

15-12-2022

## Arunachal: Clash between India and China

### Why in Newspapers?

Indian and Chinese soldiers clashed on December 9 at a location near the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in **Tawang sector** of **Arunachal Pradesh**, in which some soldiers from both sides suffered minor injuries. The Indian Army gave this information on Monday.



### Quick Issue?

- The border standoff between the two sides in eastern Ladakh, which has been going on for over 30 months, saw a skirmish along the **Yangtse** along the **LAC** in the **sensitive area** last Friday.

### Historical Background?

- According to the Indian Army, there are some areas along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in the **Tawang sector** which are of varying importance.
- The LAC is divided into **Western (Ladakh), Central (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), Sikkim and Eastern (Arunachal Pradesh)** sectors.
- The incident took place days after India raised objections to **Operation Yudhbhayas**, a joint Indo-US military exercise in Auli in the hills of Uttarakhand, claiming it violated the 1993 and 1996 border agreements.
- Arunachal Pradesh, known as the **Northeast Frontier Agency (NEFA)** until 1972, is the largest state in the **Northeast**, sharing international borders with Tibet in the north and northwest, Bhutan in the west, and Myanmar in the east. Is.
- This state is like a protective shield for the Northeast. Although China describes Arunachal Pradesh as part of Southern Tibet.
- China can lay claim to the entire state, as its main interest lies in **Tawang district**, located in the **northwestern region** of **Arunachal Pradesh**, bordering **Bhutan and Tibet**.



6 भारतीय सैनिक गंभीर, गुवाहाटी सैन्य अस्पताल में चल रहा इलाज

सेना ने कहा- घटना के बाद दोनों पक्ष क्षेत्र से तुरंत पीछे हट गए

सेक्टर कमांडरों के बीच शांति बहाली के लिए हुई फ्लैग मीटिंग

घटना और अपने घायल सैनिकों को लेकर चीन अभी तक चुप





- Arunachal coming under Beijing's control would mean that China would be in the **neighborhood** on both the **western and eastern borders** of Bhutan.
- In the **western part of Bhutan, China** has started building motorable roads connecting strategic points.
- China controls India's water supply in the Northeast region. It has **built several dams** and can use the water as a **geo-strategic weapon** against India in the **form of floods or droughts** in the region.
- **Tsangpo river** which originates in Tibet, flows in India as **Brahmaputra river** while in Arunachal Pradesh it is called Siang.
- In 2000, a **dam breach in Tibet caused a flood** that wreaked havoc in Northeast India, killing 30 people and leaving over 100 missing.

### Other Key Facts?

#### Reason for China's interest in Tawang region

- China's interest in **Tawang** could be due to strategic reasons as it provides **strategic entry into India's Northeast region**. Tawang is an important point on the corridor between **Tibet and the Brahmaputra valley**.
- Tawang, which also borders Bhutan, hosts the **world's second largest monastery** of Tibetan Buddhism, Galdan Namgye Lhatse, and the largest **Potala Palace** in Lhasa. Years 1680–81 in honor of the **fifth Dalai Lama** The monastery was founded by **Merag Lodro Gyamtso**.
- There is evidence that this district once belonged to Tibet. China cites historical links between **Tawang Monastery and Lhasa Monastery** in Tibet in support of its claim on Arunachal.
- Tawang is an **important center of Tibetan Buddhism** and there are some tribes in the Upper Arunachal region that have cultural links with the people of Tibet. The **Monpa tribe follows Tibetan Buddhism** and is also found in some areas of Tibet.
- When the **Dalai Lama** escaped from Tibet during the Chinese repression in 1959, he entered India through Tawang and stayed at Tawang Monastery for some time.

### Expected Questions for Preliminary Exam

**Que. With which of the following country India has a land dispute in Tawang?**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (a) Pakistan    | (b) China      |
| (c) Afghanistan | (c) Bangladesh |

**Answer—(b) China**

## Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute

### Why in Newspapers?

A meeting of the Chief Ministers of both the states along with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah was held in the Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday regarding the **Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute**. After the meeting, Amit Shah said that a **good understanding has been reached between the Chief Ministers of the two states**. It should not be made a political issue.



### Quick Issue?

- Maharashtra Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde**, Deputy Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** and Karnataka **CM Basavaraj Bommai** attended the meeting. After the meeting, Home Minister Amit Shah told the media that the **Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute** will not be resolved on the road.
- It has been agreed in the meeting that neither side of the two states will present any claim on any part till the decision of the Supreme Court.
- **Committee will be formed:** It has been agreed to form a committee consisting of three ministers each from both the states i.e. six ministers. This committee will look into all the issues related to the dispute and other related matters. Apart from this, a committee under the **chairmanship of a senior IPS** will work to look into the matter related to law and order.
- The Committee of Ministers will look into the issue of implementation of all aspects down to the grass root level.

### Historical Background?

- This **ongoing dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra is decades old**. After independence, **Belgaum was made a part of Bombay State**. But when states were being formed on the basis of language in the country in the year 1956, during that time there was a **demand to include Belgaum in United Maharashtra**.
- Many movements took place for this. One of the difficulties at that time was that Gujarat was asserting its rights over Bombay State. In such a situation, there was talk of making Bombay State a Union Territory. But what happened was that today's Mumbai i.e. then **Bombay State was made the capital of Maharashtra State**.
- All the Marathi speaking areas which were left in Mysore State at that time became part of the Karnataka State formed in the year 1973. Belgaum area was also included in all these areas, regarding which many controversies have been coming to the fore since then.
- In view of the Belgaum area dispute between the two states, in the year 1957, the Central Government formed the **Mahajan Committee on the demand of Maharashtra State**.



- However, this committee could not find any specific solution to this dispute. **Maharashtra Integration Committee** was engaged in efforts to include Belgaum area in Maharashtra.
- The hunger strike of **Senapati Bapat**, a freedom fighter, intensified this movement. The agitating people demanded that 865 villages including Belagavi should be included in Maharashtra.
- After this once again on the request of the State of Maharashtra, the Government of India constituted the **Mahajan Commission on 25 October 1966**.
- On November 9, 1967, the then Maharashtra Chief Minister **V.P. Naik** publicly announced that Maharashtra would follow the Mahajan Commission report regardless of the consequences.
- The commission, after reviewing the claims of Maharashtra, recommended the exchange of several villages in Belgaum district between the two states.
- But the Mahajan Commission rejected Maharashtra's claim on Belgaum city. Despite its announcement, the Maharashtra government refused to accept the report of the Mahajan Commission on the Beglam dispute, and since then the Belgaum area has been creating tension between Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- There have also been several violent clashes between the Maharashtra Integration Committee and the **Kannada Rakshana Vedike organization** over the Belgaum area. Since then, many governments in both the states have been asserting their rights over Belgaum. Maharashtra also reached the Supreme Court in the year 2006 regarding this matter.
- Maharashtra also reached the **Supreme Court in the year 2006 regarding this matter**. Seeing this step of Maharashtra, Karnataka gave Belgaum the status of sub-capital in 2006 itself. Not only this, the Karnataka government changed the name of Belgaum to 'Belagavi', for which many agitations took place.
- Even today, the legal battle between Maharashtra and Karnataka is going on in the Supreme Court regarding Belgaum and many areas adjacent to it. Apart from this, the Maharashtra government has also appointed two ministers as 'coordinators' to review efforts to speed up talks on matters related to the border dispute with the Karnataka government at the end of 2019.
- If Belgaum is of historical importance, then the city of Belgaum in Karnataka is considered historically very important. **In the year 1924, the Congress session was held in Belgaum itself, which was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi**. Apart from this, **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak started his 'Home Rule League' movement in the year 1916 from Belgaum itself**.

### Expected Questions for Preliminary Exam

Que. Find the incorrect statement about the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka.

1. Belgaum is claimed by Maharashtra on linguistic grounds.
2. Belgaum was a part of the princely state of Hyderabad before independence.



3. Presently Belagavi is a district of Karnataka.

4. The matter of boundary dispute over Belgaum is pending before the Bombay High Court for many years.

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4

(b) 2, 3

(c) 2, 4

(d) 1, 2, 4

Answer: (b) 2, 3

## Other Key Facts?

### Reorganization of States in India

- At the time of independence in the year 1947, there were about **550 princely states** in India.
- In the year 1950, there was a **four-fold classification of the states of the Indian Union** in the Constitution – **Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D states**.
- **Part A** states included the nine erstwhile Governor's Provinces of British India.
- **Part B** states included nine erstwhile princely states with legislatures.
- **Part C** states included British India provinces and some erstwhile princely states under the then Chief Commissioner.
- **Part D** states included only the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- At that time the grouping of states was done on the basis of **political and historical considerations** rather than linguistic or cultural divisions, but this was a temporary arrangement.
- Due to multilingual nature and differences existing between different states, there was a need to reorganize the states on a permanent basis.
- In this context, to consider the need for reorganization of states on linguistic basis, in 1948, the government appointed **S.K. Dhar committee** was formed.
- The commission **gave priority to reorganization of states** on the basis of administrative convenience including **historical and geographical basis and not on linguistic basis**.
- This created a lot of resentment and another Linguistic Provinces Committee was appointed.
- In December 1948, the JVP committee consisting of **Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramaiah** was formed to study the issue.
- In its report submitted in **April 1949**, the committee rejected the **idea of reorganization of states** on linguistic basis and said that in the light of public demand, this issue can be seen afresh.
- However, due to protests in October 1953, the Government of India carved out the **Telugu linguistic areas from Madras State** to form the **first linguistic state** known as Andhra State.
- On December 22, 1953, **Jawaharlal Nehru constituted a commission under the leadership of Fazal Ali** to consider the reorganization of states.
- The commission submitted its report in 1955 and suggested that the whole country should be divided into 16 states and three union territories.
- The government, not fully agreeing with the recommendations, divided the country into **14 states and 6 union territories** under the States Reorganization Act passed in November 1956.
- Even after the large scale reorganization of states in the year 1956, the **political map of India kept on changing due to pressure of popular movements and political situation**.
- On August 5, 2019, the President of India issued the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of **Article 370 of the Constitution**.
- By this the state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two new Union Territories (UTs)- **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**.