year 2010 is US\$77.95 billion. The number of active soldiers in the Chinese army is around 2255000 with 8200 tanks, 5000, Artillery, 14000 Armored Personal Carrier, 1700 Self Propelled Guns, Multiple 2400 Rocket Launch System, and Anti Tank Guided Weapons are around 6500. The army in China is divided into 7 military zones:

- Senyang Military Region
- Beijing Military Region
- Lai Military Area
- Jinan Military Region
- Nanjing Military Region
- Ghungo Military area
- Chagadu Military area

Recently, China has put a large part of its military forces around the Indian border. China never discloses its military preparedness. Those who are displayed in the parade, or by performing, they get a chance to make headlines at the international level. In it, information about the capabilities of China is not found. Finding out the real ability of China is a difficult task. The display of weapons in the last military parade in Beijing was a challenge for even America. Today, China is experimenting with the use of weather bombs to cause heavy rains and droughts. Also, China has a full range of missiles including ICBMs and other small and medium range missiles.

In this way, China has prepared a very strong defense line against India. In most cases, China would like to put the border dispute in its favor by putting pressure on India in the future and on India,

any kind of pressure on the border has to be tolerated first by the Army. In this, China appears have upper handover India. Whereas Indian Army Modernization is affected seriously by red tapism and corruption.

#### **AIR FORCE:**

The Chinese Air Force was established on 11 November 1919. Initially Jan's Air Force was dependent on the Soviet Air Force for its needs. In the late 1980s, the technical aim of the PLA was to defend its mainland. However, if carefully, then China and Soviet ideology were almost identical and the Soviet Union was in the role of elder brother. But after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, China had the compulsion to develop itself excessively. From the early 90s, China began to focus on the development of the Air Force. At the same time, the defense proximity of Pakistan with China had also increased significantly.

By the time of the 21st century, China had started empowering everyone with its military preparations. China acquired 76 Sukhoi-30 MKKs between 2000 and 2003. Apart from this the upgraded version of 24 more Sukhoi 30MKZS was acquired by China in the year 2004 China has also made its own fighter aircraft in collaboration with Pakistan, which is a new chapter in Sino-Pak defense relations. The Chinese Air Force is divided into seven military zones. Each military unit is provided with fighter, bomber transport, assault divisions as required. The military area of the Chinese Air Force is as follows:

- Beijing Military Region
- Chengde Military Area
- Guangzhou Military Area
- Xinjiang Military Region
- Lanzhou
- Nanjing
- Senayang

China currently has aircraft like Chengdu-10 Gun, JF-17 Thunder, Shenyang, J Finbank and Sukhoi-30. Apart from this, the Chinese Air Force has recently built a fifth-generation fighter aircraft (J 20 Stealth Fighter) as well.

However, by destroying its own satellite in space a few years ago, China had indicated to the world its capability in space war and it could affect the information system or other useful services of any nation. After which the exercise to compete with China started on the world level and due to the ongoing exercise to occupy space, India's Air Force had to make Aerospace Command, the way the power of China's Air Force is increasing. It is really a matter of concern for India and other neighboring countries of China.

#### **NAVY:**

China has a huge navy and China is continuously increasing its naval power. The total strength of China's navy is 2,55,000. Total Destroyer 26, Frigate 49, Large Landing Ship 27, Medium Landing Ship 31, Fast Attack Craft 200 Plus and Aircraft 400-500 Initially the Naval Academy of China was established on 22 November 1949, mostly directors belonged to the Soviet Union. China was initially dependent on the Soviet Union, but gradually China started serious efforts for self-dependence in this area. The Chinese Navy developed into a regional naval power in the 1980s under the leadership of Chief Naval Commander Liu Huaqing. Liu Huanqing was an army officer who spent most of his tenure in administrative positions, including science and technology matters."

In 1987, the Chinese Navy became the third largest navy in the world. Since then, China has never looked back and has always indulged in an expansive policy. At the world level, some or the other news of China keeps on bewildering people. Sometimes there are reports that China is building military bases to hide submarines from satellites. The Chinese Navy of the North Sea, East Sea and South Sea region operates the largest number of water bodies among Asian nations. In which 8-10 atomic submarines have occurred and China's military is 50-60 diesel electric submarines. China

had started for a long time to besiege India. Along with giving military and financial aid to the neighboring countries of India, he has also started building his military bases in them.

### **CHINA'S GROWING ECONOMIC POWER**

China is developing very fast as an economic power. If we look at the rate of economic development, then China holds the second place in the world. India's rival nation China seems to be far ahead of India. China's GDP growth averaged around is 10 percent. If this growth is taken into account, then it becomes clear that China is far ahead of India. And China continues to make amazing progress. We get to hear one or the other ear-popping achievement of him every day. China has now overtaken Japan to become the second largest economy in the world." The two important sectors of China's economy are agriculture and industry, which employ more than 70 percent of the population, as well as more than 60 percent of GDP.

In a decision taken in the year 1978, foreign direct investment was allowed, which was to be in many small but special economic zones along the sea. "Thus, by making a policy in 1978 itself, inviting foreign investment, which led China on the path of progress. While foreign direct investment in India happened later. China is self-sufficient in agriculture, wheat, soybean, groundnut, cotton, tea, fish are produced in large quantities. China also ranks second in energy production after the United States and Russia. Apart from this, China is focusing its attention on new sources of energy, leaving the traditional methods of energy. So that in future he does not face any problem due to limited resources. Industry and construction sector in China China's CDP contributes 46.8 percent of the "China ranks third in the world in industrial production. Due to China's policies, today the whole world is full of Chinese goods. China makes every cheap and necessary goods and every person buys them due to low price. China's economic progress is increasing at a very fast pace, in which the whole world is surprised.

### **WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIAN SECURITY**

At present, the biggest threat to India is from China. China is besieging India through its own well-planned move through neighboring countries of India, this is a danger sign for India. China has established its military bases in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and is providing huge assistance to their forces. China's conspiracy to remain silent can be understood from the fact that 'People's Liberation Army Navy Chief Admiral Wu Singli, who visited India in December 2008, discussed the matter of piracy with his host, Admiral Surish Mehta. Admiral Sigli did not reveal any deployment plans, but upon his return to Beijing, the Chinese government announced that China would deploy its naval ships in the Indian Ocean to fight pirates from Somalia, Yemen. If China's plan is looked at carefully, Myanmar has made its military base by giving aid to Bagla country, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and on the other hand by citing robberies Landed his ships in the Indian Ocean. Due to which three more positions of India were not affected. It is also important to note that China had a sharp statement in 1984 that the Indian Ocean is not an ocean of India. It is a matter of fact that in 1984 itself, China had made its actions clear against India. This clearly meant that China wanted to establish its presence in the Indian Ocean, which was a challenging fact for India. For which India needed to formulate a clear policy, and the important fact is that till date most of the Indian education projects are running behind schedule. Whereas China's activity is to threaten its neighboring countries. Recently it has put down its flag in the South China Sea. It is believed that by this act, China has tried to claim that the entire South China Sea is part of its maritime border, along with this, it has also expressed its right over Parasal and Spartley islands. Due to China's tension with its other neighboring countries, many East Asian countries are coming to India.

This clearly means that now China is becoming a threat to its neighboring countries. China is surprising everyone with the maniacal progress that is happening in the field of his economic and military progress. His main focus, as always, is on the Indian Ocean so that he can make his debut in the Blue Water Navy. How serious has the situation become? This can be understood from the fact that 'concerns were also expressed in the Lok Sabha that China's activities in the Indian maritime area are increasing. China has troubled the US and other navies. A few time earlier, when America and South Korea conducted joint military exercises, China had objected to it. After the South China Sea dispute has been sidelined in the last two decades, now America has also geared up. And

assured the allies that China's growing power would be challenged. The "soft power" of China that was referred to in EastAsia has become meaningless now?

This simply means that in the coming days many nations will be united against China, that may be in India's favor, but a side effect of this will be that a serious power competition starts again in the Indian Ocean around China or the presence of many nations will start in the Indian Ocean region.

After the rise of Xi Jinping to the power, the PLA has been focused to become a 'world class force' and the modernization efforts has been done continuously and vigorously in PLA. Xi's regime particularly focuses on developing its Navy the PLAN (People's Liberation Army Navy) in order to compete with its rivals in Asia-Pacific as well as Indo-Pacific theatre. China considers USA as the primary challenge to her interests. However, being in the vicinity of the Chinese maniacal development, India is bound to be affected by that. The Chinese debt-trap policy, through which China is affecting the decision making of the small/weak neighbors of India is hampering the New Delhi interests in the region.

India being a potential threat to Chinese supremacy in the region, is viewed by Beijing as one of the major threats to its dominance and therefore they resent any activity/action by India in the Indian ocean Region. Recently, China had acquired its 5<sup>th</sup> generation fighter aircraft, J-20 Stealth fighter. The Chinese Rocket force is also developing its first hypersonic cruise missile DF-17. China is only the 2nd country after Russia to acquire such missile.

In 2017, China has also established its first overseas bases in Djibouti despite the previous Chinese presidents earlier denying to do so in the future. This clearly indicates the change in Chinese posture in Xi's era. The China has also established is common theatre commands and there is large personnel cut by the PLA in order to make the Chinese troops more 'lean and lethal' for all round operations on land, air and sea. A few decades back the PLA was primarily dependent on the Russia for its military requirements but recently as per the SIPRI report 2020, China has surpassed Russia to become the second highest arms producers state in the world. This clearly indicates the flourishing defence industry in China which is assisting the modernization of the PLA.

#### **SITUATION BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA**

The core problems such as Tibet, Tibetan refugee problem, Indian territories occupied by China have remained the same. Rather, China is now trying to complicate these issues further and trouble India further. At first, China started giving Staple visa to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, to which India lodged its protest. Now India is also considering the option of giving special visa to Chinese citizens. Sources say that India is currently not in favor of answering China in its own language by issuing staple bags. But if China takes any other provocative action, then India can also retaliate. "China a few years ago refused to grant visa to the head of the Northern Command of the Indian Army, Lt. General BS Jaswal. India has given a strong response to this action by China, stopping all military exchanges and cooperation with China. China's taking such a step can be really unbearable for any government. On the one hand, China does not give visa to the Lieutenant General of the Northern Command, while on the other hand Pakistan secretly moves strategically in its occupied Kashmir. The New York Times has made a sensational disclosure of the de facto control of important Gilgit and Baltistan. 7000 to 11,000 soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army have infiltrated there. China is trying to build high-speed rail and road here. Through these routes, Beijing will transport essential goods and oil tanks from East China to Pakistani naval bases built by China at Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara.

The Indian government is making up its mind that in the future, weighing the seriousness of every issue, it will give a befitting reply to China according to its seriousness. It is also ready, and also has a strong fleet of conventional and nuclear submarines. In response to this, India has also intensified its strategic preparations and is engaged in facing every challenge not only on land but also at sea. The effect of India's concern was that India explored several possibilities to engage China, including the signing of two letters of cooperation of strategic and defense importance during the visit of Defense Minister Enfaq Antony to South Korea, which will increase the Indian Navy's fleet of warships. At the same time, it will help to monitor China's activities in the Pacific Ocean to the South China Sea. Thus it is proved that India has also started playing its tricks against China. Due to

which the possibility of new tensions arising in this area in future cannot be ruled out. Just a few days ago, naval military exercises were done in South Korea and America, and in such a situation, the Indian Defense Minister going to South Korea proves that in the coming times, India-South Korea America' and their other allies will be involved in the activities of China. But keep your eyes on it, it means that in the next coming time, there will be emergence of group of China, pro-China nations and anti-China nations and there will be influence in this area, but who will win India in China, only time will tell.

## CONCLUSION

India and China are neighboring nations as well as a strong military and economic power. Both the countries are situated in the continent of Asia, and have the ability to influence the whole world with their increasing power.

"India-China relations are taking a new turn, today India-China relations are moving towards a new tension. China is misusing its neighboring countries to surround India. There is no doubt that China's military and economic power is far ahead of India, therefore India has to develop its military power rapidly, till we can not give full competition to China's power. India needs to pay attention to the following measures-

1. India should get the cooperation of those nations which are opposing the Chinese regime, such as Japan, Singapore, America, South Korea etc.
2. To encircle China, the world's major economy, America (first) Japan (third) India (fourth) should
3. join hands to deal with China's whimsical progress and military threats posed by it. An effort to realise the same has been done recently through Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) wherein India, USA, Japan and Australia joined hands.
4. In China, where there is only one party and there is one party rule, here other nations should try together for the beginning of democracy and various intelligence agencies will have to stir up internal dissatisfaction here.
5. India needs to respond strongly and firmly to the various diplomatic activities being carried out by China in its own language.
6. India should expedite its various defense projects and try to carry out all pending defense purchases as soon as possible.
7. India should further strengthen the Act East policy as well as prepare a powerful aggressive foreign policy to counter the conspiracies against India.
8. India will have to implement some concrete policy to deal with its internal situation, vote bank politics arising out of multipartyism, and corruption at the earliest.
9. India will have to break its tolerance image, because it is having the effect that people are getting the feeling that India does not give any befitting reply to its opponents, due to this reason India's neighboring nation at the world level is facing India. Proceedings against in which they are attached.

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