

2023



Jamia Millia Islamia

Model United Nations

National Security Council

JMI Model United Nations, 2023



Letter from the Executive Board

A warm welcome to the National Security Council. We look forward to two days of fruitful debate, where this Cabinet will deal with a heightened military escalation originating from a standoff between India and China.

All the portfolio holders of the NSC must understand, prior to starting their research, that this cabinet will not function like an usual UN Committee as it is a military cabinet, which is why the diplomatic courtesy or rules of procedure will not be enforceable. However, it is expected of everyone to maintain respect for your fellow officers of the State and an understanding of their experience in their respective fields. Every officer of the armed forces must be addressed by their ranks and the committee must function with an appropriate amount of urgency. For the benefit of the cabinet, hierarchy among officers will be suspended for committee participation.

All portfolios must be aware of the relevant jurisdiction, but should not be limited by it. Research should be thorough and detailed. The brief below is a summary of the conflict, without military details. However, officers should be equipped with the necessary information to act with military precision. It is important to note that a war cabinet or military committee deals with urgent matters pragmatically, rather than with political or legal questions. Understanding the conflict and the theme is not enough; officers must be aware of all available resources to handle the conflict successfully. The official letter for calling the meeting will be uploaded soon. Lastly, India's interests are of utmost priority.

Babar Bilal Malik
Chairperson

Sarthak Gupta
Vice Chairperson



National Security Council (NSC)

The Indian National Security Council (NSC) was established in 1998 by an Act of the Indian Parliament. The NSC serves as the apex decision-making forum for matters pertaining to national security and foreign policy in the country. The council is presided over by the Prime Minister and comprises the country's most senior Cabinet Ministers, the National Security Advisor, the Foreign Secretary, and other distinguished officials from the military, intelligence, and diplomatic corps.

The primary function of the NSC is to provide counsel to the Prime Minister on matters of national security, including internal security, external security, and strategic policy. Additionally, the council also coordinates the activities of various government agencies involved in national security and foreign policy, such as the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and intelligence agencies.

The NSC meets regularly to discuss and evaluate various national security issues, and subsequently make recommendations to the Prime Minister. It also plays a key role in the formulation of the country's national security strategy and the development of its foreign policy.

The NSC also has a secretariat, known as the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), which is responsible for providing research, analysis, and support to the council. The NSCS also coordinates with other government agencies involved in national security and foreign policy.

The National Security Adviser (NSA) is the chief official of the NSC and acts as the principal advisor to the Prime Minister on national security and foreign policy issues. The NSA also serves as the head of the NSCS and coordinates with other government agencies involved in national security and foreign policy.

In recent years, the role of the NSC has become increasingly important as India faces a variety of security challenges, both internal and external. The NSC has been instrumental in coordinating the government's response to these challenges, including terrorist attacks, border disputes, and cyber security threats, thereby ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian citizenry and the country's sovereignty.



India-China: History Brief

India and China have a long, complex relationship spanning antiquity. Previously, the two nations had a prosperous cultural and trade exchange, with India being an early source of Buddhism for China. In recent times, the relationship has been a mix of cooperation and conflict.

India and China fought a brief war in 1962 over Himalayan border disputes. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) launched a surprise attack, quickly capturing key positions. India's unprepared military was forced to withdraw, resulting in a Chinese victory and Indian loss of territory.

The war had devastating effects for both nations, causing immense loss of life and destruction of property. India suffered a huge setback in the international community, leading to deep reflection. China, on the other hand, rejoiced at their victory, solidifying their reputation as a world power.

In 1967, there were a series of border clashes between India and China known as the Nathu La and Cho La incidents. These clashes were mainly limited to small-scale engagements between the two countries' border patrol troops.

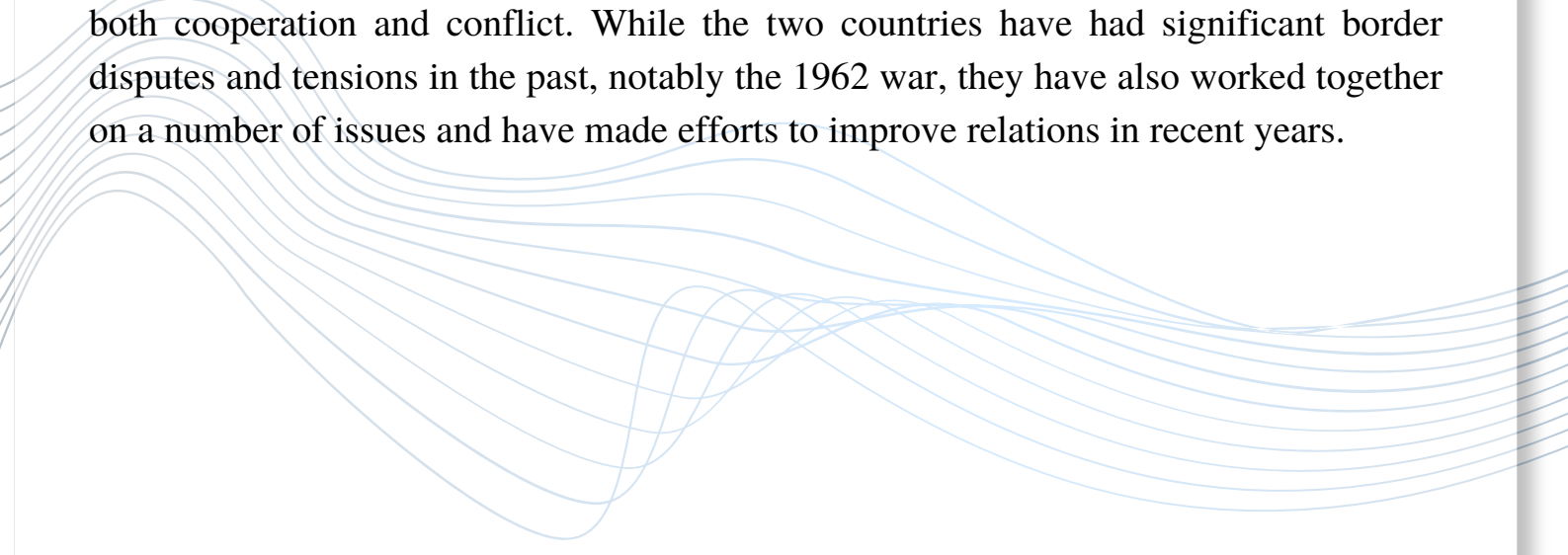
In 1975, India and China engaged in a small-scale military conflict in the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. This conflict, referred to as the "Tawang incident," was sparked by a dispute over the Tawang Monastery, located in an area claimed by both countries. This resulted in a limited number of casualties on both sides.

In 2017, a standoff between Indian and Chinese troops occurred in the Doklam region, lasting for several months before both sides eventually withdrew their troops. Since then, there have been occasional reports of incursions and tensions in the region.

Despite these tensions, India and China have also had periods of cooperation and collaboration. The two nations have had several joint economic and cultural initiatives and have worked together on issues such as climate change and global trade.

In recent years, both countries have made efforts to improve relations and reduce tensions, with leaders from both countries meeting regularly to discuss issues of mutual concern.

India and China's relationship is complex and multifaceted, marked by intervals of both cooperation and conflict. While the two countries have had significant border disputes and tensions in the past, notably the 1962 war, they have also worked together on a number of issues and have made efforts to improve relations in recent years.

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Situation Brief: Background

Doklam (or Zhoglam in Standard Tibetan, known as Donglang in Chinese) is an area with a plateau and a valley, lying between Tibet's Chumbi Valley to the north, Bhutan's Ha Valley to the east, and India's Sikkim state to the west. It has been depicted as part of Bhutan in Bhutanese maps since 1961, but is also claimed by China. Despite several rounds of border negotiations between Bhutan and China, the dispute has yet to be resolved.

The area is of strategic importance to all three countries. China's Chumbi Valley to the north of Doklam and India's Siliguri Corridor to the south are both mountain chokepoints critical in global power competition. The Chumbi Valley is one of the most strategically important pieces of real estate in the Himalayan region, and the Siliguri Corridor is a narrow 24 kilometer-wide corridor between Nepal and Bangladesh in India's West Bengal state, connecting the central parts of India with the north-eastern states, including Arunachal Pradesh. It is often referred to as the "chicken's neck" and is a strategic vulnerability for India. It is also of key strategic significance to Bhutan, containing the main supply routes into the country.

Indian intelligence officials state that China has been carrying out a steady military build-up in the Chumbi Valley, constructing many garrisons and converting the valley into a strong military base. In 1967, border clashes occurred at Nathu La and Cho La passes, when the Chinese contested the Indian demarcations of the border on the Dongkya range. In the ensuing artillery fire, many Chinese fortifications were destroyed as the Indians controlled the high ground.

China's desire for heights is thought to be the reason for its interest in the Doklam plateau. There are three strategic benefits to China from control of the Doklam plateau: it gives it a commanding view of the Chumbi valley; it outflanks the Indian defences in Sikkim, which are oriented northeast towards the Dongkya range; and it overlooks the strategic Siliguri Corridor to the south. A claim to Mount Gipmochi and the Zompelri ridge would bring the Chinese to the very edge of the Himalayas, from where the slopes descend into the southern foothills of Bhutan and India. This is a redline for New Delhi.



Border Negotiations

Border negotiations between Bhutan and China began in 1972, with India playing a supporting role. However, China sought the exclusion of India. Bhutan started its own border negotiations with China in 1984. Prior to proposing its claim line, it conducted its own surveys and produced maps that were approved by the National Assembly in 1989. Bhutan voluntarily relinquished territory in the process, resulting in a reduction of 8,606 km² in the official Bhutanese maps. The Kula Kangri mountain, touted as the tallest peak in Bhutan, was also ceded to China.

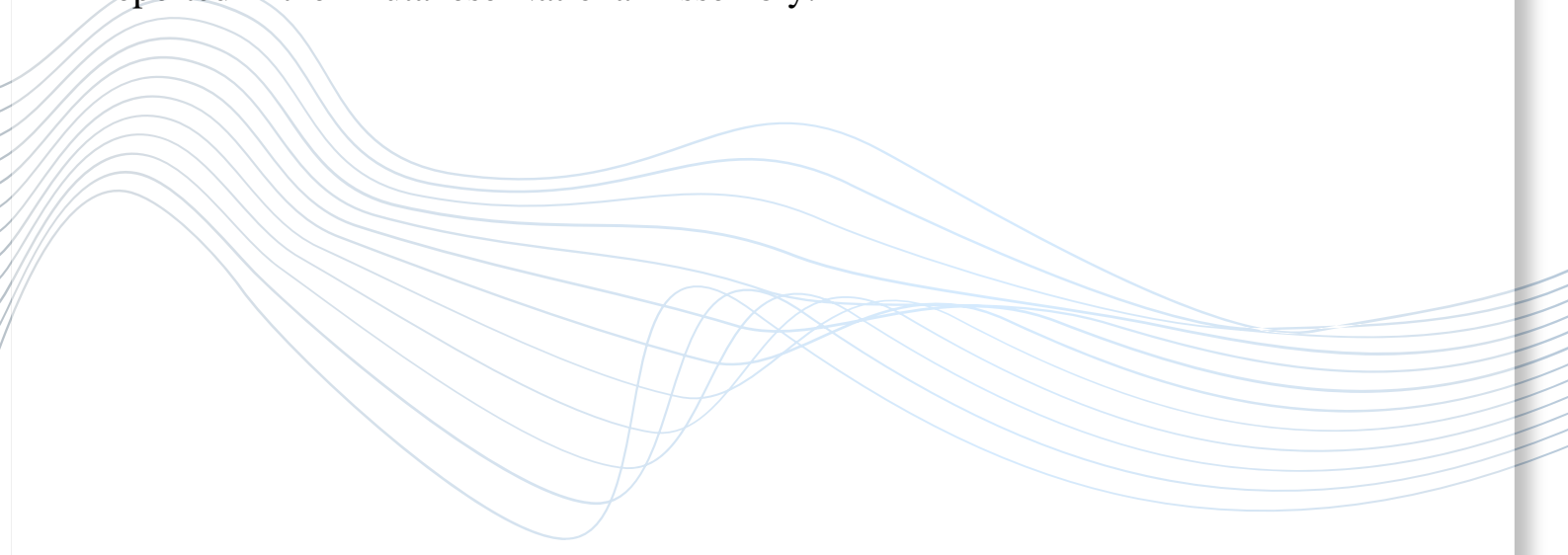
Throughout the course of border talks, Bhutan reduced 1,128 km² of disputed border areas to 269 km² by 1999. In 1996, the Chinese negotiators offered a "package deal" to Bhutan, offering to give up claims on 495 km² in the central region in exchange for 269 km² in the "northwest", i.e., adjacent to the Chumbi valley, including Doklam, Sinchulumpa, Dramana and Shakhatoe.

These areas would provide strategic depth to Chinese defences and access to the strategic Siliguri Corridor of India. Bhutan declined the offer under Indian persuasion.

Having rejected China's package deal, in 2000, the Bhutanese government put forward its original claim line of 1989. The talks could make no progress afterwards. In 2004, China began building roads in the border areas, leading to repeated protests by the Bhutanese government based on the 1998 Peace and Tranquillity Agreement. The Chinese constructed a road up the Sinchela pass (in undisputed territory) and then over the plateau (in disputed territory), leading up to the Doka La pass, until reaching within 68 metres of the Indian border post on the Sikkim border. Here, they constructed a turn-around to enable vehicles to turn back. This road has been in existence since at least 2005. In 2007, the Chinese destroyed unmanned Indian forward posts on the Doklam plateau.

Since 1984, Bhutan and China have held 24 rounds of boundary talks. The Royal Government of Bhutan claims that the current road construction on the Doklam Plateau amounts to a unilateral change to a disputed boundary by China, in violation of the 1988 and 1998 agreements between the two nations. The agreements also forbid the use of force and encourage both parties to strictly adhere to peaceful means.

Notwithstanding the agreement, the PLA crossed into Bhutan in 1988 and took control of the Chumbi Valley near the Doklam plateau. There were reports of the PLA troops threatening the Bhutanese guards, declaring it to be Chinese soil, and seizing and occupying Bhutanese posts for extended periods. Additionally, after 2000, numerous intrusions, grazing and road and infrastructure construction by the Chinese were reported in the Bhutanese National Assembly.

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Recent Events: Doklam Standoff

The Doklam standoff of 2017 was a major military confrontation between India and China. The Doklam plateau, located at the tri-junction of India, China, and Bhutan, is a territory that is disputed between the nations.

The crisis was triggered by India's deployment of troops to the area in June of that year, with the aim of preventing the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) from constructing a road in the region. China, however, argued that the construction was taking place on Chinese sovereign territory and accused India of infringing its territorial integrity. India, on the other hand, maintained that the road construction represented a significant change to the status quo in the region, and that it posed a threat to the security of an adjacent Indian-controlled territory.

Both countries deployed a large number of troops to the area, with China reportedly sending around 3,000 troops and heavy equipment, while India reportedly sent around 300 troops. Tensions rose as the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) began constructing a road in the disputed area, which India saw as a security threat to the region. The standoff lasted for about 73 days, with both countries engaging in negotiations and diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis.

In August of that year, both nations agreed to de-escalate the situation and withdrew their troops from the area, bringing the crisis to an end. Although the incident was resolved, both nations still hold different views on the status of the Doklam region and the road construction remains a contentious issue.

The Doklam standoff was a pivotal event in India-China relations, a major military confrontation that raised concerns about the potential for future conflicts in the region. It emphasized the importance of resolving border disputes between the nations and the need for effective communication and diplomatic channels to prevent and de-escalate such incidents in the future.



Recent Events: Galwan Conflict

May 2021

- Reports indicate that approximately 2000 Chinese troops were spotted in the Galwan Valley in the Ladakh region, which is seen as a violation of existing agreements and the status quo in the area.
- India sent approximately 1000 troops to the area in response. Subsequently, physical altercations between the two sides occurred, resulting in casualties on both sides.

June 2021

- Thousands of troops and heavy weapons, such as tanks and artillery, have been deployed to the border by both countries, escalating the situation.
- Talks between the two countries have been held in an effort to de-escalate the situation, but no meaningful progress has been made.
- The standoff lasted for several weeks, with both sides accusing each other of aggressive behaviour and making public statements about their readiness to use force if necessary.
- International attention and concern has been drawn to the conflict, with calls for both sides to de-escalate the situation and prevent further escalation.
- The United Nations issued a statement on September 1, 2020 calling for a peaceful resolution of the issue.
- Both countries agreed to withdraw their troops, estimated at approximately 1,000 soldiers each, thus ending the conflict.