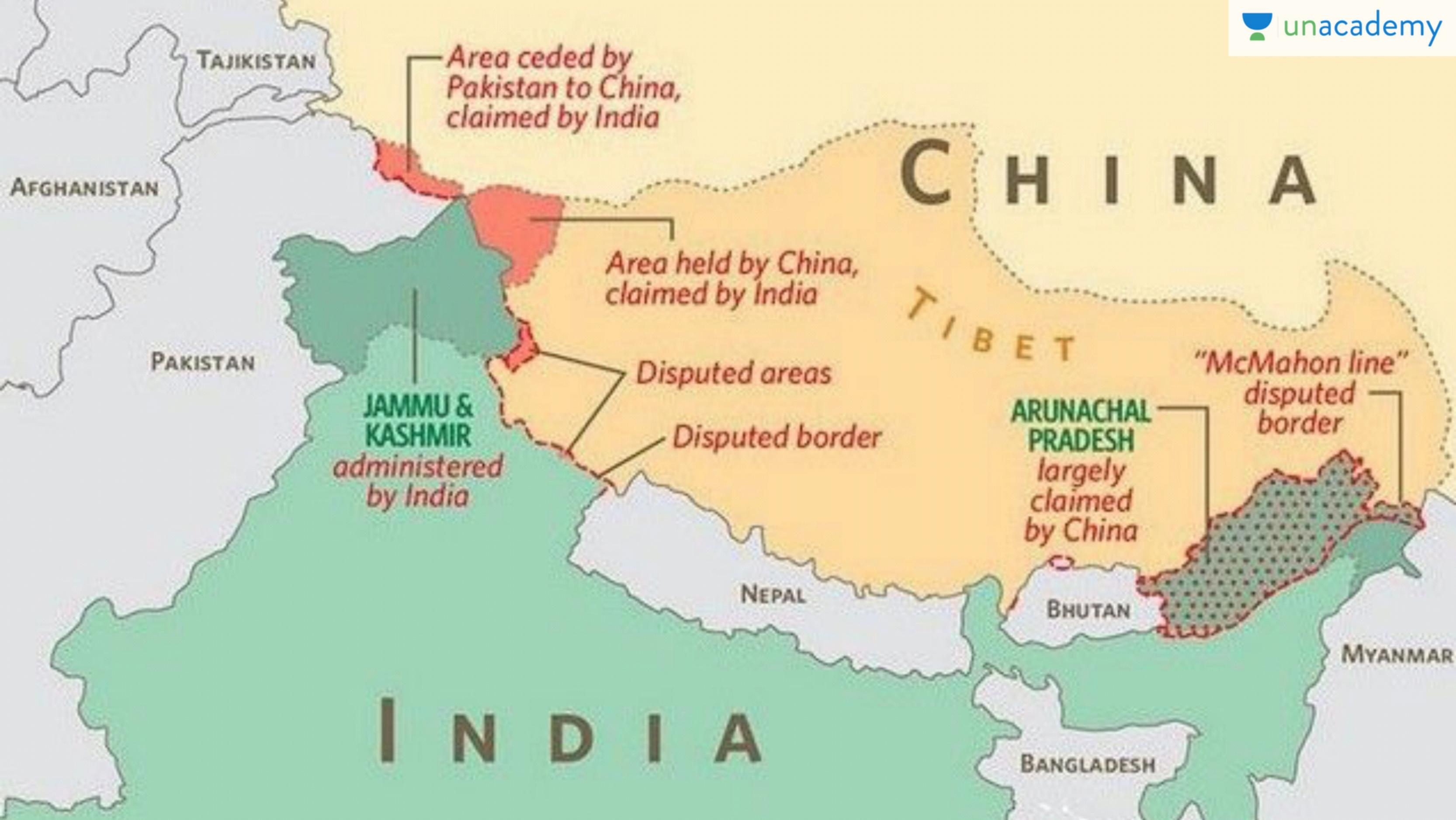




Indo-China

Border Management







PAKISTAN,
CONTROLLED
KASHMIR

Siachen Glacier

CHINA

Line of Control

INDIA
CONTROLLED
KASHMIR

Islamabad

PAKISTAN

INDIA



First we need to know what exactly is the border dispute between India and China.

There are two major issues between both countries:-

- 1. Aksai Chin***
 - 2. Arunachal Pradesh***
-

Aksai Chin

It has always been a desolate, largely uninhabited area without any significant human importance.

- **In 1865**, Maharaja of J&K declared Aksai Chin to be a part of his territory and this was agreed upon by the British. The border between British India and China came to be known as the *Johnson Line*. The Chinese did not contest this claim as they were busy with the **Dungan Revolt (1862–77)** and did not have a control over the region anyway. But by 1892 China started asserting its claim over the region.

- In 1893, the Chinese proposed a map to the British which showed Aksai Chin as a part of China. The British accepted this map as it made the **Karakoram** mountains the natural boundary and the British thought Aksai Chin would act as a buffer against the fast expanding Russians. The border was now called ***McCartney-McDonald Line***.
- But after the first World War the British again changed their stance and returned to their previous stand of recognising the ***Johnson Line*** as the border between India and China. This meant Aksai Chin was again seen as a part of India. China was reeling under a civil war at this time.
- After independence in 1947, India continued the recognition of Aksai Chin as its own territory. China remained silent on this till 1957-58 when it suddenly announced the completion of a road connecting west Tibet to its **Xinjiang** provinces through the Aksai Chin!

Arunachal Pradesh (formerly NEFA)

In 1913–14, representatives of Britain, China, and Tibet attended a conference in Simla, India and drew up an agreement concerning Tibet's status and borders. The **McMahon Line** a proposed boundary between Tibet and India for the eastern sector, was drawn by British negotiator Henry McMahon on a map attached to the agreement. It showed NEFA as a part of British India. All three representatives initiated the agreement, but Beijing soon objected to the proposed Sino-Tibet boundary and repudiated the agreement, refusing to sign the final, more detailed map. After approving a note which stated that China could not enjoy rights under the agreement unless she ratified it, the British and Tibetan negotiators signed the Simla Convention and more detailed map as a bilateral accord.

After the **People's Republic of China** invaded Tibet in 1950, it refused to accept the McMohan Line as a border between India and China and claimed NEFA (Arunachal Pradesh) to be within its sovereignty.

Forces protecting Indo-China Border.

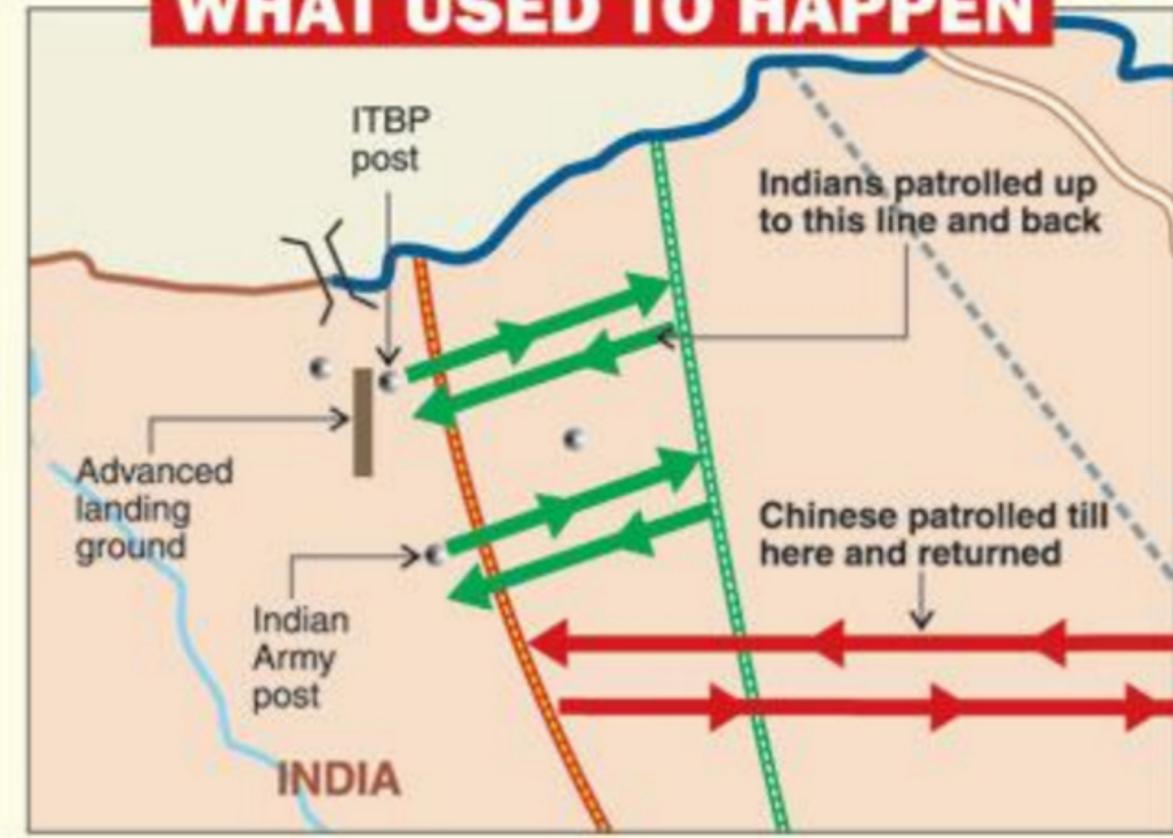
India-china border is divided into three sectors.

1. **Western sector-** Kashmir, Ladakh, Aksai Chin and Himachal Pradesh. It is guarded by **ITBP (Indo-Tibet Border Police force)**. It is also called as Line of Actual Control (don't confuse with Line of Control which is between India and Pakistan).
2. **Central sector-** Himachal's end to the tri-junction of Nepal India and China. It is guarded by **special frontier force**.
3. **Eastern sector-** Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. It is guarded by Army, **Assam Rifles and ITBP**. It is also called McMohan Line (sometimes LAC referred as the entire indo-china border)

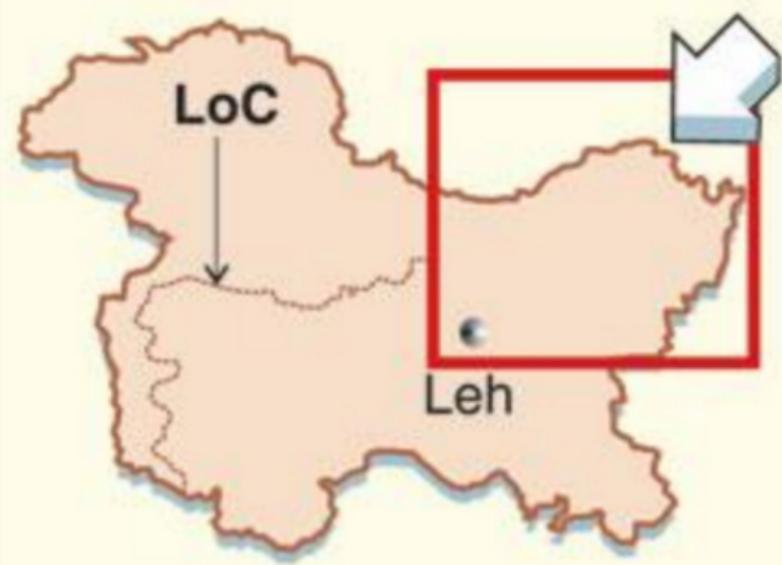
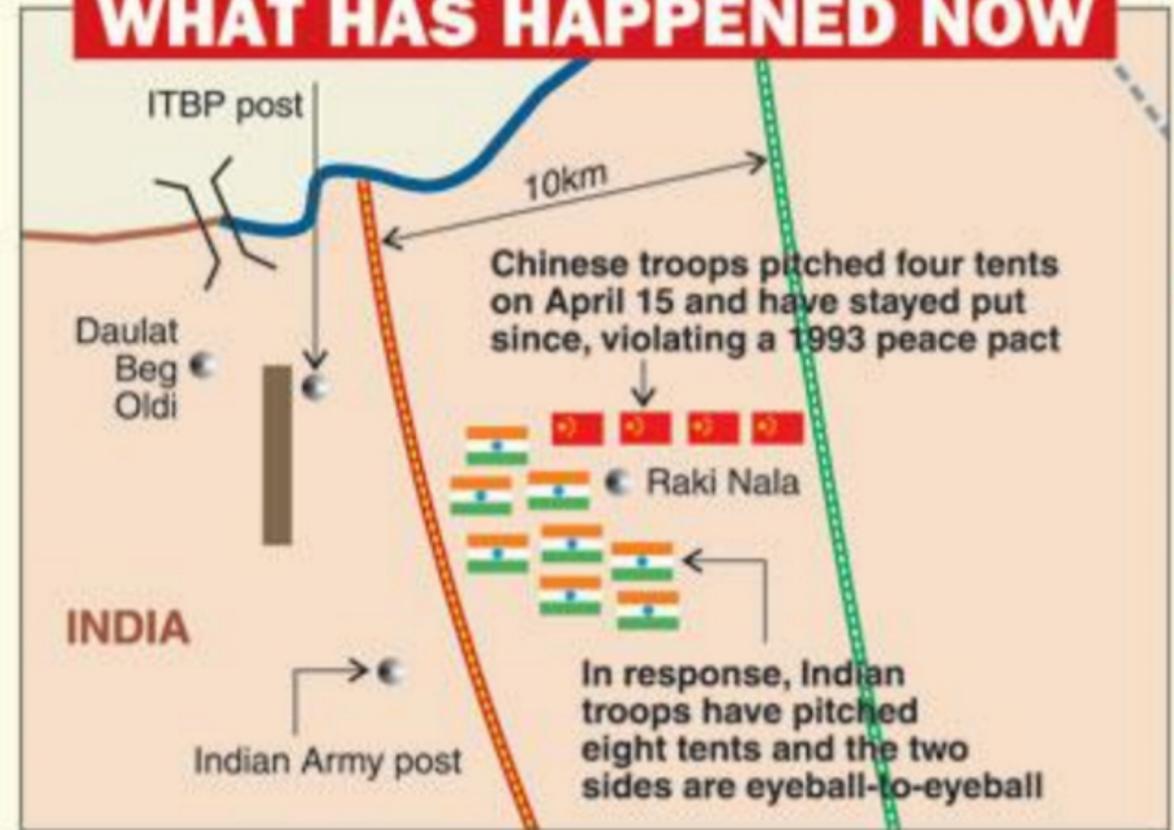
THE LINES



WHAT USED TO HAPPEN



WHAT HAS HAPPENED NOW



Lines approximate
Map not to scale

- Aksai Chin total area: 38500sqkm approx
- In Indian possession: 1500sqkm approx
- Johnson Line, drawn in 1865 by the British, is the original boundary that India claims
- McCartney McDonald Line, drawn in 1899, was at one point claimed by the Chinese as the boundary

A graphic featuring a central horizontal line with a yellow arrow pointing right. The text "Timeline of Events" is written in a yellow, cursive font across the arrow. The background is grey with abstract shapes: a teal circle and line on the left, a red circle and line on the right, and a gold circle and line at the bottom.

Timeline of Events

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1683	King of Ladakh and Government of Tibet sign the Treaty of Tingmosgang
1865	W.H. Johnson's proposes the Johnson's Line
1899	McCartney-McDonald Line proposed, and used by the British until 1908
1911-1914	Johnson's Line used by the British
28 th July 1914	World War 1 begins
1914	Simla Accord Treaty of 1914 between Britain and Tibet places more of Aksai Chin in India under the McMahon Line, is rejected by the Chinese
15 th August 1947	India gains independence from the British, Indian government adopts the Johnson's Line on the official map of free India
1 st October 1949	The PLA (People's Liberation Army), led by Mao Zedong, defeat the Nationalist party of China and establish the PRC (People's Republic of China)

15 th August 1947	India gains independence from the British, Indian government adopts Johnson's Line on the official map of free India
1 st October 1949	The PLA (People's Liberation Army), led by Mao Zedong, defeat the Nationalist party of China and establish the PRC (People's Republic of China)
1951-1957	Construction of Highway 219 by the Chinese in Aksai Chin
1954	Prime Minister Nehru meets Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Beijing, talks prove inconclusive, milestone Panchsheel Agreement signed (on April 24 th , 1954)
1959	Dalai Lama seeks asylum in India, Indo-China tensions simmer
23 rd January 1959	Zhou Enlai first makes the claim to over 40,000 square miles of Indian territory in Ladakh and the North East Frontier Agency (present-day Arunachal Pradesh)
8 th September 1959	Zhou Enlai refuses to recognize the McMahon Line
20 th October 1959	PLA troops kill 9 and capture 10 Indian soldiers during firing in Aksai Chin
1962	India defeated in the Sino-Indian War, Aksai Chin comes under de facto control of China

1963	Trans-Karakoram Tract of Kashmir is ceded by Pakistan to the PRC
1 st October, 1967	Chola Incident occurs – skirmish between PLA troops crossing the McMahon Line into Sikkim and Indian troops results in ten Chinese and four Indian casualties
1971	China helps Pakistan against India in the Bangladesh Liberation War
1987	Indo-Chinese skirmish at the Sumdorong Chu Valley
1993	Ceasefire line between India and China is accepted as the Line of Actual Control (although India has claimed China has violated the LAC 500 times since 2010), first CSBM Agreement signed, India recognizes Tibet as an autonomous region of China in exchange for China recognizing Sikkim as an Indian province
31 st January 2000	The PLA construct roads and bunkers 5km within the Indian side of the LAC in Aksai Chin
15 th April 2013	Confrontation between Indian and Chinese troops at Daulat Beg Oldie

Relevant UN Treaties and Legal Agreements

- 1. Panchsheel Agreement, 1954**
- 2. CSBM (Confidence and Security Building Measures)**
1993 CSBM Agreement

Extending CSBMs to Military Field, 1996
- 3. Border Defence Cooperation Agreement, 2013**

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Panchsheel Agreement, probably the most important and definitive Sino-Indian Agreement on the border dispute, was signed between India and China in 1954 and focused on the development of bilateral trading relations between India and China through Tibet. In the Panchsheel, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru officially recognized Chinese control over Tibet and gave up all the rights in telecommunication and postal services that the Indian Government had in Tibet (which they had inherited from the British Raj in the Anglo-Tibetan Agreement of 1904). The Panchsheel is based on Five Principles, which are-

- 1) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty
- 2) Mutual non-aggression
- 3) Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs
- 4) Equality and co-operation for mutual benefit
- 5) Peaceful co-existence

In 1993, both sides signed the first CSBM (Confidence and Security Building Measures) Agreement. The Agreement focussed on disarmament, military disengagement, maintenance of cross-border peace and respecting the Line of Actual Control. It was followed by another Agreement, extending CSBMs to Military Field, in 1996. This Agreement is known as the no-war pact and added more specificity to the areas of agreement between India China and was a continuation process of the 1993 CSBM. This Agreement has been ratified - and also violated - by both sides. Recently in 2013, China and India signed the BDCA (Border Defense Cooperation Agreement); the BDCA emphasises the need for peaceful cross-border cooperation to jointly combat smuggling of arms, wildlife and other contrabands, exchange of military information, helping each other in the event of a natural disaster or infectious disease in the region and other such issues.

Thus, border negotiations have been on-going since the 1980s. Both China and India have appointed two Special Representatives who have regularly met and discussed the issue of Aksai Chin. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi set a trend of regular diplomatic visits by his visit to Beijing in 1998, followed by a visit of Chinese Premier Li Peng to India. A Sino-India Joint Working Group on Boundary Question was set-up in 1988, with the aim of dismantling of military posts on the border and encouraging trade across the disputed border.

Most recently- on April 22nd, 2014 - a Chinese delegation headed by the Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Lt. Gen. Qi Jianguo met the Indian Director General Military Operations Lt. Gen. PR Kumar to discuss in depth the regular incursions by the Chinese in Ladakh (Indian territory). However, such talks have not been very successful in curbing incursions and cross-border tensions continue to run high.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

India

India considers the Johnson's Line as its north-western border with China. The Johnson's Line places Aksai Chin in Indian territory. Aksai Chin is a high-altitude area relatively close to Delhi and would thus strategically be an ideal place for Chinese troops to enter India from in event of a skirmish or invasion. In the event of an Indo-Pak war, China could also use the Aksai Chin region as a route to provide support and weapons to the troops of its close ally, Pakistan. Thus Aksai Chin forms an important mountainous buffer zone in India's north-west border. Foreign ministry documents last year revealed that India is allegedly ready to let China claim complete sovereignty over the Aksai Chin region in exchange for the Chinese recognising the disputed Arunachal Pradesh as part of Indian territory. However, with the new Narendra Modi government at helm taking over from the Manmohan Singh Congress government, India is taking a firmer and hard-line stance in the

zone in India's north-west border. Foreign ministry documents last year revealed that  is allegedly ready to let China claim complete sovereignty over the Aksai Chin region in exchange for the Chinese recognising the disputed Arunachal Pradesh as part of Indian territory. However, with the new Narendra Modi government at helm taking over from the Manmohan Singh Congress government, India is taking a firmer and hard-line stance in the border dispute and is unlikely to concede to Chinese demands. The Modi government has already placed radar and telecommunications within 100km of the Indo-China border on an automatic approval list. The Indian Defence Ministry has approved fast-track road building and setting up of 50 strategic posts along the disputed border.

"No power on earth can take away even an inch from India. China should give up its expansionist attitude and adopt a development mind-set. I swear by this land that I will not let this nation be destroyed, I will not let this nation be divided, I will not let this nation bow down. " – Narendra Modi, current Prime Minister of India.

administration and therefore China had always assumed Aksai Chin as part of its territory (land that has also been under de facto Chinese administration since their victory in the Sino-Indian border war of 1962), thus it is unlikely it will hand over Aksai Chin - land it has always considered its own - to India. Furthermore, border agreements between China and Pakistan in 1963 also recognized Aksai Chin as part of China.

Though Aksai Chin is largely deserted and has no resources, it is a very strategic area for China as it connects Tibet to Xinjiang in north-west China via Highway 219, the only route through which trade and movement of troops can be facilitated. The loss of Aksai Chin from China would also leave it strategically exposed on the western border. It is to be noted that Communist China follows an expansionist policy and is no stranger to adopting military intimidation, as evident in the stand-off in the South China Sea.

Present Day Situation

The existence of the informal cease-fire line created between India and China following the Sino-Indian War was officially accepted as the Line of Actual Control by both sides in 1993. India and China also signed a border pact along this line in October 2013 to ensure combating smuggling and reducing tensions between Indian and Chinese troops on both sides of the LAC. The LAC places the Aksai Chin region in Chinese territory; however, it is to be noted that though India has acknowledged the existing Line of Actual Control, India still considers the Johnson's Line as its rightful north-eastern boundary with China and has not given up its claim.

"So many of the current problems arise from the line of actual control and both sides have a different understanding which means even after the new agreement is implemented there will still be conflicts and contradictions," - Huang Yinghong, assistant professor of Asian and Pacific Studies, Sun Yat-sen University

Military Strategy: Why is the Chinese Army repeatedly crossing into India, only to go back?

1. China follows policy of 'creeping encirclement'. It means creep inside the disputed border and influence the region. Doklam standoff is example of this. China has already used or is using this strategy to influence politics in Nepal and Bhutan. It is also coupled with 'string of pearls' to creep inside maritime border.
2. China deliberately wants a border dispute with India and Japan also, because they are the main impediment in its way to become an Asian hegemon or ultimately a global power. India's growing diplomatic and economic clout disturbs China, that is why china with its all weather Ally Pakistan tries to engage India in territorial disputes.

3. China's Grand Strategy consist of safeguarding sovereignty, maintaining stability and sustaining economic progress. To achieve these objectives china believe in its age old belief of **subdued neighborhood**. Though china has subdued most of its smaller neighborhood but it finds India difficult.

4. China see India as not only the **economic rival but also military rival**. India is also a nuclear State, has developed ICBM, cruise missiles like Brahmos.

China, through incursion, want to observe response and preparedness of India at the border.

5. The border is not clearly demarcated (*no fence except in few areas*). Management of border is based on **“tell and tale signs”** since 1962. Troops on both sides use this method to temporarily demarcate boundaries. When Indian troops go for patrolling, they drop breads, biscuits, stones and anything that can be used as a sign. Chinese troops paint the stones in red, sticks some posters.

China modifies the signs established by India and intrude. When red color paint is evaporated after few days, Indian troops intrude. And that's how faceoff occur when both of them come at same place claiming their territory. This is called as **“probing Operation”** in military, which is used as a psychological tool to check weakness of enemy.

Tell and tale method is used in western and central sector.

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