

Nepal & Doklam

Why in news?

\n\n

In the backdrop of the Doklam tensions, Nepal will be engaged in high-level visits with both China & India.

\n\n

What are the events in line in quick succession?

\n\n

- \n
- Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang will be visiting Nepal.
- \n
- India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will be in Kathmandu for the BIMSTEC meet.
- \n
- Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will embark on an official visit to India.

\n

\n\n

What is the crux of the Doklam crisis?

\n\n

- \n
- India intervened on Bhutan's behalf to stop Chinese attempts to extend a road from Yadong further southward into the disputed Doklam plateau which is claimed by both Bhutan & China.
- \n
- China has alleged that Indian troops had invaded Doklam in the name of helping Bhutan.
- \n
- It claimed that Indian leaders were using the incident to "appease" domestic and international audiences.

\n

\n\n

What are the stakes for Nepal?

\n\n

\n

- As a country sandwiched between China & India & its proximity to Doklam has got Nepal intricately hooked.

\n

- Nepal has maintained a studied silence thus far & has explicitly been a neutral player.

\n

- Sensing the tension, Nepal has asked for reviewing the agreement reached by India & China in 2015 on the development of a proposed trading post in Lepulekh.

\n

- **Lipulekh** - It is located along the Kalapani tri-junction in Uttarakhand between China, Nepal & India and it is claimed by both India & Nepal.

\n

- Nepal sees the agreement a 'violation of its sovereignty'.

\n

- Addressing it is essential for all as it is a potential flaring point in future.

\n

\n\n

How does the Nepal-China bonhomie look?

\n\n

\n

- China knows that anti-India sentiment is unprecedentedly high in Nepal and has used every option in its kitty to score diplomatic points.

\n

- The Chinese have been encouraging Nepal to decide on projects and their execution under the Belt and Road initiative.

\n

- Opposition leaders in Nepal, who are close to China believe that China respects the sovereignty of both Nepal & Bhutan and is willing to engage Bhutan in a bilateral dialogue over the border issue without India.

\n

- The Chinese academic circles are now seen as candid on bilateral or regional issues in Nepal, while Sino-Nepal forums are laced with sarcastic anti-Indian comments.

\n

- Suggestions that China and Nepal establish "connections" through railways, pipelines and highways are aplenty.

\n

- China, officially has been full of appreciation for what Nepal has done to discourage anti-Chinese activities on its territory & also prides itself for staying aloof of Nepal's internal affairs.

\n

\n\n

What are the frictional points in the Nepal-India ties?

\n\n

\n

- India has been blatantly accused for the tensions in Terai region & for orchestrating regime changes in Nepal.
- India's financial aid & other areas of technical co-operation hasn't paid off diplomatically in recent times.
- Some groups in Nepal have been vocal in asking India to either execute the major hydro projects it undertook several years ago or give up.
- Kathmandu knows that if the Doklam issue escalates it will affect Nepal's life and economy adversely but that doesn't assure India of Nepal's support in the issue.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: Indian Express

\n

