

International Relations Class 15

5th February, 2024 at 9:00 AM

INTRODUCTION (09:11 AM)

- A Brief Overview Of The Previous Class.

INDIA'S AFGHAN POLICY AFTER TALIBAN TAKE OVER (09:16 AM)

- Firstly India wanted to see ~~if~~ ^{Taliban} Taliban 2.0 is an updated version of Taliban 1.0 or if it is completely having a different outlook.
- We wanted to see what was the dynamic between Pakistan and the Taliban.
- We wanted to see the reaction of the world community and at the same time wanted to analyze developments under 2.0 regarding the status of minorities women and other sections.
- This is the reason why initially India remained in wait-and-watch mode.

Is there a policy shift towards Taliban 2.0?

- Keeping security concerns in mind and the strong **repercussions** of not engaging with Taliban 1.0, this time India has shown a policy shift towards Taliban 2.0.
- After a wait-and-watch mode:
- India is engaging at 2 levels regarding Afghanistan.

a) Engagement at the bilateral level:

- This shift in Afghan Policy indicates a deviation from India's earlier strategy of non-engagement with Afghanistan.
- However, we are firm in our earlier position of avoiding recognition of any regime which is not **'Afghan own, afghan led and Afghan controlled'**.
- Opening up of our embassies in Aug 2022 reflects a pragmatic approach of India keeping in mind new regional realities.
- This approach indicates the prospects of long-term advantages that India can gain.
- **These could be:**
- Close engagement and building of trust with Afghan people.
- Addressing our security concerns.
- Keeping China out of ~~Afghans~~ ^{Afghanistan}.
- Continuing our surveillance over Pakistan and adjoining areas.
- Safeguarding our existing infrastructure and assets.
- Retaining our presence in Central Asia and the Middle East through Afghanistan.

b) **Engagement at the multilateral level:**

- At the multilateral level, the issue of Afghanistan was discussed in the **3rd NSA level meeting** organized by India in November 2021 involving **CARs** Russia and Iran.
- The talks emphasized that Afghan territory would not be used for sheltering financing or training any terrorist activities.
- This was called the **Delhi Declaration** " which stressed the need for an open inclusive government in Afghanistan that would ensure **the rights of the children women and minority communities.**
- This declaration also underlines the need for urgent humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan in a non-discriminatory manner.
- **Maintaining a people-centric approach:** Our decisions to expand the diplomatic presence were inspired by India's people-centric approach.
- Our approach was to safeguard and continue development projects in Afghanistan to create goodwill among the Afghan people.
- Our focus would be now on finishing some pending projects in Afghanistan such as the **Sehtoth dam in Kabul.**
- This signifies India's role as a neutral and constructive stakeholder in Afghanistan.
- It will also help India to act as a link between International organizations and other global countries in providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

Engage isolate or oppose:

- The options available wrt Afghanistan are:
- **Engage:**
- It means holding dialogues reopening diplomatic missions and providing humanitarian help.
- **Isolation:**
- Denying **formal diplomatic recognition.**
- The implication would be holding back aid through international financial systems like the World Bank, IMF, or UN.
- **Oppose:**
- Opposition involves both direct as well ^{as} **covert** opposition.
- **Analysis:**
- Most countries including the US are adopting policies of both engagement as well as isolation.
- India is also right now invoking these 2 options only.
- However, the last **prong** of India's approach can be to oppose Taliban 2.0 not just diplomatically and politically but also covertly by supporting anti-Taliban forces.
- This could be considered as India's **carrot-and-stick approach** towards Afghanistan.

Downsides/Challenges of India's engagement with the Taliban

- 1) India's outreach to Taliban 2.0 has raised several realists- moral **contention**
- 2) Shows inconsistency in India's policy
- 3) Security concerns
- 4) No change in the ideology of the Taliban
- 5) Dealing with Pro-China Neighbours of the Taliban.

INDIA CHINA RELATIONS (10:07 AM)

US-China Relations:

- **Blinken Visit to China (June 19, 2023):**
- First US Secretary of State visit since 2018.
- Aimed at repairing deteriorating relations.
- Five agreements reached:
- Implementing common understandings from the **Bali** meeting.
- Maintaining high-level interactions (Qin Gang to visit the US).
- Consulting on **guiding principles** of relationship.
- Addressing specific issues through a joint working group.
- Encouraging people-to-people exchanges and increasing passenger flights.
- **Biden's Remarks (June 20, 2023):**
- Referred to Xi Jinping as a "**dictator**" and highlighted **China's economic difficulties**.
- **Underscored** the complex balance between managing competition and domestic political considerations.

China-Pakistan Relations:

- **Nuclear Power Plant Deal (June 20, 2023):**
- China to build a 1,200-megawatt nuclear plant in Pakistan.
- Seen as a symbol of deepening economic cooperation.
- **UNSC Veto (June 20, 2023):**
- China blocked a US-India proposal to designate a Pakistan-based terrorist as a global threat.
- Demonstrates China's support for Pakistan, potentially impacting India's security concerns.

US-India Relations:

- **PM Modi's Visit to US (June 21-24, 2023):**
- The White House emphasizes strengthening bilateral ties, focusing on cooperation, not aimed at China or Russia.
- Potential boost to US-India partnership amidst US-China tensions.
- **India-China Trade:**
- **Record Trade Deficit (January 2023):**
- India's trade deficit with China crossed \$100 billion for the first time, raising potential concerns in India.

Historical Context:

- **Diplomatic Relations (April 1, 1950):**
- A long history of diplomatic relations since 1950.
- Guided by the Panchsheel principles of peaceful coexistence.

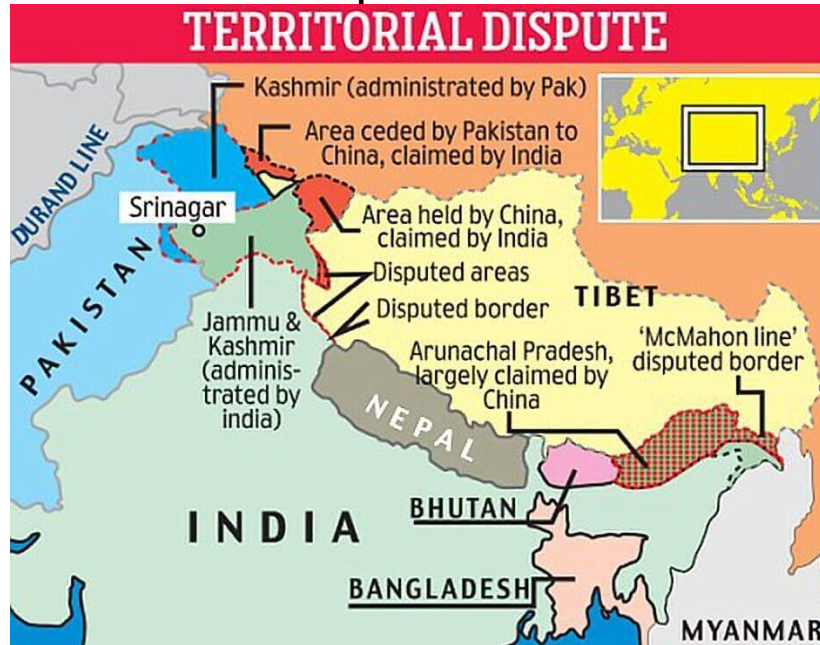
Additional Points:

- **September 2022:** India expressed a desire for a relationship with China based on **"mutual sensitivity, respect, and interest."**
- **July 7, 2022:** India and China held ministerial-level talks on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LAC AND LOC (10:30 AM)

- **What is the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**
- The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
- LAC is divided into three regions: Ladakh's western sector, Uttarakhand's ~~middle sector~~, and Himachal Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim's eastern sector.
- The LAC is only a concept – **it is not agreed upon by the two countries**, neither **delineated** on a map or demarcated on the ground.
- The Line of Control (LoC) emerged from the **1948 ceasefire line** negotiated by the United Nations after the Kashmir War.
- It was designated as the LoC in 1972, following the Shimla Agreement between the two countries.
- LoC is demarcated upto the **Siachen Glacier (Point NJ9842)**- the world's highest battlefield.
- LoC is delineated on a map signed by the **Director General of Military Operations (DGMO)** of both armies and has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.

India-China Border Dispute:



- India and China share the second largest after Bangladesh.
- The Sino-Indian border is generally divided into three sectors: the western, middle, and eastern sectors.

Western Sector:

- It is located between the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir and the Chinese province of Xinjiang.

Dispute over Aksai Chin

- In 1962, both countries went to war over the disputed territory of Aksai Chin. It is claimed by India to be part of Kashmir, while China claims it to be part of Xinjiang.
- During British rule in India, two proposed borders between India and China were Johnson's Line and McDonald's Line.
- **The Johnson Line**---proposed in 1865--- places Aksai Chin in Jammu and Kashmir, under Indian control--- India considers the Johnson Line to be the correct.
- **The McDonald Line** -----proposed in 1893----- places it under Chinese control---China considers the McDonald Line to be the correct border with India.
- At the moment, the Line of Actual Control (LAC) separates Indian areas of Jammu and Kashmir from Aksai Chin. It runs parallel to the Chinese Aksai Chin claim line.

Middle Sector:

- In this sector, the border runs from Ladakh to Nepal.
- In this sector, the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand touch the border with Tibet (China).
- In this area, there is little disagreement between the two sides.

Eastern Sector:

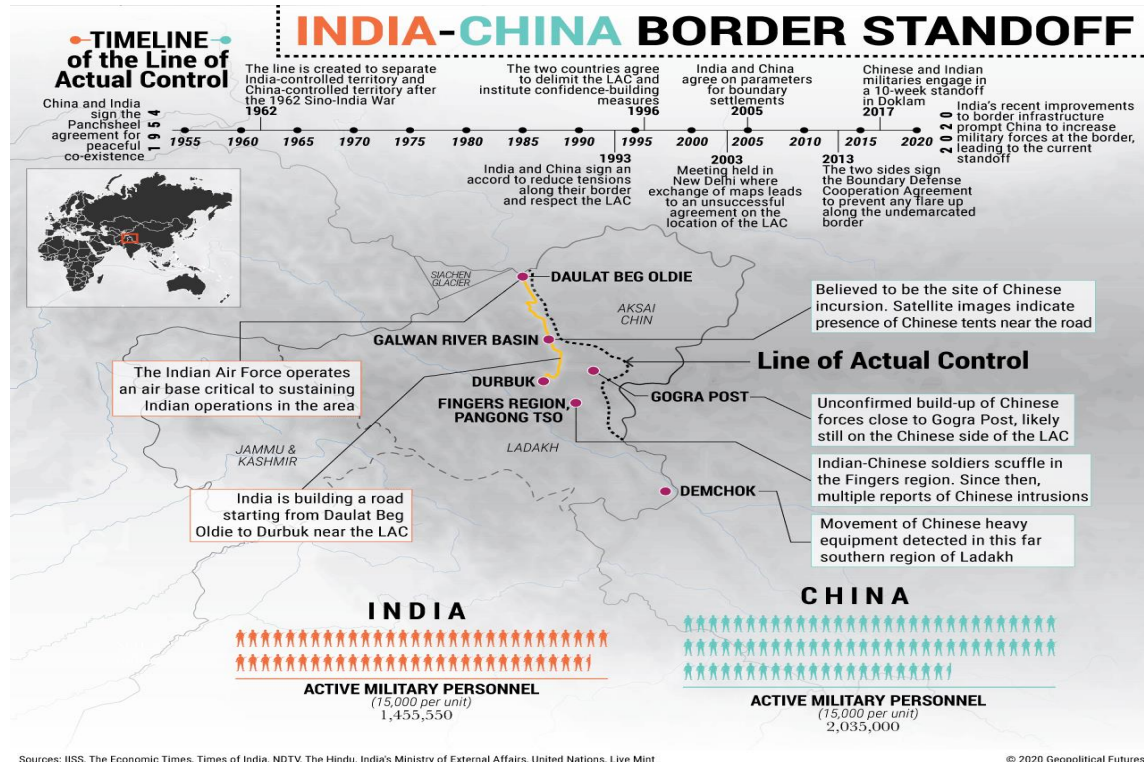
- It stretches from Bhutan's eastern border to a point near the Talu Pass, which connects Tibet, India, and Myanmar.
- This boundary line is known as the McMahon Line.
- 1914---- A conference was held in Shimla---on the **behest** of Britain--the boundary between India and Tibet was formalized.
- Consequently, the Mac Mohan line was delineated.
- Currently, India recognizes the McMahon line.
- China considers the McMahon Line to be illegal and unacceptable.

India - China War of 1962

Series of incidents

- Dispute especially on McMahon line and Johnson line because of no mutually agreed border.
- 1950 when China invaded Tibet.
- Occupation of Aksai Chin
- Asylum to Dalai Lama
- **Forward policy of India**
- 1959-60.

Recent India- China border Stand-Offs



- 1)Chumar, 2014
- 2)Burtse, 2015
- 3)Doklam, 2017
- 4) Standoff at Galwan Valley 2020
- The Galwan Valley refers to the land that sits between steep mountains that buffet the Galwan River.
- The River has its source in Aksai Chin, on China's side of the LAC, and it flows from the east to Ladakh, where it meets the Shyok River on India's side of the LAC.
- The valley is strategically located between Ladakh in the west and Aksai Chin in the east, which is currently controlled by China as part of its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.
- Mid-June 2020---Chinese and Indian troops faced each other armed only with sticks and rocks.
- This was the fiercest border conflict with China to have occurred after the 1962 war.

STANDOFF BY GALWAN VALLEY (11:03 AM)

India's Response:

- **Military:**
- Immediate movement of additional forces across LAC.
- We also approved the purchase of 33 Russian fighter Jets.
- **Economic:**
- 509 Chinese apps were banned in India. (Guided by the idea of economic nationalism)
- India resorted to the policy of self-reliance and launched initiatives like vocal for local, atma Nirbhar Bharat Mission, Make In India etc.
- The Galwan Valley incident brought India-China relations to a low ebb.
- **Why have Border disputes been in the news recently?**
- China's new law on land borders came into effect on 1st January 2022. Several places in Arunachal Pradesh have been renamed recently by China as part of its claim on the Indian state.
- Also, China is constructing a bridge on the Pangong Tso Lake which is claimed by India as its territory.

Possible Reasons Behind Increased China's Deployment at the LAC recently:

- India's decision to strengthen its border infrastructure (Darbuk- Shyok- Daulat Beg Oldie road)
- India's United States tilt (e.g. QUAD) amid US-China tensions.
- India's assertions regarding Gilgit-Baltistan, are viewed by China as an implicit attack on the CPEC.
- China's growing assertiveness over the South China Sea South and considering India as its competitor.

Question: India and China must start an effective disengagement process and resolve the issue of border conflict to bring about an 'Asian Century'.

- The idea of an Asian Century reflects the probable potential of both India and China to create situations of Promotion of peace and prosperity in the Asian Region.
- However, the border disputes between the two across eastern and western sectors have created conditions detrimental to the achievements of this ambitious goal of the Asian century.
- Thus it is necessary to resolve the border dispute and start an effective disengagement process.
- This is because the constant conflict between the 2 may lead to the following conditions or situations.
- Possibility of War.
- Impact on trade.
- Constraining economies of both countries and also the South Asian Region.
- It could affect regional development.
- It can affect south-south cooperation.
- Because of the above-stated consequences of not having an effective disengagement process, the idea of the creation of an Asian century could be delayed.
- Both countries should therefore resort to formal and informal forms of engagement to resolve the border issues and collectively achieve the ideas of Peace and security and thereby create an Asian century.

Way Forward for Solving Border Disputes:

- Continue Dialogue
- Abide by all the existing agreements and protocols on China-India boundary affairs
- Continuing communications through the Special Representatives mechanism
- Should take guidance from Wuhan (2018) and Mamallapuram summits (2019).
- The roadmap for resolving border disputes will involve Disengagement, de-escalation, and lastly de-induction.

Three important friction points on the Western sector of Line of Actual Control (LAC) -Galwan, Pangong Tso and Gograhhot springs:

- **Disengagement**--- the action or the process of withdrawing troops from involvement in a particular activity, or situation.
- **De-escalation**---reduction of the intensity of a conflict or potentially violent situation.
- **De-induction** – The subsequent de-induction(de-militarisation) would require troops on both sides to return to their pre-April 2020 positions or back to their respective **garrisons**.
- September 2022---India and China confirmed the disengagement of their troops from a fifth friction point in Eastern Ladakh along the LAC. With the latest withdrawal of troops from patrolling point (PP) 15 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area, buffer zones have now been established by the two sides in five locations, including in Galwan Valley, north and south of Pangong Lake, and at PP17A in Gogra.
- The next two steps called de-escalation and de-induction –have not yet begun in the area.
- However, military observers believe there is still a long way to go before India and China achieve de-escalation, and eventually de-induction, from the poorly demarcated border.
- Delineation and proper demarcation along the border are of course important.
- **Modernization through indigenization**.
- This will help resolve the issue of border conflict to bring about an 'Asian Century'.

DISPUTE OVER BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER (11:40 AM)

- The Brahmaputra/Yarlung Tsangpo is a trans-Himalayan river with its origin in the Jima Yangzong glacier (Mansarovar Lake region) near Mount Kailash,
- located on the northern side of the Himalayas in
- Burang County of Tibet.
- Over 56% of it flows in Chinese territory.
- The Yarlung Tsangpo enters India after passing The Yarlung Tsangpo enters India after passing the
- Great Bend, through Arunachal Pradesh where it is known as Siang/Dihang, then onto Assam where it is called Brahmaputra, and thereafter to Bangladesh where it is named Jamuna.
- The Brahmaputra gets mightier as it flows downstream because of the flow contribution of tributaries such as Dibang, Lohit, and Subansiri.

Importance of the River for India

- 1)Helps in agriculture, fishing, irrigation, and riverine transport.
- 2)India is planning a multipurpose 10,000 MW hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh.

Importance of Brahmaputra for China

- Power to influence the flow of water to nations downstream.
- China has undertaken gigantic water diversion projects such as the South-North Water Transfer Project (SNWTP) to address its regional water distribution imbalance. The western line of this project includes building a dam on the Great Bend of Yarlung, where the river curves into the Assamese plains of India.
- Source of drinking water and agriculture for the parched areas of Tibet.
- Key to achieving China's intended goal of tripling its hydropower capacity to 300 GW.

What is the conflict about?

- The projects China is building are built very close to the border of the two nations.

The major projects of concern for India include:

- China completed the **Zangmu Dam** (510 MW capacity) built on the upper reaches of Brahmaputra in 2010.
- Three more dams at
- **Dagu** (640 MW),
- **Jiacha** (320 MW) and
- **Jeixu** are currently under construction.
- **Types of projects:** run off
- China claims that these projects are ↑ river projects while India has shown apprehensions regarding the same.
- **The threat of water hegemony by China:**
- Due to the absence of a proper water treaty, there could be a possibility that being an upper **riparian** country China might exert its hegemony over water thereby depriving India of water during the lean season.
- The threat of flooding On the river basin in Assam.
- Seismic instability: In 2008, the Three Gorges Dam on the **Yangtze** witnessed an earthquake.
- **Use of the principle of prior appropriation to influence Arunachal Pradesh:**
- China can use the priority right principle to seek leverage not only on the waters of Brahmaputra but also on its position in the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Effect on Farming.

Agreements Signed and problems with the agreement

- As of now, there is no institutionalized mechanism for water cooperation between India and China.
- In 2002, India and China entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** wherein China agreed to share hydrological information about Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra).

Way forward:

- As per the 2002 MoU, China agreed to share hydrological information with India.
- However, this data sharing was obstructed due to the Doklam standoff in 2017.
- Though this hydrological sharing was resumed later on, it shows that China can use water as a potential political weapon to influence lower riparian countries like India.

In this regard way forward could be:

- India needs to reflect firmness in negotiations especially when we have seen how during the Doklam standoff hydrological data was obstructed by China.
- India should push to resolve the Teesta water agreement with Bangladesh to emerge as a role model of a responsible upper riparian country.
- By doing this we can also add pressure on China to be a responsible upper Riparian country.
- India has already shown its responsibility concerning IWT with Pakistan.
- Keeping in mind the demands of the people from both sides and the fragile ecology of the region a formal agreement needs to be signed between the 2 countries.

(TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: CONTINUATION OF INDO-CHINA RELATIONS)