

Doklam Uncertainty

What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- The resolution derived in long standing Doklam dispute by India and China is uncertain.

\n

- A trilateral pact engaging India-China-Bhutan is needed to address the long standing dispute.

\n

\n\n

What is the present status of Doklam dispute?

\n\n

\n

- After a long standoff in doklam India and china paused the dispute peacefully by diplomatic moves.

\n

- The 19th national congress of the communist party of China highlighted that the expeditious disengagement at Doklam was a peaceful and dialogue-based resolution.

\n

- Even India has earlier stated that the de-escalation was based on mutual agreement, this reflects a trust factor.

\n

- Nevertheless, both countries have embraced the disengagement as a diplomatic victory for their own sides.

\n

\n\n

\n

- This resulted in subduing strong public sentiments in both countries.

\n

- China even termed it as a victory for Asia, as these two big powers definitely have proven reasons to cooperate rather than to engage in conflict.

\n

\n\n

Why Doklam issue may haunt Sino-India ties in future?

\n\n

\n

- **Lack of legal frameworks** -The bilateral politico-legal frameworks are inadequate, with varying connotations and intent, both countries have been referring to the 1890 Convention of Calcutta signed between Great Britain and China.

\n

- Such boundary disputes involving China, India and Bhutan had also been referred to in the letters exchanged in 1959 between Prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Zhou Enlai.

\n

- These letters are frequently interpreted by both countries to justify their contemporary stances.

\n

- **Volatile Location** -India argues that the tri-junction lies near Batang La, China positions it further down south at Mount Gamochen.

\n

\n\n



\n\n

\n

- Persisting claims and counter-claims related to patrolling the disengaged region, widening of the road by China just 10 km from Doklam, and the activity of armed forces is never-ending.

\n

- In 1965-66, China complained about the presence of Indian troops in the Doklam region.

\n

- But Bhutan claimed that the area in question was under Bhutan's sovereignty.

\n

- India claimed that Chinese intrusions happened at regular intervals in 1988 as well as in 2000.

\n

- **Stand of Bhutan** -It cannot be dictated to either by India or China.

\n

- Both India and China have been trying to make inroads into Bhutan but the post-Doklam scenario clearly suggests that China has the advantage.

\n

- China and Bhutan entered into a border-related agreement in 1988 and subsequently in 1998 prohibiting unilateral measures.

\n

- With India too, Bhutan had the friendship treaty to guide its foreign policy.

\n

- However, since the treaty was amended in 2007, Bhutan is under no obligation to seek such guidance.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: Business Line

\n

